

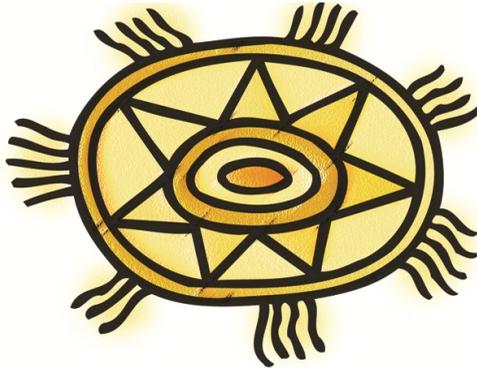


St. Mark's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Celebrating 75 Years

Christmas Eve

December 24, 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 6:30 Worship This Evening...

Prelude: O Come, All Ye Faithful arr. Franklin D. Ashdown

Welcome | Thanksgiving for Baptism

Processional Hymn: O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Our procession tonight begins with the use of an incense Thurible. In the Hebrew Scriptures, incense was burned to prepare a space for sinful human beings to enter into the presence of the holy God. The psalmist prays that their prayers might be like incense before the Lord, a pleasing smell rising to God's attention. Christian worship over the centuries has incorporated the use of incense as a reminder that our prayers are pleasing and acceptable to the God who is with us and for us. Though we don't incorporate the use of incense every Sunday, on festival days, it is an appropriate addition to worship.

Prayer of the Day

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

This Child Shall Be Our Peace *Choir*

Children's Message

Scriptural Introit: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Isaiah 9:2-7

Gospel Processional & Acclamation: Sing We Now of Jesus*

Luke 2:1-14

Gospel Recessional

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: O Little Town of Bethlehem

Nicene Creed | Prayers of Intercession

Sharing of the Peace | Offering: All is Well *Choir*

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



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

Distribution

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.

Distribution Music: Once in Royal David's City *Handbells*

Angels We Have Heard on High | The First Nowell

Table Blessing | Prayer after Communion | Benediction

Candle Lighting Hymn: **Silent Night, Holy Night!** ELW 281

As the introduction for Silent Night is played, worship assistants will share the flame from the Christ Candle in the Advent Wreath with the whole congregation. When passing the flame, the lit candle should always remain in an upright position, the unlit candle will tilt to meet the flame of the lit candle as you pass the flame to your neighbors while we sing. After the song is finished, there will be a moment of silent meditation, please extinguish your candle when the introduction for Joy to the World begins. Please place your candle in a basket as you leave the sanctuary.

Recessional Hymn: **Joy to the World***

Dismissal | Postlude: In Dulci Jubilo arr. Norman Dello Joio

*Worship tonight will include the use of incense throughout the service.

Worship Assistants

Assisting Minister: Kathy Sieja | Lector: Carol Tevepaugh

Thurifer: Andy Sieja | Crucifer: Rob Caple

Acolyte: John Michael Brown | Torch Bearers: Payton Sieja & Trey Lear

Bible Bearer: Andrew Caple

Choir Soloists: Titus & Taryn Miller | Saxophone: Oliver Sieja

Ushers: Tim Sieja & Terry Szymczyk | Tech Volunteer: Lara Sieja

In 11pm Worship This Evening...

Prelude: Autoharp Christmas Selections

Welcome | Litany for Christmas

Processional Hymn: **O Come, All Ye Faithful***

Our procession tonight begins with the use of an incense Thurible. In the Hebrew Scriptures, incense was burned to prepare a space for sinful human beings to enter into the presence of the holy God. The psalmist prays that their prayers might be like incense before the Lord, a pleasing smell rising to God's attention. Christian worship over the centuries has incorporated the use of incense as a reminder that our prayers are pleasing and acceptable to the God who is with us and for us. Though we don't incorporate the use of incense every Sunday, on festival days, it is an appropriate addition to worship.

Prayer of the Day

Children's Message & Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Isaiah 52:7-10

Gospel Processional & Acclamation: **Sing We Now of Jesus***

Luke 2:8-20

Gospel Recessional

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: **O Little Town of Bethlehem**

Prayers of Intercession with **Of the Father's Love Begotten**

Sharing of the Peace | Offering: **In the Bleak Midwinter**

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



Communion Liturgy

Distribution

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.

Music During Distribution: Autoharp Christmas Selections

Table Blessing | Prayer after Communion | Benediction

Candle Lighting Hymn: **Silent Night, Holy Night!**

You'll be invited to pick up a candle as you leave the sanctuary following Pastor Will during the recessional. Worship assistants will share the flame from the Christ Candle in the Advent Wreath with you as you walk outside. When passing the flame, the lit candle should always remain in an upright position, the unlit candle will tilt to meet the flame of the lit candle. After we sing Silent Night, there will be a moment of silent meditation, please extinguish your candle after the Dismissal, when the carillon bells begin to play.

Dismissal | Carillon Peal

Silent Night, Holy Night!

1a	Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht! Alles schläft, einsam wacht nur das traute, hochheilige Paar. Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar, schlaf in himmlischer Ruh, schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.	2	Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia! Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!
1b	Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.	3	Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

*Worship tonight will include the use of incense throughout the service.

Worship Assistants

Assisting Minister: Deb Williams | Lector: Dane Williams

Thurifer: Daniel White | Acolyte: Annika Williams

Saxophone: Oliver Sieja | Autoharp: Lawana Beard

Communion Assistants: Annika Williams, Daniel White, Julie Starkweather, Grace Billman

Ushers: Marlin Williamson & Steve Williams | Tech Volunteer: Todd Philips

Christmas Candle Dedications

You may take your sponsored candle(s) home after the 11pm worship service.

In Memory of Family

Pat Barber

In Memory of Dorothy Billman and in Celebration of our Friends & Family at St. Mark's

Les & Traci Billman

In Celebration of the Bloomberg & Troyer Family

Doug & Joan Bloomberg

In Celebration of our Family at St. Mark's

Bob & Louise Boller

In Memory of Robert Charles & Mary Burkhardt, Rev. & Mrs. George F. Hart, Frank & Belle Humphrey, Doris Hietanen, Gertrude Kindberg, Gloria Woody, Irene Ball, Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Fuhrmann, and in Celebration of Madeline Burkhardt

Robert & Carla Burkhardt

In Celebration of the Corpus & Kolb Families

Larry & Kathy Corpus

In Memory of Lester Cutter, Frances Cutter, Fred & Betty Kaczmarowski and in Celebration of their Children and Grandchildren

Norwood, Carol, & Patti Cutter

In Memory of Chris Deason, Joe Attaway

Jed & Terry Deason

In Memory of their Parents, and in Celebration of their Children, Grandchildren, and their Blessings

Bob & Gwen Dornbos

In Celebration of Vicki Eversmeyer

Gwen Dornbos & Gisela Rieger

In Celebration of their Children & Grandchildren

Wayne & Polly Falkenberg

In Memory of Lloyd & Marilyn Ellerbeck, Jerry & Frances Foreman

David & Julie Foreman

In Celebration of their Children & Grandchildren

Jim & Betty French

In Memory of Linda Chandler, Jacob Horst, and in Celebration of Max & Colene Horst

Carrie Horst

In Memory of Family

Hutchins Family

In Memory of Gary Michael

Larry & Judy Jung

In Celebration of the Starkweather Family

Laurie Kelsey

In Celebration of Bonnie Pearson, Mary Cramer, Emmalou Demirjian

Nancy Lorine & Gisela Rieger

In Memory of Jim & Patricia Mullin

Bruce & Jennifer Mullin

In Memory of John and Ola G. Harris, Julia Roberts

Julia G. Muytoy

In Memory of Gracie Niemeyer and in Celebration of her Children & Granddaughters

Cathy Ontiveros

In Celebration of Alice & Gwen

Walter Ratcliff & Katie Miner

In Memory of Bobbie Jean Walker Rhodes, Savannah Washington Rhodes, Ruby Grey

Diana Rhodes

In Celebration of Family

Gisela Rieger

In Memory of William M. Schwartz, Jr., Shirley K. Schwartz, William M. Schwartz, III

Eric Schwartz

In Celebration of their Grandchildren

Terry & Karen Szymczyk

In Celebration of their Families at Christmas

Andy & Brianna Sieja

In Memory of Sesal & Louise Levins, Stanley & Wanda Sieja

Don & Kathy Sieja

In Memory of Butch Stevens

Judy Stevens

In Memory of Sharon Strobe

Kris Strobe

***In Memory of Ron & Diane Sykstus and in
Celebration of their Mother and Grandmother, Meg Jones***

Ron & Patty Sykstus

In Memory of Jeff Hale

Elwin & Marilyn Valberg

***In Memory of John Miley, Dale White and in
Celebration of Miles Ray Vanloon, The White Family, Mailhot Family, Bartrum Family***

Tom & Heather White

***In Memory of Billy & Marie Williamson, Bob & Doris Dana, Jessi Jolley,
and in Celebration of Joshua & Hannah Alvis, Justin & Abby Jolley***

Marlin & Denise Williamson

In Memory of Tom and in Celebration of Astrid & Elliot

Susan Wright

In Memory of Jim & Marry Krell, Harold Hagood

Allen & Penny Krell

Merry Christmas from St. Mark's!

"I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord." As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Emmanuel (which means "God with us"), we remember that the heart of the Christmas story is a promise: God is with us. Not just 2000 years ago in a manger in Bethlehem. But here. Now. In Jesus, God took on flesh to live a human life. In Jesus, God shares fully in our blessings and burdens, in our hurts and our hopes. In Jesus, we see the God is not only with us, God is for us.

In the Advent season leading up to this Holy Night, we have been reminded that ours is a God of the ages; the God who was, who is, and who is to come. The One who was faithful before is with us now and is leading us into a future full of promise. As you worship tonight and celebrate tomorrow, as you participate in your favorite traditions or as you create new ones, it is our prayer that you will see God in your story. May you remember God's faithfulness to you on the road that has brought you here. May you know God's presence with you, right here and now. May you trust that wherever you go from here, you are not alone, but God is leading you in pathways of peace.

The staff of St. Mark's Lutheran Church wishes you a very merry Christmas. May Christ be born in your heart this night and always, and may you share the good news of great joy with all whom you meet.



St. Mark's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Celebrating 75 Years

In celebration and preparation for St. Mark's 75th anniversary in October 2026, there are lots of fun things in store! We've invited former pastors to join us in worship; we'll publish a new online picture directory; we'll create a new cookbook filled with stories and family recipes; we'll have projects underway to spruce up the building; we'll have 75th merch for sale; plus other events throughout the year celebrating the history, ministries, and people of St. Mark's!

75 Hours of Prayer: February 12-15

In celebration of the non-profits and charitable institutions that St. Mark's has worked with in the last 75 years, we will host 75 hours of prayer, with opportunities to hold vigil in the chapel. This will culminate in an evening service of blessing on February 15 for these organizations as well as a reception in gratitude for the work they do in our community.

Free Spirits: March 19

Reuniting in celebration of the 75th, there will be a Free Spirits gathering with delicious food and a program honoring the founding of Free Spirits thirty years ago.

50's Sock Hop: April 18

Let's go to the hop! As a fun nod to St. Mark's founding in 1951, we'll have a 1950s themed family dance.

Birthday Bash: May 17

Blast from the past! Together with the May Congregational Meeting, we'll have a potluck lunch with tables decorated for each month of the year. Sit at your birth month table for fellowship and cake!

Homecoming Weekend: Oct. 30 - Nov. 1

October 30: Join us at Stovehouse in The Shed from 5-8pm for food, drinks, and catching up with familiar faces!

October 31: The big day! Celebrate with us with a special anniversary worship service at 10am and catered lunch to follow.

November 1: To close out our year of celebration, in All Saints Sunday worship, we will include special honors for all of the St. Mark's saints.

Share Your SMLC Memories!

The 75th Committee has been organizing and archiving pictures, documents and more to preserve St. Mark's historical record. As part of this endeavor, the committee would love to hear from you - using the QR code, please fill out the questionnaire and help tell the story of St. Mark's.



75th Anniversary Cookbook

As a fun family project for the 75th anniversary, we are putting together a cookbook. Not just any cookbook, this one will feature family-favorite recipes, stories, and pictures. We invite you to share a little about your home family with our church family. And pictures! There are multiple ways to submit your story and recipe: using our online submission form or filling out a paper form and bringing it to the church office. If you have any questions, please reach out to Traci.

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!



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.

Lessons & Carols: 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!

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.

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, Free Spirits, and more!

Ready to Get Online?

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

St. Mark's Staff

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