

ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

September
14,
2025



Holy
Cross
Day

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

-
- + **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

“Rhosymedre”

D. Janet

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*

“Lift High the Cross”

ELW 660

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till
all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

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.**

PRAAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray... Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that he might draw the whole world to himself. To those who look upon the cross, grant your wisdom, healing, and eternal life, 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

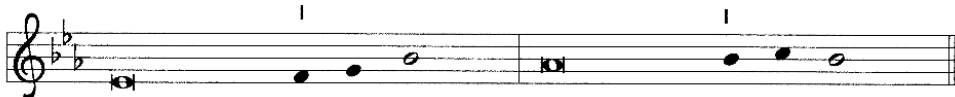
FIRST READING: Numbers 21:4b-9

[From Mount Hor the Israelites set out,] ^{4b}but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 98:1-4 *chanted responsively between choir and congregation*



¹Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done ¹marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have ¹won the victory.

**²O LORD, you have made | known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight | of the nations.**

³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the ¹house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory ¹of our God.

**⁴Shout with joy to the LORD, ¹all you lands;
lift up your voice, re- ¹joice, and sing.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-24

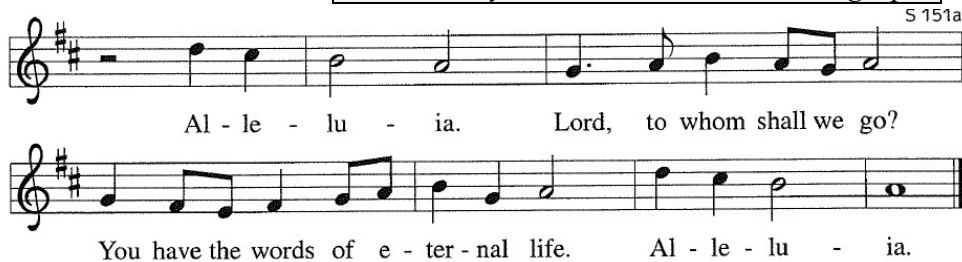
¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

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

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



GOSPEL: John 3:13-17

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

[Jesus said:] ¹³"No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

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

SERMON

"Seeing the Cross with Eagle Eyes"

The Rev. Brian M. Robison

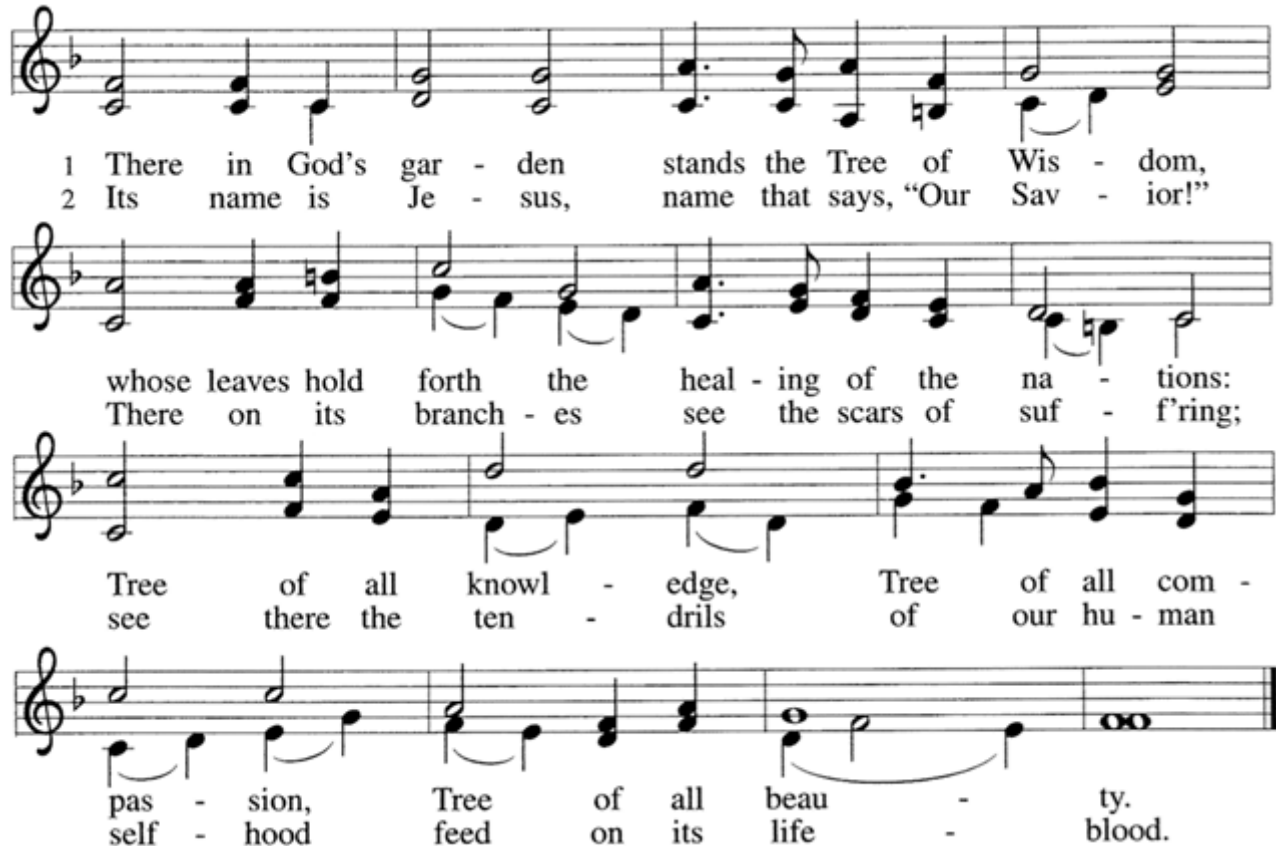


Following the sermon, the assembly **STANDS** to proclaim the word of God in song.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“There in God’s Garden”

ELW 342 (V 1-2, 5-6)



The musical score is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of four lines of music. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words hyphenated across lines. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final double bar line at the end of the fourth line.

1 There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom,
2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!"

whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:
There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - f'ring;

Tree of all the knowl - edge, Tree of all com -
see there the ten - drils of our hu - man

pas - sion, Tree of all its beau - ty.
self - hood feed on its life blood.

5 This is my ending,
this my resurrection;
into your hands, Lord,
I commit my spirit.
This have I searched for;
now I can possess it.
This ground is holy.

6 All heav'n is singing,
"Thanks to Christ whose passion
offers in mercy
healing, strength, and pardon.
Peoples and nations,
take it, take it freely!"
Amen! My Master!

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** Weshinsky, **Gary** Weshinsky, **Jackie** Woodrome

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 “Reach Out and Touch”

Brown

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.

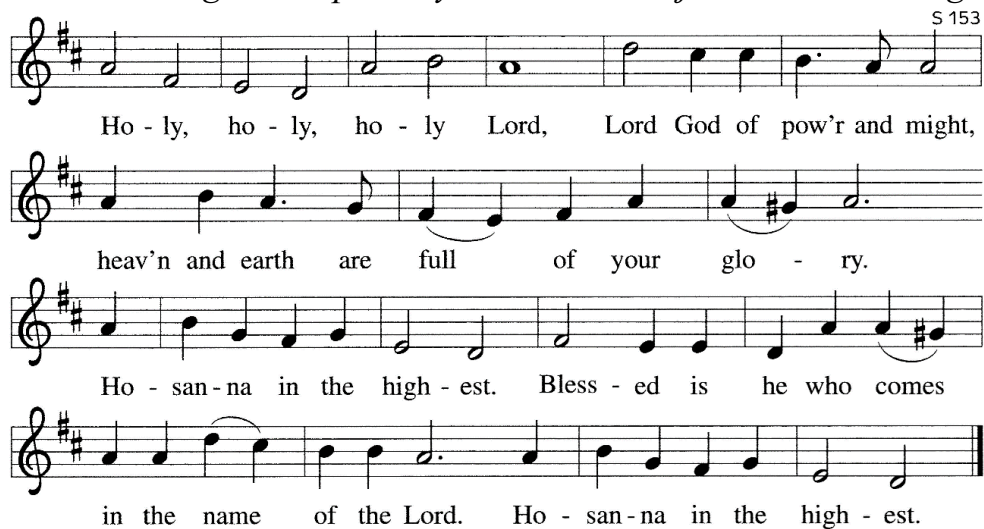
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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.

EUCHARISTIC 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,

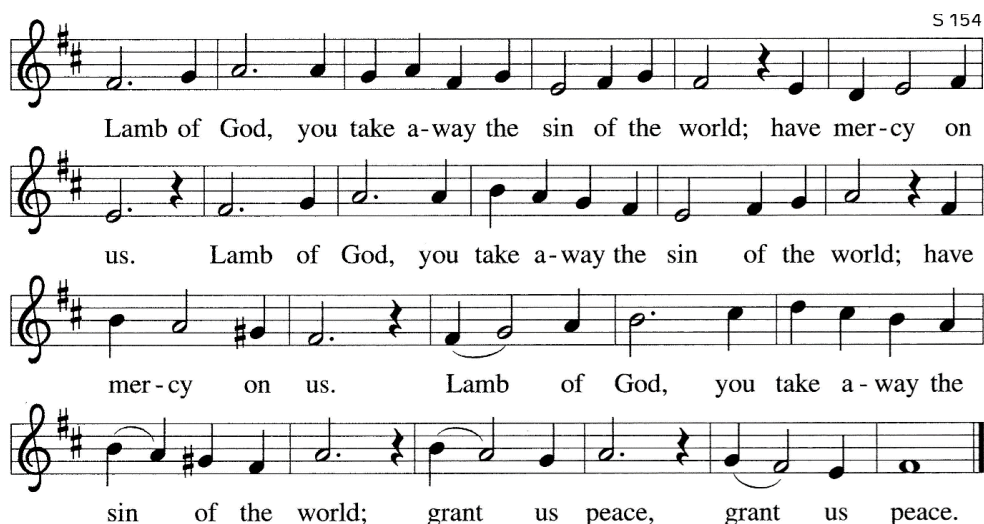
forever and ever. Amen.

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:

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”

ELW 803

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that
love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and
pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

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1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, fol - low his ex - am - ple pure,
 2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus, and with pa - tience bear our cross.
 3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death he con - quered death,
 4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en from the dead



through a world that would de - ceive us and to sin our spir - its lure.
 Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; where he is there is no loss.
 he will free us from de - struc - tion, give to us im - mor - tal breath.
 that to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus, you are now our head,



On - ward in his foot - steps tread - ing, trav - 'lers here, our home a - bove,
 Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter, we shall reap ce - les - tial joy:
 Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion that would lead us in - to sin;
 we are your own liv - ing mem - bers; where you live, there we shall be



full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Sav - ior's bid - ding.
 all dis - com - forts that an - noy shall give way to mirth here - af - ter.
 and the grave that shuts us in shall but prove the gate of heav - en.
 in your pres - ence con - stant - ly, liv - ing there with you for - ev - er.



Faith - ful Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where you guide.
 Je - sus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know.
 Je - sus, here with you I die, there to live with you on high.
 Je - sus, let me faith - ful be; life e - ter - nal grant to me.

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.**

SENDING HYMN**“Lord, I Lift Your Name on High”****ELW 857** (*sing twice*)

Lord, I lift your name on high; Lord, I love to sing your praises.
I'm so glad you're in my life, I'm so glad you came to save us.
You came from heav-en to earth to show the way, from the earth
to the cross, my debt to pay, from the cross to the grave,
from the grave to the sky; Lord, I lift your name on high.

ANNOUNCEMENTS**DISMISSAL**

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

POSTLUDE*“March”**G.F. Handel***MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY**

Presider & Preacher: The Rev. Brian M. Robison + **Assisting Minister:** Corbin Monfre

Lector: Aaron Fuchs + **Crucifer:** Frank Dressel + **Chalice Bearer:** Tom Partelow

Tech Minister: Melanie Robison + **Safety Volunteer:** Mark Bearth

Organist: Evelyn Duncan + **Ushers:** Rick Crosby & Rex Rothgangel

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, Susan Carson, Christine, Arianna Curnes, Catherine Davis, Mike Ellison, 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, Mark Klawonn,
Austin Lickenbrock, Donna Loesche, Becky Loeschner, Wyatt Madison, Christopher 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

Sawyer Best (9/15), Lisa Reyes (9/19), and Beverlee Worley (9/20)

Members Celebrating New Life

John and Leslie Lynch, on the birth of **Stella June** (granddaughter of Monica and Tom Lynch) on 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 September 14, 2025

Monday, Sept. 15: 2:30PM Fiber Arts @ Westfield Manor
Wednesday, Sept. 17: 11:30AM Table Talk Bible Class – conference room
Thursday, Sept. 18: 4:00PM Chancel choir
5:30PM Men's Chorus
6:00PM Bell Choir
6:00PM Yoga – Parish Hall

Adult Forum: *The True Cross*

On this day of commemoration for the Holy Cross, Pastor Brian offers insights and a video about the “**true cross**,” the *actual* cross on which Jesus was crucified. Who found it? How was the wood not disintegrated? Where was it found? It's in *how* many pieces??? Grab your coffee and get your hot cross buns (maybe?) to the Parish Hall for this week's Adult Forum!

St. Mark Table Talk Returns!

In concert with **National Healthy Aging Month**, bring a lunch to the conference room **THIS Wednesday at 11:30AM** for our first Table Talk of the fall, **Elder Care in Antiquity: Biblical and Historical Insights**. We'll explore Scripture verses that may have motivated how early Christian communities cared for their elders, bolstered by evidence from a recent remarkable archaeological discovery. Together, we'll study how biblical teaching and historical practice connect with today's call to honor and support older adults. Come ready for discussion, reflection, and renewed vision for caring across generations.

Thanks Guys!

Last month's Guys Nite collected approximately \$400 to benefit our food pantry!



Franklin School Lunch Packing Returns

The shopping and stocking of shelves has been done for the Franklin School holiday lunch program for this school year. We pack 20 bag lunches for needy students for all long weekends and are ready to have volunteers sign up to help pack. This requires about an hour on the day before Columbus Day, election day, Veterans' Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Martin Luther King Day, Presidents' Day, Spring Break and possibly Memorial Day 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 by the Franklin children, staff, and our Evangelism Committee. Thank you!

From the Parish Nurse: Healthy Aging Month

Healthy Aging: Never Too Late to Begin

September marks Healthy Aging Month, a time to celebrate the wisdom, resilience, and joy that come with growing older. But healthy aging isn't only for seniors—it begins at every stage of life. The choices we make today about nutrition, movement, rest, and connection shape how we will feel in the years to come.

Healthy Aging Month was created to highlight the positive side of aging and to encourage adults, especially those 45 and older, to take charge of their well-being. This year's theme, "Never Too Late to Reinvent Yourself," reminds us that each new chapter can bring fresh opportunities for purpose and growth. Maybe that means taking a class, joining a walking group, or simply dedicating time to self-care.

Healthy aging is not about perfection—it's about balance and intention. By adopting small but meaningful habits, such as daily activity, regular health checkups, and social engagement, we can prevent complications, support independence, and embrace life with vitality.

It's never too late to start making positive changes. Healthy aging means not just adding years to life, but life to years.



Mental Health Class Canceled

The class on *Mental Health, Substance Abuse/Narcan and Suicide Awareness/Prevention* originally scheduled for next Saturday, September 20 and presented by Chestnut Health Systems has been **indefinitely postponed** by the presenter. We will update you if and when a new date is scheduled.

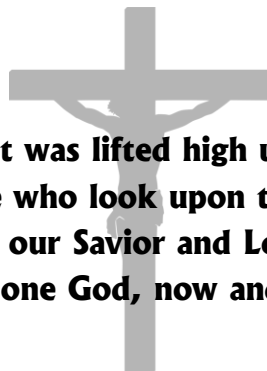
Choirs Rehearsals - Note NEW TIMES

Voice Choir meets at 4:00PM; Men's Choir meets at 5:30PM; 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!

GriefShare Update and Save-the-Date

Unfortunately, we were forced to cancel the full GriefShare session that was to begin September 2, due to lack of enrollment. However, we will again offer the one-day, two-hour GriefShare **Surviving the Holidays** event on Saturday, November 15 at 1:00PM. More information will be available soon.

Offerings for 9/7 and 9/14 will be reported next week.



Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that he might draw the whole world to himself. To those who look upon the cross, grant your wisdom, healing, and eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.