



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known



AUGUST 10, 2025

THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST / HYMN SING SUNDAY 10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Paul writes, "faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." Faith always watches, trusts and stands ready for signs of the kingdom in us and in this world. Abraham believed the Lord, and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness, and so Abraham and Sarah died seeing God's promises fulfilled from a distance. Jesus encourages us to let go of the things of this world, setting our hearts upon treasure in heaven. He says to us, "Have no fear, little flock."

GATHERING

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

Prelude

"Variations on 'Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing'"

Tune NETTLETON by John Wyeth
Settings for organ by Albert L. Travis

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

Processional Hymn

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" ELW 634 Stanzas 1, 2, 4, 5 & 6

CORONATION

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

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

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

“Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling” ELW 608 Stanza one

THOMPSON
Text & Music: Will L. Thompson, 1847-1919



Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

Hymn

"How Firm a Foundation" ELW 796 Stanzas 1 & 2

FOUNDATION

Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787. Alt.; Music: Early American

1. How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in Christ Jesus, the Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said
who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?
2. "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,
upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."

WORD

First Reading

Genesis 15:1-6

Larry Lippert, lector

¹After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ²But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for

I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” ³And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” ⁴But the word of the LORD came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” ⁵He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” ⁶And he believed the LORD, and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 90

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past” ELW 632 Stanzas 1-6

ST. ANNE

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt; Music: William Croft, 1678-1727-1872

1. O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:
2. Under the shadow of your throne your saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is your arm alone, and our defense is sure.
3. Before the hills in order stood or earth received its frame,
from everlasting you are God, to endless years the same.
4. A thousand ages in your sight are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.
5. Time, like an ever-rolling stream, bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the op'ning day.
6. O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last and our eternal home.

Second Reading

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Larry Lippert, lector

¹Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ²Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible. ⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹²Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.” ¹³All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Please stand as able.

Gospel Acclamation

“Be Thou My Vision” ELW 793 Stanzas 1 & 2

SLANE

Text Irish, 8th cen.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931; Music: Irish traditional

- 1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me save that thou art;
thou my best thought both by day and by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
2. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r,
raise thou me heav'n-ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

The Holy Gospel

Luke 12:32-40

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 12th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³²“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ³⁵“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. ³⁹“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Hymn

“Have No Fear, Little Flock” ELW 764 Stanzas 1,2 & 3

LITTLE FLOCK

Text: Luke 12:32, st. 1; Marjorie Jillson, b. 1931, sts. 2-4; Music: Heinz Werner Zimmermann, b. 1930 T & M: © 1973 Concordia Publishing House

1 Have no fear, lit - tle flock; have no fear, lit - tle
2 Have good cheer, lit - tle flock; have good cheer, lit - tle
3 Praise the Lord high a - bove; praise the Lord high a -

flock, for the Fa - ther has cho - sen to
flock, for the Fa - ther will keep you in
bove, for he stoops down to heal you, up -

give you the king - dom; have no fear, lit - tle flock!
his love for - ev - er; have good cheer, lit - tle flock!
lift and re - store you; praise the Lord high a - bove!

Please stand as able.

Hymn of the Day

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” ELW 504 Stanzas 1 & 4

EIN FESTE BURG

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

1. A mighty fortress is our God, a sword and shield victorious;
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod and wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dreadful might
he arms himself to fight. On earth he has no equal.
4. God's Word forever shall abide, no thanks to foes, who fear it;
for God himself fights by our side with weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house, goods, honor, child, or spouse, though life be
wrenched away, they cannot win the day. The kingdom's ours forever!

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.

Call to Prayer

“Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us” ELW 789 Stanzas 1 & 2

BRADBURY

Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779-1847; Music: William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868

1. Savior like a shepherd lead us; much we need your tender care.
In your pleasant pastures feed us, for our use your fold prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us; we are yours.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us; we are yours.
2. We are yours; in love befriend us, be the guardian of our way;
Keep your flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear us children when we pray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear us children when we pray.

Prayers of Intercession

Larry Dagenhart, Jr., 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.*

Heavenly Father, we pray for our church and its mission. Bless all of St. Mark's ministries. Be with our Council. Grant us all the energy to continue our work, both within and outside of these walls. We pray you will guide us as a congregation in continuing to make our church a place of love, care, and warm community. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Creator God, your Word created the world and all that is in it, and your Word continues to create faith in us. Continue to speak life and healing upon the earth and speak through us as we work to sustain and feed all that has life. Guide the work of our hands and minds to care for the worlds you have made. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Dear Lord, deliver us from evil, and deliver us from fear. Please be with all the victims of wars and international conflicts, disasters, natural and man-made, and the many tragedies that occur every day. May you comfort all those afflicted and all who struggle. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Holy Comforter, grant healing, hope, and faith to all who live with fear and doubt, illness and brokenness, addiction and loneliness. Bless all caregivers to be signs of your healing and hope, and bless our extended church family: Payton McAdams, Bill Coppedge, Dale Hopp, 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, Danyne 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.

Gracious God, we give thanks to you for all the many blessings you have bestowed on us. Thank you for the recent rains and the refreshing cooler weather we have enjoyed. Hear us as we pray for the strength we need to keep our faith in you. Remind us to put our treasure where our heart is. God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, we give thanks for Abraham and Sarah and all who built their lives on your promises and died having seen them only from a distance. Like them, sustain us in our hope of things not seen but known through faith in Jesus Christ. 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

“Shall We Gather at the River?”

Tune HANSON PLACE by Robert Lowry

Setting for choir and piano by John Carter

Shall we gather at the river, where bright angel feet have trod; with its crystal tide forever flowing by the throne of God? Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river, gather with the saints at the river, that flows by the throne of God. Ere we reach the shining river, lay we ev'ry burden down; grace our spirits will deliver, and provide a robe and crown. Deep river, my home is over Jordan, deep river, I want to cross over into campground. Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river, gather with the saints at the river, that flows by the throne of God.

Please stand as able.

Offertory

(The offering is brought forward by the ushers)

“Blessed Assurance” ELW 638 Stanza one

ASSURANCE

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915; Music: Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830-1908.

1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain: This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

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 “O Living Bread from Heaven” ELW 542 Stanza one

AURELIA

Text: Johann Rist, 1607-1667; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.; Music: Samuel S. Wesley, 1810-1876

1. O living Bread from heaven, how well you feed your guest!
The gifts that you have given have filled my heart with rest.
O wondrous food of blessing! O cup that heals our woes!
My heart, this gift possessing, in thankful song o'er-flows.

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.

Sanctus "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty" ELW 413 Stanzas 1 & 4

NICAEA

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783-1826, alt.; Music John B. Dykes, 1823-1876

1. Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!
4. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

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.

Lamb of God

“Let Us Break Bread Together” ELW 471 Stanza one

BREAK BREAD TOGETHER

Text & Music: African American spiritual

1. Let us break bread together on our knees:
let us break bread together on our knees.

Refrain: When I fall on my knees, with my face to the
rising sun, O Lord, have mercy on me.

Communion Music

“Beautiful Savior, King of Creation”

Silesian folk tune SCHONSTER HERR JESU

Setting for organ by Dale Wood

Communion Hymns

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” ELW 803 Stanzas 1 & 2

HAMBURG

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748; Music: Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

1. When I survey the wondrous cross on which the prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss and pour contempt on all my pride.
2. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the death of Christ, my God;
all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.

“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me” ELW 623 Stanzas 1 & 2

TOPLADY

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740-1778; Music: Thomas Hastings, 1784-1872

1. Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood, from thy riven side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
2. Not the labors of my hands can fulfill thy law's demands;
could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow,
all for sin could not atone; thou must save, and thou alone.

“When Peace like a River” (It Is Well with My Soul) ELW 785 Stanzas 1 & 4

VILLE DU HAVRE

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828-1888; Music: Philip P. Bliss, 1838-1876

1. When peace like a river attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea billows roll, whatever my lot,
thou hast taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.

Refrain: It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

4. Lord, hasten the day when our faith shall be sight,
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trumpet shall sound
and the Lord shall descend; even so it is well with my soul. *Refrain*

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.

Please be seated.

SENDING

Sending Hymn

“How Great Thou Art” ELW 856 Stanza one

O STORE GUD

Text: Carl G. Boberg, 1859-1940, tr. & adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1899-1989; Music: Swedish folk tune; adapt. Stuart K. Hine; . T&M ©Manna Music, Inc.

1. O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;

Refrain: Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
how great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
how great thou art! How great thou art!

Please stand as able.

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

“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound” ELW 779 Stanzas 1-5

NEW BRITAIN

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt. sts. 1-4; anonymous s. 5; Music: W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851-1921, alt.

1. Amazing grace! how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!
3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
4. The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

5. When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

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

"Toccata on 'Amazing Grace'"



Southern Harmony tune NEW BRITAIN
Setting for organ by J. Christopher Pardini



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Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie; prayer assistant: Larry Dagenhart, Jr.; crucifer/acolyte: Needed; lector: Larry Lippert; live streaming camera: A. J. Pridgen; soundboard: Kevin Feezor; ushers: John Simon, Mike Doyne, Jenny Dagenhart, Jay Jacob, Larry Lippert, Jim Metze, Bill Thompson, Michael Thompson; greeters: Ted Seman, David Thomason, Tom & Kay Sehorn; communion assistants: Rebecca Huang, Kevin & Karen Feezor, Andrea Long, John Simon; communion helper: Kay Finlon; tabulators: Joe Barrett, Kevin Feezor; musicians: St. Mark's Summer Choir, Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

Next Sunday Leaders: prayer assistant: Mike Doyne; crucifer/acolyte: Needed; lector: Cindy Little; live streaming camera: A. J. Pridgen; soundboard: Neil Dixon; ushers: Team A; greeters: Gretchen Dodge, Michael & Tara Thompson; communion assistants: Virginia Molan, Tom Puky, Palmer Steenson, Betsy Wenzel, Kimberly Zimmerman; communion helper: Karen Covington; tabulators: Janice Miller, Diane Thomas



OFFERING
of LETTERS


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

for those who cannot speak, and for the rights of those who are left without help.

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 in celebration of the 54th wedding anniversary of Steve and Sandy Rach.

Today (10:30): Hymn Sing Sunday, please enjoy a selection of "favorite hymns" that lift our spirits and voices, giving us hope and joy.

8/17/25 American Guild of Organists Recital at 4 pm featuring Les Ackerman with trumpeters Alex Willborn and Jon Kaplan. Admission is free, donations to support the Stigall Scholarship Fund.

The Ethnic Restaurant Group will dine at 1900 Mexican Restaurant on August 19, 2025 at 6:00 PM. 1900 Mexican is located at 5110 Park Rd, Charlotte NC 28209 (in Harris-Teeter plaza near intersection of

Selwyn Rd and Park Rd. 1900 Mexican prides itself on offering the flavors unique to Mexico City. The décor is bright and upbeat. The flavors are fresh and varied among the menu entries. A pleasant and tasty meal is guaranteed. A complete bar is available, with the "largest variety of mezcal in Metrolina". Start with a guacamole made to order and proceed through entrées that delight taste buds. This dinner has something that can please everyone. We hope that you will join the fun! All are welcome! RSVP to Tom & Judy Tolbert to assure seating.

Theology on Tap will be held Thursday, August 21 at 7pm at Brewers at Yancey, 4001 Yancey Rd. All are welcome.

Charlotte Area Lutheran Men Annual Chicken and Corn Roast Saturday, 8/23 from 12-3:00 pm, Morning Star Lutheran, Matthews. Our keynote speaker will be Mark Turner, Scout Executive, Mecklenburg County Council. Take a look at a Tesla CyberTruck Beast! \$10.00 per person. RSVP to Mike Doyne, Steve McCall or Kevin Feezor by 8/17. All Lutheran Men and their sons/grandsons are welcome!

The St. Mark's Book Study Group will next meet on Thursday, August 28, at 10 am in the large conference room and via Zoom. All are welcome to join us in discussing *Death at La Fenice* by Donna Leon. During intermission at the famed La Fenice opera house in Venice, Italy, a notoriously difficult and widely disliked German conductor succumbs to cyanide poisoning—and suspects abound. Commissario Guido Brunetti, a native Venetian, sets out to unravel the mystery behind the high-profile murder. To do so, he calls on his knowledge of Venice, its culture, and its dirty politics. Along the way, he finds the crime may have roots going back decades—and that revenge, corruption, and even Italian cuisine may play a role. For more information, please contact Kay Sehorn or Judy Tolbert.

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.markslutheranchlotte234/streams>), St. Mark's website (<https://saintmarkscharlotte.org/live-stream/>), 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

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past" ELW 632 The great English hymn writer Isaac Watts (1674-1748) published this text in 1719. Based on the first eleven verses of Psalm 90, Watts brought forth in his writing the themes of the greatness of God, the mortality of humanity, and the vastness of time. American Hymnologist Carlton Young writes: "God was present before the hills stood; God has been our shelter and guide, and continues to be our hope for the future." John Wesley (1703-1791) changed the original first word of Watts' text from "Our" to "O", feeling that it reached out to everyone and was more inclusive. The tune **ST. ANNE** was composed by William Croft (1678-1727) and originally wedded to a metrical setting of Psalm 42, but finally found its place with Watts' text in an 1814 publication.

"Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me" ELW 623 Augustus M. Toplady (1740-1778) an Anglican priest and writer, published this hymn in 1776. He was a staunch Calvinist and a contemporary of John and Charles Wesley, with which he carried on an open feud over the role of free will in salvation. This hymn is his response to John Wesley's views. The metaphor "Rock of Ages" is found in Isaiah 26:4, Exodus 33:22, and I Corinthians 10:4. Austin Lovelace writes: "The theme is the gospel message that Jesus' suffering and death alone provide the way to salvation. The water and blood which gushed from his side provide life everlasting, just as the water from the rock provided physical life for Hebrews wandering in the desert." Thomas Hastings (1784-1872) wrote the tune **TOPLADY** for this hymn.

"Have No Fear, Little Flock" ELW 764 The first stanza of this hymn and tune **LITTLE FLOCK** were written by Hans Werner Zimmermann (b.1930) professor of composition and music theory at the State University of Frankfurt, Germany. The text for stanza one is a paraphrase of Luke 12:32 from the *Revised Standard Version* which reads: "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." Marjorie Jillson (b.1931) an American writer and musician, wrote the three additional stanzas, first published in the collection *Five Hymns* (1973). This hymn is a cheerful tribute of praise to God, paired with a lively tune punctuated with "Scottish snaps," and supported by a jazz-like bass line. A Scottish snap, or Lombard rhythm, is a syncopated rhythm in which a short, accented note is followed by a longer note. This reverses the usual pattern most commonly associated with dotted notes and rhythms, in which the longer note precedes the shorter. Zimmermann says of his musical composition "I consider jazz and syncopated music to be the most representative of the twentieth century and have endeavored to make its stimulation fruitful for church music."

This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar

August 10, Lawrence, deacon, martyr (225-258)

Lawrence was one of seven deacons of the congregation at Rome and, like the deacons appointed in Acts, was responsible for financial matters in the church and for the care of the poor. Lawrence lived during a time of persecution under the emperor Valerian. The emperor demanded that Lawrence surrender the treasures of the church. Lawrence gathered the lepers, orphans, the blind and the lame. He brought them to the emperor and said, "Here is the true treasure of the church." This act enraged the emperor, and Lawrence was sentenced to death. Lawrence's commemoration was one of the earliest to be observed by the church.

August 11, Clare, Abbess of San Damiano (1194-1253)

At age eighteen, Clare of Assisi heard Francis preach a sermon in a church in town. From that time, she determined to follow in his example of Christian living. With Francis's help (and against the wishes of her father) she and a growing number of companions established a women's Franciscan community, called

the Order of Poor Ladies, or Poor Clares. She became a confidante and advisor to Francis, and in standing up against the wishes of popes for the sake of maintaining complete poverty, she helped inspire other women to pursue spiritual goals.

August 13, Florence Nightingale (1820-1910); Clara Maass (1876-1901) renewers of society

When Florence Nightingale decided she would be a nurse, her family was horrified. In the early 1800s nursing was done by people with no training or no other way to earn a living. Florence trained at Kaiserswerth, Germany, with a Lutheran order of deaconesses. She returned home and worked to reform hospitals in England. Nightingale led a group of thirty-eight nurses to serve in the Crimean War, where they worked in appalling conditions. She returned to London as a hero and resumed her work there for hospital reform. **Clara Maass** was born in New Jersey and served as a nurse in the Spanish-American War, where she encountered the horrors of yellow-fever. She later responded to a call for subjects in research on yellow fever. During the experiments, which included receiving bites from mosquitoes, she contracted the disease and died. The commemoration of these women invites the church to give thanks for all who, practicing the arts of healing, care for others.

August 14, Maximilian Kolbe (1894-1941); Kaj Munk (1898-1944); martyrs

Father Kolbe was a Franciscan priest who served in China, Japan and India. In 1936 he returned to his native Poland, where he supervised a friary that housed thousands of Polish war refugees, mostly Jews. He was arrested by the Nazis for this activity and eventually sent to Auschwitz. There, Kolbe functioned as a priest for other prisoners, suffered beatings, and after a group of ten men had been sentenced to death by starvation for trying to escape, Kolbe volunteered to take the place of one of the men. After two weeks, only Kolbe remained alive and was summarily executed by lethal injection. A statue of Kolbe is included among the "20th Century Martyrs" located over the Great Door at Westminster Abbey. **Kaj Munk**, a Danish Lutheran pastor and playwright, was an outspoken critic of the Nazis, who occupied Denmark during the Second World War. His plays frequently highlighted the eventual victory of the Christian faith despite the church's weak and ineffective witness. The Nazis feared Munk because his preaching and writing helped to strengthen the Danish resistance movement. He defied a Nazi ban to preach and preached on Advent 1 at the national cathedral in Copenhagen. A month later, on the night of January 4, 1944, he was arrested by the Gestapo and his body found in a ditch the following morning. His death made him a lasting national symbol of resistance to oppression, religious freedom, and freedom of speech.

August 15, Mary, Mother of Our Lord

The church honors Mary with the Greek title *theotokos*, meaning "the bearer of God." Origen first used this title in the early church, and the councils of Ephesus and Chalcedon upheld it. Luther upheld the same meaning of this title in his writings. The honor paid to Mary as *theotokos* and mother of our Lord goes back to biblical times, when Mary herself sang, "From now on all generations will call me blessed" (Luke 1:48). Mary's song, The Magnificat, speaks of reversals in the reign of God: the mighty are cast down, the lowly are lifted up, the hungry are fed, and the rich are sent away empty-handed.

Adapted from *Sundays and Seasons*

St. Mark's Prayer List

Payton McAdams, Dale Hopp, Bill Coppedge, 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)

Readings for 8/17/2025

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost/ Lectionary 20

Jeremiah 23:23-29

Psalms 82

Hebrews 11:29-12:2

Luke 12:59-56

Birthdays

8/11 John Simon, Jr.

8/13 Les Ackerman

8/14 Kim Wall

8/14 Eileen Dunlap

8/16 Mary Anna Summer

8/16 Kay Finlon



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)



Our Ministers

All the people of God at St. Mark's

Rev. Dr. Timothy McKenzie, Senior Pastor

pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org

Lester Ackerman,

Director of Music Ministry, Organist

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Sue Wadgymar, Parish Administrator

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Elaine Johnson, Finance Administrator

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St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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