



St. Mark's Lutheran Church

November 21, 2021 | 10:30 AM

Christ the King

Service of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion

Christ the King is the last Sunday after Pentecost and marks the end of the church year. On this Sunday we meditate on the fullness of Christ Jesus as the Anointed One, the Messiah, who reigns as King over all creation, the cosmos and time. He is revealed through his Word of truth made manifest in the church. All who recognize the truth listen to him. His kingdom is one of peace and nonviolence. He loves and frees us by his blood, making us into a kingdom - the priesthood of all believers - serving God and our neighbor.

Bold responses are spoken by the congregation.

Prelude

“Allegro” from *Sonata in D Major for Trumpet*

Henry Purcell

Gabriel Slesinger, trumpet

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

Processional Hymn

“Crown Him with Many Crowns” (ELW 855)

DIADEMATA

1. Crown him with many crowns, the Lamb upon his throne;
hark, how the heav'nly anthem drowns all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless king through all eternity.
3. Crown him the Lord of love—behold his hands and side,
Rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified.
No angels in the sky can fully bear that sight,
but downward bend their burning eyes at mysteries so bright.
4. Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave
and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save.
His glories now we sing, who died and rose on high,
who died, eternal life to bring, and lives that death my die.
5. Crown him the Lord of years, the potentate of time,
Creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me;
thy praise and glory shall not fail throughout eternity.

Text: Matthew Bridges, 1800-1894, sts. 1-3, 5; Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903, st. 4.; Music: George J. Elvey, 1816-1893

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.

In the name of the Father,
and of the + Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Have mercy on us, O God.

**We confess that we have sinned against you
and against our neighbor.**

**We have built walls instead of tables
and have turned away the stranger.**

**We have sought glory for ourselves
and have treasured that which does not satisfy.**

**Help us to love as you love,
to welcome those you send,
and to treasure mercy and justice.**

**Turn us from our ways to your ways,
and free us to serve those in need. Amen.**

God, who makes all things new,
forgives your sins for + Jesus' sake
and remembers them no more.
Lift up your heads and your hearts.
Yours is the kingdom of God.

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 and ever-living God, you anointed your beloved Son to be priest and sovereign forever. Grant that all the people of the earth, now divided by the power of sin, may be united by the glorious and gentle rule of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Temple Talk

“Share the Joy”

Steve Rach, Council President

First Reading**Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14**

Lowell Engelhard, lector

⁹As I watched, thrones were set in place, and an Ancient One took his throne, his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, and its wheels were burning fire. ¹⁰A stream of fire issued and flowed out from his presence. A thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him. The court sat in judgment, and the books were opened. ¹³As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven. And he came to the Ancient One and was presented before him. ¹⁴To him was given dominion and glory and kingship, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed.

*The Word of the Lord.***Thanks be to God.****Psalm 93**

Christian Souza, Amy Woodall, cantors

Ev - er since the world be - gan, your
throne has been es - tab - lished.

Psalm 93:2 (Robert Farlee) Refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year B* 2009 Augsburg Fortress.

¹The LORD is king, he is robed in majesty; the LORD is robed, he is girded with strength. He has established the world; it shall never be moved; ²your throne is established from of old; you are from everlasting. ³The floods have lifted up, O LORD, the floods have lifted up their voice; the floods lift up their roaring. ⁴More majestic than the thunders of mighty waters, more majestic than the waves of the sea, majestic on high is the LORD! ⁵Your decrees are very sure; holiness befits your house, O LORD, forevermore.

Second Reading**Revelation 1:4b-8**

Lowell Engelhard, lector

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. ⁷Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. ⁸"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

*The Word of the Lord.***Thanks be to God.****Gospel Acclamation**

"Fanfare on 'We Praise You, O God'" Op. 51

Tune by Adriaan Valerius; Setting by Charles Callahan

Please stand.

The Holy Gospel

John 18:33-37

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 18th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³³Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” ³⁴Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?” ³⁵Pilate replied, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?” ³⁶Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.” ³⁷Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Homily

“Listen to his voice”

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

(A devotional reading or homily may also be read, if this service is being used as a devotional.)

Anthem

“Rejoice, the Lord Is King”

Malcolm Archer

*Rejoice, the Lord is King, your Lord and King adore;
mortals, give thanks and sing, and triumph evermore:
Refrain: Lift up your hearts, lift up your voice, rejoice, again I say, rejoice.
Jesus, the Savior, reigns the God of truth and love;
when he had purged our stains, he took his seat above: refrain
His kingdom cannot fail; he rules o'er earth and heaven;
the keys to death and hell are to our Jesus given: refrain
He sits at God's right hand till all his foes submit,
and bow to his command and fall beneath his feet: refrain*

Holy Baptism

Presentation

*Candidates for baptism, sponsors and parents gather at the font,
and the pastor addresses the assembly.*

In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

The sponsors present the candidate.

I present Arden Vale English for baptism.

The pastor addresses the parents.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your child baptized into Christ?

I do.

As you bring your child to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with her among God's faithful people, bring her to the word of God and the holy supper, teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in her hands the holy scriptures, and nurture her in faith and prayer, so that your child may learn and trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace. Do you promise to help your child grow in the Christian faith and life?

I do.

The pastor addresses sponsors.

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture this child in Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

I do.

The pastor addresses the assembly.

People of God, do you promise to support Arden Vale English and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

We do.

Profession of Faith

The pastor addresses the candidates, as well as parents and sponsors of young children. The assembly may join in the responses.

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

The pastor addresses the parents, sponsors and assembly.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

Thanksgiving at the Font

The pastor leads the thanksgiving as water is poured into the font.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

The assembly may be seated.

Baptism

Arden Vale, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain Arden Vale with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

The pastor marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized.

Arden Vale, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

Welcome

Presentation of the Baptismal Candle

Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

The pastor addresses the assembly.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative redeeming word to all the world.

The service continues with the prayers of intercession.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

(Pastor McKenzie)

The congregation may sit or kneel for the Prayers.

Eternal God, you hold firm amid the changes of this world. Hear us now as we pray for the church, the world, and everyone in need. *A brief silence.*

God, you sent your Son Jesus to testify to the truth. We pray for your holy catholic church in every place and language. Bless all who hear your voice, filling their words and actions with love and compassion so that all the world might believe and know you as the God of love and peace. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God, you sent your Son Jesus to renew all creation. We thank you for the vast and varied life that thrives on this planet Earth, and ask for compassionate hearts to care for the environment and all that has life. Grant governments the strength to intentionally pursue policies that protect and sustain creation, and its resources, so that all people might share in your abundance. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God, you sent your Son Jesus to lead us as the Prince of Peace. Direct the government of this nation, and all nations, in choosing a nonviolent path toward the future. Grant leaders the patience to listen as well as humility and wisdom in making just decisions that will benefit all people. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God, you sent your Son Jesus as the High Priest who intercedes for our every need. We pray for all who are sick and suffering, and for healthcare workers and first responders who seek to heal and save the lives of many each day. We ask for healing and relief upon members and friends of our church family: 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, Ron Wenzel Sr., Lois Witham, Amanda Platt, Judy South, Asher Dugan, Ken Hazen and family, Hunter Everhart, Bill

Thompson, Sarah Markham, Mindy Curley, and the residents of Matthews Glen. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God, you sent your Son Jesus to make us into your own people, setting us free to serve you. We pray for our world during an ongoing pandemic; protect, heal and free all people from Covid, granting us the will to work together for the common good. We especially pray for soup kitchens, food banks, and overnight shelters in our community. Strengthen them in their work to overcome hunger and need. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God, you sent your Son Jesus as the Alpha and the Omega. Help us always of look to him as the beginning and the end of our lives. Grant us faith to walk with Jesus as the saints before us, so that we too will stand before his holy throne, offering praise to Christ the King. God, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God our hope and strength, we entrust to you all for whom we pray. Remain with us always, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

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

OFFERING *An offering is gathered for the mission of the church and the care of those in need.*

The offering is brought forward from the Narthex.

Offertory Anthem "Andante" from *Concerto in D Major for Trumpet* Giuseppe Tartini

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. Holy God, the earth is yours and everything in it, yet you have chosen to dwell among your creatures. Come among us now in these gifts of bread and wine, and strengthen us to be your body for the world through Jesus Christ our 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

A feast of love is offered here
for you and for all the saints.

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

"Trio on 'All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name'"

Tune by Oliver Holden; Organ Setting by David S. Harris

"Sing to the Lord of Harvest"

Healey Willan

*Sing to the Lord of harvest, sing songs of love and praise;
with joyful hearts and voices your alleluias raise!
By him the rolling seasons in fruitful order move;
sing to the Lord of harvest a song of happy love.*

*By him the clouds drop gladness, the deserts bloom and spring,
the hills leap up in gladness, the valleys laugh and sing.
He filleth with his fullness, all things with large increase;*

*he crowns the year with goodness, with plenty, and with peace.
Heap on his sacred altar the gifts his goodness gave,
The golden sheaves of harvest, the souls he died to save,
your hearts lay down before him when at his feet ye fall,
and with your lives adore him who gave his life for all, for all.*

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

Setting by Wayne L. Wold

“Thee We Adore, O Savior” from *Four Pieces for Trumpet and Organ*

Robert Wetzler

Please stand.

Post-Communion Blessing

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray Blessed Jesus, at this table, you have been for us both host and meal. Now send us forth to extend our tables and to share your gifts until that day when all feast together at your heavenly banquet. **Amen.**

Please stand.

SENDING BLESSING

God, the beginning and the end,
who has written your name in the book of life,
+ bless and keep you in grace and peace
from this time forth and forevermore.

Amen.

Recessional Hymn

“Lead On, O King Eternal” (ELW 805)

LANCASHIRE

1. Lead on, O King eternal! The day of march has come;
henceforth in fields of conquest your tents will be our home.
Through days of preparation your grace has made us strong;
and now, O King eternal, we lift our battle song.
2. Lead on, O King eternal, till sin’s fierce war shall cease,
and holiness shall whisper the sweet amen of peace;
for not with swords loud clashing, nor roll of stirring drums,
but deeds of love and mercy the heav’nly kingdom comes.
3. Lead on, O King eternal: we follow, not with fears,
for gladness breaks like morning where’er your face appears.
Your cross is lifted o’er us; we journey in its light;
the crown awaits the conquest; lead on, O God of might!

Text: Ernest W. Shurtleff, 1862-1917; Music: Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879

DISMISSAL

Led on by the saints before us, go in peace to serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

"Allegro" from *Sonata in D Major for Trumpet*

Henry Purcell

Please join us for fellowship on the patio outside.



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Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie (prayers); crucifer: Michael Huang; acolyte: Andrew Puky; lector: Lowell Engelhard; Jacob Wenzel, Charles Lakeman, live streaming camera; Kevin Feezor, soundboard; ushers: Doug Milheim, Marc Ginns, Susan Ginns, Eddie Goodall, A. J. Pridgen; greeters: Patrick & Rebecca Huang, Jay Jacob; communion assistants: Susan Lakeman, Sally McCauley; communion helper: Kay Finlon; tabulators: Meg Fielding, Doug Milheim; musicians: St. Mark's Choir; Gabe Slesinger, trumpet; Amy Woodall, Christian Souza, cantors; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

Next Sunday Leaders: prayer assistant: Jonathan Lakeman; crucifer/acolyte: Jonathan Lakeman; lector: Karen Feezor; ushers: Team B; greeters: Richard & Millie Cansler, Bill & Jane Thompson; communion assistants: Steve Rach, Ken Hazen; communion helper: Karen Covington; tabulators: Cliff Edahl, Karen Feezor

Music Notes

"Crown Him with Many Crowns" ELW 855. This hymn was extracted from two six stanza hymns, twelve stanzas total. From Matthew Bridges (1800-1894) we have stanzas one, two, three, and five, and from Godfrey Thring (1823-1903) stanza four. Both hymn writers were inspired by the passage from Revelation 19:12 "and on his head were many crowns." George Elvey (1816-1893) wrote the tune **DIADEMATA** for this hymn, with its first publication in the 1868 edition of *Hymns Ancient and Modern*. The tune name **DIADEMATA** is derived from the Greek word for crown or diadems, a royal headband.

"We Praise You, O God" ELW 870 was written in 1902 by Julia C. Cory (1882-1963) at the request of the organist J. Arthur Gibson of the Brick Presbyterian Church in New York City. It was intended to "replace" the Thanksgiving hymn **"We Gather Together"** which he thought too "Old Testament, militaristic and unchristian". Cory's hymn was first sung on Thanksgiving Day in 1902, to the sixteenth century Dutch tune **KREMSER**.

"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.

This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar

November 23, Clement, Bishop of Rome (died in 99)

Clement was the third bishop of Rome, serving at the end of the first century. He is remembered for a letter he wrote to the church at Corinth, still having difficulties in spite of Paul's two canonical letters. "Love...has no limits to its endurance; bears everything patiently. Love is neither servile or arrogant. It does not provoke schisms or form cliques, but always acts in harmony with others. Clement's letter is also a witness to an early understanding of church government and the way each office in the church works for the good of the whole.

November 23, Miguel Agustín Pro, martyr (1891-1927)

Miguel Agustín Pro grew up among oppression in Mexico, where revolutionaries accused the church of siding with the rich. He was a Jesuit priest who served during a time of intense anticlericalism, and therefore carried out much of his ministry in private settings. Miguel and his two brothers were arrested, falsely accused of throwing a bomb at a car of a government official, and executed by firing squad. Just before the guns fired, he yelled, "Viva Cristo Rey!" meaning, "Long live Christ the King."

November 24, Justus Falckner, (1672-1723); Jehu Jones (1786-1852); William Passavant (1821-1894), pastors in North America

A native of Saxony, **Falkner** was the son of a Lutheran pastor, and studied theology in Halle. He served congregations in New York and New Jersey. He the first Lutheran pastor ordained in North America, and his catechism was the first Lutheran book published on this continent. **Jones** was a native of Charleston, South Carolina. Ordained by the New York Ministerium in 1832, he became the Lutheran church's first African American pastor. Upon returning to South Carolina, he was arrested under a law prohibiting free black from reentering the state. For nearly twenty years, Jones carried out missionary work in Philadelphia in the face of many difficulties, where he led the formation of the first African American Lutheran congregation, St. Paul's Lutheran Church. **Passavant** organized social ministry in western Pennsylvania which became the seed of today's Lutheran Services in America. He also founded Chicago Lutheran Theological Seminary (a predecessor of LSTC), and Passavant Hospital, which is now part of Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Chicago, Illinois. He sought to serve the poor, the sick, and to provide theological education for pastors.

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

Baptism today We celebrate together with the English family as Arden Vale English is made a member of Christ's body, the church, through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. May God continue to bless Arden and her family as they grow together in Christ!

Thanksgiving Eve Service 11/24 at 7 pm (in-person and online). Please join us to give thanks for God's many blessings.

Advent is Coming! It's hard to believe, but Advent starts on Sunday, November 28! In order to help celebrate this joyous and contemplative time in the church, the Congregational Life and Education Committees have partnered to offer our church family devotional resources for the season. Each family is invited to pick up an "Advent Bag" after worship on November 28. The bag will contain a devotional booklet called "Heaven and Nature Sing" that includes daily devotions based on the Lectionary for the first Sunday of Advent (November 28, 2021) through Epiphany (January 6, 2022). In addition to devotions, the book offers household blessings and prayers to enrich your preparations and celebrations during this time. Of course, we couldn't let this special occasion go by without

cookies! You'll also find a sweet treat of homemade cookies in your bag. Please stop by the table in the Gathering Space after worship on November 28 to pick up your family's Advent Bag!

Looking forward to Advent

11/28 Advent 1: Advent Bags and Devotional Booklet

12/5 Advent 2: "The Glorious Sound of Christmas" Concert at 5 pm

12/12 Advent 3: Service of Lessons and Carols, 10:30 am

12/19 Advent 4: Queen City Ringers "Seasons of the Heart" Concert, 5 pm

During Advent, prepare your heart with prayer and song.

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 at 9:30 in the large conference room.

Active Faith Sunday School Class Adults are invited to join in Room 210 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/>).

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.

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

2022 Stewardship Campaign *Share the Joy!* Please prayerfully consider your 2022 pledge to Christ's mission at St. Mark's. Your pledge is important to St. Mark's mission and may also be offered at any time. You may pick up a "Share the Joy" brochure in the Gathering Place, or pledge/donate online at our website, (<http://saintmarkscharlotte.org>/<https://saintmarkscharlotte.org/stewardship/do-you-wish-to-make-a-donation//do-you-wish-to-make-a-donation/>). We have been blessed to be a blessing to others!



You may use the QR code at left (hover your phone camera to connect) for immediate access to St. Mark's website donation page.

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.

Loaves and Fishes Please donate any time as the need for food remains. 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

November Sunday School Schedule

November 21-Confirmation Class

November 28-High School Class

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.



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 Winters, Rona Reeves, David Kutscher, Carol Marion, Debbie Walden, Dene Shockley, Steven Hopp, Vann Milheim, Melissa, Renee, Shirley Larson, Diann Krewson, Ron Wenzel, Sr., Lois Witham, Amanda Platt, Judy South, Asher Dugan, Ken Hazen and Family, Hunter Everhart, Bill Thompson, Sarah Markham, Mindy Curley, the residents of Matthews Glen.

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

Readings for 11/28/2021, First Sunday of Advent

Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalm 25:1-10

*To you, O Lord, I lift
up my soul. (Ps 25:1)*

1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Luke 21:25-36

Birthdays

11/24 John Iannelli

11/24 Burkhardt Otterstadt

11/25 Amy Jacob

11/26 Susan Ginns

11/30 Cliff Edahl, Jr.



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 (stephenministrysmlc@gmail.com)



Our Ministers

All the people of God at St. Mark's

Rev. Dr. Timothy McKenzie, Senior Pastor
pastortimsmc@gmail.com

Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry,
Organist
lackerman2@aol.com

Alex English, Director of Youth and Family
Ministry
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Sue Wadgymer, Parish Administrator
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Jessie Craig, Financial Administrator
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