



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known



SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST LECTIONARY 23 / GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS. SUNDAY 10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Today's readings call us to follow the path that leads to life and to serve God all of our days. Like Philemon, we are to welcome those whom we have oppressed or mistreated as sisters and brothers. The basis for our lives as disciples is stated by Jesus: "Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple." To be a Christian is to daily follow Jesus, carrying his cross, and making him the center of our lives. Discipleship to him is the path to life.

GATHERING

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

Prelude

"Choral" Op. 37, from *Four Pieces for Organ*

Joseph Jongen

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

Processional Hymn

"Lift High the Cross" ELW 660

CRUCIFER

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874-1956; Music: Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875-1947; T&M: ©1974 Hope Publishing Co.

Refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

1. Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *Refrain*
2. All newborn servants of the Crucified
bear on their brows the seal of him who died. *Refrain*
3. O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. *Refrain*
4. So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain*

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.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
our maker, our helper, and our keeper.
Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

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

Merciful and loving God,
we are your stiff-necked people.
We trample on the needy.
We grumble about your grace to others.
We turn away from the poor.
Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.
Rejoice over us as ones who were lost
and have been found.
Amen.

Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.
Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.
You who were lost have been found.
In the name of ✠ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!
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

“Come and Fill Our Hearts” ELW 528 sing two times CONFITEMINI DOMINO

Text: Psalm 136:1 (Latin); Taizé Community; Music: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994; T&M © 1982, 1991 Les Presses de Taizé, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no quo - ni - am bo - nus.
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a - lone, O Lord, are ho - ly.

Con - fi - te - mi - ni Do - mi - no. Al - le - lu - ia!
Come and fill our hearts with your peace. Al - le - lu - ia!

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Please be seated.

Blessing of Lumber for Habitat for Humanity's 2025 Fall Build

Prayer of Blessing

Pastor: Brothers and sisters in Christ, We give thanks for St. Mark's ongoing participation in Habitat for Humanity. Let us pray for God's blessing on the 2025 Habitat for Humanity Fall Build, the safety of all who work, and for the peace of those who will live in this new dwelling. As a symbol of our participation, we offer prayers for this lumber which will be incorporated into this home.

The following verse has been written on this board, "The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore" (Psalm 121:8).

Let us pray. O Lord God, Jesus, the stone which the builders rejected, has become the cornerstone of the church and of our lives. We ask that as this Habitat for Humanity home is built, Jesus Christ the cornerstone, would bless and dwell in this home. Bless this lumber, which will be fitted into this new home, and may Christ always dwell therein. May the construction of this home be safely and successfully completed, and may you, O Lord, give light and peace to all who will dwell therein. We pray this in the holy name of Jesus.

Amen.

WORD

First Reading

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Lisa Barnette, lector

¹⁵"See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 1

Amy Woodall, Jack Richardson, cantors

Psalm 1:3 (Robert Buckley Farlee) refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.



Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel | of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats | of the scornful! ²Their delight is in the law | of the LORD, and they meditate on God's teaching | day and night. R ³They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that | do not wither; everything they | do shall prosper. ⁴It is not so | with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind | blows away. ⁵Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when | judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council | of the righteous. ⁶For the LORD knows the way | of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall | be destroyed. R

Second Reading**Philemon 1-21**

Lisa Barnette, lector

¹Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To our beloved coworker Philemon, ²to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house: ³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, ⁵because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. ⁷I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother. ⁸For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, ⁹yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. ¹⁰I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. ¹²I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, ¹⁴but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. ¹⁵Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, ¹⁶no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord. ¹⁷So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. ¹⁹I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. ²⁰Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask. ²²One thing more: prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping through your prayers to be restored to you. ²³Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you, ²⁴and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my coworkers. ²⁵The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

*The Word of the Lord***Thanks be to God***Please stand as able.***Gospel Acclamation**

“Alleluia” from Holy Communion Setting Twelve

Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Repeat alleluia

The Holy Gospel**Luke 14:25-33***The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 14th chapter.***Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁵Now large crowds were traveling with him, and he turned and said to them, ²⁶“Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself,

cannot be my disciple. ²⁷Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰saying, "This fellow began to build and was not able to finish." ³¹Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³²If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

Sermon

"The Cost of Discipleship"

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

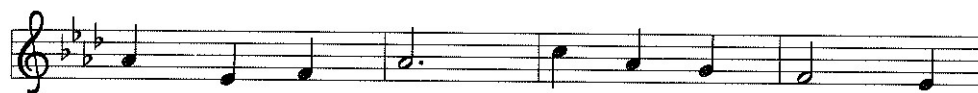
Please stand as able.

Hymn of the Day

"God's Work, Our Hands" ACS 1000

EARTH AND ALL STARS

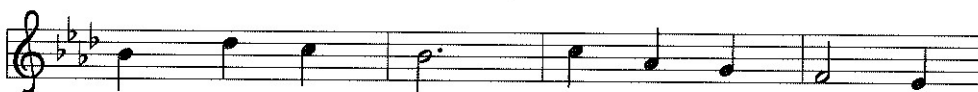
Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947 © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc.; Music: Emily R. Brink, b. 1940 © 1994 Faith Alive Christian Resources



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
 2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,
 3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
 4 God is at work in and a - round us:



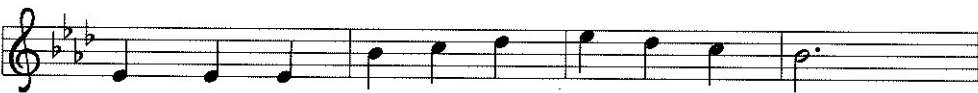
build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
 fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
 prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
 seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
 walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
 pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
 Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.
 run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.
 claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.
 gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
 Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
 Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
 Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
 shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

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

Michael Thompson, prayer assistant

The congregation may kneel or sit for the prayers.

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

God of truth, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, You have shown us, your church, the way to eternal salvation. Help us to remember what truly matters in this world: love, faith, forgiveness, and grace. Inspire us to make that our life's work, and replace worldly possessions with the treasures of Your heavenly kingdom. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Sovereign God, we pray for those in authority in this nation and in all nations. Grant them wisdom to govern justly and compassion to care for the poor, the hungry, and the weak. Equip them with a spirit of generosity to further the common good of all people, and grant them your peace that they may live as peacemakers among the nations. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

God of all creation, we thank you for the abundance that you have provided. For the land and water that sustain life. For the trees and streams that yield fruit. For the seasons and weather that renew the cycle year after year. Show us how to delight in all that you have created, and protect it for future generations to do the same. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Merciful God, we pray for the sick, the lonely, and those struggling with addictions; may they know your healing. We pray for the despairing and the dying; may they know your grace and the hope of Christ's resurrection. Surround our loved ones with healing and strength: Sean Fielding, Patsy Ginns, Tom

Tolbert, Dr. Samuel Davis, Bill Penrod, Bob Roach, Payton McAdams, Dale Hopp, Bill Coppedge, 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, 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,
receive our prayer.

Holy God and keeper of promises, you ask that we walk in Your ways and obey Your commandments. Help us to observe Your decrees and ordinances so that we might live in the land that You promised to our ancestors, ourselves, and our children. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Merciful God, your Son Jesus asks us to feed the hungry and to care for all in need. Bless today's Offering of Letters and the work of Bread for the World so that our country might share from its abundance for those who go hungry daily in our communities and in nations around the world. May our Offering of Letters be pleasing in your sight. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

Everlasting Father, we praise you that Christ prepares a place for us at the table in your kingdom. We offer you thanks for the life and witness of Nanette Temple. Welcome Nanette into the blessedness of your eternal kingdom and may she share in the inheritance of the saints in light. Strengthen and comfort the extended Temple family with the sure and certain hope of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.
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 "Sing to the Lord a New Song" Robert Lau

People and tongues of ev'ry nation sing to the Lord a new song. Bring him a song of jubilation, sing to the Lord a new song. All God's creatures, old men and children, voices raised in hymns of love. He crowns the humble with salvation. Sing to the Lord a new song. Mountains and hills and all creation sing to the Lord a new song. Join in the hymn of adoration. Sing to the Lord a new song. Praise His name, sing "Alleluia!" praise him for his mighty deeds. This is our song, our supplication: "sing to the Lord a new song." Praise him, shining stars, and praise him highest heaven. Oh, all kings and princes praise his holy name. angels above make melody to him. Now lift your voice, lift up your heart, and sing, and sing! Come, Christians all, now raise your voices, sing to the Lord a new song. Praise and thanksgiving be your choices, sing to the Lord a new song. Sound the trumpet, play on the lute and harp: dance your dance, and shout for joy. Make music now as heav'n rejoices, sing to the Lord a new song. Sing!

Please stand as able.

Offertory

(The offering is brought forward by the ushers)
“Will You Come and Follow Me” ELW 798 **KELVINGROVE**

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949, Text © 1987 Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.; Music: Scottish traditional

1. “Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don’t know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?”

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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 -



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

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.
Come to this meal of mercy.

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 Music

"O Lamb of God"

Holy Communion Setting Ten

S208

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.

“Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus”

Tune by George G. Boltze
Setting for organ by Paul Manz

Meditation” from *Partita on ‘Crucifer’*

Charles Callahan

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. O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus’ name.

Amen.

SENDING

SENDING BLESSING

The God of righteousness,
who gives justice to the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry,
who sets the prisoners free,
✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Recessional Hymn

“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross” ELW 335

NEAR THE CROSS

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915 Music: William H. Doane, 1832-1915; ©2006 ELCA; Augsburg Fortress Press

1. Jesus, keep me near the cross, there’s a precious fountain;
free to all, a healing stream flows from Calv’ry’s mountain.

Refrain: In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever;
till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.

2. Near the cross, a trembling soul, love and mercy found me;
there the bright and morning star sheds its beams around me. *Refrain*
3. Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me;
help me walk from day to day with its shadow o’er me. *Refrain*
4. Near the cross I’ll watch and wait, hoping, trusting ever,
till I reach the golden strand just beyond the river. *Refrain*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

Thanks be to God.

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

Postlude

“Exultate” Op. 3, No. 3

Daniel E. Gawthrop

✠

✠

✠

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Worship Leaders: Pastor Timothy McKenzie; prayer assistant: Michael Thompson; crucifer/acolyte: Needed; lector: Lisa Barnette; live streaming camera: Joe Barrett; soundboard: John Brumbaugh; ushers: Doug Milheim, Marc Ginns, Susan Ginns, Eddie Goodall, Sean Fielding; greeters: Dale & Mary Lou Hopp, Jay Jacob; communion assistants: Barbara Baker, Charles & Susan Lakeman, Andrea Long, John Simon; communion helper: Kay Finlon; tabulators: Janice Miller, Dawn Schwartz; musicians: St. Mark's Summer Choir, Amy Woodall, Jack Richardson, cantors; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

Next Sunday Leaders: prayer assistant: Charles Lakeman; crucifer/acolyte: Needed; lector: Chuck Baynard; live streaming camera: Joe Barrett; soundboard: Neil Dixon; ushers: Team B; greeters: Millie Cansler, Dave & Eileen Dunlap; communion assistants: Janice Miller, John Simon, Chris & Palmer Stevenson, Betsy Wenzel; communion helper: Catherine Metze; tabulators: Kevin Feezor, Doug Milheim

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 and in honor of Hall Molan's 2nd birthday by Virginia and Brendan Molan.

God's Work Our Hands Sunday Today is the **Bread for the World** Offering of Letters, and [10:30 service] the **Blessing of the Habitat for Humanity** 2025 Fall Build.

Love Circle Resumes this Wednesday, 9/10 at 11:00 am in the Large Conference Room. Join us!


St. Mark's Men's Group We will meet at 9 am, September 13, 2024 in the Fellowship Hall. All men are welcome.

The Ethnic Restaurant Group will dine at Café Monte in Phillips Place on September 16, 2025 at 6:00 PM. Café Monte is an always interesting French style restaurant that always has excellent food to please every pallet. Café Monte is located at 6700 Fairview Road, Charlotte, NC 28210. From Sharon Road, turn east on Fairview Road and take the first right (Ashley Park Lane) into the parking area. If you are headed west on Fairview, it might be safest to turn south on Sharon Road, and then take the first left onto Ashley Park Lane (work your way counterclockwise around the

big building and turn right into the parking lot just before re-entering Fairview Road. As you enter the restaurant, check out the pastry counter on the right. There usually is enough in that case to make a really tantalizing meal, even before looking at any menu. There's a full bar service. The coffees make good accompaniments while sampling pastries and perusing the salads (creative!), soups (rich!), entrees (duck confit, trout almondine, etc.), lighter fare, and desserts (QC coconut cake, beignets, etc.). Making a choice is the hard part, because there are so many delightful options! While waiting between treats, consider whether the Dean Martin or Ella Fitzgerald recording of "I Love Paris" may be your preferred version. RSVP to Tom and Judy Tolbert to assure seating. Please confirm by the Sunday afternoon before the dinner. Come and try "French" in September. We'll be sampling a different Mediterranean cuisine in October. All are welcome! Give this a group a chance to enjoy your company!

Theology on Tap will be held Thursday, September 18 at 7pm at Carolina Beer Temple, 215 N. Ames St. Suite 1000, Mathews. Food truck that night is Poppycox Nashville Hot Chicken! All are welcome.

Heads Up! Annual Book and Puzzle Swap Reformation Sunday Oct. 26 Gather the books and puzzles you want to share. Bring as many as you want beginning 9/21. Take as many as you like.

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-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

Habitat For Humanity: St. Mark's Lutheran will be participating in the Fall 2025 Build with our Charlotte Church Partners team! We will be serving as site hosts on 9/20. Financial donations are needed and you may also volunteer to help with construction or help us host on 9/20. Contact Susan League for more information. 704-533-2451. Thanks in advance for your support of this important effort!

Fall Drive for Pat's Place Pat's Place is a child advocacy agency that coordinates the investigation, treatment and prosecution of guilty parties of the most severe cases of child abuse, or any child witnessing a violent crime. After these young people have been brought to the agency by a parent, police officer or DSS, they are interviewed, medically treated and statements taken privately by trained professionals. The agency then proceeds and the child is free to leave, but not before choosing a gift to take home with them. That's where we can help. We are requesting donations to replenish these gifts as a couple hundred small gifts are needed each year. Suggestions of these items are listed on the poster in the gathering place and below. Please help replace the children's arrival tears with a parting smile! Donation Suggestions: Young children: small dolls (white, brown and black skin), small stuffed animals, matchbox cars, small trucks, books (English & Spanish), coloring books & crayons, cards (Uno, Old Maid, etc), activity books,

and hair bows. Teenagers: journals, craft items, colored pencils, stretch bracelets, nail polish, frisbees, and balls. Arrival Snacks (while waiting for an interview); lunch size chips, pretzels, goldfish, etc., granola bars, Lance crackers, bottled water. Anxiety release items: stress balls, squishy toys, fidgets. *There are baskets in the gathering place waiting for your donations. Thank you for your generosity to these children.*

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

"Lift High the Cross" ELW 660 was first published in 1916, and included eleven stanzas! *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* only includes five stanzas, with a rousing refrain. Stanley Osborne writes of this hymn: "The hymn has no room for weak resignation. It summons the mightiest and leaves them gazing upon a Love that gave its life to achieve life." American hymnologist Austin Lovelace says: "It is related to 'Onward Christian Soldiers' and 'For All the Saints' ELW 422 in its symbolism of marching in the ranks of soldiers of the crucified. It is the crucified Christ and his cross which we follow, and his love we proclaim to the world." The tune **CRUCIFER** was written by Sydney Nicholson (1875-1947) for this hymn text. He was organist at Westminster Abbey from 1918 to 1927, and founder of the Royal School of Church Music. **CRUCIFER** means "cross-bearer."

"Will You Come and Follow Me" (The Summons) ELW 798 This hymn was written by John Bell (b.1949) in 1986-87 for the Iona Community in Scotland. In his own words: "this text was written for the sending out of one of our youth volunteers. Young people gave a year or two to live in impoverished parts of Scotland. When they finished, my colleague and I would often write a song for their farewell ceremony. The words reflect the experience of the volunteer concerned." The tune name **KELVINGROVE** is named for a place in Glasgow, Scotland.

"God's Work, Our Hands" ACS 1000 (*All Creation Sings, 2020*) This hymn was written in 2019 in response to the ELCA sponsored competition for a new hymn based on the theme "God's Work, Our Hands." Wayne L. Wold (b. 1954) received the top honor out of 120 submissions. *All Creation Sings* pairs Wold's hymn with the tune **EARTH AND ALL STARS**, composed by David N. Johnson (1922-1987) for the hymn "Earth and All Stars" ELW 731, as well as the Easter hymn "Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!" ELW 377.

This Week: From the Lutheran Church Calendar

September 9, Peter Claver, priest, missionary to Columbia (1580-1654)

Peter Claver was born into Spanish nobility and was persuaded to become a Jesuit missionary. He served in Cartagena (in what is now Columbia) by teaching and caring for slaves. The slaves arrived in ships, where they had been confined in dehumanizing conditions. Claver met and supplied them with medicine, food, clothing, and brandy. He learned their dialects and taught them Christianity. He called himself the "slave of slaves forever." Claver also ministered to the locals of Cartagena who were in prison and facing death.

September 13, John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople (c.349-407)

John was a priest at Antioch and an outstanding preacher. His eloquence earned him the name "Chrysostom" ("golden mouth"), but it also got him into trouble with the royal court for his preaching against corruption. The empress who had been a supporter sent him into exile. His sermons remain in print, and continue to inspire contemporary readers.

Adapted from *Sundays and Seasons*

St. Mark's Prayer List

Sean Fielding, Patsy Ginns, Tom Tolbert, Dr. Samuel Davis, Bill Penrod, Bob Roach, Payton McAdams, Dale Hopp, Bill Coppedge, 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 9/14/2025

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost/ Lectionary 24

Exodus 32:7-14

Psalm 51:1-10

1 Timothy 1:12-17

Luke 15:1-10

Birthdays

9/7 Tom Sehorn

9/8 Joanne Marz

9/8 Jerry Poplin

9/8 Olivia Iannelli

9/9 Evelyn Gerdes

9/9 Sean Fielding

9/9 Charles Molan

9/11 Tom Conner

9/11 Micalyne Zimmerman

9/11 Michael Zimmerman, Jr.

9/11 Amanda Platt

9/13 Nicholas Howarth



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)

**OFFERING
of LETTERS**

We can end hunger in our time.

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

Bread for the World invites you to use your voice to help end hunger. Let's speak up on God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday, September 7!

Policy change can do much more than charity can.



"Overcoming poverty is not a task of charity; it is an act of justice."
— Martin Luther King Jr.

Our Ministers

All the people of God at St. Mark's

Rev. Dr. Timothy McKenzie, Senior Pastor

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Lester Ackerman,

Director of Music Ministry, Organist

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Elaine Johnson, Finance Administrator

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St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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