



St. Mark's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Celebrating 75 Years

The 1st Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2025



*Growing together in faith to abundantly
nourish our community*

200 Longwood Drive SE
Huntsville, AL 35801

256.539.4361 | stmarkshsv.org | [@stmarkshsv](https://www.instagram.com/stmarkshsv)

In Worship Today...

What Time Is It?

Prelude: Creator of the Stars of Night arr. Richard Warner

Welcome & Announcements | Call to Worship

Gathering Hymn: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Confession & Forgiveness | Prayer of the Day

Lighting of the Advent Wreath | **While We Are Waiting, Come**

Children's Message

Isaiah 2:1-5 | Romans 13:11-14

Gospel Acclamation with **Alleluia** | Matthew 24:36-44

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: **Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying** ELW 436

Prayers of Intercession

Service of Baptism for Raphael Benjamin "Rafe" Miller

Sharing of the Peace | Offering: Tremble

Offertory Response: **Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me** | Offertory Prayer

Communion Liturgy with **Holy, Holy, Holy**

Distribution: **Be Known to Us** | **The People Who Walked in Darkness**

Table Blessing | Prayer after Communion | Benediction

Sending Hymn: **Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers** ELW 244

Dismissal | Postlude: Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers arr. Paul Manz

Worship Assistants

Assisting Minister: Jennifer Palmer | Lector: Kathy Sieja | Acolyte: Lizzie Carter

Communion Assistants: Lizzie Carter & Diana Rhodes

Greeter: Leah Gradl | Ushers: Steve Williams & Tim Sieja | AV Tech: Denise Williamson

St. Mark's Celebrates Open Communion

which means none are turned away from Christ's table. We believe Christ is fully present in the bread and wine, and no less present in our gluten-free and alcohol-free options. If you wish instead to receive a blessing, you may signify this by crossing your arms over your chest.

We Welcome the Joy, Laughter, Sights, and Sounds of Children in Worship!

There are children's worship activity bags available - just ask our ushers. If a moment out of the sanctuary is needed, a toy-filled nursery and changing table are available too, however, we ask that an adult family member stay present at all times.

Altar Flowers

The flower arrangements on our Communion Table today are given by Gisela Rieger in memory of family and by Jason & Joanna Miller in celebration of Rafe's Baptism!

By the Numbers: Sunday, November 23, 2025

Attendance:

In Person Worship: 142 | Online Views: 36 | Sunday Learning: 52

General Offerings

Last Week: \$14,935 | YTD: \$648,448 | 2025 Budget: \$787,899

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



This Week We are Praying for...

ELCA indigenous ministries and tribal relations, and for the work of truth and healing | Justice, dignity, and healing for survivors of sexual assault; and accountability, repentance, and restoration for their abusers | Our Advent pilgrimage as we prepare our hearts and lives for the coming of Christ this Christmas season | The health of the earth and for those working to mitigate environmental destruction | Those named by our Prayer Ministry, especially Hugo, Patti, Kurt, Gisela, Matt, Bonnie, Jeanne, Ted, Peggy, Sarah, Suzy, and Frank.

Prayer Requests

A Prayer Ministry email with joys, concerns, and sorrows is sent weekly on Wednesday. Email prayer@stmarkshsv.org if you have any prayers to lift up or would like to receive this email. You may also write your prayer requests on a pew pad and place them in the offering plate.

Welcome Visitors- We're so glad you're here with us!

Our greeters and ushers are ready to help answer any questions before or during worship in the hallway and gathering space outside the sanctuary. Restrooms and the nursery are past the gathering space out the North doors of the sanctuary. If you would like to stay in touch with St. Mark's, please write down your contact information on the pew pad and put it in the offering plate or fill out our online visitor form using this QR code also available in our St. Mark's welcome bag!



Ready to Get Online?

Wi-Fi is available using the SMLC Guest network with password: GrowingTogether

This Morning— Last Chance! 75th Anniversary T-Shirts for Sale

We have an official 75th Anniversary shirt that are on sale ~\$20/each; purchase your shirts online at stmarkshsv.org/tshirts or pay with cash or check using one of the envelopes available in Communication Central through this morning— Envelopes will be collected at noon.

Advent Midweek Services & Meals

Wednesdays starting December 3 at 6:30pm with dinner provided prior at 5pm in the Fellowship Hall. Worship will be Holden Evening Prayer and center around the theme of the God who was, who is, and who is to come. Want to help with Advent dinners? Bring a dish of your favorite food to share in a 9x13 container! Pastas, casseroles, sandwiches, salads (the possibilities are endless!); sign-ups available in Communication Central.

Congregational Meeting December 7

Make plans to attend our December congregational meeting on Sunday, December 7 immediately following the service. Meeting materials are available in the Member Resources section of the website. Attendance by all members is highly encouraged, as we will present our 2026 budget, Synod Assembly nominees, and constitution/bylaw revisions, and strategic updates. Please submit questions in advance to Leah Gradl or Jim Law.

Christmas Candles

NEW! Sponsor and dedicate a candle on Christmas Eve! We will have candles set in a commemorative glass for folks to sponsor in memory or celebration of loved ones. Each candle will cost \$12 and will be available to take home after the 11pm service on Christmas Eve. (This will be instead of the poinsettias from past years). There are 'candle' envelopes in the narthex, Communication Central, and office. You can also sponsor a candle on the St. Mark's online giving page.

What's Next? - Sign Up in Communication Central

Check out the sign up board for info on upcoming events. Something new and exciting is always on the horizon! Supper Club, Faith & Fiction, WELCA, and more!

St. Mark's Staff

Rev. Will Starkweather, Pastor | pastorwill@stmarkshsv.org

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