



St. Mark's Lutheran Church

October 3, 2021 | 10:30

**The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Service of Holy Communion**

Today's gospel combines a teaching of Jesus that makes many of us uncomfortable with a story we also find comforting. Jesus' saying on divorce is another of his rejections of human legislation in favor of the original intent of God's law to live together in loving human community. As a model of faith and trust, Jesus blessed children and commended their purity of faith. May we live with trust in God each day among all of our relationships!

Bold responses are spoken by the congregation.

Offerings may be placed in the plate at the entrance to the sanctuary.

The Offering will be brought forward by the usher during the Offertory Anthem.

Prelude

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

Tune HOUSTON by Kathleen Thomerson; Organ Setting by Wayne L. Wold

The congregation stands as the cross is carried into the sanctuary.

Processional Hymn

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" (ELW 634)

CORONATION

1. All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem and crown him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem and crown him Lord of all.
2. O seed of Israel's chosen race now ransomed from the fall,
hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.
Hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.
5. Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe on this terrestrial ball
to him all majesty ascribe and crown him Lord of all.
To him all majesty ascribe and crown him Lord of all.
6. Oh, that with yonder sacred throng we at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song and crown him Lord of all.
We'll join the everlasting song and crown him Lord of all.

Text: Edward Perronet, 1726-1792. Sts. 1-4; J. Rippon, A Selection of Hymns, 1787, sts. 5-6.; Music: Oliver Holden, 1765-1844

Please be seated.

Welcome

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

The congregation may sit or kneel for the Confession.

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
whose teaching is life,
whose presence is sure,
and whose love is endless.

Amen.

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God our comforter:

like lost sheep, we have gone astray.

We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity.

We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression.

We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed.

Free us from our sin, gracious God.

Listen when we call out to you for help.

Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves.

Amen.

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

By the gift of grace in + Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous.

Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.

Amen.

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. Sovereign God, you have created us to live in loving community with one another. Form us for life that is faithful and steadfast, and teach us to trust like little children, that we may reflect the image of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading

Genesis 2:18-24

Kay Finlon, lector

¹⁸Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." ¹⁹So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. ²¹So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²²And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³Then the man said, "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out

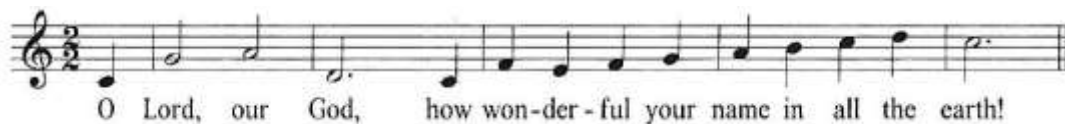
of Man this one was taken.”²⁴Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 8

Micah Hein, Delenn Rumbolo, cantors



Psalm 19:8 (Luke Mayernik), Refrain from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997 International Commission on English in the Liturgy Co. Music © 2017 Birnamwood Publications (ASCAP), A division of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc.

¹*When I see the heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars which you arranged, what is man that you should keep him in mind, the son of man that you care for him?*

²*Yet you have made him little lower than the angels; with glory and honor you crowned him, gave him power over the works of your hands: you put all things under his feet.*

³*All of them, sheep and oxen, yes, even the cattle of the fields, birds of the air, and fish of the sea that make their way through the waters.*

Second Reading

Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12

Kay Finlon, lector

¹Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ²but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. ³He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. ⁵Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. ⁶But someone has testified somewhere, "What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them? ⁷You have made them for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned them with glory and honor, ⁸subjecting all things under their feet." Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, ⁹but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. ¹⁰It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, ¹²saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

"Improvisation - Fanfare on 'CORONATION'"

Tune by Oliver Holden

Please stand.

The Holy Gospel

Mark 10:2-16

The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 10th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²Some Pharisees came, and to test him they asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?”
³He answered them, “What did Moses command you?” ⁴They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.” ⁵But Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. ⁶But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ ⁷‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, ⁸and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.” ¹⁰Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. ¹¹He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; ¹²and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.” ¹³People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. ¹⁴But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. ¹⁵Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” ¹⁶And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily *“The Perfection of Suffering Together”* **Pastor Timothy McKenzie**
(A devotional reading or homily may also be read, if this service is being used as a devotional.)

Anthem “I Am the Vine” Paul D. Weber

Please stand.

Installation of Director of Family Ministry Vision and Search Committee

Committee members: Steve Rach (chair), Susan Ginns, Michael Huang, Charles Lakeman, Susan Lakeman and Tara Thompson

The president of the congregation invites the Committee members forward.

Lowell Engelhard: The following persons having been appointed by the Congregation Council to serve on the Vision and Search Committee for the Director of Family Ministry are asked to come forward as their names are read: Steve Rach (chairperson), Susan Ginns, Michael Huang, Charles Lakeman, Susan Lakeman and Tara Thompson.

Pastor: In Holy Baptism, our Lord Jesus Christ liberated you from sin and death and made you members of the church. Through Word and Sacrament, you have been nurtured in faith. I ask you, together with all who are here gathered, to confess the faith of the church, the faith in which we are baptized.

The congregation stands.

**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.**

The congregation is seated.

St. Paul writes: "There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives to everyone ability for particular service. The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person, for the good of all" (1 Cor. 12:4-7).

You have been appointed to a position of trust in this congregation. It will be your duty, in consultation with the Congregation Council and the Senior Pastor, to seek out an appropriate candidate for the position of Director of Family Ministry at St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

You must be faithful in your efforts, always respecting the concerns of the congregation while, at the same time, seeking the leading of the Holy Spirit. Above all else, you must be diligent in prayer so that God's will is done and it is God who is glorified by your efforts.

On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you: Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of this appointment?

Yes, with the help of God.

The congregation stands

People of God, I ask you: Will you support these members of the Vision and Search Committee? Will you remember their work in your prayers, respect their responsibilities, and honor their efforts?

Yes, with the help of God.

I now declare you installed as the Vision and Search Committee for the Director of Family Ministry of St. Mark's Lutheran Church. God bless you with the gifts of the Holy Spirit, that you may prove faithful servants of Christ. Amen.

The service continues with the Prayers.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

(Mike Doyne, prayer assistant)

The congregation may sit or kneel for the Prayers.

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.
A brief silence.

Heavenly Father, we give thanks for the arrival of autumn, it's cooling breezes and the emergence of fall colors that brighten the shortening days. We are blessed to live in your beautiful world. Guide us to thoughtfully care for, regenerate and preserve this fragile world so

others who follow us may also enjoy and marvel in it. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Almighty God, you have raised up faithful leaders throughout the history of your church. We ask that you empower all members of your church, clergy and lay, to proclaim your glory in word and deed. Bless the search for a Director of Family Ministry and lead the Vision and Search Committee of St. Mark's to that person you have prepared for ministry in this place. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Source of all that is, we seem to have lost our ability to understand your expectations that we act for the common good by putting others before ourselves. We concern ourselves with the loss of our "personal freedom" not understanding how or caring that such selfishness adversely impacts others. We demand our "Rights" while others are denied theirs because of our dangerous self-absorption. Help us to revive the Holy Spirit within ourselves and each other so we may care for, support, respect and love each other as Christ taught us. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

God of all nations, you created the first human beings to live in loving community with one another and with you. Bless and strengthen the leaders of all nations so that all people might discover the blessing of community with you and with one another. Bless the saints in our own community with strength and peace: Jay Harbinson, David Mathis, Charlie Cox, Jeffery Eckerd, Virginia Stackel, Joseph Tolbert, Robert Shirley, Rachel Fulp, Danielle Clausen, Jo Lammonds, Carl Sepmeyer, Jeff Casella, Mary Lou Kiser, Jim Hobbs, Paul Davis, Jimmy Schwartz, Doris Dixon, Ken Winter, Rona Reeves, David Kutscher, Carol Marion, Debbie Walden, Dene Shockley, Steven Hopp, Vann Milheim, Melissa, Renee, Shirley Larson, Alice Blackwelder, Diann Krewson, Rileigh Snow and family, Mandy Hockenberger and family, Ron Wenzel, Sr., John Gastineau, Lois Witham, Amanda Platt, Judy South, the English family, the residents of Matthews Glen. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Good and gracious God, we seek your forgiveness for our failures and shortcomings as we struggle to live a life as modeled by your Son. Help us to learn to take time to quiet our minds, reflect on how we are living and refocus our faith so we may make this a better world for all. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Eternal Lord, you ask us to come to you as children, promising the kingdom to all who receive it with child-like faith. We give you thanks for many saints in our lives who have modeled the purity of faith for us; help us each day to receive you and your kingdom with a purity of faith that trusts in your living Word, Christ Jesus. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

(please share words of peace while practicing "social distancing" as appropriate)

OFFERING

(Offerings may be placed in the plate at the sanctuary entrance)

(The offering is brought forward from the Narthex)

Offertory Anthem "Trio" from *Partita on 'All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name'*

Wayne L. Wold

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. God of abundance, you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens. Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please stand.

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving *(spoken)*

The Lord be with you.

And also 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.

Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
Broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Lord's Prayer

Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray,

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, and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Invitation

All who hunger and thirst, come.

The table is ready.

Distribution of Holy Communion

Holy Communion is offered in two ways: a "Communion Kit," or wafer and wine in a small cup. Communion will be continuous beginning with the balcony, then the pulpit side, followed by the lectern side of the sanctuary. Please follow the ushers' directions, coming forward via the center aisle to the freestanding altar, returning via the side aisle. If receiving a "kit" please return to your pew via the side aisle to partake of Communion. Afterwards please seal the used Communion utensils in the zip-lock kit bag, and dispose of them after worship in the bowls available in the Narthex. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are also available.

Communion Music "If You But Trust in God to Guide You" BWV 647

Johann Sebastian Bach

"Although I Speak with Bravest Fire" (The Gift of Love)

Christian Souza, tenor; Delenn Rumbolo, soprano
Traditional English Folk Tune; Setting by Hal Hopson

"Improvisation on 'O WALY WALY'"

Organ Setting by Barbara Harbach

Please stand.

Post-Communion Blessing

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray. Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING BLESSING

People of God, you are Christ's body,
bringing new life to a suffering world.

The holy Trinity, + one God,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Recessional Hymn "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" (ELW 815) HOUSTON

1. I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.

God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain: In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

2. I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the Father.

Refrain

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934; Music: Kathleen Thomerson; T & M: 1970, 1975 Celebration

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

“Trumpet Finale” from *Partita on ‘All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name’*

Wayne L. Wold

Please join us for fellowship on the patio outside.



Words to Choral Music

Anthem

“I Am the Vine”

Abide in me as I abide in you. Abide in me as I abide in you.
I am the vine, you are the branches. You are the branches, I am the vine.
Abide in me as I abide in you. Abide in me as I abide in you.
Those who abide in me and I in them, those who abide in me bear much fruit.
Abide in me as I abide in you. Abide in me as I abide in you.
For apart from me you can do nothing. For apart from me you can do nothing.
Abide in me as I abide in you. Abide in me as I abide in you.
Abide in me as I abide in you. Abide in me as I abide in you,
as I abide in you.

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Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie; prayer assistant: Michael Doyne; crucifer/acolyte: Michael Huang; Kay Finlon; lector: Jacob Wenzel, Charles Lakeman, live streaming camera; Kevin Feezor, soundboard; ushers: John Simon, Michael Doyne, Jenny Dagenhart, Jay Jacob, Larry Lippert, Jim Metze, Bill Thompson, Michael Thompson; greeters: Richard & Millie Cansler, Joanne Marz; communion assistants: Gretchen Dodge, Sally McCauley; tabulators: Doug Milheim, Richard Cansler; musicians: St. Mark’s Choir; Micah Hein, cantor; Delenn Rumbolo, cantor and soprano soloist; Christian Souza, tenor soloist; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

Next Sunday Leaders: prayer assistant: Melissa Smith; crucifer: Brday Ferner; acolyte: Davis Ferner; ushers: Team A; greeters: Eileen Dunlap, Mark & Diane Thornton; lector: Carol Goodall; communion assistants: Layton Campbell, Carol Goodall; tabulators: Karen Feezor, Meg Fielding

Music Notes

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" ELW 634 This hymn is the work of two different authors, Edward Perronet (1726-1792), a friend and advisor of the Wesleys who later became a Congregational minister, wrote the first four stanzas, and John Rippon (1751-1836) the fifth and sixth stanzas, published in his *A Selection of Hymns* (London, 1787). In Rippon's hymn, the original title was "The Spiritual Coronation" with reference to Song of Solomon 3:11 "Look, O daughters of Zion, at King Solomon, at the crown with which his mother crowned him on the day of his wedding, on the day of gladness of his heart." The tune **CORONATION** was written for this hymn by Oliver Holden (1765-1844) an amateur American composer with a successful career as a general store owner, real estate dealer, and a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives.

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" ELW 815 This hymn and tune were written by Kathleen Thomerson (b.1934). She considers this hymn to be a scriptural meditation and prayer on the subject of light. Revelation 21 is one example of a biblical passage with the theme of light: "And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light". **HOUSTON** is the tune, and takes its name from Church of the Redeemer in Houston, Texas, the first place this hymn was sung, and the family church of Kathleen Thomerson.

This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar

October 4, Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church (1182-1226)

Francis was the son of a wealthy cloth merchant. In a public confrontation with his father, he renounced his wealth and future inheritance and devoted himself to serving the poor. Francis described this act as being "wedded to Lady Poverty." Under his leadership the Order of Friars Minor (Franciscans) was formed, and they took literally Jesus' words to his disciples that they should take nothing on their journey and receive no payment for their work. Francis had a spirit of gladness and gratitude for all of God's creation. This commemoration has been a traditional time to bless pets and animals, creatures Francis called his brothers and sisters. A prayer and hymn attributed to St. Francis are included in ELW (p. 87, #835).

October 6, William Tyndale, translator, martyr (1494-1536)

William Tyndale was ordained in 1521, and his life's desire was to translate the scriptures into English. When his plan met opposition from Henry VIII, Tyndale fled to Germany, where he traveled from city to city, living in poverty and constant danger. He was able to produce a New Testament in 1525. Nine years later he revised it and began work on the Old Testament, which he was unable to complete. He was tried for heresy and burned at the stake. Miles Coverdale completed Tyndale's work, and the Tyndale-Coverdale version was published as the "Matthew Bible" in 1537. For nearly four centuries the style of this translation has influenced English versions of the Bible from the King James (Authorized Version) to the New Revised Standard Version.

October 7, Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, pastor in North America (1711-1787)

Muhlenberg was prominent in setting the course of Lutheranism in North America. He helped Lutheran churches make the transition from the state churches of Europe to a new identity on American soil. Among other things, he established the first Lutheran synod in America and developed an American Lutheran liturgy. His liturgical principles became the basis for the *Common*

Service of 1888, which has formed the basis for the majority of North American Lutheran service books of the past century. That Muhlenberg and his work are remembered today was anticipated at his death. The inscription on his grave reads in Latin, "Who and what he was, future ages will know without a stone."

Parish News

From the pastor – September 14, 2021

The Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners has voted to require masks in religious settings, in addition to its Public Health Rule requiring face coverings in indoor public spaces regardless of vaccination status. Mecklenburg County urges all eligible people who are unvaccinated to get vaccinated to help slow the spread of Covid-19 and avoid further restrictions.

Bishop Tim Smith and the NC Synod Council have also strongly encouraged congregations to follow the CDC guidelines for all persons to wear masks indoors. All of these leaders, state and church, urge people to be vaccinated "in the hope that increased vaccination levels will continue to reduce infection rates and additional restrictions will not be needed" (Mecklenburg/Charlotte Proclamation).

St. Mark's now requires masks to be worn in the building by all persons vaccinated or unvaccinated. We continue to allow congregational singing while wearing masks (worship leaders may unmask to lead worship); we also continue the current practice of Holy Communion in two ways; to allow fellowship with food and drink only outdoors on the patio (weather permitting); and to encourage people to be mindful of their distance around others.

The Council also expresses agreement with the Synod's statement that "congregations support vaccination efforts" and "communicate opportunities for vaccinations including the At-Home Vaccination program offered by the NCDHHS." St. Mark's Council recognizes that we must work together as a church with state and national agencies to encourage vaccination as a means to overcome this global pandemic.

The church's mission continues as we seek to share Christ's light in a world that is suffering, fearful and anxious. We must continue to be a living sign of the hope that dwells in us through Jesus Christ (1 Peter 3:15). We have been blessed with grace and faith so that through our ministries others might find strength and peace in Christ Jesus. Let us walk in confident faith and act together with courage for others.

In the grace and peace of Christ,
Pastor Tim McKenzie
pastortimsmlc@gmail.com

Coming Up at St. Mark's

Worship and Congregational Life

The Vision and Search Committee for a new Director of Family Ministry will be installed in today's service. We thank Steve Rach (chair), Susan Ginns, Michael Huang, Charles Lakeman, Susan

Lakeman, and Tara Thompson for sharing their vision and time on behalf of the congregation in this important search process. Please pray for the work of this committee.

The Christian Education Hour is at 9:30 am on Sundays. Please join us as you are able.

Our **Faith Forum** members invite you to join us for an in-depth study of Martin Luther. We will read selections from *Freedom of a Christian*, one of Luther's important writings. The class will also watch videos on his life and examine how his ideas changed the world. This discussion will continue each Sunday through November 21 in room #215 at 9:30.

Active Faith Sunday School Class Adults are invited to join in Room 206 for discussion on selected passages written by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. All are welcome.

October Annual Meeting 10/24 in-person following worship to elect new council members.

“Hybrid Worship” is both in-person and online worship at the same time. The Holy Spirit gathers us both in-person and online as we continue to live together as the body of Christ during this pandemic.

Online worship continues to be streamed every Sunday at 10:30 am on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/SaintMarksLutheran/>).

Midweek Meditation Pastor Tim's weekly series is titled “Images of Christ: The Way of the Cross.” It is available each week via email or on St. Mark's homepage.

St. Mark's Choir and Handbells. Wednesday evening rehearsals have resumed for our choir and handbell choir! St. Mark's Handbells 6:00-6:50 p.m. & St. Mark's Choir 7:00-8:30 p.m. Contact Les Ackerman for details: Lackerman2@aol.com.

Book and Puzzle Swap - October 10. Book and puzzle lovers, save this date! Bring all your unwanted books and puzzles to the Gathering Place before October 10. Leave them in the big green book swap box. Happiness is a new book or puzzle to take home on October 10.

Charlotte author, Albert Dulin, will speak to St. Mark's book club on October 28 at 10:00am about his new book, [Billie Heartwing](#). Please join us to hear this compelling story of a woman finding her way flying as a WASP during WWII. Dulin's own exciting family history served as inspiration for the book, from one aunt's miraculous tale of a B-017/ railroad rescue to photos of another aunt dressed in khakis about to embark on a solo flight in the 1940s. Dulin's characters come to life with the spirit of these women from his past. Dulin has had a long history in the arts as a musician, artist, photographer, and playwright. These experiences resulted in a career in television and video production, which led him to write [Billie Heartwing](#). Please join St. Mark's book club on October 28 at 10:00 am in the large conference room as we celebrate a local author. Masks are required for this event. Guests are welcome.

St. Mark's email list If you are not receiving emails from St. Mark's, we may not have your correct email address. Please contact the church to let us know. We send at least 2 emails every week.

Stewardship

Offerings and pledges may continue to be sent to St. Mark's church office by mail or through online giving. For more information go to (<http://saintmarkscharlotte.org/stewardship/do-you-wish-to-make-a-donation/>). We have been blessed to be a blessing to others!

Stewardship for All Seasons Each fall in October stewardship activities culminate on Reformation Sunday. Watch for announcements about our 2022 Stewardship Appeal and pledge drive. Pray with

us that we will be good stewards of our ministries, so that they will continue to grow in faithful service to the Lord.

Altar Flower Sponsorship If you would like to sponsor live flowers for our Sunday worship service, please sign up on the calendar by the mailbox room or contact the church office. Remember a loved one or commemorate an event by donating altar flowers. If you would like to volunteer as flower coordinator, please let us know.

Social Ministry

We continue to remember the hungry and homeless through our social ministries.

Habitat for Humanity Fall Build 2021 begins October 2. More information to follow or contact Susan League at 704-533-2451. All support, financial and otherwise, is greatly appreciated!!

Fire Extinguishers for Refugee Support Services Social Ministries is hoping to provide 40 extinguishers this month. You can have them shipped to your house and bring them to church or you can ship them to Eileen Dunlap at 9401 Hanover South Trl, Charlotte, 28210-7734, who will see that they are delivered. Please order the exact same model (Kidde FA110 Multi Purpose Fire Extinguisher 1A10BC) as listed in the Amazon link below.

https://www.amazon.com/dp/B00002ND64/?coliid=I731ZYLH2Z68S&colid=CQFDWM3Z345Y&psc=1&ref=lv_ov_lig_dp_it

Loaves and Fishes If you missed the big July good drive, please donate any time as the need for food will remain. You can drop off donations at the choir room door Monday – Thursday from 10:00 to 2:00, or place them on the baker's rack behind the door outside the mailroom when you come to church. Thank you for your continued support of this outreach to the hungry in the area.

Soup Kitchen St. Mark's Soup Kitchen continues every Thursday making bag lunches for distribution to our neighbors. If you would like to serve, please contact us. You may also support the Soup Kitchen through financial donations sent to the church, or through St. Mark's online giving portal. Help us share God's love!

Youth and Family Ministry

Youth October Schedule

October 3, 17, and 31 at 9:30: High School Sunday School in the Youth Room

October 10 and 24 at 9:30: Confirmation Class in the Fellowship Hall

October 17: Youth Sunday Rehearsal in the Sanctuary. 11:45-1:00. A snack will be provided.

October 24: Youth Sunday! Youth will lead most parts of the worship service.

Do you have a college student in your family? Please send updated mailing addresses to Charlotte Dixon at cdixon_rn@bellsouth.net so the Youth can send care packages to them. Thank you!

Announcements

Scam Alert We have again seen a rise in people posing as the pastor, asking for a reply to an email address that is not his legitimate gmail address. Please do not reply to any email that seems suspicious. Also please know that the church staff will never ever solicit from you. If you are ever in doubt, please call the church (704-375-9185), or email the church office immediately (stmarkselca1001@gmail.com). Thank you.

AA meets Monday nights, 7 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall.

Facemasks Masks are required for all persons to wear indoors, both vaccinated and unvaccinated. St. Mark's members have made colorful, washable, re-usable masks which are in the Narthex. Please feel free to use these as masks continue to be part of our lives.

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St. Mark's Prayer List

Jay Harbinson, David Mathis, Charlie Cox, Jeffery Eckerd, Virginia Stackel, Joseph Tolbert, Robert Shirley, Rachel Fulp, Danielle Clausen, Jo Lammonds, Carl Sepmeyer, Jeff Casella, Mary Lou Kiser, Jim Hobbs, Paul Davis, Jimmy Schwartz, Doris Dixon, Ken Winter, Rona Reeves, David Kutscher, Carol Marion, Debbie Walden, Dene Shockley, Steven Hopp, Vann Milheim, Melissa, Renee, Shirley Larson, Alice Blackwelder, Diann Krewson, Rileigh Snow and family, Mandy Hockenberger and family, Ron Wenzel, Sr., John Gastineau, Lois Witham, Amanda Platt, Judy South, the English family, the residents of Matthews Glen.

Please email Pastor McKenzie with Prayer List and other prayer requests (pastortimsmc@gmail.com)

Readings for 10/10/2021, 20th Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

Psalm 90:12-17

*So teach us to number our days that we
may apply our hearts to wisdom. (Ps. 90:12)*

Hebrews 4:12-16

Mark 10:17-31

Birthdays

10/4 John Graham

10/5 Doris Phillips

10/5 Steve Rach

10/5 David Simpson

10/7 Cynthia Miles

10/7 Katarina Miles

10/7 Michael Lakeman

10/8 Ashley Ginns



Do you feel like you are in crisis? In Isaiah it is written, "Fear not, for I am with you; do not be dismayed for I am your God." Stephen ministers are here to show the Lord's love and comfort for you in times of trial. Would you contact us today? Pastor Tim (pastortimsmc@gmail.com), or Lisa Barnette (stephenministysmlc@gmail.com)

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Our Ministers

All the people of God at St. Mark's

Rev. Dr. Timothy McKenzie, Senior Pastor
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**Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry,
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**Alex English, Director of Youth and Family
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