



**St. Mark's**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Celebrating 75 Years*

*The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent*

February 22, 2026



*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...*

## *Saved from Temptation*

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements | Call to Worship

Gathering Song: **All Who Are Thirsty**

Confession & Forgiveness | **Kyrie**

Prayer of the Day

Children's Message

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 | Romans 5:12-19

Gospel Acclamation | Matthew 4:1-11

Sermon

Song of the Day: **Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)**

Apostle's Creed | Prayers of Intercession

Sharing of the Peace | Offering: In the Garden *Handbells*

Offertory Response: **When I Survey the Wondrous Cross** | Offertory Prayer

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

Distribution: **Agnus Dei** | **Jesus, Friend of Sinners**

Table Blessing | Prayer after Communion | Benediction

Sending Song: **The Blessing**

Dismissal | Postlude

## *Worship Assistants*

Assisting Minister: Rachel Cutter | Lector: Brianna Sieja | Acolyte: Zach Gastler

Communion Assistants: Zach Gastler, Diana Rhodes, Madeline Wirtz, Grace Billman

Greeter: Rob Caple | Ushers: Larry Partesotti & Terry Szymczyk | AV Tech: Peter Lande

## *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*

During the season of Lent, we do not place flowers on the Communion Table as we journey through this season of barrenness looking forward to the return of life once more on Easter morning.

## *By the Numbers: Sunday, February 15, 2026*

### Sunday Attendance:

In Person Worship: 137 | Online Views: 61 | Sunday Learning: 49

### General Offerings

Last Week: \$11,872 | YTD: \$84,934 | 2026 Budget: \$808,449

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



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

For the family, classmates, and faculty on the tragic loss of a student at Mountain Gap Elementary this week | Christians around the world as we begin the journey through Lent. May there be time for reflection and remembering who we were meant to be | An end to war, conflict, uncertainty, and political unrest at home and abroad | Those named by our Prayer Ministry, especially Glenda, Carol, Debbi, Judy, Suzy, Frank, and Kurt.

## *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

## *Saved & Sent: A Lenten and Holy Week Worship Series*

Join us for worship this Lenten and Holy Week season as we discover time and time again how God saves us by His grace and sends us for His mission in the world. Throughout the 6 weeks of Lent, we'll focus on the same scripture twice each week, Sundays through a lens of God saving us and Wednesdays seeing how we are sent to tell others of this salvation. Wednesday mid-week worship will begin February 25 with worship at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary.

## *Free Spirits – A 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Special Event*

Come and celebrate the history and ministry of Free Spirits! We'll reminisce our good times together, taking a look back at over thirty years of meals, activities, and speakers. The menu will consist of Free Spirits favorites starting with a delicious meat loaf. Join us on Thursday, March 19 at 11am; please sign up in Communication Central.

## *WELCA Cluster Gathering*

All women of St. Mark's are invited to the upcoming WELCA cluster, bringing together ELCA women from all over Alabama. This year, St. Mark's will be hosting and we will meet on Saturday, March 14, from 9:30am - 1:30pm. There will be a continental breakfast, worship service, lunch, fellowship program and an activity. Please sign up in Communication Central if you would like to join in the fun!

## *St. Mark's Photo Directory*

As part of our 75th Anniversary celebrations, we are putting together a new photo directory! Please sign up (using the QR code or link in Member Resources) for a time to get your picture taken - if you need assistance in signing up for a time slot, please contact the church office. We will be accepting photo submissions as well. If you have had your picture taken professionally within the last 5 years and would like to submit a photo, please email Shelby.



## *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](mailto:pastorwill@stmarkshsv.org)  
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