

# Mark Times



## News & Notes for May 24, 2026

### THE WEEK AHEAD

<b>Monday, May 25:</b>	6:00PM	Pastoral Care committee – conference room
	7:00PM	Church Council - CR
<b>Thursday, May 21:</b>	6:00PM	Yoga – Parish Hall
<b>Friday, May 29-Mon., June 1</b>		<i>Pastor on vacation</i>

### Adult Forum: *Who was Trajan?*

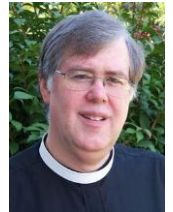
Trajan was emperor of Rome from **AD 98 to 117**. He was a philanthropic ruler and a successful soldier-emperor who presided over one of the greatest military expansions in Roman history, during which, by the time of his death, the Roman Empire reached its maximum territorial extent. His reign also occurred during a time of considerable growth for **Christianity**, and thus his policies towards the Church shaped how Christians lived and adapted to the always-changing imperial environment. Join us as Pastor Brian leads a couple of videos about this important historical figure.



### Pastor on Vacation

Pastor Brian will be on vacation next **Friday, May 29 through Monday, June 1**. We welcome back **Pastor S. Blake Duncan** as our guest preacher and presider on May 31.

In case of pastoral emergency, please contact **Fr. Mark Ohlemeier** of St. George's at **785-220-5528**.



### Belleville Summer Sack Lunch Program is Back!

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 (homemade cookies are welcome!), 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: <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YT91/campaign/C-15AC7>

+ **Volunteers Needed for...**

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

**Delivery:** Thursdays, 10:35 AM–1 PM

**Dates:** June 1–Aug 7 (weekly)

+ Sign-up in Parish Hall!

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

## ConGRADulations Graduates!

Our sincerest best wishes and prayers for God's blessings upon this year's graduates:

**Tucker Downen** – Belleville East High School (*will attend Kansas University*)

**Ellie Geppert** – Belleville West High School (*will attend Saint Louis University*)

**Kylie Martens** – Freeburg Middle School (*will attend Freeburg High School*)



## Save the Dates!

+ **Beacon Ministries Fundraiser Yard Sale** on **Friday, June 12** and **Saturday, June 13** from **7:30am to 1:30pm**. This is a *multi-congregational* fundraiser. Volunteers are needed before the event to move and arrange furniture, household items and other items that were donated but do not serve Beacon's clients' needs. Volunteers are needed both days of the event also. Please contact Sherri Foppe for more information and/or to volunteer.

+ This year's "**Patriotic Potluck**" will be held in the Parish Hall on **Saturday, June 27** from **4:00PM-6:00PM**. Watch for a sign-up sheet for attendance and dishes to be out soon (maybe today!).

+ Consider joining the group of us traveling to **EverVella** (formerly Mercy/Rosewood) **Rehab & Care Center** (Swansea) and **another location to be determined** on **Sunday, July 5** to **sing some patriotic songs and other favorite melodies**. More information coming soon!

## Reflection on this Week's Readings

The opening line of the epistle reading (1 Co. 12: 3b-13) strikes at the heart of Lutheran theology: "No one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit." Some in our communities have memorized or learned these words in confirmation classes: "**I believe that I cannot by my own understanding or effort believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith**" (Martin Luther, *Luther's Small Catechism*, Anniversary Study Edition (Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2016)). Our world is marked by the choices we make, the results of our efforts, the tasks we accomplish. Belief in Jesus can become just another thing to do. Yet, Luther's invitation is clear: rely on the gifts of the Holy Spirit in our times of need, rather than on our own understanding. – from *Sundays & Seasons*

**St. Mark Offerings for 5/17:** General Fund: **\$1,942.75**; Food Pantry: **\$5**

