

MARK TIMES

NEWS and NOTES for June 22, 2025

Friday, 6/20-Friday, 6/27: *Pastor on vacation*
Monday, June 23: 7:00PM Church Council meeting – Conference Room
Tuesday, June 24: 6:00PM Safety committee meeting – conference room
Thursday, June 26: 6:00PM Yoga – Parish Hall
Friday, 6/27-7/4: *Randi on vacation*

Pastor on Vacation

Pastor Brian is on vacation through Friday, June 27.

In case of pastoral emergency, please contact Synodically-Authorized Minister Danielle Tribout at 618-531-2790.

Belleville Summer Sack Lunch Program

We're partnering again with Westview Baptist to provide **free lunches for low-income kids!**

Donations: Individually packaged Cheez-Its, chips, pretzels, nut-free cookies, and juice pouches (e.g., Capri Sun).

Drop off at church or contact **Sherri Foppe** for other arrangements.

+ **Monetary gifts welcome:** Give to Sherri, Ann Martens, or online: secure.myvanco.com/L-YT91/campaign/C-15AC7

+ **Food Safety:** Gloves required for packing; masks optional for delivery.

+ **Volunteers Needed for...**

Packing: Wednesdays, 5–5:45 PM @ Westview Baptist

Delivery: Thursdays, 10:35 AM–1 PM

Dates: June 4–Aug 7 (weekly)

+ Sign-up in Parish Hall!

Info: Sherri (618)791-6148 | cookinsherri2@gmail.com or Ann (618)235-7762 | ga72mart@charter.net



Summer Sack Lunch Mini Traveling VBS


The Evangelism/Social Ministry and Christian Education teams are launching a **new mini traveling VBS** during Summer Sack Lunch deliveries!

We'll visit 4 distribution sites with a 20-minute program featuring **Bible heroes David and Queen Esther**, including a story/skit, craft or game, and possibly music.

Volunteers Needed! Each site needs **4–5 helpers** (more on **July 10** at Hough Park, which serves 40–50 children). No experience needed—just a heart to serve!

Remaining Program Dates & Times:

- **June 26** (11:20 AM–12:30 PM) – *David & Goliath*
- **July 10** (10:50 AM–1:15 PM) – *Queen Esther*, led by Jan Richards
- **July 17** (11:20 AM–12:30 PM) – *Queen Esther*

 Sign-up sheets are in the Parish Hall (with the Driver/Co-Pilot and Lunch Packers sheets).

St. Mark Offerings (6/15): Gen. Fund: **\$2,842.44**; Dwight Ness Memorials: \$45; Lois Gentsch Memorials: \$245; Coffee Fund: \$134.70; Sunday Morning Coffee: \$16

Our Brother's Keepers Tour – June 25

Members, family and friends are invited to tour **Our Brother's Keepers of Southern IL** at 614 N. 7th Street in East St. Louis **THIS Wednesday, June 25**. We will meet in the St. Mark parking lot then carpool to the facility for our 60-minute to 90-minute visit. We will tour the facility, meet the staff and potentially meet a few clients.



Those planning to attend are asked to **sign up to ensure enough transportation** and no one is left behind! **Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex** (Canterbury Room) **and in the Parish Hall**.

In the last year we learned so much about the difficult process of former inmates struggle to rejoin communities as productive citizens. Want to know more? Visit their website <https://obkministry.org/> and join us on June 25.

Care Facility Sing-Alongs Next Sunday!

Join us **next Sunday, June 29**, as we travel to **Mercy** (now EverVella) **Rehab & Care Center** (Swansea) at **1:00PM** and **Freeburg Care Center** at **4:00PM** to **sing** some patriotic songs and other favorite melodies. We'll get a bite to eat and/or stop for ice cream in between!

From the Parish Nurse...

June is National Safety Month! This is a good time to focus on key safety practices in different areas of your life. Today, the focus is on **Digital Security**.

Digital security is all about protecting your online identity, data, and devices from cyber threats. Whether you're protecting sensitive data, shielding yourself from cyber threats, or just keeping nosy eyes off your digital footprint, there's a lot to consider.

Here are some key areas on which to focus:

1. **Passwords & Authentication:** Use strong, unique passwords for each account. Better yet, a password manager can generate and store them for you. Enable two-factor authentication (2FA) wherever possible. **Two-factor authentication (2FA)** is a security measure designed to add an extra layer of protection to your accounts beyond just a password. It works by requiring two forms of verification before granting access. This significantly reduces the chances of unauthorized access, even if someone steals or guesses your password.
2. **Software & Device Security:** Keep your operating system, applications, and antivirus software updated. Outdated software is a goldmine for cybercriminals.
3. **Network Safety:** Avoid using public Wi-Fi for sensitive transactions. If you must, use a virtual private network (VPN) to encrypt your connection. One of the worst places to use public Wi-Fi is an airport.
4. **Phishing & Scams:** Be skeptical of unexpected emails, links, or attachments. Cybercriminals love to masquerade as legitimate sources.
5. **Privacy Settings:** Review and adjust your privacy settings on social media, apps, and devices. Limit data collection when possible.
6. **Backup Strategy:** Regularly back up your files to a secure cloud service or an offline storage device to protect against data loss.
7. **Physical Security:** Lock your devices when unattended. A stolen phone or laptop can be a gateway to your entire digital world.

Looking Ahead...

In process is a congregational **pool party** at **Westhaven Pool & Racket Club** on **Tuesday, July 29** from **4-8PM!**

Mark your calendars for the third annual **"Guys Nite"** on **Friday, August 22**. Volunteers for planning, set-up, clean-up would be great. Keep an eye on the *Mark Times* for updates!

The Joint Safety Committee is sponsoring a class on **Saturday September 20** from 9am-1pm.

Chestnut Health Systems will present information on *Mental Health, Substance Abuse/Narcan and Suicide Awareness/Prevention*. A sign-up will be available later in the summer.