

MARK TIMES

News & Notes for September 6, 2026

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday, September 7:		<i>Labor Day – Church Offices Closed</i>
	2:30PM	Fiber Arts at Westfield Manor
Wednesday, September 9:	9:30AM	Evangelism Meeting – <i>Conference Room</i>
	12:00PM	Ladies' Lunch Bunch at Casa Maria
Thursday, September 10:	4:15PM	Voice Choir
	6:00PM	Bell Choir
	6:00PM	Yoga – <i>Parish Hall</i>

When in our music God is glorified....

Our congregation is blessed to have many good musicians! Many thanks to these folks for generously sharing their time and talents this summer: **Peggy Andersen, Charlie Duncan, Aaron Fuchs, Bonnie Vize**, the **SHINE musicians**, the **Ladies' Ensemble** (Peggy Andersen, Cheri Batten, Patty Bearth, Debbie Guenther, Linda Ness, Carol Weshinskey) and the **Men's Ensemble** (Greg Guenther, Charlie Palmer, Terry Tribout, Gary Weshinskey). Several shared their music more than once. **THANK YOU** to all of you.



Ladies Lunch Bunch This Week

For September's gathering, the LLB will meet this **Wednesday, September 9 at 12 noon** at **Casa Maria Mexican Grill** (100 North High St, Belleville). **Call Ruth Carnaghi at 618-60-9042** with questions.

Bicycle Donations

Have a gently-used bicycle you've thought of discarding? Our Brothers' Keepers would love to have it! Bring your bicycle to church on September 13 or notify Sherri Foppe, Pastor Brian, or the office if you'd like someone to come pick it up for you!

"God's Work. Our Hands." Day

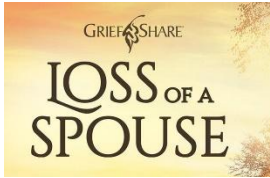
The ELCA's national day of service is coming up **NEXT Sunday, September 13**. We are working to plan activities for various ages and abilities, both in the Parish Hall and out in the community. We will clean windows and assemble raised garden boxes at Our Brother's Keepers (12-3PM) and matching up pillowcases and other linens for Beacon Ministries in the PH after coffee hour.



Choirs Resume Thursday, September 10

Choirs resume rehearsals **THIS Thursday, September 10**. Voice Choir meets at 4:15PM and Bell Choir meets at 6:00PM. 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! Interested? **Call Carol Kugler at 618-581-3079.**

GriefShare: *Loss of a Spouse* Event on September 19



People who are widowed haven't just lost a **loved one**; they've lost an *entire lifestyle*. This one-day, two-hour session GriefShare session hopes to offer support, clarity, and peace during this unsettling time.

You will meet people who understand what you are going through in a safe space to talk, be encouraged, and connect. This 2-hour seminar includes a short video featuring expert Christian counselors, authors, and pastors, followed by small-group discussion.

Join St. Mark's special session, led by Nurse Becky, on **Saturday, September 19** 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 <https://find.griefshare.org/events/294594>

NOTE: Even if you attended this session in April, please consider attending again; grief and loss affect us differently with the passage of time, and you may benefit from another session in ways that you don't anticipate.

Change to Franklin School Lunch Packing

Normally at this time of year we would be recruiting volunteers and soliciting donations for **packing lunches for children in particular need at Franklin elementary school**. However, we were contacted by the principal at Franklin to say that their needs have changed, and while they very much have appreciated our efforts to provide nutritious meals over holiday weekends, **they will not be participating in the sack lunch program this year**. They would like to find some other way to partner with us, so keep an eye on this space for more information. And, THANK YOU all for what you've done to support this program for many years!



Second Sunday Food Collection

In addition to being "God's Work. Our Hands." day, **NEXT Sunday, September 13** is our **monthly focus on food pantry donations**, and we're asking folks to bring **Dollar Tree-sized dish detergent and laundry detergent, and jellies**. Please place them in the big basket as you come into church.

Church Picnic September 27

After the weather put a damper on our pool party but still wanting to have an outdoor church event, we have pivoted back to a **church picnic**, which will be on **Sunday, September 27** from **noon to 3pm** at **Schranz Memorial Park** in Swansea. Format will be as in years past: bring food enough for you and your family, and a game to share!

Coffee Hour Teams Schedule Available

Pick up your coffee hour schedule from Melanie, or email her to have it sent digitally at melanierobison@earthlink.net.

St. Mark Offerings for 8/30: General Fund: **\$2,680.11**; Coffee Fund: \$112.20