

ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

March 23,
2025



The Third
Sunday in
Lent

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SATURDAY

“SHINE” CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP: 6:00 PM (*1st Saturdays - Chapel*)

SUNDAY

THE DIVINE LITURGY: 9:00AM

in-person & streaming

EDUCATION & FELLOWSHIP HOUR: 10:30 AM

105 EAST “D” STREET BELLEVILLE, IL 62220

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WEBSITE: WWW.STMARKBELLEVILLE.ORG

The Reverend Brian M. Robison, Pastor

PLEASE wear a **mask/face covering** *if* you are **exhibiting any upper respiratory symptoms consistent with allergies, a cold, or COVID-19** (runny nose, cough, sore throat).

To parents with small children: We are glad your family is worshiping 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 walk to the Welcome Area/narthex (the service is still audible over the speakers).

Parish Hall and Restrooms are located on the lower level of the main church building. The stairway is off the entrance foyer. A second **handicapped access** restroom is available next to the **accessibility lift** to the lower level is located in the Welcome Area. 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.

WELCOME

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Please RISE in body or in spirit

Blessed be the one God who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever - Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection. You may KNEEL or remain as you are.

Compassionate One, **you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In + Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

"Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good"

ELW 871



1 Sing praise to God, the high - est good, the au - thor of cre -
 2 What your al - might - y pow'r has made, in mer - cy you are
 3 We sought the Lord in our dis - tress; O God, in mer - cy
 4 All who con - fess Christ's ho - ly name, give God the praise and



a - tion! O God of love, you un - der - stood our need for
 keep - ing; by morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade, your eye is
 hear us. Our Sav - ior saw our help - less - ness and came with
 glo - ry! Let all God's sav - ing pow'r pro - claim; give God the



your sal - va - tion. With heal - ing balm our souls you fill;
 nev - er sleep - ing; in the do - min - ion of your might
 peace to cheer us. For this we thank and praise the Lord,
 praise and glo - ry! Cast ev - 'ry i - dol from its throne;



all our la - ment with peace you still.
 all things are just and good and right. To God all praise and glo - ry!
 who is by one and all a - dored.
 God is the Lord, and God a - lone:

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.**

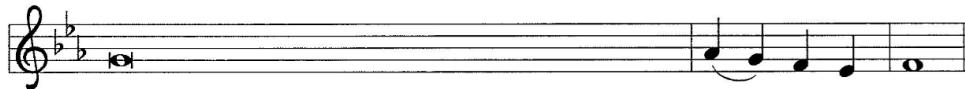
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mercy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mercy.



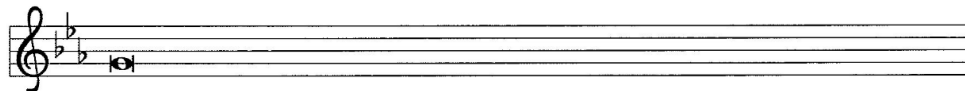
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mercy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mercy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray... Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Following the prayer, please SIT.

WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:1-9

¹Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;

and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.

²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

³Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.

⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.

⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

⁶Seek the LORD while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;

⁷let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth,

so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

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

PSALM 63:1-8 *spoken in unison*

**¹O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there [|] is no water.
²Therefore I have gazed upon you in your [|] holy place,
that I might behold your power [|] and your glory.
³For your steadfast love is better than [|] life itself;
my lips shall [|] give you praise.
⁴So will I bless you as long [|] as I live
and lift up my hands [|] in your name.
⁵My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods,
and my mouth praises you with [|] joyful lips,
⁶when I remember you upon my bed,
and meditate on you in [|] the night watches.
⁷For you have [|] been my helper,
and under the shadow of your wings I [|] will rejoice.
⁸My whole being [|] clings to you;
your right hand [|] holds me fast.**

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

S 103

Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.

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GOSPEL: Luke 13:1-9

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

¹At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²[Jesus] asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? ³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

⁶Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' ⁸He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

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

SERMON

"The Grace That Nourishes"

The Rev. Brian M. Robison

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters"

ELW 445



1 Wash, O God, our sons and daugh-ters, where your cleans-ing wa-ters flow.
2 We who bring them long for nur-ture; by your milk may we be fed.
3 Oh, how deep your ho-ly wis-dom! Un-im-ag-ined, all your ways!



Num-ber them a-mong your peo-ple; bless as Christ blessed long a-go.
Let us join your feast, par-tak-ing cup of bless-ing, liv-ing bread.
To your name be glo-ry, hon-or! With our lives we wor-ship, praise!



Weave them gar-ments bright and spark-ling; com-pass them with love and light.
God, re-new us, guide our foot-steps; free from sin and all its snares,
We your peo-ple stand be-fore you, wa-ter-washed and Spir-it-born.



Fill, a-noint them; send your Spir-it, ho-ly dove and heart's de-light.
one with Christ in liv-ing, dy-ing, by your Spir-it, chil-dren, heirs.
By your grace, our lives we of-fer. Re-cre-ate us; God, trans-form!

LITURGY OF HEALING

Let us pray... God our healer, whose mercy is like a refining fire: by the loving-kindness of Jesus, heal us and those for whom we pray; that being renewed by you, we may witness your wholeness to our broken world; through Jesus Christ, the Physician of our bodies and souls, in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

LITANY OF HEALING

Silently or aloud, let us name before God those for whom we offer our prayers...

God the Father, your will for all people is health and salvation;

We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

God the Son, you came that we might have life, and might have it more abundantly;

We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

God the Holy Spirit, you make our bodies the temple of your presence;

We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

Holy Trinity, one God, in you we live and move and have our being;

We praise you and thank you, O Lord.

Lord, grant your healing grace to all who are sick, injured, disabled, or in any need especially...

Eleanor Benton, **Toni** Brendel, **Kathy** Casey, **Gary** Dozier, **Evelyn** Duncan, **Ivan** Kohlmeier,
Diane Maes, **Bruce** Martens, **Dwight** Ness, **Kim** Palmer, **Tina** Partelow, **Marilyn** Robinson,
Wilma Shroat, **Larry** Shurtleff, **Cohen** Summers, **Carol**, & **Gary** Weshinskey

That they may be made whole, we pray; **Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Grant to all who seek your guidance, and to all who are lonely, anxious, or despondent, a knowledge of your will and an awareness of your presence; **Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Mend broken relationships, and restore those in emotional distress to soundness of mind and serenity of spirit; **Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Bless physicians, nurses, and all others who minister to the suffering, granting them wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience; **Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Grant to the dying peace and a holy death, and uphold by the grace and consolation of your Holy Spirit those who are bereaved; **Hear us, O Lord of life.**

Restore to wholeness whatever is broken by human sin, in our lives, in our nation, and in the world; **Hear us, O Lord of life.**

You are the Lord who does wonders; **You have declared your power among the peoples.**

With you, O Lord, is the well of life; **And in your light we see light.**

Hear us, O Lord of life; **Heal us, and make us whole.**

Let us pray... Almighty God, giver of life and health: Send your blessing on all who are sick, and upon those who minister to them, that all weakness may be vanquished by the triumph of the risen Christ; who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

LAYING ON OF HANDS & ANOINTING

The ministry of Jesus invites us to new life in God and with each other. In the laying on of hands and anointing, we proclaim the Good News that God desires us to be healthy and one in the body of Christ. You are invited to offer yourself, whatever your sickness in spirit, mind, or body, and ask for healing and wholeness in the Name of the holy and undivided Trinity. If you are coming forward for healing in place of another, please hold that person in your heart and mind as you are being prayed over.



Please come forward for prayer as you wish. You may be seated when you return to your pew.

HYMNS DURING THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

“Healer of Our Every Ill”

ELW 612

Refrain


Heal - er of our ev - 'ry ill, light of each to - mor - row,
 give us peace be - yond our fear, and hope be - yond our sor - row.

1 You who know our fears and sad - ness, grace us with your
 2 In the pain and joy be - hold - ing how your grace is
 3 Give us strength to love each oth - er, ev - 'ry sis - ter,
 4 You who know each thought and feel - ing, teach us all your

Refrain

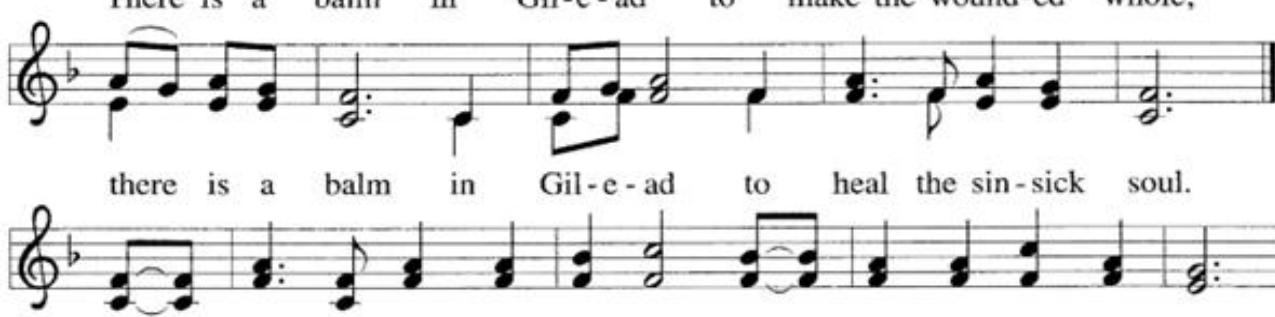
peace and glad - ness; Spir - it of all com - fort, fill our hearts.
 still un - fold - ing, give us all your vi - sion, God of love.
 ev - 'ry broth - er; Spir - it of all kind - ness, be our guide.
 way of heal - ing; Spir - it of com - pas - sion, fill each heart.

Refrain



There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;
 there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.

1 Some - times I feel dis - cour-aged and think my work's in vain,
 2 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can - not pray like Paul,
 3 Don't ev - er be dis - cour-aged, for Je - sus is your friend.



but then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.
 you can tell the love of Je - sus and say, "He died for all."
 and if you lack for knowl-edge, he'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.

Refrain



CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray... Living God, through the laying on of hands and anointing, grant comfort in suffering to all those before you today. When they are afraid, give them courage; when afflicted, give them patience; when dejected, give them hope; and when alone, assure them of the support of your holy people. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Almighty God, who is a strong tower to all, to whom all things in heaven and on earth bow and obey, be now and evermore your sure defense, and help you to know that the name given to us for health and salvation is the name of our Lord and Savior, + Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

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.*

OFFERTORY

“Were You There”

Handbell Choir

OFFERING PRAYER *Please STAND as you are able*

Assistant: Let us pray together... **Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also 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:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

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, and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come, receive Christ's mercy—bread for the journey, grace for the broken.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; 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.*

COMMUNION HYMNS

“As the Winter Days Grow Longer”

ACS 924



1 As the win - ter days grow long - er, draw - ing short the hours of night;
2 As the vines burst in - to blos - som, fra - grant in the morn - ing air,
3 As we jour - ney through this sea - son, pil - grims through a thirst - y land,



as our ea - ger ex - pec - ta - tion waits for Eas - ter's dawn - ing light—
lift - ing spir - its with their sweet - ness, lur - ing hearts to thank - ful prayer—
quench us with your liv - ing pres - ence; guide us with your lov - ing hand.



yearn - ing peo - ple, here we gath - er, turn - ing watch - ful eyes to you:
Lent - en peo - ple, here we gath - er, seek - ing lives re - fresh - ed from sin.
Wan - d'ring peo - ple, here we gath - er, called to rest a - long our way.



God who bless - es earth with spring - time, shine with - in our world a - new!
God who bless - es earth with spring - time, bloom with - in our hearts a - gain!
God who bless - es earth with spring - time, grant us sab - bath joy this day!

TABLE BLESSING *After the distribution please STAND.*

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...

Generous Host,

you have shared your feast with us and made us new.

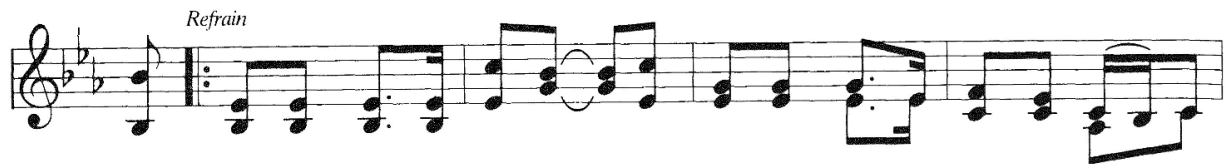
Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,

that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,

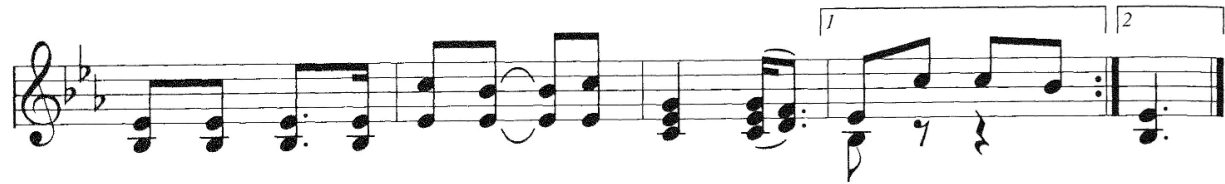
in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING

God our tender parent, the crucified one, the reconciling Spirit – Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit –
 bless you now and forever. **Amen.**



I've just come from the foun-tain, I've just come from the foun-tain, Lord, I've



just come from the foun-tain, his name's so sweet. O Lord, I've sweet.



1 O broth-er, do you love Je - sus? Yes, yes, I do love my Je - sus.
 2 O sis - ter, do you love Je - sus? Yes, yes, I do love my Je - sus.
 3 O sin - ner, do you love Je - sus? Yes, yes, I do love my Je - sus.



Broth-er, do you love Je - sus? His name's so sweet. O Lord, I've
 Sis - ter, do you love Je - sus? His name's so sweet. O Lord, I've
 Sin - ner, do you love Je - sus? His name's so sweet. O Lord, I've

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Assistant: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

"Fugue"

G.F. Handel

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Presider & Preacher: The Rev. Brian M. Robison

Assisting Minister: Charlie Duncan + **Lector:** Curtis Dowty + **Crucifer:** Corbin Monfre

Chalice Bearer: Greg Martens + **Tech Minister:** Aaron Fuchs

Organist: Evelyn Duncan + **Choir Director:** Carol Kugler

Ushers: Kathy Casey & Nancy Guenther + **Safety Volunteer:** Tina Partelow

LUKAS XIII: 6-9.



*Langmoedigheid, die bet'ring wacht,
Och wierd gy steeds van ons bedacht!* I.L.

*Parable of Fig Tree,
Engraving by Jan Luyken (1649-1712)*

A Word to Lent

“Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil” (Luke 4:1-2a).

On Ash Wednesday, March 5, we entered the wilderness of Lent. Wilderness times are often dangerous times. In the wilderness it can be difficult to see clearly. In the wilderness it is tempting to stray off the path and become lost. In the wilderness it is easy to be deceived. It was true for the Israelites wandering in the wilderness for forty years. It was true for Jesus, led by the Spirit into the wilderness for forty days. It is true for us.

Three times in the wilderness the devil tries to trick Jesus into being someone he is not. Then and now, the devil is the master of deception and lies. Each of the devil’s temptations sound alluringly close to the truth of who one would expect the Messiah to be. Who, after all, would not want a Messiah who can turn stones into bread and do acrobatic tricks off tall buildings?

Our Messiah is not just anyone, however. Our Messiah is Jesus, and he knows who he is. Turning time and time again to God’s Word, Jesus would not be lured to abandon the cross for false glory. Jesus would remain true to his missional identity all the way to the cross. Jesus would not be deceived. Jesus would not give in to false promises of power, safety, and security. Instead, Jesus would empty himself of all power, giving up his life in love and service for all. The devil sees only greed and self-interest. Jesus sees us ... and not just us, but all those who are weak and vulnerable and in need.

There are many voices in the wilderness today tempting us to abandon who we have been called to be and to become something we are not. These voices tempt us to give in to false promises of power, safety, and security. These voices tempt us to put our own self-interest ahead of the needs of others. These voices tempt us to trade in the cross for false glory. And, worse yet, many of these voices are doing so in the name of Christ.

Dear siblings in Christ, we cannot let ourselves be deceived. We cannot risk giving up the missional identity given to us as followers of Jesus through the water and Word of baptism. We cannot let ourselves be lured by false promises of power, safety, and security all the while abandoning our gospel call to feed the hungry, welcome the stranger, and love the enemy. We cannot let ourselves lose sight of who *we* are by letting ourselves lose sight of who *Jesus* is.

So, who is this Jesus we follow in the wilderness places of our lives? Jesus is the One who through his life, death, and resurrection draws **ALL** people into God’s never-failing and unending love, even, perhaps, especially, in the wilderness. As we journey together through these forty days of Lent, let us turn our eyes and our hearts again to Jesus that he, and he alone, may guide our way.

Looking to Jesus,
Bishop Greg

Prayer Intentions

St. Mark Members

Eleanor Benton, Toni Brendel, Kathy Casey, Gary Dozier, Evelyn Duncan, Ivan Kohlmeier, Diane Maes, Bruce Martens, Dwight Ness, Kim Palmer, Tina Partelow, Marilyn Robinson, Wilma Shroat, Larry Shurtleff, Cohen Summers, Carol and Gary Weshinsky

St. Mark Family and Friends

Dennis Althardt, Stellamarie Bearth, Bonnie Baete, Kathy Boxdorfer, Thomas Boxdorfer, Jim Braeutigam, Jordyn Brazelton, Patty Brennecke, Doug Carpenter, Susan Carson, Christine, Arianna Curnes, Catherine Davis, Mike Ellison, Katrina Fenner, Josh Gansmann, Marge Gardner, Christine Gass, Viv Gillespie, Joni Giordano, David Graber, Stephanie Groennert, TC Groennert, Jamie House, Debbie Jacobs, Jimmy Jurgens, Austin Lickenbrock, Donna Loesche, Becky Loeschner, Wyatt Madison, Christopher Martiszus, Glenda Martiszus, Bobby & Joyce McCall, Allen Martens, Janet Middendorf, Linda Munn, Pr. Ron & Debbie Neustadt, Dean Norrenberns, Theresa Painter, Hilda Parnell, Tim & Missy Partelow, Debbie & Larry Powers, 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, Sue Witherell, 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 Celebrating Birthdays This Week

Amanda Kilzer (3/23), Bella Hayes (3/28), and Larry Shurtleff (3/29)

St. Mark Staff

Pastor: The Rev. Brian M. Robison

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

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

Pastor Emeritus: The Rev. Ronald C. Neustadt

Land Acknowledgement

St. Mark Lutheran 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 wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

MARK TIMES

NEWS and NOTES for March 23, 2025

- Monday, March 24:** 6:00PM Yoga class – *Parish Hall*
6:00PM Pastoral Care committee meeting – *Conference Room*
7:00PM Church Council meeting - *CR*
- Tuesday, March 25:** 6:30PM GriefShare – *Parish Hall*
- Wednesday, Mar. 26:** 6:00PM Soup Supper – *Parish Hall*
7:00PM Evening Prayer for Lent - *Church*
- Thursday, March 27:** 6:15PM Bell choir rehearsal
7:00PM Chancel choir rehearsal
- Saturday, Mar. 29:** 2:00PM Game Day – *Parish Hall*

Adult Forum: *Keeping Up with the Herodians: A Royal Mess*



Join Pastor Brian after worship **TODAY, Sunday, March 23** for a *royally* intriguing class as we untangle the *knotty* family tree of **Herod the Great!** This infamous ruler had a dynasty full of power struggles, betrayals, and plenty of *heir*-apparent drama. From scheming sons to politically savvy daughters, we'll explore who's who in this tangled web of rulers, rebels, and rivals. Get ready for a *Herod-raising* journey through history—when it comes to this family, the throne wasn't the only thing that got shaken up!

Game Day NEXT Saturday!

Bring a board game and a snack to share, or just pop over for a great time **Saturday, March 29** from **2:00-4:00PM** in the **Parish Hall**. Invite other members and friends to join in the fun. Drinks will be provided. Sign-up sheets are in the narthex and Parish Hall!



GriefShare Group at St. Mark Begins This Week

We host an 11-week GriefShare program at the church **beginning THIS Tuesday, March 25**. Sessions are held from **6:30-8:00PM** in the **Parish Hall** on **first, fourth, and fifth Tuesdays**, and in the **conference room** on **second and third Tuesdays** due to available space. ***This week's session is in the Parish Hall.***



The **deadline** to sign up at <https://www.griefshare.org/groups/261743> is end-of-day **tomorrow/Monday**. All are welcome! The program is free but freewill donations are accepted.

Midweek Lenten Soup Suppers and Evening Prayer

Come enjoy a nice evening of fellowship over a meal of **soup and salad this Wednesday at 6:00PM** in the **Parish Hall**, before joining us in the **church for evening prayer at 7:00PM**.

Pastor on Vacation

Pastor Brian will be on vacation this **Thursday, March 27 through Monday, March 31**. In case of **pastoral emergency**, please contact **Fr. Mark Ohlemeier** of St. George's at **785-220-5528**.

Yoga Classes

For the duration of March and **through the end of April**, yoga classes will be held on **Monday evenings** at **6:30PM** in the Parish Hall. As before, bring your own mat and water bottle, and a contribution of \$5 per session. *From May to August, the classes will move back to Thursdays at 6PM.

BEACON Trivia Night – April 26

Location: St. Augustine of Canterbury - 1910 West Belle, Belleville, IL 62226

Doors Open at 6:15pm, play starts at 7pm. This year's theme is **THE BOOB TUBE**.

Sign-up sheets and flyers are in the narthex and Parish Hall.

\$20 per person at the door, **or pre-register and pay before April 10 by check or PayPal to get \$5 off!**



St. Mark participants may give payment to Sherri Foppe or Ann Martens to ensure your team is seated together. OR mail a check to: **BEACON, P.O. Box 23468, Belleville, IL 62223** or use PayPal paypal.me/BeaconMinistry Make checks payable to **BEACON Ministries**.

March is Colorectal Cancer Month

Colorectal/colon cancer is a malignant tumor arising from the inner wall of the large intestine. It is one of the most common cancers, affecting both men and women equally. The disease often begins as a benign growth (polyp), which can develop into cancer over time if not detected and removed early.

Causes and Risk Factors: The exact causes of colorectal cancer are not entirely understood, but several factors are known to increase the risk of developing the disease. Some of the primary risk factors include: Age over 50, Family history of colon cancer, a diet high in red & processed meats and low in fiber, obesity, inactivity, smoking & heavy alcohol consumption, and various bowel diseases.

Symptoms: Changes in bowel habits, such as diarrhea or constipation, Blood in the stool or rectal bleeding, persistent abdominal discomfort, such as cramps or pain, unexplained weight loss, weakness or fatigue and feeling that the bowel does not empty completely.

Diagnosis: Early detection of colorectal cancer significantly improves the chances of successful treatment. Due to the increase in diagnoses among younger people, it is now recommended that all people even at **average risk** begin colon and rectal cancer screening **at age 45**. People at higher risk may need to be screened earlier. Ask your doctor about screening, as your ethnicity, lifestyle, and family history will impact when you should get checked. Several screening methods are available, including: colonoscopy and Fecal Occult stool test

Treatment: Surgery is the primary treatment followed by chemotherapy, radiation, targeted therapy and immunotherapy.

Prevention: Diet rich in fruits, vegetables and whole grains, limiting red and processed meats, regular physical activity, keep a healthy weight, not smoking and limiting alcohol consumption, and regular colon cancer screenings. **Questions? Call the free Helpline at (877) 422-2030.**

Kids for Christ Trivia Night - April 5

Super fun trivia night with HUGE silent auction!! Doors open at 5:30PM. Trivia begins at 6:30PM

Location: Life Church, 4180 Smelting Works Rd. #2021, Swansea, IL 62226

Tables of 8/\$160 - reserve by emailing lordsservant3@outlook.com

1st place prize - \$200 2nd place - \$100

*No alcohol or outside drinks. Soda and water will be for sale; desserts are provided!

St. Mark Offerings (3/16): Gen. Fund: **\$2,486.21**; Food Pantry: \$255.50; Noisy Offering: \$9.27