



## ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

### Our Mission

*Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known*



**JULY 27, 2025**

**THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST / LECTIONARY 17**

**10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION**

*Today's readings remind us to be persistent in prayer. Abraham modeled persistence in prayer, asking God to be merciful to Sodom, and Jesus taught his disciples to pray, modeling a life of persistent conversation with God. To follow Christ is to ask, search, and knock in prayer. God hears and answers prayer, strengthening and changing us. "When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me" (Psalm 138:3).*

### GATHERING

*The congregation is invited to join in the **Bold** responses.*

#### Prelude

“Organ Meditation on ‘What a Friend We Have in Jesus’”

Tune by Charles C. Converse

Organ setting by Dale Wood

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

#### Processional Hymn

“Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing” ELW 544

ALLES IST AN GOTTES SEGEN

Text: Howard C. A. Gaunt, 1902-1983, alt. © Oxford University press; Music: Johann Lohner, 1645-1705, adapt.

1. Praise the Lord, rise up rejoicing, worship, thanks, devotion voicing: glory be to God on high!  
Christ, your cross and passion sharing, by this eucharist declaring yours the final victory.
2. Scattered flock, one shepherd sharing, lost and lonely,  
one voice hearing, ears attentive to your word;  
by your blood new life receiving, in your body,  
firm believing, we are yours, and you the Lord.
3. Sins forgiven, wrongs forgiving, we go forth alert and living in your Spirit, strong and free.  
Partners in your new creation, seeking peace in ev'ry nation, may we faithful foll'wers be.

*Please be seated.*

#### Welcome

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

## 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.**

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

*The congregation may kneel or sit for the Confession. Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful God,  
**you free us to love others,**  
**but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.**

**You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,**  
**but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.**

**You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity,**  
**but we grow weary in doing what is right.**

**In your mercy, forgive us.**  
**Do not give up on us.**

**Heal us, break our bonds,**  
**and show us the path of life.**  
**Amen.**

You belong to Christ Jesus  
and you are God's children through faith.

In the cross of ✠ Christ,  
and through the power of the Holy Spirit,  
your sins are forgiven.  
Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

**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.**

*Please stand as able.*

## Kyrie

"As the Deer"

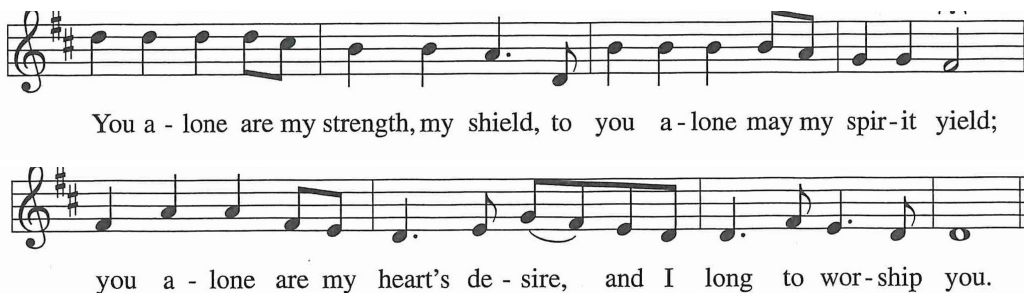
Martin J. Nystrom



As the deer pants for the wa-ter, so my soul longs af-ter you.



You a-lone are my heart's de-sire and I long to wor-ship you.



## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

Temple Talk

“Bread for the World”

Jason Blanton

## WORD

### First Reading

### Genesis 18:20-32

Andrea Long, lector

<sup>20</sup>Then the LORD said, “How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! <sup>21</sup>I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me, and if not, I will know.” <sup>22</sup>So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the LORD. <sup>23</sup>Then Abraham came near and said, “Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? <sup>24</sup>Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? <sup>25</sup>Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?” <sup>26</sup>And the LORD said, “If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake.” <sup>27</sup>Abraham answered, “Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord, I who am but dust and ashes. <sup>28</sup>Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?” And he said, “I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there.” <sup>29</sup>Again he spoke to him, “Suppose forty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of forty I will not do it.” <sup>30</sup>Then he said, “Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there.” He answered, “I will not do it, if I find thirty there.” <sup>31</sup>He said, “Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord. Suppose twenty are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it.” <sup>32</sup>Then he said, “Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there.” He answered, “For the sake of ten I will not destroy it.”

*The Word of the Lord*

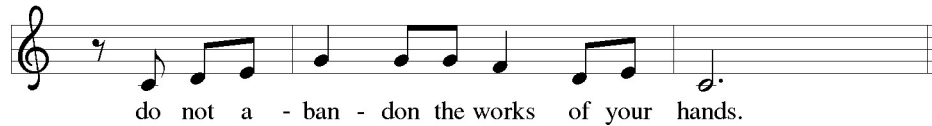
**Thanks be to God**

### Psalm 138

Amy Woodall, Jack Richardson, cantors

Psalm 138:8 (John Paradowski) from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress





*I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with | my whole heart; before the gods I will | sing your praise. <sup>2</sup>I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of your steadfast | love and faithfulness; for you have glorified your name and your word a- | bove all things. R <sup>3</sup>When I called, you | answered me; you increased my | strength within me. <sup>4</sup>All the rulers of the earth will praise | you, O LORD, when they have heard the words | of your mouth. <sup>5</sup>They will sing of the ways | of the LORD, that great is the glory | of the LORD. <sup>6</sup>The LORD is high, yet cares | for the lowly, perceiving the haughty | from afar. R <sup>7</sup>Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you | keep me safe; you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right | hand shall save me. <sup>8</sup>You will make good your pur- | pose for me; O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works | of your hands. R*

## Second Reading

## Colossians 2:6-15

Andrea Long, lector

<sup>6</sup>As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, <sup>7</sup>rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. <sup>8</sup>Watch out that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental principles of the world, and not according to Christ. <sup>9</sup>For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, <sup>10</sup>and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. <sup>11</sup>In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by the removal of the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; <sup>12</sup>when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. <sup>13</sup>And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, <sup>14</sup>erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup>He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

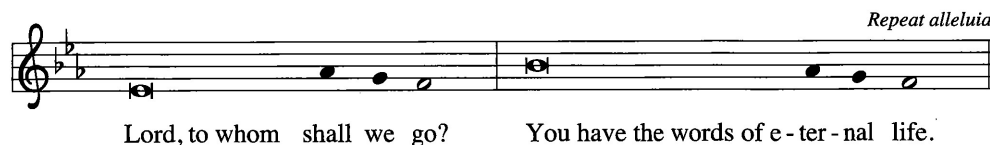
*The Word of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God**

*Please stand as able.*

## Gospel Acclamation

“Alleluia” from *Holy Communion Setting Twelve*



## The Holy Gospel

## Luke 11:1-13

*The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 11th chapter.*

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach

us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” <sup>2</sup>So he said to them, “When you pray, say: Father, may your name be revered as holy. May your kingdom come. <sup>3</sup>Give us each day our daily bread. <sup>4</sup>And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial.” <sup>5</sup>And he said to them, “Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, <sup>6</sup>for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.’ <sup>7</sup>And he answers from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.’ <sup>8</sup>I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs. <sup>9</sup>“So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. <sup>10</sup>For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. <sup>11</sup>Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish? <sup>12</sup>Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion? <sup>13</sup>If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

**Sermon**

*“Lord, teach us to pray”*

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

*Please stand as able.*

**Hymn of the Day**

“Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God”

LAFFERTY

1 Seek ye first the king - dom of God and its  
2 Ask and it shall be giv - en un - to you; seek and

righ - teous - ness, and all these things shall be  
you shall find; knock and the door shall be

add - ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.  
o - pened un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.

**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**

Dave Dunlap, prayer assistant

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

Drawn into the embrace of the holy Trinity, we lift our prayers for the wholeness of the church, the world, and all creation. *A brief silence.*

Our Father in Heaven, teach your church to pray with faith and trust in you; help us to model Christ's way of prayer, strengthening us to be persistent in prayer and merciful in our actions toward all your children. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Creator God, we continue to pray for those impacted by oppressive heat and unprecedented floods. Help us to support the victims of these tragedies and others in our nation and around the world with shelter, food, and clean water. Help us to remember the impact upon the livelihood of so many and upon livestock, wildlife, and crops. Continue to help us see the planet you have provided for us is fragile. Help us all to be better stewards of our collective home. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Peaceful God, we pray for all who suffer because of war and conflict. Daily we see the misery and anguish in the Middle East, Ukraine, and in our own back yards due to mass shootings, but so often our comfort, wealth and security insulate us from these tragedies. Teach us all the compassion and understanding needed to end violence. Grant wisdom and strength to our leaders, helping them to set aside partisanship and personal interests for peace, love and compassion. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Loving Father, grant all good gifts to your children who cry out to you amid illness, addiction, loneliness, and fear. Strengthen with your good gifts all caregivers, hospice workers, and emergency room staff. We pray for our extended church family: Nanette Temple, Tom Sehorn, David Pope, Marcia Newlin, Andres Puky, Diane Thornton, Ashlyn Bordelon, Betsy League, Carmelita Harris, Lucille Johnson, Marilyn Stevens, Satoko Yamada, Judy Cox, Ross Boheler, Charlene Oppermann, Elaine Ketner Sherman, Norma Alexander, Laura Elliott, Gene Ellington, Tanner Grant, Christopher Shirley, Eileen Dunlap, Dannye Olin Bragdon, Mindy Curley, Louisa and Oakley Coburn, Roxi Tolbert, Bill Schwartz, Arlene Fielding, David Kutscher, Danielle Clausen, Rachel Fulp, Joseph Tolbert, and Jay Harbinson. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Loving God, your Son taught us to love our neighbors as ourselves. We hear so much of what divides us, help us also to know we are all children of God. Please help us to accept, embrace, and celebrate our differences rather than question and suppress them. Help us to set aside hate, bigotry, and prejudice in His name, loving each other for who we are. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Eternal Father, we offer you thanks for the prayerful models of Abraham, Jesus, Paul, and all the saints; may we also ask, search, and knock, trusting that you open the way to eternal life; and may we always be

ready to respond when our neighbor in need asks, searches, and knocks in our lives. God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

Gather our prayers in your mercy, O God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
**Amen.**

**Peace**

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

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

MEAL

*Please be seated.*

**OFFERING**

*(Offerings for the mission of the church are gathered by the ushers.)*

**Anthem**

“With Songs of Rejoicing” from Cantata 15

Johann Sebastian Bach

*With songs of rejoicing sing praise to the Lord; for He has done marvelous, marvelous things! Break forth into joy. His praises the lyre and the trumpet employ. The floods clap their hands, and the hills sing for joy. The seas with their roaring speak praise to His name. come make a joyful noise. Sing to the Lord Alleluia! Sing Alleluia!*

*Please stand as able.*

**Offertory**

*(The offering is brought forward by the ushers)*

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” ELW 884

OLD HUNDREDTH

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heav’nly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**Offering Prayer**

Let us pray. Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

**Holy Communion**

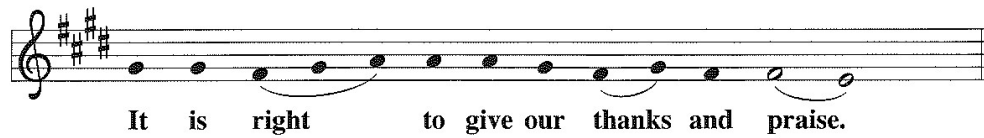
**The Great Thanksgiving**

S 152

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



## Proper Preface

### Sanctus

“Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord”

*Holy Communion Setting Ten*

S207

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.  
 Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

### 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.

### 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

The kingdom of God is set before you.  
Eat and rejoice.

*Please be seated.*

## Distribution of Holy Communion

*Holy Communion is offered continuously at the Lord's table and at the high altar. Please follow the ushers' prompts, walking forward to the desired communion station and returning via the side aisles. On the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, distribution is by wafers and small cups, and on the 2nd, 4th, and 5th Sundays of the month distribution is by intinction. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are always available. Communion kits are no longer available.*

## Communion Music

"O Lamb of God"

Holy Communion Setting Ten

S 208

1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

"Blessed Jesus, We Are Here" BWV 731

Johann Sebastian Bach

## Communion Hymn

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus" ELW 742

CONVERSE

Text: Joeshph Scriven, 1820-1886; Music: Charles C. Converse, 1832-1918

1. What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry ev'rything to God in prayer!  
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; oh, what needless pain we bear-  
all because we do not carry ev'rything to God in prayer!
2. Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged - take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness - take it to the Lord in prayer.
3. Are we weak and heavy-laden, cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge - take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.

*Please stand as able.*

### **Post-Communion Blessing**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

### **Post-Communion Prayer**

Let us pray. Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

## SENDING

### **SENDING BLESSING**

The love of God abound in you;

The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;

The life of the Spirit

✙ bless you and give you peace.

**Amen.**

### **Recessional Hymn**

“Go, My Children, with My Blessing” ELW 543

AR HYD Y NOS

Text: Joroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt. © 1983 Concordia Publishing House; Music: Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958, © Oxford University Press

1. “Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.  
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.  
In my love’s baptismal river I have made you mine forever.  
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own.”
2. “Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.  
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.  
Here you heard my dear Son’s story, here you touched him, saw his glory.  
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.”
3. “Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.  
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.  
Here my Spirit’s power filled you, here my tender comfort stilled you.  
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.”

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Worship has ended. You are free to depart or you may remain for the postlude.*

### **Postlude**

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

Tune LOBE DEN HERREN

Organ setting by Johann Gottfried Walther

✙

✙




✙

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**Worship Leaders:** Pastor Timothy McKenzie; prayer assistant: Dave Dunlap; crucifer/acolyte: Needed; lector: Andrea Long; live streaming camera: Charles Lakeman; soundboard: John Brumbaugh; ushers: Doug Milheim, Marc Ginns, Susan Ginns, Eddie Goodall, Sean Fielding; greeters: Millie Cansler, Dave & Eileen Dunlap; communion assistants: Tom Puky, Chris & Palmer Stevenson, Betsy Wenzel, Kimberly Zimmerman; communion helper: Sandy Rach; tabulators: Joe Barrett, Doug Milheim, Janice Miller; musicians: St. Mark's Summer Choir, Amy Woodall, Jack Richardson, cantors; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

**Next Sunday Leaders:** prayer assistant: Tom Tolbert; crucifer/acolyte: Needed; lector: Layton Campbell; live streaming camera: Charles Lakeman; soundboard: Bob Chernet; ushers: Team C; greeters: TBD; communion assistants: Lisa Barnette, Jay Jacob, Charles & Susan Lakeman, A.J. Pridgen; communion helper: Chris Miller; tabulators: Dawn Schwartz, Dianne Thomas






***We can end hunger in our time.***

Churches, charities, food banks, and nonprofit organizations can't solve hunger alone.

As people of faith, we are called to give of our time, talent, and treasure for a greater purpose. Bread for the World invites you to use your voice to help end hunger.

***Policy change can do much more than charity can.***



"Overcoming poverty is not a task of charity; it is an act of justice!"  
Proverbs 31:8a NIV

"...mouth for those who cannot speak, and for the rights of those who are left without a voice."

## Parish News

### From the pastor -

"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ." (1 Corinthians 12:12)

During the "Time after Pentecost," we celebrate the triune God who enlivens, encourages and sends the church into mission in the world. The church is

not a building, but rather, a congregation of people gathered and sent into the world by Jesus to be living signs of God's steadfast love for all people. We are one body the church, and amid the world's brokenness, the church is called to be God's transformative presence that overcomes barriers and divisions, proclaiming what God has done for us. In the season after Pentecost, we remember that God is steadfastly calling the church to be a voice of unity, compassion, justice and love. How is God calling you to use your gifts for Christ at St. Mark's? We have been clothed with

Christ in baptism to welcome, care for, and love all people!

In the life of the Spirit,  
Pastor Tim McKenzie  
pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org

## *Coming Up at St. Mark's*

### **Worship and Congregational Life**


**Altar Flowers today** are given to the glory of God by Pastor Tim & Mari McKenzie in celebration of 31 years of marriage.

**Guest Speaker:** Today we welcome Jason Blanton, North Carolina representative for Bread for the World. Mr. Blanton will speak at the Forum Hour today as well as at the 8:30 and 10:30 services.

**Card for Bishop-elect Emily Hartner:** Please take a moment to sign a card for Rev. Emily Hartner. Pastor Emily was Associate Pastor at St. Mark's (2010-2017) and was elected Bishop at the 2025 NC Synod Assembly. She will take office as Bishop on August 1.

**8/8/25 North Carolina Baroque Orchestra Concert at 7 pm.** Admission is free.

**8/17/25 American Guild of Organists Recital at 4 pm** featuring Les Ackerman with trumpeters Alex Willborn and Jon Kaplan.

**Aid for Hurricane Helene Victims** Thank you to all for your donations. If you would like to help, please hover your phone camera over the  QR code to connect to the NC Synod's website.

**Thinking of joining St. Mark's?** Please see Pastor Tim to set up a time to talk. All people are welcome at St. Mark's!

**The Christian Education Hour is at 9:30 am on Sundays.** You are invited to join the Faith Forum for lively discussion. The class meets at 9:30 in the Large Conference room. New members are always welcome.

**Online worship** is streamed live every Sunday at 10:30 am on YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/@st.markslutherancharlotte234/streams>), St. Mark's website ([https://saintmarkscharlotte.org/live-](https://saintmarkscharlotte.org/live-stream/)

[stream/](https://www.facebook.com/SaintMarksLutheran/)), and Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com/SaintMarksLutheran/>).

**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.

### **Family Ministry**

**Nursery:** A fun-filled nursery, staffed by volunteers, is located downstairs. An usher is available to show you the way. Our safety protocols offer peace of mind so you can worship without worry.

**Confirmation Class** meets every Sunday at 9:30.

### **Stewardship**

Please prayerfully consider your 2025 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. Brochures are available in the Gathering Place. Thank you for your faithful gifts to St. Mark's ministries. 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 also be made using this code.



**2025 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.

### **Social Ministry**

**SPECIAL SUMMER FOOD DRIVE FOR NOURISH UP** The 1st delivery of our Summer Food Drive was recently delivered to Nourish Up by Marc and Susan Ginns weighing 115 lbs. Thank you congregation, but please be aware the need continues for those families with school aged children no longer receiving free breakfast and lunches at school. This puts a tremendous strain on the family budget as well as on Nourish Up's budget. The next time you grocery shop please put a couple "child friendly" items in your cart - canned pasta entrees, canned fruit, cereal, powdered milk, peanut butter and squeeze bottled jelly. Thank you from the Social Ministry Committee

**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!

## Announcements

AA meets in the Fellowship Hall: Monday nights "Third Tradition", 7 p.m.; Wednesday nights "Just the Basics", 7:30 p.m.; and Thursday nights "Not a Glum Lot", 6:30 p.m.; in Room 210: Thursday nights at 6:30 p.m. & Saturday morning 10:30 a.m. "SLAA".



## Music Notes

**Seek Ye First** This popular hymn is not included in our *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, but does appear in a number of supplemental collections, including *This Far by Faith* (Minneapolis, 1999). Karen Lafferty (b. 1948), an American composer, musician and recording artist, is the writer of the first stanza, as well as composer of the tune **LAFFERTY**. She is the founder and director of Musicians for Missions, an international ministry based in Amsterdam. **Seek Ye First** was written in 1971, inspired by a bible study on Matthew 6:33. She describes it as "a song in which people can put God's desire for their lives above their own." The second stanza is based on Matthew 7:7 and was included in *Songs for Celebration*, 1980.

**"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"** ELW 742 was written in 1855 by Joseph Scriven (1819-1886) as a comfort for his sick mother. Joseph was born in Ireland but moved to Canada in 1844 at the age of twenty-five. The great American gospel hymn composer Ira Sankey (1840-1908) wrote of Scriven: Until a short time before his death, it was not known that he had a poetic gift. A neighbor sitting up with him in his illness, happened upon a manuscript copy of "What a Friend We Have in Jesus." Reading it with great delight and questioning Mr. Scriven about it, he said he composed it for his mother, to comfort her in a time of special sorrow, not intending that anyone else should see it. Sometime later, when another Port Hope, Ontario neighbor asked him if it was true he composed the hymn, his reply was "The Lord and I did it between us." The tune **CONVERSE** was paired with this hymn by Ira Sankey. Charles Converse (1832-1918) composed the tune and was first published in 1870 under the pseudonym Karl Reden, a German form of his name (reden = "to speak" or "converse").

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

### **July 28, Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750); Heinrich Schütz (1585-1672); George Frederick Handel (1685-1759), musicians**

These three composers have done much to enrich the worship life of the church. J.S. Bach drew on the Lutheran tradition of hymnody and wrote about two hundred cantatas, including at least two for each Sunday and festival day in the Lutheran calendar of his day. George Frederick Handel was not primarily a church musician, but his great work *Messiah* is a musical proclamation of the scriptures. Heinrich Schütz wrote choral settings of biblical texts and paid special attention to ways his composition would underscore the meanings of the words.

### **July 29, Mary, Martha and Lazarus of Bethany**

Mary and Martha are remembered for the devotion and hospitality they offered Jesus in their home. Following the characterization drawn by Luke, Martha represents the active life, while Mary represents the contemplative. Lazarus, Mary's and Martha's brother, was raised from the dead by Jesus as a sign of the eternal life he offers to all believers. It was at Lazarus' tomb that Jesus wept for love of his friend.

### **July 29, Olaf, King of Norway, martyr, died 1030**

Considered the patron saint of Norway, Olaf went from a life of piracy in the Baltic and Norway to being baptized a Christian in Rouen. He returned to Norway, and succeeded his father as king, making Christianity the religion of his realm. He revised the laws of the nation and tried to administer them impartially, eliminating corruption and bribery. His reforms angered the aristocracy and he was driven from his kingdom. Supported by Sweden in battle, he was killed trying to regain his kingdom.

*Adapted from Sundays and Seasons*





## **Bottled Water Appeal**

*Donating water to those in need*

The Soup Kitchen Ministry is overwhelmed by your generosity. For now we have enough water.

Thank you to all who have donated water to help our neighbors in need!

### St. Mark's Prayer List

Nanette Temple, Tom Sehorn, David Pope, Marcia Newlin, Andres Puky, Diane Thornton, Ashlyn Bordelon, Betsy League, Carmelita Harris, Lucille Johnson, Marilyn Stevens, Satoko Yamada, Judy Cox, Ross Boheler, Charlene Oppermann, Elaine Ketner Sherman, Gene Ellington, Tanner Grant, Christopher Shirley, Eileen Dunlap, Dannye Olin Bragdon, Mindy Curley, Louisa and Oakley Coburn, Roxi Tolbert, Bill Schwartz, Arlene Fielding, David Kutscher, Danielle Clausen, Rachel Fulp, Joseph Tolbert, and Jay Harbinson.

Please email Pastor McKenzie with Prayer List and other prayer requests ([pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org](mailto:pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org))

#### Readings for 8/3/2025

##### **Eighth Sunday after Pentecost/ Lectionary 18**

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

Psalms 49:1-12

Colossians 3:1-11

Luke 12:13-21

#### Birthdays

7/27 Gretchen Payne

7/28 Ingrid Chernet

8/1 Helen Howard

8/2 Dominic Andujar

8/2 Larry Dagenhart, Jr.

8/2 Gennie Stevenson



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 ([pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org](mailto:pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org))



### *Our Ministers*

**All the people of God at St. Mark's**

**Rev. Dr. Timothy McKenzie, Senior Pastor**

[pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org](mailto:pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org)

**Lester Ackerman,**

**Director of Music Ministry, Organist**

[les@saintmarkscharlotte.org](mailto:les@saintmarkscharlotte.org)

**Sue Wadgymer, Parish Administrator**

[admin@saintmarkscharlotte.org](mailto:admin@saintmarkscharlotte.org)

**Elaine Johnson, Finance Administrator**

[finance@saintmarkscharlotte.org](mailto:finance@saintmarkscharlotte.org)

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