

ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

August 17,
2025



The Tenth
Sunday
after
Pentecost

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

THE DIVINE LITURGY: 9:00AM

EDUCATION HOUR: 10:30AM

105 EAST “D” STREET BELLEVILLE, IL 62220

EMAIL: WORSHIP@STMARKBELLEVILLE.ORG

THE REV. BRIAN M. ROBISON, PASTOR

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- + **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

“Largo”

G.F. Handel

WELCOME *Please STAND as you are able*

In the name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Baptized into Christ, 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.

Merciful God,

you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.

You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,

but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.

You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity,

but we grow weary in doing what is right.

In your mercy, forgive us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.

You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are + forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN *Please STAND* “Lead On, O King Eternal”

ELW 805



1 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal! The day of march has come;
2 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,
3 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal: we fol - low, not with fears,



hence-forth in fields of con - quest your tents will be our home.
and ho - li - ness shall whis - per the sweet a - men of peace;
for glad-ness breaks like morn - ing wher - e'er your face ap - pears.



Through days of prep - a - ra - tion your grace has made us strong;
for not with swords loud clash - ing, nor roll of stir-ring drums,
Your cross is lift - ed o'er us; we jour - ney in its light;



and now, O King e - ter - nal, we lift our bat - tle song.
but deeds of love and mer - cy the heav'n - ly king - dom comes.
the crown a - waits the con - quest; lead on, O God of might!

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... O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Following the prayer, please SIT.

WORD

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 23:23-29

²³Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? ²⁴Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. ²⁵I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed, I have dreamed!" ²⁶How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? ²⁷They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. ²⁸Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. ²⁹Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

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

PSALM 82 *spoken responsively by whole verse*

¹God stands to charge the divine council assembled,
giving judgment in the midst [|] of the gods:

²"**How long will you [|] judge unjustly,
and show favor [|] to the wicked?**

³Save the weak [|] and the orphan;
defend the humble and needy;

⁴**rescue the weak [|] and the poor;
deliver them from the power [|] of the wicked.**

⁵They do not know, neither do they understand; they wander about in darkness;
all the foundations of the [|] earth are shaken.

⁶**Now I say to you, [|] 'You are gods,
and all of you children of [|] the Most High;**

⁷nevertheless, you shall [|] die like mortals, and fall like [|] any prince."

⁸**Arise, O God, and [|] rule the earth,
for you shall take all nations [|] for your own.**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 11:29—12:2

²⁹By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

³²And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—³³who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented—³⁸of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

³⁹Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

^{12:1}Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

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

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



Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.

Repeat alleluia

GOSPEL: Luke 12:49-56

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

[Jesus said:] ⁴⁹"I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵²From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³they will be divided:

father against son and son against father,
mother against daughter and daughter against mother,

mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

⁵⁴He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain'; and so it happens. ⁵⁵And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat'; and it happens. ⁵⁶You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?

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

SERMON *"Strange New Worlds and the Fire of God"* **The Rev. Brian M. Robison**

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

HYMN OF THE DAY **"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"** **ELW 517**

1 Lord, keep us steadfast in your word; curb those who
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and
by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son
Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we
u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife
and may bring to naught all he has done.
and sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
and lead us out of death to life.

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, **Eleanor** Benton, **Toni** Brendel, **Gary** Dozier, **Evelyn** Duncan, **Art** Engelage, **Wally** Kleist, **Ivan** Kohlmeier, **Bruce** Martens, **Diane** Martens, **Linda** Ness, **Kim** Palmer, **Tina** Partelow, **Marilyn** Robinson, **Larry** Shurtleff, **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.*

OFFERTORY “Aria” *J.S. Bach*

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

Assistant: Let us pray together...

Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. 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 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

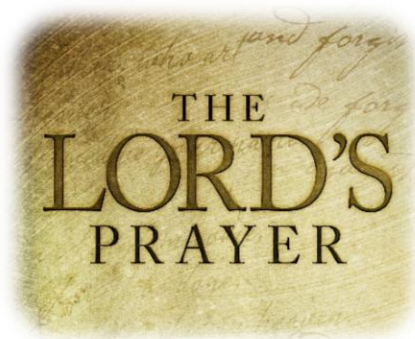
as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

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

forever and ever. Amen.



INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

LAMB OF GOD *Please SIT*

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.*

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SONGS DURING THE DISTRIBUTION:

“Faith of Our Fathers”

ELW 812

1 Faith of our fa - thers, liv - ing still in spite of dun - geon,
 2 The mar - tyrs, 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.

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

ELW 815

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
 2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
 3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to

fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
 look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
 be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with

light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
 shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain

In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the
day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the
cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

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.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Assistant: Let us pray together... **Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

Almighty God bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

“Rise Up, O Saints of God!”

ELW 669

1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulf's earth's frame;
3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king-dom's task em - brace;
4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;

Christ rose tri - um-phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se-quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.
stretch forth your hand of heal-ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.
and, quick-ened by the Spir-it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit! **Thanks be to God!**

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Guest Presider & Preacher: Danielle Tribout + **Assisting Minister:** Charlie Duncan
Crucifer: Keith Kniepkamp + **Lector:** Aaron Fuchs + **Chalice Bearer:** Mike Murakami
Tech Minister: Melanie Robison + **Safety Volunteer:** Frank Dressel
Organist: Evelyn Duncan + **Ushers:** Danielle Tribout & Curt Gansmann

Prayer Intentions

St. Mark Members

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

St. Mark Family and Friends

Dennis Althardt, Stellamarie Bearth, Bonnie Baete, John Belz, Kathy Boxdorfer, Thomas Boxdorfer,
 Jim Braeutigam, Patty Brennecke, 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, Jimmy Jurgens, Mark Klawonn, Austin Lickenbrock,
 Donna Loesche, Becky Loeschner, Wyatt Madison, Christopher Martiszus, Glenda Martiszus,
 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

Charlie Duncan (8/17), Ivan Kohlmeier (8/17), Madeline Simard (8/22),
 Kathy Evans (8/22), and Michelle Mizulski (8/23)

Members who celebrate Wedding Anniversaries this week

Alice & Mike Murakami (8/20)

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 August 17, 2025

Monday, Aug. 18: 2:30PM Fiber Arts at Westfield Manor

Thursday, August 21: 6:00PM Yoga – Parish Hall

Friday, August 22: 5:00PM Guy's Nite – Courtyard

Youth Mission Trip Presentation

THIS morning, Sunday, August 17, get your coffee and snacks and gather in the class area of the Parish Hall to hear a **presentation** about the recent **mission trip to Milwaukee** with some of our youth and the youth of Christ Community Lutheran (Columbia, IL). Photos, memories, and anecdotes will be shared about the life-changing experiences had in part because of your support!



Guys' Nite Returns in 2025!



Sign up NOW for Guys' Nite! St. George's and St. Mark are inviting all the guys for an evening hangout on **Friday, August 22nd!** Registration at 5pm, dinner at 5:45, complete with brats, sides, beers, and desserts. Thanks to one of our more traveled members, we have a supply of Wisconsin's New Glarus Spotted Cow farmhouse ale!

New in 2025: INDOOR options as well, including cards, board games, and possibly a Cardinals game! Bring your favorite card or table game and play in the air conditioning!

Returning in 2025: Pickleball on Jackson Street and Bags in the circle drive! Invite your friends!

Heroes & Hand-Me-Downs: The Great Church Lot Bash is coming to the big parking lot (the corner of D and High Streets) on **Saturday, September 13 from 10am-2pm!**

Sell your arts, crafts, used home goods, et al, at the **tailgate sale** (rent one a single parking space for \$25.00 or two for \$35.00; **proceeds from rentals benefit the food pantry**, but **you keep proceeds from the sale of your goods**). A limited number of spaces are available, so make your reservation soon! To reserve a spot, e-mail heroesandhandmedowns@gmail.com.



In addition, there will be **free hot dogs**, and children's activities include "touch the truck" (fire truck, police car, ambulance), face painting, and meeting costumed superheroes.

GriefShare Group at St. Mark Begins September 2

St. Mark will host an 11-week GriefShare program at the church **beginning Tuesday, September 2**. Sessions will be held from **6:30-8:00PM** alternating between the **Parish Hall and the conference room** due to available space.



Sign up at [GriefShare at St. Mark](#), or <https://www.griefshare.org/groups/269699> All are welcome! The program is free but freewill donations are accepted. Sign up by midnight on Monday, Sept. 1.

Chestnut Health Systems will present information on *Mental Health, Substance Abuse/Narcan and Suicide Awareness/Prevention* in a class sponsored by the Joint Safety Committee on **Saturday, September 20** from 9am-1pm. A sign-up sheet is on St. George's table in the narthex.

THANK YOU to Dave Buckley and friends for the Food Pantry remodel. It looks great and is so much easier to work in!

Belleville Summer Sack Lunch Program End of Season THANK YOU

The Evangelism/Social Ministry Committee wishes to thank everyone who supported the program again this year by donating money, chips, cookies, fruit juice pouches, packing and/or delivering to provide free lunches for low-income children!

Together with Westview Baptist, **over 1300 lunches were assembled and delivered to Belleville's children over the 10 weeks!**

On two different weeks, the children were treated to Goodie Bags, and on two other weeks freezer pops were an extra treat!

On two Thursdays, at two different locations, Jan Richards and Sherri Foppe held traveling Mini-Vacation Bible Schools. The 15-minute VBS included a Bible story, craft or game and a song! Attendance was lower than anticipated, as is often the case with a new event. Christian Education and Evangelism/Social Ministry will consider this type of event again next summer.

This program makes a real difference in the lives of those served! The following is a note we received from the parent of a lunch recipient:

"I would like to take this time to thank everyone that has hands in making these lunches happen for the children of Belleville. I am a single mom that appreciates all the help I can get. You all made it possible for my children to eat even when I could not provide for them. I am truly grateful to God for you all. I wish I could repay you! If there is a way to donate to keep this going, I would love to help."

Coffee Hour Teams

Being on a Coffee Hour team is not just "bringing snacks and making coffee;" it is a **ministry of service and hospitality** to our members and guests that is MUCH appreciated. If you would like to serve on a coffee hour team, or be a captain, or make a change to a different role on a team, please contact Melanie in person or at 314-265-8722 or melanierobison@earthlink.net.



Offerings (8/10): Gen. Fund: **\$3,453**; Food Pantry: \$25