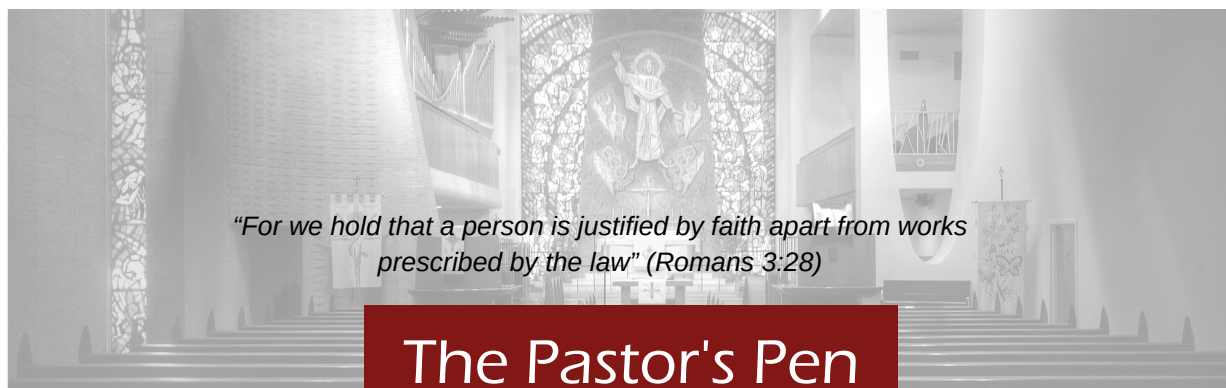


ReMarks

October 2025

St. Mark's Lutheran Church



"For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law" (Romans 3:28)

The Pastor's Pen

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we prepare to celebrate the Reformation at the end of October, we remember Martin Luther's rediscovery of justification by grace through faith. As Paul writes, "a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law," Luther also emphasized faith as God's gift of grace justifying and freeing us from sin.

In the Lectures on Galatians (LW 26:130) Luther writes, "Faith justifies because it takes hold of and possesses the treasure – the present Jesus Christ." Luther is describing the mystery of Jesus Christ present within us through faith. Luther's rediscovery of the gospel of grace through faith continues to help us hear the good news. Luther writes, "The law says, 'do this,' and it is never done. Grace says, 'believe this,' and everything is already done" (LW 31:56). The treasure of Christ is already present in every heart that believes in him.

Today, the Reformation seems like a distant history lesson, yet the faith that Paul and Luther describe is new every day. Luther writes, "It is Christ who dwells in the heart. Where faith is, there is Christ" (LW 26:130). Christ dwells in hearts across time, culture, and language. Through faith he is present in you wherever you go.

In a world that calculates human worth by nation, works, and wealth, the treasure of Christ gives each person infinite value. Through faith, without any works or merit of our own, we know a priceless grace that makes all people brothers and sisters, one in Christ. In a world of the loud and proud who boast of their works, faith boasts only in Christ's work alive and new each day.

The Reformation faith we celebrate is always active in love and good works. Faith bears fruitful works always striving for justice, peace, and inclusion for all in Christ's body.

This is the self-denial of faith to which Jesus calls us. Justified by faith and freed from sin, we follow Jesus daily working for God and neighbor in this world. Faith frees your hands and voices to be Christ present for others.

Imagine your voice and hands without Jesus. This month take time to give thanks to God for the grace and gift of faith. He allows you to do, to give, and to be in ways you never imagined. With Jesus Christ present in you, all things are possible for him.

In the fellowship of the gospel, Pastor Timothy McKenzie

September Council Highlights

St. Mark's Congregation Council Meeting Summary.

The Congregation Council of St. Mark's Lutheran met on September 8, 2025, with full attendance and guests Meg Fielding and Cliff Edahl present. Devotions were led by John Simon, and minutes from both the amended July 25 and August 13 meetings were approved. The treasury report showed that July finished with a surplus, thanks to early pledge payments and lower expenses despite additional HVAC costs, while August saw the usual summer giving shortfall but still ended with a surplus.

Pastor Tim McKenzie highlighted recent worship and ministry events, including the farewell to Gabriel Sleisinger, the blessing of lumber for Habitat for Humanity, and preparations for All Saints "Homecoming Sunday" on November 2, which will also rededicate the Columbarium. He also noted the upcoming September 15 memorial service for Nannette Temple. The council joyfully approved the membership of Rodney Buck Stephens, along with Carolyn, Zach, Emery and Eleanor Taylor.

Committee updates included upcoming Congregational Life plans for Advent bags and the congregational dinner. The council received an update from the Property Committee on asbestos discovered in Fellowship Hall floors. A motion was unanimously passed authorizing a contract for asbestos abatement up to \$40,000 using existing renovation funds.

Council President Chris Stevenson recognized the Call Committee, led by Meg Fielding, for its diligent work in preparing to present a Primary Candidate for Associate Pastor. He also reported that three members—Lisa, Nick, and Chris—will be rotating off council, with new nominees and bios due before the October 19 meeting. Andrew Puky has accepted nomination as Youth Representative. Other announcements included the installation of a new Steinway piano.

The meeting closed at 8:21 p.m. with gratitude for the work accomplished and preparations underway for the congregation's future.

Submitted by Tom Puky, Council Secretary

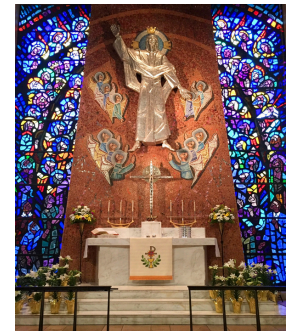
Correction: The July council minutes regarding the installation of a new fence in the church yard were amended to correct council's misunderstanding: "There was a misunderstanding regarding the restoration of the fence in the front lawn area of the Church. The Property Committee ordered and purchased the fence and a non-refundable deposit was paid prior to the July meeting. No further actions were required."

Congregational Meetings



St. Mark's Special Congregational Meeting to Call an Associate Pastor
10/5/25 Pentecost 17
One service only at 10:30 am
immediately followed by the meeting.

Annual October Congregational Meeting
10/19/25 Pentecost 19
One service only at 10:30 am
immediately followed by the meeting.



Thank you for your faithfulness in service together to Christ at St. Mark's!

God's Work. Our Hands.

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly." (Colossians 3:16)



OFFERING
of LETTERS

Open your mouth for those who cannot speak, and for the rights of the destitute. – Prov. 31:8

As Christians, we are called to seek justice and to care for those experiencing hunger and poverty, and churches are especially important in telling the story of hunger and fostering change. Last month, we at St. Mark's embarked on a new kind of ministry to help those struggling with hunger and poverty – our first Offering of Letters to legislators in Washington, D.C. expressing our support for crucial programs that combat hunger and food insecurity. Specifically, we asked our legislators to:

- Fully fund the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and strengthen WIC by cosponsoring and passing the MODERN WIC Act.
- Protect and provide robust funding for food aid and global nutrition programs, so that we can reach millions of children with lifesaving assistance.
- Support and pass a Food Date Labeling Act of 2025 which would remove confusion about quality ("best before") date and discard date labels on food packaging.

In total, 64 letters were sent to Representatives Alma Adams, Mark Harris, Tim Moore, and Ralph Norman as well as Senators Ted Budd and Thom Tillis. This was an exceptional response to our first project like this. THANK YOU for your enthusiastic support of this new ministry. Together, our letters to fight hunger make a difference. Over the years, letters, emails, phone calls and in-person meetings have helped inspire our leaders in Washington, D.C., to pass legislation that has impacted millions of people. Thank you again for your support. Together we can and will make a difference.

Charles Lakeman, for St. Mark's Bread for the World Advocacy Team (Pastor Tim, Laura Foust, Karen Feezor, Susan Lakeman)



Coming Up at St. Mark's

October 3, 2025
7:30 pm



"GERMAN INGENUITY"

Ticket reservation:
<https://www.carolinapromusica.org/schedule>



Carolina Pro Musica
In Concert

J.S. Bach and G.F. Handel dominated the music in the 18th century. Born near each other, they knew musical forms of the day but treated them differently. Hear Bach's wedding cantata 202, violin sonata BWV 1021, Handel trio HVW 390 and aria "O Had I Jubal's Lyre" from Joshua. Compare the differences yourself. Sung Lee appears as oboe soloist.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
1001 Queens Road

Half price tickets for SMLC!!
Please call the church office.

704-375-9185
www.SaintMarksCharlotte.org

October 4, 2025
FALL WORK DAY

8:30 am to 12:00 pm

The Property Committee invites you to participate in the annual Fall Work Day on October 4, from 8:30am until 12:00pm. No special skills are needed, just a willingness to serve your congregation with a little elbow grease. Things to be done include light cleaning, minor yard work if you like the out of doors, and general straightening up prior to Easter. All are welcome!



Your hosts: Property Committee

Have you seen something around the church building that needs a little tender loving care? Simple things like:
Dust the organ.
Trim some bushes.
Mop a floor.
Vacuum an air conditioning register. Clean the wine spots off the carpet in the sanctuary.

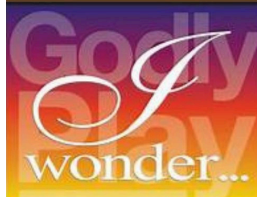


Blessing of the Animals Saturday, October 4 4 pm on the church patio

In remembrance of the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, and in recognition of the blessings we receive from the goodness of God's creation. All are welcome!

Coming Up at St. Mark's

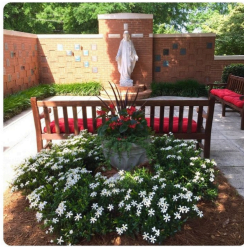
Godly Play



We would like to resume Godly Play for children ages 4 - 10 Sunday mornings at 9:30 am. It involves telling Bible stories through art activities and active play. Each story begins with "I wonder..." with illustrations through objects using the church year, in a calm, confident atmosphere. The materials are provided, and is hands-on for everyone.

If you are interesting in being involved as a parent or teacher, please see Gretchen Dodge or Pastor Tim.

All Saints / Homecoming Sunday 11/2



Please join us on 11/2 for All Saints Sunday worship and the Rededication of the Columbarium Prayer Garden. One service only at 10:30 am, followed by a Congregational Potluck Luncheon.

Stay for the Potluck Luncheon! Congregational Life will supply the meat. Please bring side dishes / desserts.

Around St. Mark's

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly." (Colossians 3:16)

New Fence



St. Mark's Property Committee planned and oversaw the rebuilding of a new fence in the church yard. The work was completed in one day, and new mulch was also added to bring the interior yard up to grade. Thank you to the Property Committee for being faithful stewards of our church and its grounds!



Congregational Life

Kay Sehorn Committee Chairperson

Ethnic Restaurant Group

The Ethnic Restaurant Group will dine at La Shish Kabob on October 21st at 6:00 PM. LSK is a favorite Lebanese-influenced restaurant that has been satisfying the Near Eastern people in north east Charlotte for over 30 years.

This is the place where amazing lentil soup, lamb dishes, smothered Cornish games, falafel, shawarma, kabobs, baba g-noug, hummus, kibbeh, dolmas, kunafa, and baklava reign supreme. The restaurant is a family operation with a friendly, casual atmosphere and decorations that convey a sense of being transported away from Charlotte to an open-air café in Lebanon. Our group has been to LSK in past years and has come away from tasty meals with rave reviews. Try the green (pepper) sauce (if you dare).

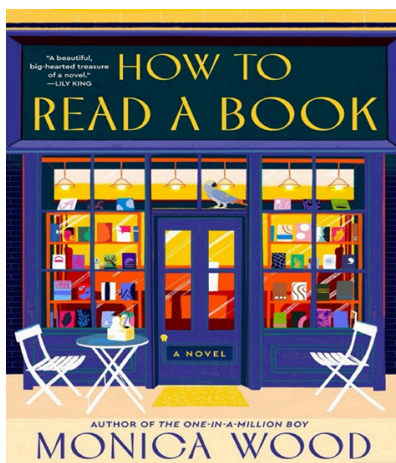
LSK is located at 3117 North Sharon Amity Road (28205). If we are lucky, Izzat Freitekh, the proprietor and chef will be present to entertain us with his delightful presence.

All are welcome. Bring friends and expand our fellowship with neighbors and associates. We don't limit participation to St. Mark's alone.

RSVP to Tom and Judy Tolbert by midnight on the Sunday before the dinner to secure seating.



St. Mark's Book Study Group



The St. Mark's Book Study Group will next meet on Thursday, October 23, at 10 am in the large conference room and via Zoom. Our selection this month is "How to Read a Book" by Monica Wood. Characters are Violet Powell, a 22-year-old just released from prison after serving 22 months for a drunk-driving crash that killed a local kindergarten teacher; Harriet Larson, who is facing the unsettling prospect of an empty nest; and Frank Daigle, who is the widower of the woman Violet killed. When the three encounter each other one morning in a bookstore in Portland, their lives begin to intersect in transformative ways.

How to Read a Book is an unsparingly honest and profoundly hopeful story about letting go of guilt, seizing second chances, and the power of books to change our lives. With the heart, wit, grace, and depth of understanding that have characterized her work, Monica Wood illuminates the decisions that define a life and the kindnesses that make life worth living.

Congregational Life

Kay Sehorn Committee Chairperson

St. Mark's Men's Group



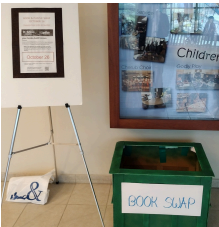
The October Men's Group Meeting is changing from Oct. 11th to Oct. 4th. This is so we can help the Property Committee on their cleanup day. All men are welcome. Come help!

Love Circle

We are using the Gather magazine fall Bible study on Money, Stewardship and Generosity. Come join us Wednesday, 10/8 at 11 a.m. in the Large Conference room.



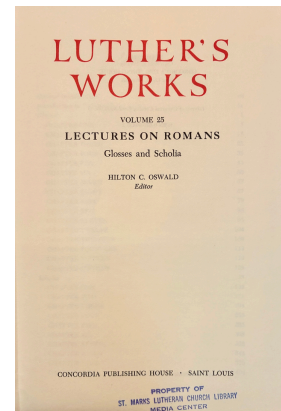
Book & Puzzle Swap October 26



Our annual fall Book and Puzzle Swap will be held on Reformation Sunday, October 26 in the Gathering Place. Make a real difference, and declutter all at the same time, by dropping off your books and puzzles. All the remaining books will be donated to Julia's Cafe and Books at ReStore for Habitat for Humanity.

St. Mark's Library Corner

Remembering the Reformation, this month we lift up Luther's Works, a 55 volume work co-published by Fortress Press and Concordia Publishing House, from 1957-1986. Jaroslav Pelikan (who was Sterling Professor of History Emeritus at Yale University) was General Editor for vols. 1-30, and Helmut T. Lehmann (who was Schieren Professor Emeritus of History of Christianity at Lutheran Theological Seminary, Philadelphia) was General Editor for vols. 31-55. This collection is an English translation of the full scope of Luther's commentaries on scripture, sermons, and theological writings. St. Mark's is blessed to have this collection available for study in our church library!



Family Ministry



THEOLOGY ON TAP

On Thursday, October 9 at 7 pm we'll be at Birdsong Brewery, 1016 Davidson St., Charlotte. Everyone is welcome!

Pictured:
TOT at
Carolina
Beer
Temple
9/18.



Gifts & Memorials

Jay Jacob Committee Chairperson

In Memory of Richard Cansler

Joanne Marz - Columbarium

In Memory of Frank and Maxine McKeen

David and Cathy Goodson - Columbarium

In Memory of John and Charlotte McCauley

Sally McCauley - Columbarium

In Memory of Jane and Jimmy Love

John and Karen Love - Columbarium

In Memory/Honor of Sean Fielding

Carol and Doug Milheim - Soup Kitchen

Emerson Bell - Soup Kitchen

Sally McCauley - Soup Kitchen

Karen Covington - Soup Kitchen

Steve and Jane McCall - Soup Kitchen

In Honor of Millie Cansler

Grace Rathkamp - Columbarium

In Memory of Nanette Temple

Dottie and Donn Toney - Gifts and Memorials

Doug and Carol Milheim - Soup Kitchen

Sarah Ingle - Gifts and Memorials

Priscilla Tillman - Gifts and Memorials

Karen Covington - Music Ministry

Don Toney - Gifts and Memorials

Sally McCauley - Columbarium

Millie Cansler - Columbarium

Sarah East - Soup Kitchen

Steve and Jane McCall - Soup Kitchen

In Memory of Rachel Fulp

Dale and Jan McDuffie - Gifts and Memorials

Sarah Ingle - Gifts and Memorials

Carol and Doug Milheim - Soup Kitchen

Dale Hopp - NC Disaster Relief

Steve and Jane McCall - Pastor's Discretionary Fund

In Honor of Evelyn Gerdes

Grace Rathkamp - Columbarium

Property Ministry

Genna Hurley Committee Chairperson

Fellowship Hall Renovation Update

The much-anticipated Fellowship Hall renovation is moving forward with work to be done in phases beginning in November this year.

The first phase of the project has been approved by Council with the removal of the two layers of existing flooring and asbestos abatement in the Fellowship Hall, Scout Room and surrounding hallways. This project will take 10-15 days to complete and is scheduled to commence on or about November 3rd. During this removal and abatement process there will be very limited access to the church building.

The second phase of the project will be refinishing the stage hardwood floor. New flooring throughout the Fellowship Hall, Scout Room and surrounding hallways will follow early next year. Painting, A/V and furnishings will follow with the hope of having the entire project completed by end of second quarter 2026.

Look for the "Finish Board" showing all the finishes in the Gathering Space shortly.

Property Ministry

Courtyard Renovation

Taking care of the St. Mark's facility is ongoing with a little seen part of our building being repaired and painted this month. The inner courtyard is rarely seen but has been in disrepair for several years. This month the exterior window frames and surrounding encasements are scheduled to be sandblasted, glass repaired, windows reglazed, and the surrounding encasements brought back to as close to their original design as possible. This is an extensive project requiring scaffolding, special sandblasting material, and electrostatic painting and may take up to four weeks. The pictures show the current state. Weather permitting, by mid-November the Courtyard project will be completed and once again this area of the building brought back to its original design. See any member of the Property Committee for more details.



Social Ministry

Susan Ginns Committee Chairperson

Summer Food Drive for Nourish Up

Thanks to you, we collected an amazing 501 Lbs! Our "summer food drive" targeting school children may be officially over, but the need of hungry families unfortunately continues. Our baker's rack will always be awaiting your generous donations of "unbreakable nonperishable" food items. Thank you for your continuous support of this outreach to our community's less fortunate.



FALL DRIVE TO ASSIST 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.

These young people are brought to the agency by a parent, police officer or DSS. They are greeted by a staff member and given a snack and bottle of water. If they need medical treatment, this is done by medical professionals in a private room with a 1-way window and a hidden video camera, a trained professional hears their story which is recorded. This can be used in court if necessary, which prevents the young person being present and reliving their trauma. The child is now free to leave but not before choosing a small gift to take with them.

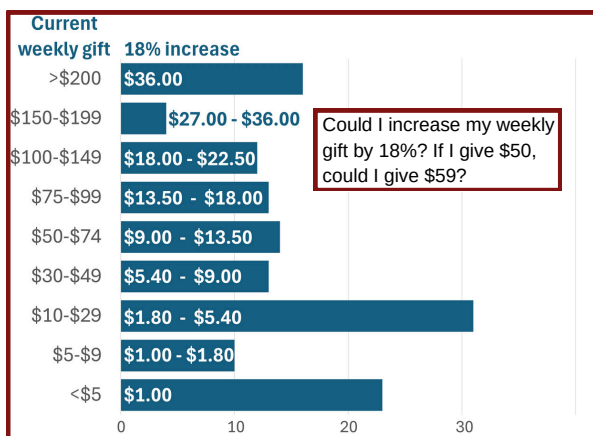
This is where we can help: We are requesting donations of these gifts as a couple hundred are needed each year! That is how many of those abused young people are sadly brought to Pat's Place each year. Suggestions for those items are listed on the poster attached to the easel in the Gathering Place.

Stewardship

Welcome to the 2026 St. Mark's Stewardship Appeal!



Jesus' words, "To whom much is given, much is expected," remind us of all God has given to us, and that God expects much from us as we live for Christ. We have been given a beautiful and inspiring church building which is a tangible, physical manifestation of our ministry to our community. Our building is used by numerous community groups – Alcoholics Anonymous, Theatre Charlotte, Piedmont Fiber Guild, Healing Works Counseling, Queen City Ringers, among others – as well as many of our outreach ministries – Room in the Inn, Soup Kitchen, etc. – and through these groups we have been able to serve numerous neighbors in valuable and life-changing ways. Making our building available to meet the physical and spiritual needs of our community enables the church's "light shine before others." As you look over the 2026 Stewardship materials and hear our stories of ministry, we invite you to pray about how we might live into this vision and how you are called to support it.



As you study this chart, please ask yourself:

- How adequately does my giving reflect what God has given to me?
- How much might I be able to increase my gift to support the exciting vision to offer a safe, functional and welcoming facility to grow our outreach to our community?
- How does my giving level compare with other ways I use my money?
- Where would I be on the chart if I doubled my giving? And can I consider doing this?

The 2026 Stewardship Appeal brochure will be mailed the week of October 1st. Please be prepared to offer your completed pledge form on Reformation Sunday, October 26, when all pledges will be offered together. Your pledge helps St. Mark's ministries of worship, service and fellowship continue over the coming year. Pledge cards are available in the Gathering Place. An online pledge option is also available from our website, or you may use the QR code.

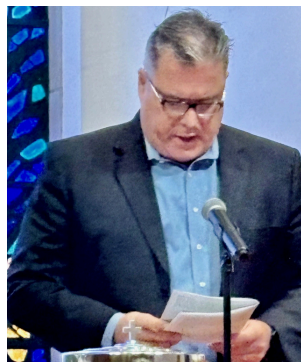
Together we are the body of Christ!

Worship & Music

Kevin Feezor Committee Chairperson Worship Highlights



Andrea Long, lector,
Fifteenth Sunday after
Pentecost



Tom Puky, prayer
assistant, Sunday,
September 21st



Andrew Puky, crucifer,
Fifteenth Sunday after
Pentecost



Jack Richardson, Amy Woodall,
song leaders 8:30 worship,
Sunday, September 21st



Amy Woodall, Nick Matherly, cantors,
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost



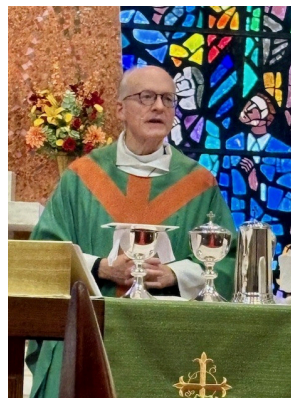
Nick Wartner, A.J. Pridgen,
communion servers, Sunday,
September 21st



Taylor McNamara, Jack
Richardson, song leaders,
8:30 worship, Sunday,
September 28th



John Brumbaugh, cellist,
and Les Ackerman, Sunday,
September 28th



Pastor Tim, Sixteenth
Sunday after Pentecost



Christopher Miller, crucifer,
Sunday, September 28th



Allison Drenkow, cellist,
Sean Fielding memorial
service.

Worship & Music

Kevin Feezor Committee Chairperson
We Sing the Faith

Historical and Spiritual Insight Into the Hymns We Sing
Reflections by Lester Ackerman

"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.

"Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us" ELW 789

gives us images for both Psalm 23 and the parable of the good shepherd in John 10. The hymn was used as a children's song in the mid-1800's and first appeared in the collection *Hymns for the Young* (London, 1836) compiled by Dorothy Thrupp (1779-1847), but we don't know for certain she is the author, as she wrote anonymously or under pseudonyms. William Bradbury (1816-1868) American composer, conductor and the founder of his own music publishing company as well as the Bradbury Piano Company, wrote over eight hundred tunes including BRADBURY for this hymn. It was published in his Sunday school book entitled *Oriola* (1859). Three additional tunes by Bradbury are included in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, including "Just As I Am, without One Plea" ELW 592. "Jesus Loves Me!" ELW 595, and "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less" ELW 596.

"Son of God, Eternal Savior" ELW 655

Somerset C. Lowry (1855-1932) wrote this hymn in 1893. He was born in Ireland and studied at Cambridge, and eventually was ordained an Anglican priest. Dr. Austin Lovelace writes: "Lowry's hymn reminds us that we have a common bond with the whole human race through Christ, that a life of service is required of our stewardship, and that we must pray for peace to end our strife and shame our selfish greed. Our prayer is always 'Thy will be done'." The tune IN BABILONE is a Dutch folk melody that has been adapted as a hymn tune.

"Let Streams of Living Justice" ELW 710

William Whitla (b.1934), a priest in the Anglican Church of Canada, wrote this hymn in 1989. It was first published in a collection of hymns *Sing Justice! Do Justice!* The author writes: "I wrote this hymn just after the events in Tiananmen Square, and when the Mothers of the Disappeared in Argentina were bringing their campaign to the conscience of the world. At the same time, the religious and racial disputes in Ireland, Israel-Palestine, the Congo and other parts of Africa, and in Canada and many other countries over First Nation or Aboriginal rights all seemed impossible to solve. Unfortunately, similar events are still replayed, and only too-similar images in the Near East, Iraq, Afghanistan, and now Somalia--recur and are now extended well beyond those earlier sad happenings. So, I used some images from those events in verse one, to tell the bad news before the Good News of the final two verses". The tune THAXTED was composed by Gustav Holst (1874-1934) and comes from his orchestral piece *The Planets* where it is the theme for "Jupiter." Holst lived in Thaxted, Essex, England for most of his life.

Worship & Music

Kevin Feezor Committee Chairperson

We Sing the Faith

Historical and Spiritual Insight Into the Hymns We Sing
Reflections by Lester Ackerman

"God of Grace and God of Glory" ELW 705

was penned in the summer of 1930 by Harry Emerson Fosdick (1878-1969) the famous American theologian, preacher, and the founding pastor of the Riverside Church in New York City. He wrote this prayer hymn for the opening of the then new Riverside Church. He says of this hymn: "that was more than a hymn to me when we sang it that day--it was a very urgent personal prayer. For with all my hopeful enthusiasm about the new venture, there was inevitably much humble and fearful apprehension". Fosdick's text on the mission of the church deals with issues of that day which are still with us: evil, doubts, war, and selfishness. The sturdy Welsh tune CWM RHONDDA (Rhondda Valley) is paired nicely with this text, as well as two additional hymns in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, #618, "Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer", and #400, "God of Tempest, God of Whirlwind".

"Gather Us In" ELW 532

Marty Haugen (b. 1950), American composer of liturgical music, wrote this hymn in 1979 where he credits his inspiration to the hymn "What Is This Place" ELW 524 by Dutch author Huub Oosterhuis. Paul Westermeyer writes: "with the influence of Oosterhuis, Haugen's hymn celebrates an incarnational understanding of God's presence in a physical place where people with flesh and bone come together in welcome. The community of faith gathers to sing around word, water, bread, and wine. It prays that the fire of God's love will fashion it into hearts that are meek and courageous, and lives that are holy and true." The tune GATHER US IN, written by Marty Haugen, was composed for his text.

Hymn Suggestions

October 5, 2025 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost—Lectionary 27

A little faith goes a long way in Jesus' point in the gospel. A mustard seed's worth of faith has miraculous potential. The patience, tenacity, and endurance required for the life of faith are the blessings received in holy baptism, holy communion, and the word read and proclaimed in this assembly. Anticipate them. Receive them with thanksgiving.

Hymns: ELW 597 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less MELITA

ACS 147 What Is the World Like NEW WORLD

ELW 733 Great Is Thy Faithfulness (stanza one) (Offertory) FAITHFULNESS

ELW 759 My Faith Looks Up to Thee (communion) (stanzas 1 & 2) OLIVET

ELW 796 How Firm a Foundation FOUNDATION

Worship & Music

Kevin Feezor Committee Chairperson

Hymn Suggestions

October 12, 2025 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost—Lectionary 28

It's a miracle! Multiple miracles! The waters of holy baptism have healed us. The body and blood of Jesus in holy communion have made us clean. We have died with Christ and been raised with him. For all this we have returned to offer thanks. From this place we are sent on our way rejoicing to share the good news.

Hymns: ELW 864 Praise My Soul, the God of Heaven PRAISE, MY SOUL
ELW 740 God of the Sparrow ROEDER
ELW 453 Baptized and Set Free (stanzas 1 & 2) (Offertory) BAPTIZED AND SET FREE
ELW 840 Now Thank We All Our God NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT

October 19, 2025 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Pray always. Do not lose heart. This is Christ's encouragement in the gospel today. Wrestle with the word. Remember your baptism again and again. Come regularly to Christ's table. Persistence in our every encounter with the divine will be blessed.

Hymns: ELW 842 Oh, Worship the King HANOVER
ELW 517 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word ERHALT UNS, HERR
ELW 624 Jesus, Still Lead On (stanzas 1 & 2) (Offertory) SEELENBRAUTIGAM
ELW 773 Precious Lord, Take My Hand (communion) PRECIOUS LORD
ELW 669 Rise Up, O Saints of God FESTAL SONG

October 26, 2025 Reformation Sunday

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

Hymns: ELW 504 A Mighty Fortress Is our God EIN FESTE BURG
ELW 654 The Church's One Foundation AURELIA
ELW 645 Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation (stanza one) (Offertory)
ACS 1035 Though the Earth Shall Change (communion) WE WILL NOT FEAR
ELW 517 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word ERHALT UNS, HERR

Greetings from Pastor John and Emma Connolly

Pastor Connolly and Emma have been members of St. Mark's since 1990, but for years worshipped elsewhere as John served as a U.S. Navy chaplain, achieving the rank of Commander. Pastor Connolly has retired from the Navy and taken a call to St. Paul and Cedar Grove Lutheran Churches in Newton and Vale, NC. Please remember them as they begin new ministry opportunities. — Pastor McKenzie

Worship & Music

Kevin Feezor Committee Chairperson

October Serving Schedule

Crucifer/Acolyte

10/5 C: Andrew Puky
A: Ella Puky
10/12 C/A: Needed
10/19 C: Andrew Puky
A: Ella Puky
10/26 C/A: Needed

Sound System

10/5 Bob Chernet
10/12 Kevin Feezor
10/19 Neil Dixon
10/26 Bob Chernet

Tabulators

10/5 Joe Barrett
Charles Lakeman
10/12 Janice Miller
Doug Milheim
10/19 Karen Feezor
Diane Thomas
10/26 Joe Barrett
Doug Milheim
Charles Lakeman

Prayer Assistants

10/5 Tom Tolbert
10/12 Larry Dagenhart, Jr.
10/19 Tom Puky
10/26 Melissa Smith

Lectors

10/5 Karen Feezor
10/12 Meg Fielding
10/19 Kay Finlon
10/26 Flora Chance

Communion Helpers

10/5 Karen Covington
10/12 Catherine Metze
10/19 Kay Finlon
10/26 Chris Miller

Video Streaming

10/5 A.J. Pridgen
10/12 A.J. Pridgen
10/19 Ron Wenzel
10/26 Ron Wenzel

Greeters

10/5 Gretchen Dodge
Charles & Susan Lakeman
10/12 Jackie Ellington
Evelyn Gerdes
10/19 Eddie & Carol Goodall
Patrick & Rebecca Huang
10/26 Dale & Mary Lou Hopp
Jay Jacob

Communion Assistants

10/5 Barbara Baker, A. J. Pridgen
Kevin & Karen Feezor
John Simon
10/12 Lisa Barnette, Janice Miller
Chris Stevenson, Betsy Wenzel
Kimberly Zimmerman
10/19 Barbara Baker, Cliff Edahl
Kevin Feezor, Jay Jacob
Nick Wartner
10/26 Karen & Kevin Feezor
Andrea Long, John Simon
Kimberly Zimmerman

Ushers

Team C: Ken Williams, Larry Dagenhart, Jr., Alan Harms, Jenny Dagenhart, Sally McCauley

October Birthdays

10/1 Dale Hopp
10/4 John Graham
10/5 Doris Phillips
10/5 David Simpson
10/5 Steve Rach
10/7 CJ Miles
10/7 Katarina Miles
10/7 Michael Lakeman
10/8 Ashley Ginns
10/9 Flora Chance
10/10 Susan Lakeman

10/12 Jane McCall
10/13 David Thomason
10/13 Madeleine Thompson
10/14 Matthew Williams
10/16 Robert Hazen
10/17 Phoebe Droege
10/17 Patrick Huang
10/19 Janice Elder
10/19 Virginia Edahl-Molan
10/20 Eddie Goodall

10/20 Kelly Price
10/21 Erich Wartner
10/23 Harry Kendrick
10/23 Shelley Mobley
10/24 Tim Niedermeier
10/25 Alice FuHua Wenzel
10/26 Marshall Payne, Jr.
10/26 Grace Rathkamp
10/26 Glen Stone
10/26 Jacob Stone
10/26 Bobby Adden