

# MARK TIMES

## NEWS and NOTES for August 24, 2025

**Monday, August 25:** 6:00PM Pastoral Care committee meeting - CR

7:00PM Church Council meeting - CR

**Thursday, August 28:** 6:00PM Yoga – Parish Hall

**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](mailto:heroesandhandmedowns@gmail.com).

In addition, there will be **free hot dogs**, and children's activities include "touch the trucks" (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/Narcotics 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.

### 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](mailto:melanierobison@earthlink.net).



### Choirs Resume in September

Choirs resume rehearsals on **Thursday, September 4**. **Voice Choir** meets at **4:00PM**; **Men's Chorus** meets at **5:30PM**; and **Bell Choir** meets at **6:00PM**. If you can carry a tune *at all*, the Chancel choir would love to welcome you (you don't need to sing solo or even to read music well)!

## 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."



## From the Parish Nurse: National Immunization Awareness Month

### *Part 1: The Public Health Impact of Vaccines*

**Vaccines** remain one of the **greatest triumphs in modern medicine**, protecting both individuals and entire communities. Diseases that once caused widespread suffering—like smallpox, polio, and measles—have been brought under control or even eliminated through global vaccination campaigns. Smallpox was eradicated worldwide in 1980; polio cases have dropped by over 99% since 1988; and measles has become rare in countries with strong vaccine coverage. These victories show clearly how powerful vaccines are in reducing illness and saving lives.



Importantly, **vaccination is more than just a personal choice**. It is a **shared responsibility**. Some people - such as newborns, the elderly, and those with compromised immune systems - cannot safely receive every vaccine. So, they rely on **herd immunity**—the protection created when enough people in a community are vaccinated to slow or stop the spread of disease. **By getting vaccinated, each of us helps shield our neighbors as well as ourselves.**

Advances in technology continue to expand vaccine possibilities. The rapid development of mRNA vaccines for COVID-19 highlighted how science, collaboration, and global cooperation can respond to new threats. Looking ahead, continued investment in vaccine research, fair distribution, and public education will be crucial. Vaccines are more than medicine—they are acts of compassion, contributing to a healthier, more resilient world.

**Offerings (8/17):** Gen. Fund: **\$1,195**; Food Pantry: \$5