ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

A congregation of the

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

welcomes you!

September 21, 2025



The 15th
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
THE REV. RONALD C. NEUSTADT, PASTOR EMERITUS

- + To parents with small children: We are glad your family is worshiping 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.

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 "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" ELW 588



- 1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
- 2 There is wel-come for the sin-ner, and a prom-ised grace made good;
- 3 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures of our mind 4 'Tis not all we owe to Je sus; it is some-thing more than all:



God's jus - tice which is there's a kind-ness in more than lib - er - ty. heal-ing his blood. there is mer-cy with the Sav-ior; there is in the heart of the E - ter - nal most won-der - ful - ly kind. is mer-cy through the fall. e - vil, larg - er great - er good be - cause of



There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n. There is grace e - nough for thou-sands of new worlds as great as this; But we make this love too nar - row by false lim - its of our own; Make our love, O God, more faith - ful; let us take you at your word,



There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg-ment giv'n. there is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss. and we mag-ni - fy its strict-ness with a zeal God will not own. and our lives will be thanks-giv - ing for the good-ness of the Lord.

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... God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Following the prayer, please SIT.

WORD

FIRST READING: Amos 8:4-7

⁴Hear this, you that trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land, ⁵coving. "When will the new mean be over

⁵saying, "When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain;

and the sabbath,

so that we may offer wheat for sale?

We will make the ephah small and the shekel great, and practice deceit with false balances,

⁶buying the poor for silver

and the needy for a pair of sandals, and selling the sweepings of the wheat."

⁷The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 113 chanted responsively between choir and congregation



¹Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants | of the LORD; praise the name | of the LORD.

²Let the name of the | LORD be blessed, from this time forth for- | evermore.

³From the rising of the sun to its | going down let the name of the | LORD be praised.

⁴The LORD is high a- | bove all nations, God's glory a- | bove the heavens.

⁵Who is like the | LORD our God, who sits en- | throned on high,

⁶but stoops | to behold

the heavens | and the earth?

⁷The LORD takes up the weak out | of the dust and lifts up the poor | from the ashes,

⁸enthroning them | with the rulers, with the rulers | of the people.

⁹The LORD makes the woman of a | childless house to be a joyful mother of children. | Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

¹First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God;

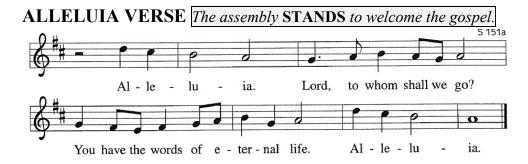
there is also one mediator between God and humankind,

Christ Jesus, himself human,

⁶who gave himself a ransom for all

—this was attested at the right time. ⁷For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.



GOSPEL: Luke 16:1-13

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

¹Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ²So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because

you cannot be my manager any longer.' ³Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' ⁵So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' ⁶He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' ⁷Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' ⁸And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

¹⁰Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹²And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

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

SERMON "When God Hands Us the Ring" The Rev. Brian M. Robison

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



ACS 1036



- 1 Com-mon-wealth is God's com-mand-ment; com-mon goods are meant to share. 2 Shar-ing lav - ish gifts and bless-ings, love that not one mite with-holds,
- 3 Gen-ders, rac es, tribes, and na tions, hear the Ho ly One who calls,



Ta - bles set and doors wide o - pen wel-come an - gels un - a - ware. stretch out arms to friends and strang-ers: God has sheep of bid - ding all to work to - geth-er, bridg-ing lives and breach-ing walls.



Plead for the peace of all cre-a-tion. Pray for a place where grace is found.



Shan-ti, pax, sha - lom, mas-la - ha: com-mon good is ho - ly ground.

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 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

"God of Heaven"

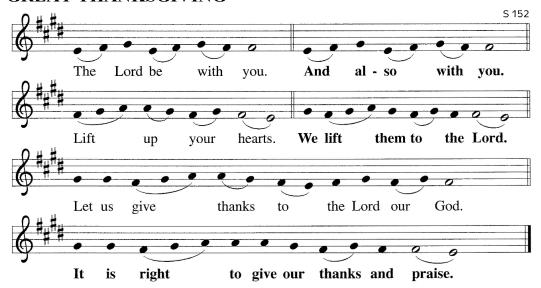
Sorenson

Lyrics to the anthem are printed on the last page

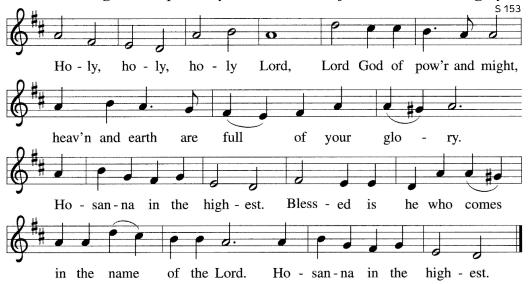
OFFERING PRAYER Please **STAND** as you are able

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



It is indeed right...we praise your name, and join their unending hymn:



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.

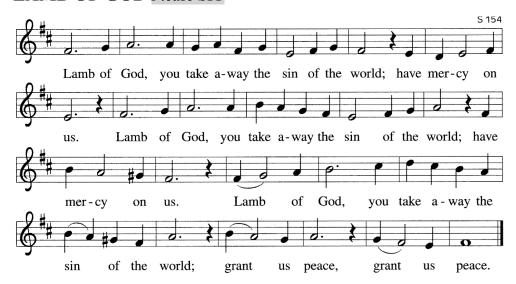
For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,

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



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:

"We Give Thee But Thine Own" **ELW 686** We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be: ceive, May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re The cap - tive to re lease, to God the lost bring, And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be:



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee. and glad - ly, as thou bless-est to thee our first-fruits give. us, teach the of life and peace—it a Christ-like thing. way is what-e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

"Blest Are They" ELW 728



After the distribution is complete, the assembly **STANDS** *for the blessing.*

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TABLE BLESSING

The Body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. Amen.

ELW 201



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.**



ANNOUNCMENTS

Shine

Shine

on

on

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

me,

me,

POSTLUDE

"Dialogue sur les Grand jeux"

shine

shine

on

on

me:

me:

Couperin

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Presider & Preacher: The Rev. Brian M. Robison + **Assisting Minister:** Danielle Tribout **Lector:** Terry Tribout + **Crucifer:** Keith Kniepkamp + **Chalice Bearer:** Mike Murakami

Tech Minister: Greg Martens + **Safety Volunteer:** Frank Dressel **Organist:** Evelyn Duncan + **Ushers:** Curt Gansmann and TBD

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 Weshinskey

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, Richard Fahrner,
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,
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

Evelyn Duncan (9/24), Anna Robison (9/25), and Piper Perry (9/27)

Members celebrating wedding anniversaries this week

Ivan & Judy Kohlmeier (9/23), Brad & Laurie Geppert (9/23), Carolyn & Matt Simard (9/25), Mark & Patty Bearth (9/27), Letitia & Todd Downen (9/27), and June & Jim Isselhardt (9/27)

Members Who Mourn the Loss of Loved Ones

The family and friends of **Mark Klawonn** (9/4) (father of Nicole Parker and former pastor at Peace)

GOD OF HEAVEN - Words and Music by Heather

Sorenson

God of Heaven, God of all the earth and sky.

Great Creator, Master of all nature.

Who gives birth to snow from heaven,

Holds the waves at ocean's edge,

Gives the orders to the morning,

Shows each dawn its place to shine?

God of Heaven, God of all the earth and sky.

God of Ages, God who wrote the Book of Time.

Sovereign Ruler, Alpha and Omega.

Saints before, He's guided safely.

History's pages signed by Him.

Author of our days and hours;

Things to come are held secure.

God of Ages, Alpha and Omega.

God of Power! God who breaks the darkness. Righteous Warrior, Champion of His children,

Goes before us into battle; Good and evil bow to Him,

Those in bondage freed forever,

Victories won at His command!

God who heals us, God who gives us peace and hope.

God who listens, Carries all our fragile

Dreams and heartaches, wins and failures:

Binds the broken; hides the weak.

New beginnings freely offered;

Who can make us whole again?

who can make us whole again.

God who heals us, God of Power,

God of Ages, God of Heaven,

God of all the earth and sky.



NEWS and NOTES for September 21, 2025

Monday, Sept. 22: 6:00PM Pastoral Care committee – conference room

7:00PM Church Council – conference room

Tuesday, Sept. 23: All day Pastor at synod theological conference, Pere Marquette

Thursday, Sept. 25: 4:00PM Chancel choir

5:30PM Men's Chorus

6:00PM Bell Choir

6:00PM Yoga – Parish Hall

Adult Forum: The Parables of Luke 16, Part 1

Dovetailing with our Gospel readings for today and next Sunday, Pastor Brian will offer bible classes on the parables found in each. We begin today with the parable of the "Shady but Shrewd Manager." Grab your coffee and snacks and meet us on the far end of the Parish Hall after worship.

Let's Make It a Card Shower!

Wilma Shroat will be 98 years young **next Sunday, September 28**. Coffee Team 4 would like to have a card shower for her. There will be a basket for cards in the Parish Hall during coffee hour on September 28. If possible, cards should be larger print for her to be able to read them. Thank you!

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!

Heroes and Hand-Me-Downs THANK YOU

Thanks to everyone who braved the heat to be part of our first Heroes and Hand-Me-Downs event! From the volunteers who set-up and cleaned-up, to the vendors who rented spaces, to the cookers and distributors of the food, to the game coordinators, the face painter, the public servants who brought the fire truck, ambulance and police car, to the costumed heroes themselves, THANK YOU for your efforts, which brought in over \$400 to benefit our pantry.



Join the Choir!

The chancel choir welcomes Cheri Batten and Curtis Dowty as new members. We are delighted to have them and would love to have you join too. Check out our new Thursday rehearsal 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!

From the Parish Nurse: Healthy Aging Month Part 2 – Habits That Build a Healthier Future

Healthy aging is about creating a lifestyle that supports physical, mental, and social well-being. The good news? Even small choices, practiced consistently, can have a big impact.

Start with nutrition: a balanced diet full of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and lean proteins fuels the body



and lowers risk for chronic disease. Add regular movement—aiming for at least 150 minutes of activity per week—to build strength, energy, and confidence.

Mental and emotional health matter just as much. Staying socially connected, managing stress, and keeping the mind active through reading or new skills can boost resilience. Prioritizing rest—seven hours of sleep or more each night—allows the body and brain to recharge.

Preventive care plays an important role, too. Schedule regular checkups, stay current with vaccinations, and follow up on screenings. Take medications as directed, and practice fall prevention, since falls are a leading cause of injury in older adults.

Most chronic conditions can be traced to just a few risk factors—tobacco, poor diet, inactivity, and excessive alcohol. By reducing these risks and focusing on healthy routines, we give ourselves the best chance at living longer and living well. Healthy aging is about thriving—not just surviving.

Ladies Lunch Bunch

The next Ladies Lunch Bunch will meet at Papa Vito's in downtown Belleville on Wednesday, October 8 at 12 noon. They do not take reservations, but it has worked out fine in the past. Please RSVP to June at 618 977 4389 or Jandchenedick@gmail.com.

Offerings (9/7 & 9/14): General Fund: \$6,814; Food Pantry: \$70; Coffee Hour: \$15

