



**St. Mark's**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Celebrating 75 Years*

*The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent*

December 7, 2025



*Growing together in faith to abundantly  
nourish our community*

200 Longwood Drive SE  
Huntsville, AL 35801

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

# *In Worship Today...*

## *Faith from Generation to Generation*

Prelude: An Advent Meditation arr. David Lasky

Welcome & Announcements | Call to Worship

Gathering Hymn: **Hark, the Glad Sound!** *ELW 239*

Confession & Forgiveness | Prayer of the Day

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

Children's Message

Isaiah 11:1-10 | Romans 15:4-13

Gospel Acclamation with **Alleluia** | Matthew 3:1-12

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: **On Jordan's Bank the Baptist Cry** *ELW 249*

Apostle's Creed | Prayers of Intercession

Sharing of the Peace | Offering: Reach Down Lord *Choir*

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

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

Distribution: **Be Known to Us | Come Now, O Prince of Peace**

Table Blessing | Prayer after Communion | Benediction

Sending Hymn: **Prepare the Royal Highway** *ELW 264*

Dismissal | Postlude

## *Worship Assistants*

Assisting Minister: Phyllis Hutchins | Lector: Grace Billman | Acolyte: Benjamin Sieja

Communion Assistants: Benjamin Sieja & Madelyn Vandevaire

Greeter: Rob Caple | Ushers: Paul Gradl & Jim French | AV Tech: April McCutcheon

## *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 Judy Stevens in loving memory of Butch Stevens.

## *By the Numbers: Sunday, November 30, 2025*

### Attendance:

In Person Worship: 110 | Online Views: 59 | Sunday Learning: 22

### General Offerings

Last Week: \$5,357 | YTD: \$653,804 | 2025 Budget: \$787,899

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



## *This Week We are Praying for...*

All affected by the fires in Hong Kong: those displaced from their homes, mourning the loss of loved ones, injured, or missing as well as the countless emergency service individuals who worked to put out the fire and tend to the injured | Safety, warmth, and protection during winter storms across the United States | Health, safety, and provision for all migrants and de-escalation in areas facing immigration raids | Those named by our Prayer Ministry, especially Myra, Patti, Ed, Gisela, Glenda, Jeanne, Ted, Peggy, Amber, Milton, Suzy, and Frank.

## *Prayer Requests*

A Prayer Ministry email with joys, concerns, and sorrows is sent weekly on Wednesday. Email [prayer@stmarkshsv.org](mailto: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

## *Congregational Meeting Today after Worship*

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.

## *Advent Midweek Services & Meals*

Wednesdays 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 dish! Pastas, casseroles, sandwiches, salads; sign-up in Communication Central.

## *Christmas Caroling*

On December 14 at 2pm, we are going to go Christmas caroling at Magnolia Trace. Wear your favorite Christmas ensemble – we'll provide extra Santa hats and jingle bells!

## *Blue Christmas Worship*

Join us on Thursday, December 18 at 6:30pm as we come together for worship seeking healing and room to share grief, sadness, loneliness, or confusion when these emotions often feel out of place during the holidays.

## *Christmas Candles—New!*

We will have candles set in a commemorative glass (instead of poinsettias) for folks to sponsor in memory or celebration of loved ones on Christmas Eve. Each candle will cost \$12 and will be available to take home after the 11pm service on Christmas Eve. 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!

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## *St. Mark's Staff*

Rev. Will Starkweather, Pastor | [pastorwill@stmarkshsv.org](mailto:pastorwill@stmarkshsv.org)

Traci Billman, Director of Christian Education | [traci@stmarkshsv.org](mailto:traci@stmarkshsv.org)

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