



St. Mark's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Celebrating 75 Years

The 4th Sunday of Advent

December 21, 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...

A Sign of Things to Come

Prelude: Canticle of the Turning arr. Barbara Harbach

Welcome & Announcements | Call to Worship

Gathering Hymn: **The King Shall Come** *ELW 260*

Confession & Forgiveness | Prayer of the Day

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

Children's Message

Isaiah 7:10-16 | Romans 1:1-7

Gospel Acclamation with **Alleluia** | Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel**

Apostle's Creed | Prayers of Intercession

Sharing of the Peace | Offering: We Three Kings *Handbells*

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

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

Distribution: **Be Known to Us** | Silent Night *Handbells*

Table Blessing | Prayer after Communion | Benediction

Sending Hymn: **Canticle of the Turning**

Dismissal | Postlude: The King of Glory arr. Aaron David Miller

Worship Assistants

Assisting Minister: Phil Ager | Lector: Bill Henze | Acolyte: Jake Carter

Communion Assistants: Bill Henze & Jake Carter

Greeter: Norwood Cutter | Ushers: Madeline Wirtz & Rudy Will | AV Tech:

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 Mike & Susie McCall to the Glory of God.

By the Numbers: Sunday, December 14, 2025

Sunday Attendance:

In Person Worship: 196 | Online Views: 71 | Sunday Learning: 38

Advent Wednesday, December 10, 2025

In Person Worship: 63 | Online Views: 21

General Offerings

Last Week: \$20,270 | YTD: \$692,054 | 2025 Budget: \$787,899

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



This Week We are Praying for...

Those slain through acts of senseless and hateful gun violence especially at Brown University and in Sydney | Protection, provision, and justice for immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and all who seek shelter like the Holy Family | Those named by our Prayer Ministry, especially Myra, Patti, Glenda, Ted, Amber, Milton, Roger, Suzy, Frank, and the friends and family of Gisela Galzerano.

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

Christmas Candles—Last Chance Today!!!

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.

Church Office Closed

The Church Office will be closed beginning Wednesday, December 24 and will open again on Monday, January 5. Staff will periodically check voicemails and emails throughout this week.

Christmas Worship Opportunities

Christmas Eve, December 24

Christmas Eve will have two worship opportunities including different texts, hymns, and sermons at each, we invite you to join us for both!

6:30pm Full Festival Worship including candle lighting, Praise Team, Organ, Brass Ensemble, Choir, Handbells and Communion at the rail.

11pm Worship of "Quiet Joy" including candle lighting and singing Silent Night on the steps outside the Franklin St. doors, Autoharp prelude before worship and during communion, Piano & Saxophone hymn accompaniments, and Communion at the rail.

Sunday, December 28

Grab a cup of coffee and join in worship at 9:30am as we celebrate Lessons & Carols paired with a "Sing Through" of all our favorite Christmas hymns! This approximately 45 minute lay led worship will include 9 traditional lesson and a verse or two of all 24 of our favorite Christmas hymns in quick succession as we celebrate the Joy of the Christmas season!

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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