



**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**

**October 31, 2021 | 10:30  
Reformation Day  
Service of Holy Communion**

*Today's celebration of the Reformation is a reminder of the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit in guiding the church to always proclaim the gospel of grace. We are justified by grace through faith, and this is the gift of God. Today we hear Jesus' words again, "If the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed." God's grace frees us from sin and death to the Christian vocation of servanthood for others.*

***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**

"Canzona on the Twelfth Tone" from *Sacrae Symphoniae*

Giovanni Gabrieli

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

**Processional Hymn**

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" (ELW 504)

EIN FESTE BURG

1. A mighty fortress is our God, a sword and shield victorious;  
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod and wins salvation glorious.  
The old satanic foe has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dreadful might  
he arms himself to fight. On earth he has no equal.
2. No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, rejected.  
But now a champion comes to fight, whom God himself elected.  
You ask who this may be? The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,  
God's only Son, adored. He holds the field victorious.
3. Though hordes of devils fill the land all threat'ning to devour us,  
we tremble not, unmoved we stand; they cannot overpow'r us.  
Let this world's tyrant rage; in battle we'll engage! His might is doomed to fail;  
God's judgement must prevail! One little word subdues him.
4. God's Word forever shall abide, no thanks to foes, who fear it;  
for God himself fights by our side with weapons of the Spirit.  
Were they to take our house, goods, honor, child, or spouse, though life be  
wrenched away, they cannot win the day. The kingdom's ours forever!

Text & Music: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*; Text ©1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

*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. Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **First Reading**

**Jeremiah 31:31-34**

Larry Lippert, lector

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and

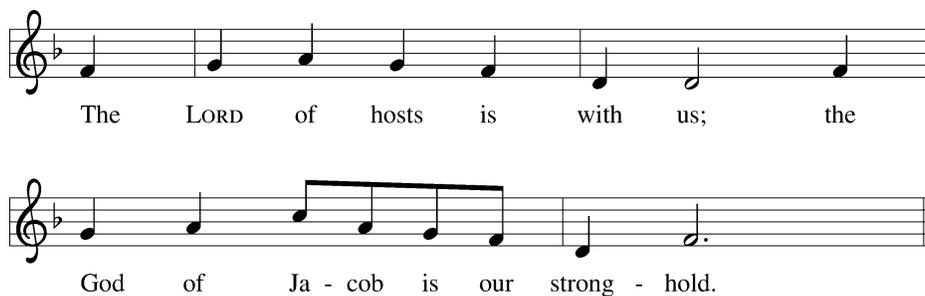
I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 46**

Micah Hein, Amy Woodall, cantors



Psalm 46:7 (Wood) Refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year B* 2009 Augsburg Fortress.

<sup>1</sup>God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. <sup>2</sup>Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea; <sup>3</sup>though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. *Selah* <sup>4</sup>There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. <sup>5</sup>God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns. <sup>6</sup>The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts. <sup>7</sup>The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. *Selah* <sup>8</sup>Come, behold the works of the LORD; see what desolations he has brought on the earth. <sup>9</sup>He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire. <sup>10</sup>"Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth." <sup>11</sup>The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. *Selah*

**Second Reading**

**Romans 3:19-28**

Larry Lippert, lector

<sup>19</sup>Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. <sup>20</sup>For "no human being will be justified in his sight" by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin. <sup>21</sup>But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, <sup>22</sup>the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, <sup>23</sup>since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; <sup>24</sup>they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup>whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; <sup>26</sup>it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus. <sup>27</sup>Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. <sup>28</sup>For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation** “Concerto on ‘A Mighty Fortress Is Our God’” Tune by Martin Luther  
Setting for brass choir, percussion and organ by Vaclav Nelhybel

*Please stand.*

**The Holy Gospel** **John 8:31-36**

*The Holy Gospel according to John, the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter.*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup>Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; <sup>32</sup>and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” <sup>33</sup>They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free?’” <sup>34</sup>Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup>The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. <sup>36</sup>So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Homily** “Justified by Grace” Pastor Timothy McKenzie  
*(A devotional reading or homily may also be read, if this service is being used as a devotional.)*

**Anthem** “God Is Our Refuge” Allen Pote  
Setting for choir, two trumpets and organ

*God is our refuge and strength; a present help in time of trouble  
Though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,  
Though the waters roar and foam, we will not fear.  
Come and behold the work of the Lord, the awesome acts of God.  
He is in the midst of his people, in all the earth.  
He is the Word, we are his hands, He will lead us. He is the air, we are his song  
We will celebrate his presence all the day long.  
He is the rain, we are the stones, he will cleanse us.  
He is the air, we are his song, we will celebrate his presence all the day long.*

### **Installation of Elected Council Members**

The following persons, having been elected by St. Mark’s Lutheran Church to positions of leadership, are asked to acknowledge their presence as their names are read.

*The names of those who are to be installed are read by outgoing council secretary Chris Miller.  
As your name is read, please come forward.*

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

*Please stand.*

## **Apostles' Creed**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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 minister addresses those being installed:*

*St. Paul writes:* Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (1 Cor. 12:4-7)

You have been elected to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation. You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith reflect God in whose name we gather. You are to work together with other members to see that the worship and work of Christ are done in this congregation, and that God's will is done in this community and in the whole world. You are to be diligent in your specific area of serving, that the one Lord who empowers you is glorified. You are to be examples of faith active in love, to help maintain the life and harmony of this congregation.

On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you: Are you ready to accept and faithfully to carry out the duties to which you have been elected?

Response: Yes, by the help of God.

*The minister addresses the congregation:*

People of God, I ask you: Will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

**Congregation: Yes, by the help of God.**

I now declare you installed as council members of this congregation. God bless you with his Holy Spirit, that you may prove faithful servants of Christ. **Amen.**

*The service continues with the Prayers of Intercession.*

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

(Michael Thompson, prayers)

*The congregation may sit or kneel for the Prayers.*

Set free from sin and death and nourished by the word of truth, we join in prayer for all of God's creation. *A brief silence.*

God of grace, You are constantly renewing your church with the grace and peace that flows from the gospel, liberating people to live boldly for you and others. Inspire your church of every place and language to proclaim you through word and deed lived out in faithful service for the world. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of refuge and strength, You are the ever-present help we need in times of trouble. We have not been good stewards of the world You created for us, and the devastating impacts of climate change effect more people every day. Give us the courage to take a stand and restore the health of our environment before we can no longer reverse the damage being done. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of justice, You are in the midst of the city and help it when the morning dawns. Grant grace and faith to all leaders that wars may cease and that people may live in peace. Inspire leaders to act with justice and compassion that the nations might be still and know that you are God. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of life, As our weather gets colder and our nights get longer, embolden us to share the gifts You have so freely given to us with those who need help the most - the homeless, the hungry, the underemployed. Use us to show them Your love and mercy, and continue to give us the courage and grace to welcome them into our community at St. Mark's. We offer prayers for: 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 Winters, Rona Reeves, David Kutscher, Carol Marion, Debbie Walden, Dene Shockley, Steven Hopp, Vann Milheim, Shirley Larson, Diann Krewson, Mandy Hockenberger and family, Ron Wenzel Sr., John Gastineau, Lois Witham, Amanda Platt, Judy South, Asher Dugan, Ken Hazen and family, Hunter Everhart, and the residents of Matthews Glen. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of history, Your Spirit has inspired people in every time and place with grace and faith. We thank you for the faithful witness of the saints who stretch back to the Apostles and the prophets. So bless us that we might speak and act faithfully of your love for all people, and thereby enter your eternal kingdom as heirs of your promise. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of nations, We all yearn to be set free from the slavery of sin. No matter where we come from or what languages we speak, grant us the wisdom to seek and understand Your teachings, so that we can know the truth, and let the truth set us free. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Confident that you hear us, O God, we boldly place our prayers into your hands; through Jesus Christ, our truth and life.

**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**

"Holy Is God the Lord" from *Elijah* Felix Mendelssohn  
Setting for brass choir, percussion and organ by S. Drummond Wolff

**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** "Larghetto" from *Partita on 'A Mighty Fortress Is Our God'*

Organ Setting by Andrew Clarke

"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word" Tune by Joseph Klug

Setting for choir, brass, percussion and organ by David N. Johnson

*Lord, keep us steadfast in your Word, curb those who by deceit or sword  
would wrest the kingdom from your Son, and bring to nought all he has done.*

*Lord Jesus Christ, your pow'r make known: for you are Lord of lords alone;  
defend your holy Church, that we may sing your praise triumphantly, triumphantly.*

*O Comforter of priceless worth, send peace and unity on earth;  
support us in our final strife, and lead us out of death to life.*

"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word" BuxWV 185 Dietrich Buxtehude

"Salvation Is Created" Paul Tchesnokoff

Setting for brass choir and organ by David Giardiniere

*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.**

*Please stand.*



Bass Trombone; Brice Burton, Timpani; Amy Woodall, Micah Hein, Cantors; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

**Next Sunday Leaders:** prayer assistant: Michael Lakeman; crucifer/acolyte: Michael Lakeman; lector: Robert Aiden; ushers: Team B; greeters: Gretchen Dodge, Jackie Ellington; communion assistants: Ruth Barrett, John Simon; communion helper: Catherine Metze; tabulators: Cliff Edahl, Karen Feezor

## *Music Notes*

Martin Luther's "**A Mighty Fortress Is Our God**" ELW 504 is considered the most powerful hymn of the Protestant Reformation. This hymn has been translated into practically every language, and close to one hundred English translations are known to exist. Penned by Luther around 1529 and based on Psalm 46, it was his desire to create free metrical versions of the psalms for the congregation to sing. Though we usually view this hymn as a militant battle cry of the Reformation, Luther's original title was "A Hymn of Comfort." In difficulty and danger, Luther would resort to this song, saying to his associate, "Come, Philipp, let us sing the 46th Psalm." Luther had strong convictions about the use and power of sacred music. "I wish to compose sacred hymns so that the Word of God may dwell among the people also by means of songs." Here is a translation of the first two lines that appeared in a Pennsylvania Lutheran Church Book of 1868: "A mighty fortress is our God, A trusty Shield and Weapon; He helps us free from every need, That hath us now o'ertaken."

"**The Church's One Foundation**" ELW 654 Samuel J. Stone (1839-1900), a Church of England pastor, penned this hymn in 1866. It is from a collection of hymns he published on the Apostles' Creed: *Twelve Hymns on the Twelve Articles of the Apostles' Creed*. This hymn is based on the ninth article "The holy Catholic Church; The Communion of Saints." Stone wrote this hymn to assist his congregation comprehend "the breadth and depth of meaning contained in each Article of the Confession of Faith." Christ is the foundation (1 Corinthians 3:11), its members' are his "new creation" (11 Corinthians 5:17), and they are his "holy bride" for whom he gave his life. Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876) composed the tune **AURELIA**, (girl's name of Latin origin meaning "the golden one") which was paired to Stone's hymn in 1868.

## *This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar*

### **October 31 Reformation Day**

By the end of the 17th century, many Lutheran churches celebrated a festival commemorating Martin Luther's posting of the 95 Theses, a summary of the abuses in the church of his time. At the heart of the reform movement is the good news that by grace through faith we are set free from sin to live in freedom for others.

### **November 1, All Saints Day**

The custom of commemorating all of the saints of the church on a single day is attested to by St. Chrysostom in third century. However, the date of November 1 was set by Gregory III in the eighth century with the dedication of a chapel in the basilica of St. Peter to "All the Saints." All Saints celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who make up the body of Christ. We remember all who have died in the faith and now serve God around the heavenly throne.

### **November 3, Martin de Porres (1579-1639), renewer of society**

Martin was the son of a Spanish knight and Ana Velázquez, a freed black slave from Panama. Martin was a lay brother in the Order of Preachers (Dominicans) and engaged in many charitable works. He was noted for his care of all the poor, regardless of race. The Dominicans described him as the “father of charity.” His work included founding an orphanage, a hospital, and a clinic for cats and dogs. He is recognized as an advocate for Christian charity and interracial justice.

*Adapted from Sunday and Seasons*

## *Parish News*

### **From the pastor –**

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  
pastortimsmc@gmail.com

## *Coming Up at St. Mark’s*

### **Worship and Congregational Life**

**Altar Flowers Today** are given to the glory of God and in celebration of the 504th anniversary of the Reformation, given by Millie and Richard Cansler.

**Today is Reformation Day.** We give thanks to God for the gift of justification by grace through faith, and remember that the church is always in need of reform through the leading of the Holy Spirit. May God bless and lead our congregation and its ministries with grace and faith.

**2022 Stewardship Campaign** Please prayerfully consider your 2022 pledge to Christ's mission at St. Mark's. All pledges received up to today will be brought forward with the Reformation Day offering. Your pledge is important to St. Mark's mission and may also be offered at any time.

**Stewardship for All Seasons *Share the Joy!*** Faithfully and joyfully consider your pledge of support for St. Mark's in the coming year. Remember others. Share the joy! If you haven't brought your pled card, you may pick up a "Share the Joy" brochure in the Gathering Place. You are invited to offer your pledge at the Reformation Day service today. An online pledge option is available from our webpage.

**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.

**"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](mailto:Lackerman2@aol.com).

**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!

**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!** Work continues on the home we and Charlotte Church Partners are building for Jerton Dixon. We continue to need financial support for this important project. Please consider designating money to go to support Habitat when making your offering to St. Mark's. Contact Susan League for more information about how you can help. 704-533-2451.

**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, 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](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 31 at 9:30: High School Sunday School in the Youth Room

#### **November Sunday School Schedule**

November 7-Confirmation Class

November 14-No Sunday School due to Youth Retreat

November 21-Confirmation Class

November 28-High School Class

**November 7: College Care Packages** Following the worship service, youth and parents are invited to the Fellowship Hall to stuff care packages for 21 college students! We will have greeting cards in the Gathering Space, and everyone in the congregation is invited to sign a few of them before leaving today.

**November 12-14: Fall Youth Retreat** Youth members will travel to Lutheridge for a weekend of discussions on the Sermon on the Mount, worship, prayer, fellowship, and fun! We are taking special safety precautions, approved by the Church Council, as we take this retreat during a time of pandemic.

**November 20: Children's Family Thanksgiving Picnic!** 11:00 am-12:30 pm. Families with children (baby through 5th grade) are invited to Edgehill Park (adjacent to St. Mark's) for a morning of fun and fellowship. We will have some fun activities planned, and we'll also have time for the kids to play and the parents to chat. Please bring a picnic to feed your family.

### ***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

