



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Our Mission

*Growing Disciples - Making Christ Known*



JANUARY 25, 2026

THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY  
10:30 AM SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

*We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. Jesus is the light of world; he is the kingdom of God come near. We see this light most profoundly in the cross—as the God who suffers with us and with all who are oppressed by sickness, sin, and death. As Jesus called his disciples, saying, “Follow me,” he calls each of us to carry his cross, listen to him, and serve others.*

GATHERING

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

**Prelude**

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

Tune LOBE DEN HERREN

Settings for organ by Gerhard Krapf & Johann Walther

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

**Processional Hymn**

“Thy Strong Word” ELW 511 stanzas 1-4

EBENEZER

Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907-1976 T & arr. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House; Music: Thomas J. Williams, 1869-1944; arr. Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923.

1. Thy strong word did cleave the darkness; at thy speaking it was done. For created light we thank thee, while thine ordered seasons run.  
*Refrain:* Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise to thee who light dost send! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia without end!
2. Lo, on those who dwelt in darkness, dark as night and deep as death, broke the light of thy salvation, breathed thine own life-breathing breath.
3. Thy strong Word bespeaks us righteous; bright with thine own holiness, glorious now, we press toward glory, and our lives our hopes confess. *Refrain*
4. From the cross thy wisdom shining breaketh forth in conqu'ring might; from the cross forever beameth all thy bright redeeming light. *Refrain*

*Please be seated.*

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,  
the Creator of heaven and earth,  
the Word who spoke life into being,  
the Wind stirring the waters.

**Amen.**

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Mighty God, lover of justice,  
**you call us to life in community,**  
**but we have served our own interests**  
**at the expense of our neighbors.**

**We have sown deceit where honesty was needed.**  
**We say the right words,**  
**but our hearts are far from you.**

**Turn us to seek your face.**

**Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ,**  
**that we may do justice, love mercy**  
**and walk humbly with you, our God.**

**Amen.**

The former things have passed away,  
and new things God now declares:  
Like a spring of water that never fails,  
God covers you in the righteousness of Christ,  
and forgives your sin in † Jesus' name.

May the Spirit give you strength to live for others,  
and bless you with the gift of peace.

**Amen.**

**Kyrie**

“Come, Bring Your Burdens to God” ACS 1009 sing two times

South African melody **WOZA NOMTHWALO WAKHO**

Text: South African; English text Barbara Clark, Mairi Munro, and Martine Stemerick, T & arr. © 2008 WGRG, Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications;  
Music: South African melody; arr. Welile Sigabi

Wo - za nom - thwa - lo wa - kho; wo - za nom -  
Come, bring your bur - dens to God; come, bring your

thwa - lo wa - kho; bur - dens to God; wo - za nom - thwa - lo wa - kho, U -  
bur - dens to God; come, bring your bur - dens to God, for



### 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.*

### Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. Lord God, your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## WORD

### First Reading

**Isaiah 9:1-4**

Charles Lakeman, lector

<sup>1</sup>But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. <sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. <sup>3</sup>You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. <sup>4</sup>For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian

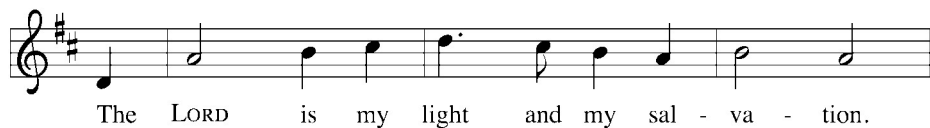
*The Word of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God**

### Psalm 27:1, 4-9

Kate Suchanek, Jack Richardson, cantors

Psalm 27:1 (John Folkening) from *Psalter for Worship Year A*; © 2007 Augsburg Fortress



*The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then | shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I | be afraid? <sup>4</sup>One thing I ask of the LORD; one | thing I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God | in the temple. <sup>5</sup>For in the day of trouble God will | give me shelter, hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high up- | on a rock. <sup>6</sup>Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies | who surround me. Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music | to the LORD. R <sup>7</sup>Hear my voice, O LORD, | when I call; have mercy on me and | answer me. <sup>8</sup>My heart speaks your message— | "Seek my face." Your face, O LORD, | I will seek. <sup>9</sup>Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your ser- | vant in anger. Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of | my salvation. R*

**Second Reading****1 Corinthians 1:10-18**

Charles Lakeman, lector

<sup>10</sup>Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you but that you be knit together in the same mind and the same purpose. <sup>11</sup>For it has been made clear to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. <sup>12</sup>What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." <sup>13</sup>Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? <sup>14</sup>I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, <sup>15</sup>so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. <sup>16</sup>I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else. <sup>17</sup>For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel—and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power. <sup>18</sup>For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

*The Word of the Lord***Thanks be to God***Please stand as able.***Gospel Acclamation** "Alleluia, Lord to Whom Shall We Go" from *Holy Communion Setting Three*

S 142a

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**The Holy Gospel****Matthew 4:12-23***The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 4th chapter.***Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>12</sup>Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. <sup>13</sup>He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, <sup>14</sup>so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: <sup>15</sup>"Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—<sup>16</sup>the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." <sup>17</sup>From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." <sup>18</sup>As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. <sup>19</sup>And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people." <sup>20</sup>Immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>21</sup>As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. <sup>22</sup>Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him. <sup>23</sup>Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people

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

*Please be seated.*

**Sermon**

*“Follow me”*

Pastor Timothy McKenzie

*Please stand as able.*

**Hymn of the Day**

“Faith Begins by Letting Go” ACS 1004

RATISBON

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944, © 1966 Hope Publishing Co.; Music: J. G. Wener, *Choralbuch*, 1815



1 Faith be - gins by let - ting go, giv - ing up what had seemed sure,  
2 Faith en - dures by hold - ing on, keep - ing mem - 'ry's roots a - live,  
3 Faith ma - tures by reach - ing out, stretch - ing minds, en - larg - ing hearts,  
tak - ing risks and press - ing on, though the way feels less se - cure:  
so that hope may bear its fruit; prom - ise - fed, our souls will thrive,  
shar - ing strug - gles, liv - ing prayer, bind - ing up the bro - ken parts;  
pil - grim - age both right and odd, trust - ing all our life to God.  
not through mer - it we pos - sess but by God's great faith - ful - ness.  
till we find the com - mon - place ripe with wit - ness to God's grace.

### The Apostles' Creed

Together, let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

### Prayers of Intercession

Dave Dunlap, prayer assistant

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

As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home. *A brief silence.*

Holy God, you entrust the message of the cross and the proclamation of the gospel to the church in every land. Guide your church here and in every place to follow Jesus and suffer alongside of him for the sake of your love for this world. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Creator God, as winter shows its fury, help us to remember that spring is around the corner. With spring comes new beginnings and new growth. Help us to remember to care for your fragile creation, and remind us to care for the nature you have provided. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Loving God, as Paul said in first Corinthians, with so many factors and factions in our world that divide us, we are to be true children of God, follow your word, and the teachings of your Son. As Jesus taught us to love our neighbors as ourselves, help us to accept, embrace, and celebrate our differences rather than question and suppress them. Please help us to set aside hate, bigotry, and prejudice in His name and to love each other for who we are. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Healing God, as we near six years since the start of a global pandemic, COVID and other viral illnesses continue to spread. We ask that you bring peace and love to all who suffer from these and other physical and mental afflictions. Be present with doctors, nurses, technicians, and other providers who care for their patients' needs, and help them to find the energy and compassion to do their work as well as to find time with their families and time for rest. Bless and heal our family and friends whom we remember daily on our Prayer List, along with those we especially remember this week: Bonnie Sauer, Sara East, Phaedra & Scott Snow, Payton McAdams, Dale Hopp, Bill Coppedge, Marcia Newlin, Andres & Silvia Puky, Ashlyn Bordelon, Betsy League, Carmelita Harris, Lucille Johnson, Marilyn Stevens, Satoko Yamada, and Judy Cox, and hear us as we name before you, either aloud or in our hearts, other names and concerns close to us... *a brief silence for names or concerns spoken aloud or in silence...* Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Faithful God, you have chosen to reveal yourself in Jesus as the suffering servant. Help us always to see your wisdom hidden in the cross and your kingdom drawn near in Jesus, for he calls us to carry the cross alongside of him for others. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Living Redeemer, you are our light and salvation so that all this troubled life we might look to you. By the cross and resurrection you have freed us from death; may we live confident that you prepare a place for us in your kingdom. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus 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.**

*Please be seated.*

## MEAL

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

**Anthem** "Come Follow Me" Tune MACHS MIT MIR GOTT  
Setting for choir and organ by John Leavitt

*“Come follow me” said Christ the Lord, “All in my way abiding; your selfishness throw overboard, obey my call and guiding. Oh, bear your crosses and confide in my example as your guide. I am the Light, I light the way, a godly life displaying; I help you walk as in the day, I keep your feet from straying. I am the Way, and well I show how you should journey here below.” Then let us follow Christ, our Lord, and take the cross appointed and, firmly clinging to his word, in suff’ring be undaunted. For those who bear the battle’s strain the crown of heav’nly life obtain.*

*Please stand as able.*

## Offertory

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

“Will You Come and Follow Me” ELW 798 stanzas one

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. God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## Holy Communion

### The Great Thanksgiving

S 144a

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” from *Holy Communion Setting Four*

S 153

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

### 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

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!  
Come to the table; taste and see.

*Please be seated.*

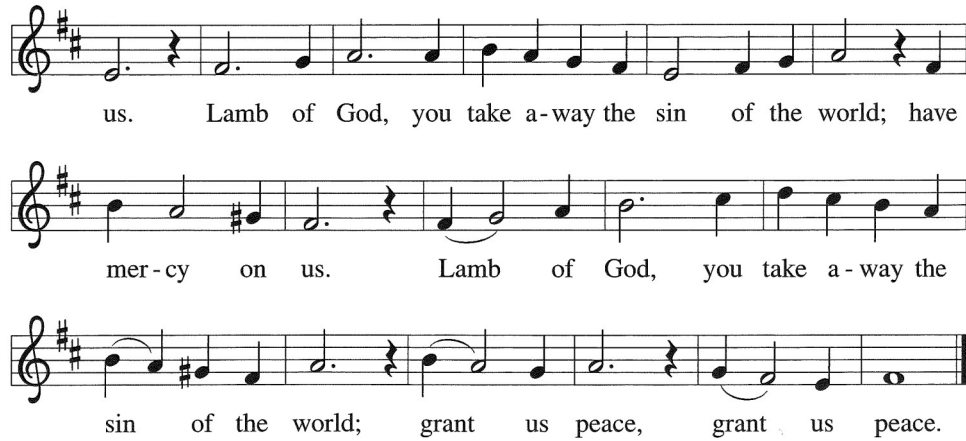
### Distribution of Holy Communion

*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 "Lamb of God" from *Holy Communion Setting Four*

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on

S 154



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

“Prelude on ‘Jesus Calls Us’”

Tune GALILEE by William H. Jude; Organ setting by Dale Wood

**Communion Hymn**

“Jesus Calls Us” ELW 696

GALILEE

Text : Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895; Music: William H. Jude, 1851-1922

- 1-. Jesus calls us; o’er the tumult of our life’s wild, restless sea,  
day by day his clear voice sounding, saying, “Christian, follow me”:
2. As of old Saint Andrew heard it by the Galilean lake,  
turned from home and toil and kindred, leaving all for Jesus’ sake.
3. Jesus calls us from the worship of the vain world’s golden store,  
From each idol that would keep us, saying, “Christian, love me more.”
4. In our joys and in our sorrows, days of toil and hours of ease,  
Still he calls, in cares and pleasures, “Christian, love me more than these.”
5. Jesus calls us! By your mercy, Savior, may we hear your call,  
Give our hearts to your obedience, serve and love you best of all.

*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. Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

SENDING

## **Sending Blessing**

May the triune God,  
who has put a new song in your mouth  
and tuned your heart for praise  
✠ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **Recessional Hymn**

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” ELW 815

HOUSTON

Text: Ruth Dick, b. 1947; Music: William H. Walter, 1825-1893, T&M: 1992 GIA Publications, Inc.

1. I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.  
God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life is Jesus.

*Refrain:* In him there is no darkness at all. The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

2. I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.  
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path, and show me the way to the  
Father. *Refrain*

3. I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.  
When we have run with patience the race, we shall know the joy of Jesus.  
*Refrain*

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

**Thanks be to God.**

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

## **Postlude**

“Festive Trumpet Tune”

David German

✠                      ✠                      ✠

This service adapted/reprinted from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, copyright 2019 Augsburg Fortress and *Sundays and Seasons*, copyright 2020 Augsburg Fortress. CCLI #11377824

**Worship Leaders:** Pastor Timothy McKenzie; Pastor Alexandra Joy Rode; prayer assistant: Dave Dunlap; crucifer/acolyte: Needed; lector: Charles Lakeman; live streaming camera: A.J. Pridgen; soundboard: Kevin Feezor; ushers: Larry Dagenhart, Jr., Alan Harms, Jenny Dagenhart, Sally McCauley; greeters: Millie Cansler, Dave & Eillen Dunlap; communion assistants: A.J. Pridgen, Chris Stevenson, Andrew & Tom Puky; communion helper: Sandy Rach; tabulators : Joe Barrett, Kevin Feezor, Charles Lakeman; musicians: St. Mark's Choir; Kate Suchanek, Jack Richardson, cantors; Lester Ackerman, Director of Music Ministry and Organist

**Next Sunday Leaders:** crucifer/acolyte: Needed; lector: TBD; live streaming camera: A.J. Pridgen; soundboard: Alan Harms; ushers: Team C; greeters: TBD; communion assistants: Bonnie Eckerd, Nick Wartner, Betsy Wenzel, Kimberly Zimmerman; communion helper: TBD; tabulators : A.J. Pridgen, Dawn Schwartz

**From the Pastor -**

"God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." (1 Corinthians 1:9)

The season of Epiphany is four to nine weeks (depending on the date of Easter), lasting from the Feast of Epiphany (January 6) through the day before Ash Wednesday (this year, February 18). The season of Epiphany as a whole focuses upon the humanity and the divinity of Jesus Christ. At Epiphany, Jesus' birth is announced through the Magi to the nations, and the season continues to witness to the beginning of Jesus' ministry, his baptism, the calling of his disciples, and his proclamation of the good news. The focus of this season is ever outward toward the world and all nations, hinting at the scope of our proclamation and work as modern-day Christians. On the final Sunday of this season, The Transfiguration (February 15), we see the fullness of Christ's divinity revealed in his humanity, again hinting at the gift of his Spirit which dwells in us. Epiphany is a season in which we respond in faith and service to Jesus Christ, as his contemporary day disciples and messengers, always moving ever outward with faith active in love.

In the grace and peace of Christ,  
Senior Pastor Tim McKenzie  
pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org

*Coming Up at St. Mark's*

**Worship and Congregational Life**

**Today:** 2026 Annual Meeting following the 10:30 service. Annual Report booklets are available in the Gathering Place. Together, we are Christ body, St. Mark's!

**The John Graham Memorial Service** will be Saturday, February 14 at 1 pm. Music will begin at 12:30. A time of Visitation will take place, 12 pm - 1 pm, and a Reception will follow the service.

**January Theology on Tap** will be Thursday, January 29 at 6:30 pm (not the usual 7pm) at the home of Marty and Dawn Schwartz located at 4627 Arborloft Court Charlotte, 28270. Please bring an appetizer to share and BYOB.

**Bach Charlotte Winterfest Jan. 28, 29, 30 & Feb. 1 at St. Mark's** From the theatrical fire of Handel's Italian cantatas to the exuberant grandeur of Vivaldi's Gloria, our first-ever **WinterFest** brings together the extraordinary musicians of Bach Charlotte for an

unforgettable week of music-making. Les Ackerman's organ recital is Feb. 1. **St. Mark's members tickets are half off at the door.**

**Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday Feb 8th!** Help tackle hunger by donating non-perishable food (no glass) for Nourish Up. Boxes are in the Gathering Place!

**Japanese Folk Singer**, known as "HoSoVoSo", will present a concert, 2/8 at 3 pm in the Choir Room.

**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper to be Held** The Congregational Life Committee will host a Shrove Tuesday pancake supper on Tuesday, Feb. 17, at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We invite you to join us for a fun evening together as we celebrate the last day before Lent starts. Please sign up on the Sign Up Genius link (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0D4DAFAB23A6F49-61747917-shrove>) or call the church office to register. The menu will include pancakes, bacon, fruit salad, and juice. There will be a gluten free option for those who would like it. We ask that you sign up on the provided link and check the "Gluten Free" box if you need this option. There is no charge, and all are welcome. We hope to see you there!

**2026 Offering Envelopes** are in the Gathering Place. If you do not see your envelope box, and would like one, please fill out the form provided and put it in the basket.

**Aid for Hurricane Helene Victims** 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 discussions. The class meets in the Large Conference room. New members are always welcome.

**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 other Sunday at 9:30.

### Stewardship

Your pledge helps St. Mark's ministries of worship, service and fellowship continue over the coming year. **2026** Pledge cards 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.



**2026 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

**ROOM IN THE INN** Requesting donations of BEDTIME SNACKS for our 10 homeless men we host every Tuesday during January and February ----- lunch size bags of chips, pretzels goldfish; granola bars (preferably without nuts); small bags of fruit snacks. The collection basket is in the hall on the table across from the large

conference room. All donated toiletries have been bagged and ready. Your donations are greatly appreciated by the Social Ministry committee and the homeless men we serve.

**NOURISH UP** There is a need for paper handled grocery bags used to transport food from the baker's rack to Nourish Up. If you have bags to spare, please take them to the mail room and leave them in the corner to the left as you come in.

**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 pm; Wednesday nights "Just the Basics", 7:30 pm; & Thursday nights "Not a Glum Lot", 6:30 pm; "SLAA" meets in Room 106: Mondays men only at 6 pm; Thursdays at 6:30 pm; Fridays women only at 6 pm & Saturday mornings 10:30 am.

**WINTERFEST!**



ARWEN MYERS    MARYRUTH MILLER    AISLINN HOSKY



**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28 • 7:30 PM**  
*Armida Abandoned: Handel's Dramatic Cantatas*



GUY FISHMAN    RENEE HENSING    HEATHER MILLER LARDIN    IAN WATSON

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 29 • 7:30 PM**  
*The Romantic Response*

**St. Mark's members half off tickets at the door!!**



LESTER ACKERMAN

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 30 • 7:30 PM**  
*The Flute and the Cantata Tradition*

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1 • 3:00 pm**  
Organ Recital with  
Lester Ackerman

Tickets: <https://bachcharlotte.com/2025-26/winterfest>

## Music Notes

**"Faith Begins by Letting Go"** ACS 1004 This text was written by Carl Daw (b. 1944) an American Episcopal priest who has served as the Executive Director of the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada. This text was first published in Daw's *New Psalms and Hymns and Spiritual Songs* (1996) and now is included in our collection *All Creation Sings* (2020). Daw writes of his text: "this hymn affirms that faith is not a state of being, but a process of becoming what we are called to be in relationship to God, other people, and the world". Daw's hymn is paired with the tune **RATISBON**, an early eighteenth-century tune by Johann Werner (1777-1822), also paired with the hymn by Charles Wesley (1707-1788) "Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies" ELW 553.

**"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.

**"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"** ELW 815 This hymn and tune were written by Kathleen Thomerson (b. 934), a Methodist music director and organist. She considers her hymn to be a scriptural meditation and prayer on the subject of light. The theme of light can be heard in Revelation 21: "And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light" and summarized in Ephesians 5:8 "For once you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light." **HOUSTON** is the tune name, its name derived from Church of the Redeemer in Houston, Texas, the first place this hymn was sung, and the family church of Kathleen Thomerson.

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

### **January 26, Timothy, Titus, and Silas, missionaries**

Timothy, Titus, and Silas were missionary coworkers with Paul. Timothy accompanied Paul on his second missionary journey and was commissioned by Paul to go to Ephesus, where he served as bishop and overseer of the church. Titus was a traveling companion of Paul, accompanied him on the trip to the council of Jerusalem, and became the first bishop of Crete. Silas traveled with Paul throughout Asia Minor and Greece and was imprisoned with him at Philippi, where they were delivered by an earthquake.

### **January 27, Lydia, Dorcas, and Phoebe, witnesses to the faith**

On this day the church remembers three women who were coworkers with Paul. Lydia was Paul's first convert at Philippi in Macedonia. She was a merchant of purple-dyed good, and because purple dye was extremely expensive, it is likely that Lydia was a woman of some wealth. Lydia and her household were baptized by Paul, and for a time her home was a base for Paul's missionary work. Dorcas is remembered for her charitable works, particularly making clothing for needy widows. Phoebe was a *diakonos*, a deacon in the church at Cenchreae near Corinth. Paul praises her as one who, through her service looked after many people.

### **January 28, Thomas Aquinas, teacher (1225-1274)**

Thomas Aquinas was a brilliant and creative theologian of the thirteenth century. He was first and foremost a student of the Bible and profoundly concerned with the theological formation of the church's ordained ministers. As a member of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), he worked to correlate scripture with the philosophy of Aristotle, which was having a renaissance in Aquinas's day. Aquinas sought to explain Christian beliefs within a philosophical framework.

## St. Mark's Prayer List

Bonnie Sauer, Sarah East, Phaedra & Scott Snow, Bill Bowden, Harry Kendrick, Mary Lou R., Kendal Turner, Rochelle Dagenhart, Janice Darnell, Pastor Glen Sea, Mark Barbee, Mark Thornton, Polly Needham, Tom Tolbert, Samuel Davis, Bob Roach, Payton McAdams, Dale Hopp, Bill Coppedge, Marcia Newlin, Andres & Silvia Puky, Ashlyn Bordelon, Betsy League, Carmelita Harris, Lucille Johnson, Marilyn Stevens, Satoko Yamada, Judy Cox, Ross Boheler, Charlene Oppermann, Elaine Ketner Sherman, Gene Ellington, Tanner & Christopher Shirley, Eileen Dunlap, Dannye Olin Bragdon, Mindy Curley, Louisa & Oakley Coburn, Roxi Tolbert, Bill Schwartz, Arlene Fielding, David Kutscher, Danielle Clausen, Joseph Tolbert, and Jay Harbinson.  
Please email Pastor McKenzie with Prayer List and other prayer requests ([pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org](mailto:pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org))

### Readings for 2/1/2026 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Micah 6:1-8  
Psalm 15  
1 Corinthians 1:18-31  
Matthew 5:1-12

### Birthdays

1/26 Pamela Baynard  
1/30 Janice Simpson  
1/30 Christopher Miller



Do you feel like you are in crisis? In Isaiah it is written, "Fear not, for I am with you; do not be dismayed for I am your God." Stephen ministers are here to show the Lord's love and comfort for you in times of trial. If you would like to confidentially speak to a Stephen Minister, please contact Pastor Tim ([pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org](mailto:pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org))

✠                      ✠                      ✠

## *Our Ministers*

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

**Rev. Dr. Timothy McKenzie, Senior Pastor**  
[pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org](mailto:pastortim@saintmarkscharlotte.org)

**Rev. Alexandra Joy Rode, Associate Pastor  
for Family Ministry**  
[pastorali@saintmarkscharlotte.org](mailto:pastorali@saintmarkscharlotte.org)

**Lester Ackerman,  
Director of Music Ministry, Organist**  
[les@saintmarkscharlotte.org](mailto:les@saintmarkscharlotte.org)

**Sue Wadgymer, Parish Administrator**  
[admin@saintmarkscharlotte.org](mailto:admin@saintmarkscharlotte.org)

**Elaine Johnson, Finance Administrator**  
[finance@saintmarkscharlotte.org](mailto:finance@saintmarkscharlotte.org)