

# ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

A congregation of the  
**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**  
welcomes you!

October 5,  
2025



The 17<sup>th</sup>  
Sunday  
after  
Pentecost

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### SATURDAY

“SHINE” CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP: 6:00 PM (1<sup>ST</sup> SATURDAYS-CHAPEL)

### SUNDAY

THE DIVINE LITURGY: 9:00AM

EDUCATION HOUR: 10:30AM

**105 EAST “D” STREET BELLEVILLE, IL 62220**

**EMAIL: [WORSHIP@STMARKBELLEVILLE.ORG](mailto:WORSHIP@STMARKBELLEVILLE.ORG)**

***THE REV. BRIAN M. ROBISON, PASTOR***

***THE REV. RONALD C. NEUSTADT, PASTOR EMERITUS***

- 
- + **To parents with small children:** We are glad your family is worshipping with us today! “*Quiet Bags*” (supplies & activities for use by small children) are available in the Welcome Area. If you or your child need a break from the service, feel free to use the Welcome Area/narthex (the service is audible over the speakers).
  - + An **accessible Restroom** is available off the Welcome Area/Narthex next to the **accessibility lift** to the lower level. **Parish Hall and additional Restrooms** are located on the lower level of the main church building. The stairway is off the entrance foyer. An usher will be happy to assist you with the lift.
  - + **Assistive listening devices** and **low vision items** are available. Please ask one of our ushers for assistance.
  - + **Land Acknowledgement:** This church is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the **Quapaw, Myaamia, Kaskaskia, and Kickapoo** peoples, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and still call this land home.

## PRELUDE

“Canon”

J. Pachelbel

## WELCOME

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS *Please STAND as you are able*

Blessed be the one God - Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit - our maker, our helper, and our keeper.  
**Amen.**

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Please KNEEL, or remain as you are. Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God, **we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. Forgive us and give us strength to turn from sin and to serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace, you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins + are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you through the power of the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN *Please STAND* “Faith of Our Fathers”

ELW 812

1 Faith of our fa - thers, liv - ing still in spite of dun - geon,  
2 The mar - tyr's, chained in pris - ons dark, were still in heart and  
3 Faith of our fa - thers! We will love both friend and foe in  
fire, and sword. Oh, how our hearts beat high with joy  
con - science free; and blest would be their chil - dren's fate  
all our strife; pro - claim thee too, as love knows how,  
*Refrain*  
when-e'er we hear that glo - rious word.  
if they, like them, should die for thee. Faith of our fa - thers,  
by sav - ing word and faith - ful life.  
ho - ly faith, we will be true to thee till death.

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray... Benevolent, merciful God: When we are empty, fill us. When we are weak in faith, strengthen us. When we are cold in love, warm us, that with fervor we may love our neighbors and serve them for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*Following the prayer, please SIT.*

## WORD

### **FIRST READING: Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4**

<sup>1</sup>The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw.

<sup>2</sup>O LORD, how long shall I cry for help,  
and you will not listen?

Or cry to you "Violence!"  
and you will not save?

<sup>3</sup>Why do you make me see wrongdoing  
and look at trouble?

Destruction and violence are before me;  
strife and contention arise.

<sup>4</sup>So the law becomes slack  
and justice never prevails.

The wicked surround the righteous—  
therefore judgment comes forth perverted.

<sup>2:1</sup>I will stand at my watchpost,  
and station myself on the rampart;  
I will keep watch to see what he will say to me,  
and what he will answer concerning my complaint.

<sup>2</sup>Then the LORD answered me and said:  
Write the vision;  
make it plain on tablets,  
so that a runner may read it.

<sup>3</sup>For there is still a vision for the appointed time;  
it speaks of the end, and does not lie.

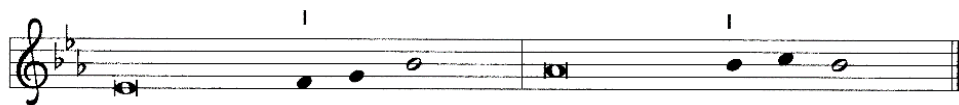
If it seems to tarry, wait for it;  
it will surely come, it will not delay.

<sup>4</sup>Look at the proud!  
Their spirit is not right in them,  
but the righteous live by their faith.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 37:1-9** *chanted responsively between choir and congregation*



- <sup>1</sup>Do not be provoked by | evildoers;  
do not be jealous of those | who do wrong.
- <sup>2</sup>**For they shall soon wither | like the grass,**  
**and like the green grass | fade away.**
- <sup>3</sup>Put your trust in the LORD | and do good;  
dwell in the land and | find safe pasture.
- <sup>4</sup>**Take delight | in the LORD,**  
**who shall give you your | heart's desire.**
- <sup>5</sup>Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust | in the LORD,  
and see what | God will do.
- <sup>6</sup>**The LORD will make your vindication as clear | as the light**  
**and the justice of your case like the | noonday sun.**
- <sup>7</sup>Be still before the LORD and wait | patiently.  
Do not be provoked by the one who prospers,  
the one who succeeds in | evil schemes.
- <sup>8</sup>**Refrain from anger, leave | rage alone;**  
**do not be provoked; it leads on- | ly to evil.**
- <sup>9</sup>For evildoers shall | be cut off,  
but those who hope in the LORD shall pos- | sess the land.

**SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 1:1-14**

<sup>1</sup>Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

<sup>2</sup>To Timothy, my beloved child:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

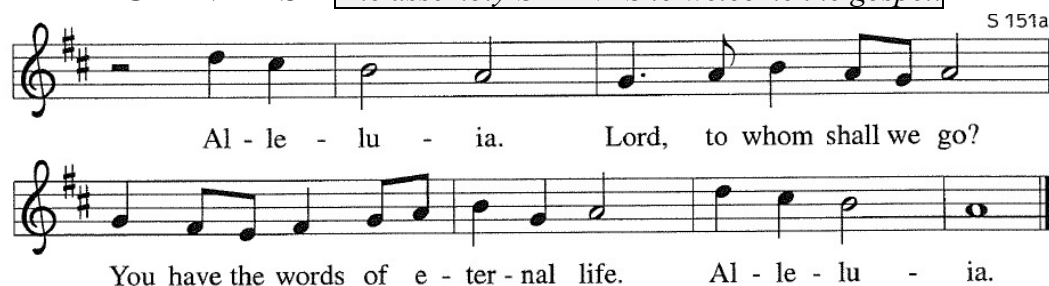
<sup>3</sup>I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. <sup>4</sup>Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. <sup>5</sup>I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. <sup>6</sup>For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; <sup>7</sup>for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

<sup>8</sup>Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, <sup>9</sup>who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace

was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, <sup>10</sup>but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. <sup>11</sup>For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, <sup>12</sup>and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to him. <sup>13</sup>Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. <sup>14</sup>Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**ALLELUIA VERSE** *The assembly STANDS to welcome the gospel.*



**GOSPEL: Luke 17:5-10**

A reading from the Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as recorded by the apostle John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>5</sup>The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" <sup>6</sup>The Lord replied, "If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.

<sup>7</sup>Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, 'Come here at once and take your place at the table'? <sup>8</sup>Would you not rather say to him, 'Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink'? <sup>9</sup>Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? <sup>10</sup>So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, 'We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!'"

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please SIT*

**SERMON**

*"Faith on a Leash"*

**The Rev. Brian M. Robison**

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Following the sermon, the assembly **STANDS** to proclaim the word of God in song.

## HYMN OF THE DAY

## “God of the Fertile Fields”

ACS 1063



1 God of the fer - tile fields, sha - per of  
2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in  
3 As grows the hid - den seed to fruit that  
4 God of the coun - try - side, dear to the

earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your  
trust from you all that you give; help us in  
serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our  
Christ who died to make us one: we pledge our

boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,  
love to share, teach us like you to care  
toil be used, no gift of yours a - busied,  
lives a - new in faith - ful love to you.

that all in ev - 'ry land be clothed and fed.  
for peo - ple ev - 'ry - where, that all may live.  
no hum - ble task re - fused your love be - stows.  
Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

## APOSTLES CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,**

**God's only Son, our Lord.**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried;**

**He descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;**

**he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** *The names of those for whom we pray aloud (members, staff, first-time additions) are listed below. Please read only the first names. Other prayer intentions can be found in the back of this bulletin. The response to “God of grace,” is “Hear our prayer”...*

**John** Andersen, **Ken** Augustine, **Eleanor** Benton, **Toni** Brendel, **Gary** Dozier, **Evelyn** Duncan,  
**Art** Engelage, **Wally** Kleist, **Ivan** Kohlmeier, **Bruce** Martens, **Linda** Ness, **Kim** Palmer, **Tina** Partelow,  
**Marilyn** Robinson, **Cohen** Summers, **Carol** Weshinskey, **Gary** Weshinskey

**PEACE** *The assembly is invited to share a greeting of God’s peace with one another. Following **the Peace**, you may be **seated** for a few moments.*

**OFFERING** *Should you wish to leave an offering today, it may be placed in the wooden box on the table near the baptismal font at any point during or after the service.*

## **CHOIR ANTHEM**

*“The Narrow Way”*

*F. Lee Scott*

*Lyrics to the anthem are printed on the last page*

## **OFFERING PRAYER** *Please STAND as you are able*

*Assistant:* Let us pray together... **Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

S 152

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

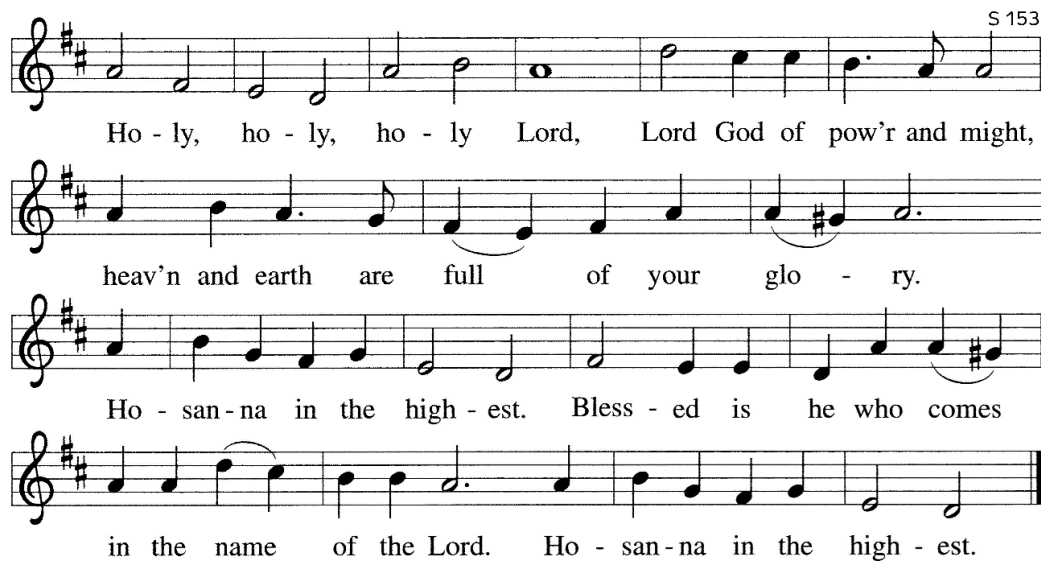
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*It is indeed right...we praise your name, and join their unending hymn:*

S 153



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER** *traditional*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come;**

**Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses**

**as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,**

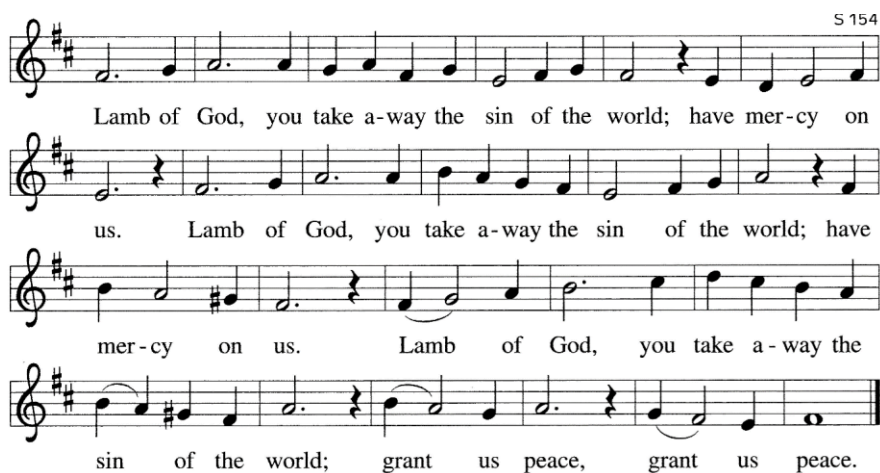
**forever and ever. Amen.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

### **LAMB OF GOD** *Please SIT*

S 154



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

*Communion is open to everyone. In this sacrament, we believe that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine. At this service, communion will be served from around the altar rail. At the usher's direction, please come forward and kneel at the altar rail.*

- ✘ *After receiving the bread, you may take an individual cup or drink from the chalice.*
- ✘ *You may return to your seat after communing.*
- ✘ *Those who do not wish to commune may come forward for a blessing. Please cross your arms over your chest to indicate this preference.*
- ✘ *Reception of the Eucharist under one kind (bread or wine) is valid communion for those who must avoid either for health reasons.*
- ✘ *If you are unable to go to the altar for communion, please notify an usher or the pastor, so that communion may be brought to you in your pew.*

## SONGS DURING THE DISTRIBUTION:

### “My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

ELW 759



- 1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
- 2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,
- 3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,
- 4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my  
my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my  
be thou my guide; bid dark - ness turn to day, wipe sor - row's  
shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love fear and dis -



guilt a - way, oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine!  
love to thee pure, warm, and change - less be, a liv - ing fire!  
tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.  
trust re - move; oh, bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

## ST. MARK MEN'S CHOIR

### “I Saw the Light”

by Williams/ Arr. by Lister

*After the distribution is complete, the assembly STANDS for the blessing.*

## TABLE BLESSING

The Body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

## CANTICLE AFTER COMMUNION

“Now Lord”

ELW 201

Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace: your word has  
been ful - filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion  
which you have pre - pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple:  
a light to re - veal you to the na - tions and the glo - ry of your  
peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son,  
and to the Ho - ly Spir - it, as it was in the be - gin - ning,  
is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*Assistant:* Let us pray together...

**O God, through this meal you have strengthened us  
and appointed us to be your servants.**

**Send us to do good and to share our resources with all in need.**

**We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

May the blessed and most holy Trinity –  
Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit –  
bless you and keep you, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Refrain*

Have you thanked the Lord? Have you praised God's name?

Don't you know that no to - mor - row is quite the same?

Have you thanked the Lord? Have you knelt in prayer,

and re-joiced that, rain or sun-shine, our God is there?

1 Hal - le - lu - jah! Thank the Lord for sun, sand, and sea,  
 2 Hal - le - lu - jah! Par - a - dise we taste where we are;  
 3 Hal - le - lu - jah! Joy and peace the Sav - ior will bring.

ev - 'ry star at night that shines for you and me.  
 sum - mer breez - es, win - ter warmth are nev - er far.  
 Grace a - maz - ing! So we lift our voice and sing,

Bless - ings so man - y come our way:  
 God's love is ev - er on dis - play:  
 grate - ful when clouds are bright or gray:

*Refrain*

have you thanked the Lord to - day?  
 have you thanked the Lord to - day?  
 have you thanked the Lord to - day?

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart. **Thanks be to God!**

## POSTLUDE

“Come Thou Font of Every Blessing”

*arr. B. Mayo*

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

**Presider & Preacher:** The Rev. Brian M. Robison + **Assisting Minister & Lector:** Charlie Duncan

**Crucifer:** Rex Rothgangel + **Chalice Bearer & Tech Minister:** Mike Murakami

**Safety Volunteer:** Jan Richards + **Ushers:** Frank Dressel & Jason Martens

**Organist:** Evelyn Duncan

# **Prayer Intentions**

## **St. Mark Members**

John Andersen, Ken Augustine, Eleanor Benton, Toni Brendel, Gary Dozier, Evelyn Duncan, Art Engelage,  
Wally Kleist, Ivan Kohlmeier, Bruce Martens, Linda Ness, Kim Palmer, Tina Partelow,  
Marilyn Robinson, Cohen Summers, Carol and Gary Weshinsky

## **St. Mark Family and Friends**

Dennis Althardt, Stellamarie Bearth, Bonnie Baete, John Belz, Thomas Boxdorfer, Jim Braeutigam,  
Patty Brennecke, Julia Cardoza, Susan Carson, Christine, Arianna Curnes, Catherine Davis, Mike Ellison,  
Richard Fahrner, Katrina Fenner, Andrea Hendrix, Josh Gansmann, Marge Gardner, Christine Gass, Viv Gillespie,  
Joni Giordano, David Graber, Stephanie Groennert, TC Groennert, Andrea Hendrix, Jamie House, Jimmy Jurgens,  
Austin Lickenbrock, Donna Loesche, Becky Loeschner, Wyatt Madison, Christopher Martisuz,  
Bobby & Joyce McCall, Don McCoy, Allen Martens, Janet Middendorf, Linda Munn, Pr. Ron & Debbie Neustadt,  
Dean Norrenberns, Hilda Parnell, Tim & Missy Partelow, Debbie & Larry Powers, Goldie Rideout,  
Darrell Robinson, Sarah and Family, Jill Schlueter, Stefanie Schroeder, Denise Sebastian, David & Donna Sims,  
Margie Snep, Ingrid Thompson, Bob Vaughn, David Vaught, Toni Walston, Louise Wilson, Margie Wilson,  
Karen Woolf, Wilma Woolf, Jeanie Workman, Ken Zika, Chloe Zipperer

## **Members and Friends Serving in Our Nation's Military**

Taiylar Foppe Merrel, Josh Merrel, Ryan McKenzie

## **Members who celebrate birthdays this week**

Greg Martens (10/6)

Lyrics to today's anthem

*The Narrow Way* by K. Lee Scott

- |                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Be near me, Lord, whee'er I go;<br>Teach me what you would have me do;<br>Direct whate'er I think or say;<br>And lead me in the narrow way.   | 3. Assist and teach me how to pray;<br>Incline my nature to obey;<br>What you abhor, oh, let me flee,<br>And only love what pleases thee.        |
| 2. Prevent me, lest I harbor pride,<br>Lest I in my own strength confide;<br>Show me my weakness, let me see<br>I have my pow'r, my all in thee. | 4. Be near me, Lord, wheree'er I go;<br>Teach me what you would have me do;<br>Direct whate'er I think or say;<br>And lead me in the narrow way. |

## **St. Mark Staff**

**Pastor:** The Rev. Brian M. Robison + **Pastor Emeritus:** The Rev. Ronald C. Neustadt

**Administrative Assistant:** Randi Cardoza + **Music Director:** Carol Kugler

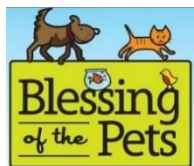
**Organist:** Evelyn Duncan + **Parish Nurse:** Becky Schnitzius

# MARK TIMES

## NEWS and NOTES for October 5, 2025

|                         |         |                                                        |
|-------------------------|---------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday, Oct. 5:         | 4:00PM  | SHINE worship with Blessing of the Animals - courtyard |
| Monday, Oct. 6:         | 2:30PM  | Fiber Arts at Westfield Manor                          |
| Wednesday, Oct. 8:      | 9:00AM  | Evangelism/Social Ministry Meeting – Conference Room   |
|                         | 12:00PM | Ladies' Lunch Bunch – Papa Vito's downtown             |
| Thursday, Oct. 9:       | 4:00PM  | Chancel choir                                          |
|                         | 5:30PM  | Men's Chorus                                           |
|                         | 6:00PM  | Bell Choir                                             |
|                         | 6:00PM  | Yoga – Parish Hall                                     |
| Fri. 10/10 & Sat. 10/11 |         | Chili Cook-Off                                         |

### Blessing of the Animals TODAY!



We join our partners from St. George's and our animal friends to celebrate the feast of St. Francis with a special SHINE service and a **Blessing of the Animals!**

Our service is at **4:00PM TODAY Sunday, October 5** in the **church courtyard\***. Please **bring your own chair** if possible.

Part of our service is dedicated to **remembering our beloved pets who have died**. You are invited to **bring a photo of your departed pet** (framed, if possible) to place on a remembrance table.

\*If the courtyard is obstructed by construction materials, the event may be held on the big parking lot.

### Chili Cook-Off: Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers are needed to help in the booth and kitchen **NEXT WEEKEND, October 10 and 11**. A sign-up sheet with details is located in the Parish Hall. Contact David Buckley with questions at 618-520-9333 or [david\\_f\\_buckley@yahoo.com](mailto:david_f_buckley@yahoo.com).

### Adult Forum: *Giants and the Conquest of Canaan*

Join Pastor Brian this morning for an exploration of the **giants of ancient Canaan**, who were destroyed by Yahweh and the Israelites in the biblical accounts of the Conquest. We will show how the memories of indigenous giants are related to monumental stone ruins in the landscape of Israel and Transjordan. This is a twist in biblical archaeology, redirected to the history of memory. Don't miss it!

**Ladies Lunch Bunch** meets at Papa Vito's in downtown Belleville **THIS Wednesday, October 8 at 12 noon**. Please RSVP to June at 618 977 4389 or [Jandcbenedick@gmail.com](mailto:Jandcbenedick@gmail.com).

### Meals on Wheels Needs Help!

The Meals-On-Wheels services provided out of our Parish Hall need more volunteers, particularly on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Please see Frank Dressel or David Buckley for more details about serving those for whom these meals may be the only substantial meal of the day.



**SHARE THE WARMTH October 5 thru 26, 2025:** Inspired by Phillip's Wish in the movie **5000 Blankets** and the needs of our food pantry clients, we are collecting gently worn **coats, thermal underwear, sweatshirts, t-shirts, undershirts, socks, hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves** for the homeless in our area. **Warming blankets, handwarmers and new underwear for men and women** are also appreciated! Donations will be distributed to various organizations throughout the project period with donation numbers provided periodically. A collection container is in the Narthex!

### **Franklin School Lunch Packing Returns**

We pack 20 bag lunches for needy students at Franklin school for all long weekends, and we welcome volunteers! Packing requires about an hour on the day before most holiday weekends. See **Peggy Andersen** (618-791-0992) to sign up or for questions. There is also a sign-up sheet downstairs near the coffee hour tables. Your support is so much appreciated!

### **Join the Choir!**

If you can carry a tune at all (you don't need to sing solo or even read music), the chancel choir would love to welcome you! Check out our new Thursday rehearsal times: **Voice choir meets at 4:00PM; Men's Choir meets at 5:30PM; and Bell Choir meets at 6:00PM.**

### **From the Parish Nurse:**

#### **More Than a Ribbon—The Heart of Breast Cancer Awareness Month**

Every October, Breast Cancer Awareness Month unites people worldwide to shine a light on education, advocacy, and hope. While the pink ribbon is a powerful symbol, the campaign is about far more than color—it's about saving lives.



The goals of Breast Cancer Awareness Month are simple but vital:

- Encourage regular screenings and mammograms.
- Educate about risk factors and early warning signs.
- Support survivors and fuel research through fundraising.

This month reminds us that breast cancer touches millions of lives. Whether you're a survivor, caregiver, advocate, or ally, you are part of a global movement working toward fewer diagnoses and better treatments.

The pink ribbon serves as a reminder of solidarity—an emblem of hope and resilience. But awareness without action isn't enough. Take steps: schedule your screening, share resources with friends, or join a fundraiser.

Every story matters. Every action adds up. Together, we move closer to a future where breast cancer is no longer a leading threat to women's health.

### **GriefShare: *Surviving the Holidays* Event on November 15**

The holiday season can stir difficult emotions, especially after the loss of a loved one. *Surviving the Holidays* offers support, encouragement, and practical tools to help you navigate this time with peace and assurance. Join St. Mark's special session, led by Nurse Becky, on **Saturday, November 15** from **1–3 PM** in the **Parish Hall**. The free event includes a video, group discussion, and a Survival Guide. Pre-registration is required at [griefshare.org/events/276776](https://griefshare.org/events/276776)



**Offerings (9/28): General Fund:** \$12,625; Food Pantry/Woodrome Memorials: \$2,080/\$125; Thrivent Choice (September): \$462; Muller Landscaping: \$101; Fiber Arts: \$101; Property/Grounds: \$101