

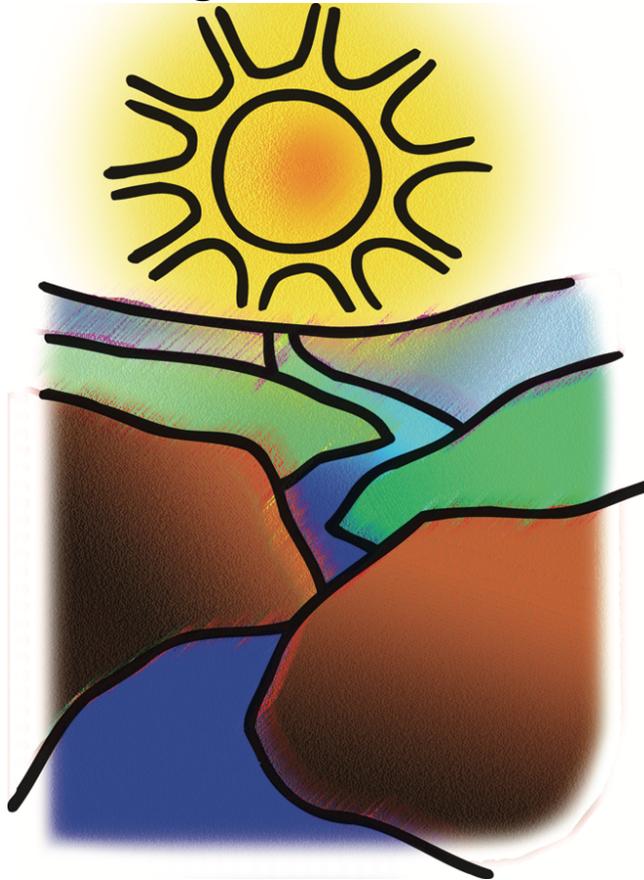


St. Mark's

LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Worship on the
8th Sunday after Pentecost*

August 3, 2025



*Growing together in faith to abundantly
nourish our community*

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Huntsville, AL 35801

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Welcome & Announcements – Pastor Will

Call to Worship from Psalm 19 – Pastor Will

The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.

There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;

yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,
**Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them.**

Gathering Song: Come All You People

Come all you people,
Come and praise your Maker;
Come all you people,
Come and praise your Maker;
Come all you people,
Come and praise your Maker;
Come now and worship the Lord.

Thanksgiving for Baptism - Pastor Will

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring you are the fire of rebirth.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams.
Honor to you for cloud and rain, for dew and snow.



Your waters are below us, around us, above us: our life is born in you.
You are the fountain of resurrection.
Praise to you for your saving waters:
Noah and the animals survive the flood,
Hagar discovers your well.
The Israelites escape through the sea,
and they drink from your gushing rock.
Naaman washes his leprosy away,
and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again.

At this font, holy God, we pray:
Praise to you for the water of baptism
and for your Word that saves us in this water.
Breathe your Spirit into all who are gathered here and into all creation.
Illumine our days. Enliven our bones. Dry our tears.
Wash away the sin within us, and drown the evil around us.

Satisfy all our thirst with your living water, Jesus Christ, our Savior,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and
forever.
Amen.

Prayer of the Day – Shandry Peugeot

Benevolent God, you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives.
Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to you,
and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our
Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Children’s Message & Back to School Blessing- Traçi Billman

First Scripture Reading: Genesis 15:1-6 – Nancy Lorine



After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ² But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴ But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵ He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶ And he believed the Lord, and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Second Scripture Reading: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16– Nancy Lorine

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³ By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹ By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹² Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

¹³ All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were



strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴ for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Announcement - Pastor Will

The Gospel of the Lord according to Luke the 12th Chapter

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel Reading: Luke 12:22-34 – Pastor Will

He said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. ²³ For life is more than food and the body more than clothing. ²⁴ Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! ²⁵ And which of you by worrying can add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁶ If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? ²⁷ Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ²⁸ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, you of little faith! ²⁹ And do not keep seeking what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. ³⁰ For it is the nations of the world that seek all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹ Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

³² "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses



for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon - Pastor Will

Song: Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

Lord, listen to your children praying.
Lord, send your Spirit in this place.
Lord, listen to your children praying.
Send us love; send us power; send us grace.

Prayers of Intercession- Shandry Peugeot

Holy One, Holy Three, mother of all creation:
Yours is the womb of all life.
Yours is the fountain of living water.
Yours is the voice that breaks down walls.
Yours is the love that cannot be contained.

Join in singing: Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

For the thirsty, you give the water of life.
For the hungry, you offer the bread of heaven.
For the weak, you carry heavy burdens.
For the joyful, you shout in holy laughter.
For the anxious, you summon showers of peace.
For the suffering, you breathe sighs of comfort.

Join in singing: Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying



As we pray for the new heaven and new earth, O God, we give thanks for this earth, our partner in your service.

Move us to hear your voice in the song of the sparrow, to see your face reflected in the river.

Awaken us to your greatness through the winds of the storm, and the scent of your grace on the morning dew.

Empower us to hear your prophets in the croaks of evening frogs, to read your gospel in the webs of writing spiders.

[Join in singing: Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying](#)

In your great mercy you call us to care for your creation, to uphold one another, and to pray for your world.

Hear our prayers for the healing of the earth:

For clean water, that all may drink,

For the right use of resources

and the careful tending of the land and the seas,

For people and places damaged by war,

For those who suffer, those whose needs are known to us,

and those whose needs are known only to you.

[Join in singing: Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying](#)

With confidence that you hear our prayers, we offer ourselves for your good purposes, watching and waiting for the healing of your creation as we work toward your coming reign.

Through Christ our Savior, in the power of the Holy Spirit, all glory and praise to you now and forever.

Amen.

Sharing of the Peace - Pastor Will

The Peace of the Lord be with you always!

And also with you.



The greeting of peace may be shared by all.

Offering: Playful Praise Party with Pastor & Patrick

For your convenience, online giving can be accessed through this QR Code:



Offertory Prayer – Shandry Peugeot

God of goodness and growth,
all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is sure.
Word and water, wine and bread:
these are signs of your abundant grace.
Receive the gifts we bring, and nourish us to proclaim your abiding love in
our communities and in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.
Amen.

Great Thanksgiving – Pastor Will

The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
C: We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface – Pastor Will

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise, loving
God, creator and sustainer of all life. You spread out the dazzling canopy
of the heavens and established the deep foundations of the earth; you
lifted up the mountains and hills, high and stately, and poured out oceans
and rivers, flowing free.

You made all the creatures of the earth to show your glory, and human
beings, in your image, to care for this world, your good gift, our beautiful
and precious home.



Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, with all creatures great and small, and with all the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:

Spoken by all:

**You are holy, O God of majesty,
and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh.**

Words of Institution - Pastor Will

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.

Lord's Prayer - Pastor Will

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.

Communion Instructions - Pastor Will

Communion Invitation - Pastor Will

We are here because Jesus has called us –
strangers and friends,
believers and doubters,
sinners and saints.
It is always a mixed company that Jesus gathers
and invites to his table.
Here, in bread and wine,
Christ meets us in mercy and grace.
Here, through the body and blood of Christ,
we, who are different,
are joined to each other.
So come,
not because you understand,
but because you are understood.
Come,
not because of your great love,
but because you are so loved by God.
Come, not because you deserve a place,
but because Jesus invites you,
just as you are.
Thanks be to God.

Celebration of Holy Communion

Table Blessing - Pastor Will



Now may this body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace unto life everlasting. Amen.

Prayer after Communion – Shandry Peugeot

We thank you, O God, that you have strengthened our hearts through this feast of life and salvation. Shine the light of Christ on our path, that we may do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you, now and forever. Amen.

Benediction - Pastor Will

May the One who creates us, go with and before us,
May the One who saves us, lead us into everlasting life,
May the One who gives us wisdom, guide us in the way of peace.
Amen.

Meal Prayer – Pastor Will

Dismissal – Shandry Peugeot

Go and join the song of creation, singing out in praise to God.
Go and join the cries of creation, yearning for healing.
Go and work for the healing and wholeness of all the earth.
Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Altar Flowers

The flower arrangement on our Communion Table today are given by Norwood & Carol Cutter in celebration of their 39th Wedding Anniversary!

Rally Day

Next Week! August 10 at 11am. Kicking off the start of a new programmatic year with an open house! Check out what classes are being



offered this year. Same for the kiddos - see where your classroom will be, have a snack, say hello to your teachers, and make a name plate for the classroom!

New Member Class

All prospective new members are invited to attend a new member class the afternoon of August 17 from 2-3:30pm in Room 8. Join us for some orientation, tour of the facility, opportunity survey, as well as a time for questions and answers. Please be prepared to fill out a brief questionnaire for family information, i.e. birthdays, baptisms, address, etc. We will celebrate new members in worship the following Sunday.

Children & Chit Chat

Families of preschoolers (infant-age 5) are invited to a play date! This month, we will meet at 9am on Saturday, August 9 at the South Huntsville Library playground. Please contact Madeline Wirtz (madelinewirtz@stmarkshsv.org) with any questions.

Hospital Ministry August 10

On Sunday, August 10, beginning at 8:30am, our monthly Hospital Ministry will meet in the Fellowship Hall Kitchen to bake and package goodies for the 46 employees at Madison Surgery. Volunteer help is appreciated!

Thursday Reading Group

On August 14, our Thursday Reading Group (all are invited!!) will start up again – a multi-week discussion, meeting every Thursday, via Zoom, at 6:30pm. (Look for the Zoom link in the Monday emails). Our book selection: *Patrix: The Cranky, Beautiful Faith of a Sinner & Saint* by Nadia Bolz-Weber.



By the Numbers: Sunday, July 27, 2025

Attendance:

In Person Worship: 103 | Online Views: 52 | Sunday Learning: 16

General Offerings Last Week

Last Week: \$5,742 | YTD: \$400,134 | 2025 Budget: \$787,899



Preschool - 5th

Preschool - 1st grade meet in Room 6 AND 3rd - 5th grade meet in Room 3, for Godly Play, a curriculum that encourages hands-on learning and a lot of questions!

Confirmation (6th-8th)

A 3-year program covering Christian and Lutheran basics; two years of Bible – one for Old Testament, one for New; and one year for the Small Catechism. Meets in Room 1.

High School (9th - 12th)

High School students will meet in the youth room for a myriad of activities based on wants and attendance, e.g. devotions, service projects, aides to Godly Play, etc.

Adult Learning

Faith & Discovery: A traditional class that reads and discusses a chosen book with different insights on faith and faith leaders. Led by Kathy Sieja in Room 10.

Donuts: A discussion-based class that meets to talk about topics ranging from Christian movies to everyday politics and current events. And of course, there are donuts! Led by Phyllis & Rodney Hutchins in Room 8.

Lutheran 101: What does it mean to be a Lutheran? Using the 95 Theses, the Augsburg Confession, and Luther's Small Catechism as our guide, we'll spend ten weeks (August 17 - October 19) talking about the central tenets of Lutheran Christianity and what it means to live out our Lutheran faith in the world. Whether you've been Lutheran your whole life or you're new to this expression of faith, there is something here for you. Come join the discussion! Led by Pastor Will Starkweather in the Fellowship Hall.

Midweek Opportunities

Bible in a Year: Bible reading is a discipline, one that we can grow with practice and intentionality. And like many disciplines, sometimes what we need is a plan to get started. A calendar of readings is available on St. Mark's website. Prompts will also be posted to Pastor Will's Facebook every day to help you stay on track. Led by Pastor Will Starkweather in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesday mornings at 10am.

Thursday Reading Group: A nine-week series, meeting August 14 - October 2, every Thursday, via Zoom, at 6:30pm. The link is included each week in the Monday email. "Pastrix: The Cranky, Beautiful Faith of a Sinner & Saint" by Nadia Bolz-Weber is this series' selection. Led by Traci Billman.

