



ST. MARK'S

LUTHERAN CHURCH

JANUARY 1, 2023

FIRST CHRISTMAS / NAME OF JESUS
10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

As we begin another year in the blessed name of Jesus, we remember that from the time we are baptized, we are called Christian. We are "Christ-ened," named in Jesus Christ at the font, and we pray in his name throughout our lives. Bearing Christ's name, our lives reveal the triune God, in whose name we are baptized, and who calls us beloved children of God.

GATHERING

*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.*

Bold responses are spoken by the congregation.

Prelude

"In a Lowly Manger Born" from *Hymn-tune Interpretations*

Tune MABUNE by Seigi Abe; Setting for cello and organ by David Chrewien

Welcome

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

Please stand as able.

Gathering Hymn "Angels from the Realms of Glory" ELW 275

REGENT SQUARE

1. Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Once you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king.

2. Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light. *refrain*
3. Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great desire of nations, you have seen his natal star. *refrain*
4. All creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One. *refrain*

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3; *Sabbath Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4; Music: Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879

The congregation may kneel or sit 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,
who looks upon us in compassion,
forgives our sin,
and heals our lives.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Have mercy, O God,
**Against you, you alone,
we have sinned.**
**In your compassion,
cleanse us from our sin
and take away our guilt.**

**Create in us a new heart
and give us a steadfast spirit.**
**Do not cast us away,
but fill us with your Holy Spirit
and restore your joy within us.**
Amen.

As tender as parent to child,
so deep is God's compassion for you.
As high as heaven is above earth,
so vast is God's love for you.

As far as east is from west,
so far God removes your sin from you,
renewing your life through Jesus Christ.
Blessed be God who crowns us
with mercy and love.
Blessed be God forever.

Please stand as able.

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. Eternal Father, you gave your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be a sign of our salvation. Plant in every heart the love of the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

Reading**Philippians 2:5-11**

Flora Chance, lector

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

*The Word of the Lord***Thanks be to God.****Psalm 8**

Amy Woodall, Sue Ann Phillips, cantors

Psalm 8:1 (Linda Shute) Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year A 2007* Augsburg Fortress

¹O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens. ²Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger. ³When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; ⁴what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? ⁵Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor. ⁶You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet, ⁷all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, ⁸the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas. ⁹O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Gospel Acclamation “O Come, All Ye Faithful” ELW 283

ADESTE FIDELIS

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!
 O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem;
 come and behold Him born the king of angels:
 O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
 O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1, 3-4; tr. Unknown, st. 2; Music: attr. John Francis Wade*Please stand as able.***The Holy Gospel****Luke 2:15-21***The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter.***Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. ²¹After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

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

Please stand as able.

Hymn of the Day

"In a Lowly Manger Born" ELW 718

MABUNE

Stanza 1: cantor; Stanzas 2 & 3: cantor and congregations



1 In a low - ly man - ger born, hum - ble life be - gun in scorn;
2 Vis - it - ing the lone and lost, stead - y - ing the tem - pest - tossed,
3 Then, to res - cue you and me, Je - sus died up - on the tree.



un - der Jo - seph's watch - ful eye, Je - sus grew as you and I;
giv - ing of him - self in love, call - ing minds to things a - bove.
See in him God's love re - vealed; by his pas - sion we are healed.



knew the suf - f'ring of the weak, knew the pa - tience of the meek,
Sin - ners glad - ly hear his call; pub - li - cans be - fore him fall,
Now he lives in glo - ry bright, lives a - gain in pow'r and might;



hun - gered as but poor folk can; this is he. Be - hold the man!
for in him new life be - gan; this is he. Be - hold the man!
come and take the path he trod, son of Mar - y, Son of God.

Text: Ko Uki, 1896-1985; tr. Composite, © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress; Music: Seigi Abe, 1891-1974, admin. Christian conference of Asia

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.

Please be seated.

Prayers of Intercession

(Pastor McKenzie, prayers)

The congregation may kneel or sit for the Prayers.

With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family. *A brief silence.*

Holy God, you have given the church the holy name of Jesus, and in him we are your beloved children. Unite churches across this world in mission through the power of his Spirit. Make us worthy of the name we bear, the name in which we pray. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Renewing God, restore your glory to the earth. Awaken humanity to our kinship with all living things that depend on your provision. Teach us to care for the earth, safeguarding its treasures for those who come after us. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Peacemaking God, reconcile the nations. Lead those in conflict into peaceful resolution. We especially pray for an end to the unjust war in Ukraine, and ask that you help us end acts of aggression and violence carried out in your name, so that the nations might live into the peaceful reign of your Son's kingdom. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Delivering God, deliver all who suffer from sickness and disease, and strengthen those who care for the sick and the dying. We pray for the safety of first responders, and all who place themselves at risk to protect others. Grant healing and strength to our church family: Jay Harbinson, David Mathis, Charlie Cox, Virginia Stackel, Joseph Tolbert, Robert Shirley, Rachel Fulp, Danielle Clausen, Carl Sepmeyer, Jeff Casella, Rona Reeves, David Kutscher, Carol Marion, Vann Milheim, Shirley Larson, Diann Krewson, Mindy Curley, Steve Rach, Oakley Coburn, Stanley Davis, Connie Pope, Arlene Fielding, Anthony Perrini, Sergei Kobiakov, Bill Schwartz, Mickey Byrd, Christopher Shirley, Kaoru Otsubo, Joan Love, Tony Ananich, Betty Lentz, Jon McKenzie, Jane Thompson, Kliffia Harman, Sandy Simon, Ingrid Keiris, John Ananich, Sam Temple, Jimmy Schwartz, and Greg Bruce. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Leading God, inspire and lead St. Mark's ministries and mission in Jesus' name throughout this new year. Bless our members, friends and partners that we might envision together our role as a church of peace, healing, and grace in the Charlotte community. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Saving God, we give thanks for the faithful departed who now rest in your undying love, made known to us in Jesus our Emmanuel. Lead us each day to live in Jesus' name, serve our neighbors, and journey with Jesus toward his eternal kingdom. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God.
Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

(Please stand as able, sharing the peace of the risen Christ.)

MEAL

OFFERING

(Offerings for the mission of the church, and those in need, may be placed in the plates at the sanctuary entrance)

Please be seated.

Offertory

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

Tune CRANHAM by Gustav Holst
Setting for cello and organ by David Cherwien

Offertory Hymn

“The First Noel” ELW 300

(The offering is brought forward from the Narthex)
THE FIRST NOWELL

1. The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherd in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

Text: English traditional; Music: English traditional; arr. John Stainer, 1840-1901.

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. **Amen.**

Please stand as able.

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.

Eucharistic Prayer

Blessed are you, O God, creator of heaven and earth.

You rescued your covenant people,
led them on all their journeys, and taught them
by the prophets.

You so loved the world that
you gave your only Son, so that
everyone who believes in him may not
perish but have eternal life.

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.

As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit in this meal,
and make us one in this community of faith
and with your people throughout the world.
Glory and praise to you, O God, Author of life,
Word made flesh, Power of the Most High,
now and forever. **Amen.**

The 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

Glory to God in the highest!
Come to the table of peace.

Distribution of Holy Communion

Holy Communion will be offered in two ways, by a "Communion Kit" or by wafer and wine in a small cup. Communion will be continuous in front of the freestanding altar. After receiving a "kit" please return via the side aisles to your pew to partake of communion. Please seal used communion utensils in the zip-lock kit bag. The Real Presence of Jesus Christ continues to abide in the bread and the cup, blessing, renewing and forgiving us to lead lives of love, justice and service for others.

Communion Music

"Sweet Little Jesus Boy"

Robert MacGimsey

Sue Ann Phillips, soprano soloist

Sweet little Jesus Boy they made you be born in a manger. Sweet little Holy Child, didn't know who you were, didn't know you'd come to save us Lord, to take our sins away. Our eyes were blind we couldn't see, we didn't know who you were. Long time ago your were born, born in a manger low Sweet little Jesus Boy. The world treats you mean Lord, treats me mean, too, but that's how things are down here. We don't know who you are. You have told us how. We are trying Master, you have shown us how even when you were dying. Just seems like we can't do right, look how we treated you. But please sir forgive us Lord. We didn't know 'twas you.

"Carol of the Manger"

Tune CRADLE SONG by William J. Kirkpatrick

Setting for cello and organ by Dale Wood

Please stand as able.

Post-Communion Blessing

Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray. God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING

SENDING BLESSING

God bless you and keep you,
✠ Jesus grant you grace and truth,
and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts,
now and forever.

Amen.

Recessional Hymn “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” ELW 288

IN DULCI JUBILO

1. Good Christian Friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!
2. Good Christian Friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He has opened heaven’s door, and we are blest forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
3. Good Christian Friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866
Music: German carol, 14th cent.; arr. Robert L. Pearsal, 1795-1856

DISMISSAL

Christ the Savior is born!
Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

Postlude “Toccata on ‘God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen’”

18th Century English carol; Organ Setting by Alfred Fedak



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Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie (prayer assistant); lector: Flora Chance; live streaming camera: Laura Foust; soundboard: Kevin Feezor; ushers: Ken Williams, Larry Dagenhart, Jr., Alan Harms, Dale Hopp, Sally McCauley; greeters: Evelyn Gerdes; communion assistant: A.J. Pridgen, Gretchen

Payne, Barbara Baker, Lisa Barnett, Rebecca Huang; communion helper: Karen Covington; tabulators: Meg Fielding, Dianne Thomas; musicians: John Brumbaugh, cello; Amy Woodall, cantor; Sue Ann Phillips, cantor and soprano soloist; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

Next Sunday Leaders: prayer assistant: Mike Doyne; lector: Kelsey Smith; live streaming camera: Joe Barrett; soundboard: John Brumbaugh; ushers: Team D; greeters: Neil & Charlotte Dixon, Charles & Susan Lakeman; communion assistants: A.J. Pridgen, Charles & Susan Lakeman, Janice Miller, Ken Hazen; communion helper: Catherine Metze; tabulators: Joe Barrett, Janice Miller



Parish News

From the pastor -

"For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore." (Isaiah 9:6-7)

As we celebrate the Nativity of Jesus Christ, we are encountered by the God whose kingdom dwells in the human heart, a kingdom crossing all borders of nation, culture and language. Isaiah points toward a kingdom giving unity to human beings across the globe and across time. In Christ, our time has been forever interrupted by God's eternity. Isaiah's "born for us" reveals that the Messiah's kingdom of peace will be established not in one particular nation or people, but in all nations and peoples.

If you have ever worshipped in another nation or language, you will readily understand that through faith, Jesus Christ is born into the hearts of people all over this world, crossing boundaries and borders, making us all sisters and brothers with Jesus. At Christmas we celebrate a holy mystery that has been, as Isaiah wrote, growing "continually" since Jesus' birth. He seeks to dwell in your heart so that through you, Christ might extend his reign of justice and righteousness further and further across time and space. Your life is the means by which God furthers this kingdom. Christ has come down to earth to raise you to heaven so that you might share God's infinite kingdom of grace and peace with all whom you meet.

A blessed Christmas to you,
Pastor Tim McKenzie

Coming Up at St. Mark's

Worship and Congregational Life

A blessed Christmastide and New Year to you! We begin the New Year in Jesus' name. May you know the love and the peace of Jesus Christ in your life today and throughout the coming year.

1/6/2023 (Friday) Epiphany Service of Prayer, 7 pm.

Please join us as we celebrate the announcement of Christ's birth to the nations to the Magi.

Save the Date! The 2023 Annual Meeting is scheduled for 1/29/2023 following the 10:30 service.

The church office will be closed Monday, 1/2/23. May the Light of Christ lead you throughout the New Year!

Fundraiser for Nursery Ministry at Brixx, Wednesday

1/11/23 Locations: Brixx Dilworth located at 1801 Scott Avenue AND Brixx Foxcroft 7814 Fairview Road. St Mark's will receive \$4 per adult entrée and \$1 per kid's meal. These funds will go towards replenishing the Nursery Fund. Forms are available in the Gathering Place-the form is required for St. Mark's to receive the funds. Forms are available in the Gathering Place.

The Ethnic Restaurant Group will dine at Mama Ricotta's Italian Restaurant on January 17th at 7:00 PM. Mama Ricotta's is located at 601 S Kings Dr, Charlotte, NC 28204. All people are welcome! Suggestion: bring a friend or neighbor and share the fun. Contact Tom & Judy Tolbert for reservations (please call the church office).

The Christian Education Hour is at 9:30 am on Sundays. Please join us as you are able. Explore the life and faith of C. S. Lewis each Sunday at 9:30 in the Large Conference room. Examine Lewis's experiences with doubt, conversion, grief, and joy and how to apply those lessons today. Professor Michael Ward leads this video course based on Lewis's classic writings beginning 1/8.

"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/>).

Ushers for Sunday Worship The ministry of ushering is a crucial part of worship because it is one of the most visible ministries in the Church. Please volunteer by contacting the church office or John Simon.

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

2023 Stewardship Appeal If you have not done so, please prayerfully consider making a financial pledge of support for St. Mark's in 2023. Your pledge helps St. Mark's ministries of worship, service and fellowship continue over the coming year. Your pledge of support is welcome at any time. Pledge cards are available in the Gathering Place. An online pledge option is also available from our website, or you may use the QR code.

You may use the QR code at left (hover your phone camera to connect) for immediate access to St. Mark's website donation page. Pledges and donations for Altar Flowers may be made using this code also.



2023 Offering Envelopes are in the Gathering Place. If you do not see your envelope box, and would like one, please fill out the form provided and put it in the basket.

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.

Social Ministry

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

Habitat for Humanity We need your help! The Habitat build is on schedule, and we successfully served lunch to the volunteers on November 12, BUT we are very short of our \$2,000 commitment to the build. If at all possible, please send a donation check to the church office with "Habitat" noted on the memo line. We would like to fulfill our portion of the needed funds. Thank you for your consideration of the appeal.

Loaves and Fishes Please remember families who need some assistance putting food on the table every day. Let's continue to overflow our baker's rack with non-perishable, **non-breakable** food items. Or you can leave your donation by the choir room door from 10:00 - 2:00 Monday - Thursday. "I was hungry and you gave me food" Matt.25:35

Soup Kitchen St. Mark's Soup Kitchen is serving lunch in the Fellowship Hall every Thursday for 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 Classes

Sundays at 9:30: Youth Group in the Youth Room. Godly Play has been temporarily paused.

Confirmation Class meets every other Sunday at 9:30.

Announcements

Open Eyes Help Everyone! If you see leaking pipes or something amiss in the building, please contact the church office.

Scam Alert We have again seen a rise in people posing as the pastor or a member of St. Mark's, asking for a reply or to click on an encrypted file. Please do not reply to any email or click on any attachment 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. Thank you! (stmarkselca1001@gmail.com).

AA meets Monday nights "Third Tradition", 7 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall; Wednesday nights "Just the Basics", 7:30 p.m. in Room 210; Thursday nights "Not a Glum Lot", 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Music Notes

"Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" ELW 288 This Christmas hymn dates to the 14th century, and was translated into English by John Mason Neale (1818-1866), and included in his collection *Carols of Christmas-tide* (London, 1853). When a carol is written in two languages it is called macaronic. The original text was German with phrases of Latin to teach the Christmas story to folks of little formal education. Austin Lovelace says the music is "foot" music, and obviously was meant to be danced. The early church was more accustomed to austere plainsong and motets, and decided that popular music of the day was too good to miss as a teaching tool. As Martin Luther said, "Why should the devil have all the good tunes?" **IN DULCI JUBILO** (Latin for "in sweet rejoicing") is the tune name, and dates to 14th century Germany.

"In the Bleak Midwinter" ELW 294 This hymn began as a poem in the January 1872 issue of the publication *Scribner's Monthly* by Christina Rossetti (1830-1894), who was born in London of Italian refugee parents. Her poem "A Christmas Carol" transitioned to a hymn, and has the challenges of syllables falling differently with the tune stanza by stanza. The tune **CRANHAM** is by Gustav Holst, (1874-1934) and was composed for this text. Austin Lovelace says of this hymn: "Like many Christmas songs written in the Victorian era, this hymn assumes English surroundings and weather. While it is possible there may have been snows in Bethlehem, the secret of the hymn lies elsewhere in the sensitive and imaginative expression of the Incarnation."

This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar

January 1, The Name of Jesus

The observance of the octave (eighth day) of Christmas has roots in the sixth century. Until the recent past, Lutheran calendars called this day "The Circumcision and Name of Jesus." The emphasis on circumcision is the older emphasis. Every Jewish boy was circumcised and formally named on the eighth day of his life. Already as a baby, Jesus bears the mark of a covenant that he makes through the shedding of his blood on the cross. Baptized into Christ, the church begins a new year in Jesus' name.

January 2, Johann Konrad Wilhelm Loehe, renewer of the church (1808-1872)

Loehe (Löhe) was a pastor in nineteenth-century Germany. From establishing a school for pastors and deaconesses in the small town of Neuendettelsau, he sent pastors to North America, Australia, New Guinea, Brazil, and the Ukraine. His work for a clear confessional basis within the Bavarian church led to conflict with ecclesiastical authorities. Loehe's chief concern was that a congregation find its life in Holy Communion, and from that source outreach and social ministries would flow. The Missouri Synod and the Iowa Synod are considered founded by his initiative, and Concordia Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN and Warburg Seminary, Dubuque, IA look to Loehe for their origins. His German language "Liturgy for Christian Congregations of the Lutheran Faith" (1844) had a profound influence upon the publication of the first English language Lutheran liturgy in 1860.

Adapted from Sundays and Seasons

St. Mark's Prayer List

Jay Harbinson, David Mathis, Charlie Cox, Virginia Stackel, Joseph Tolbert, Robert Shirley, Rachel Fulp, Danielle Clausen, Carl Sepmeyer, Jeff Casella, Paul Davis, Rona Reeves, David Kutscher, Carol Marion, Vann Milheim, Shirley Larson, Diann Krewson, Mindy Curley, Steve Rach, Oakley Coburn, Stanley Davis, Connie Pope, Arlene Fielding, Anthony Perrini, Sergei Kobiakov, Bill Schwartz, Mickey Byrd, Christopher Shirley, Kaoru Otsubo, Joan Love, Tony Ananich, Jon McKenzie, Betty Lentz, Jane Thompson, Kliffia Harman, Sandy Simon, Ingrid Keiris, John Ananich, Sam Temple, Jimmy Schwartz and Greg Bruce.

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

Readings for 1/8/2022,

Baptism of Our Lord

Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalms 29

The voice of the Lord is

upon the waters. (Ps. 29:3)

Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:13-17

1/1

1/1

1/1

1/1

1/4

1/4

Birthdays

Brenda Durst

Fay Fisher

Andrew Puky

Robert Smith

Marie Daniels

Brady Ferner

1/4

1/4

1/5

1/6

1/7

1/7

Mary Lou Hopp

David Mathis

Chuck Haley

Sam Temple

Virginia Stackel

David Platt



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. If you would like to confidentially speak to a Stephen Minister, please contact Pastor Tim (pastortimsmc@gmail.com)

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Our Ministers

All the people of God at St. Mark's

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