



**St. Mark's**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Celebrating 75 Years*

## *The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter*

April 26, 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...*

## *Christ the Shepherd*

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements | Call to Worship

Opening Song: **Way Maker**

Thanksgiving for Baptism | Cantic of Praise

Prayer of the Day

Children's Message

Acts 2:42-47 | 1 Peter 2:19-25

Gospel Acclamation | John 10:1-10

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: **The King of Love My Shepherd Is**

Apostle's Creed | Prayers of Intercession

Sharing of the Peace | Offering: **O Most High** *Choir*

Offertory Response: **I Know That My Redeemer Lives** | Offertory Prayer

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

Distribution: **Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table** | **Gratitude**

Table Blessing | Prayer after Communion | Benediction

Sending Song: **All the People Said Amen**

Dismissal | Postlude

## *Worship Assistants*

Assisting Minister: Kathy Sieja | Lector: Kathy Sieja | Acolyte: Jake Carter

Communion Assistants: Jake Carter, Rachel Cutter, Diane Dahl

Greeter: Kim Caple | Ushers: Karen Cunningham & Eric Schwartz | AV Tech: Crystal Peden

## *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.

## *Welcome Pastor Jonathan!*

The Reverend Jonathan P. Hemphill serves as the Assistant to the Bishop for Congregational Life in the Southeastern Synod. Jonathan is frequently sought after as a speaker and consultant in leadership development, ministry coaching and creativity in thinking about how the church engages urban millennials. Pastor J. is an active Community Organizer in the neighborhood around issues of police brutality, food insecurities and issues of racial diversity.

## *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 flowers on our communion table today are given by Jason & Joanna Miller in memory of Gabriel Miller.

## *By the Numbers: Sunday, April 19, 2026*

### Sunday Attendance:

In Person Worship: 141 | Online Views: 50 | Sunday Learning: 48

### General Offerings

Last Week: \$6,981 | YTD: \$207,142 | 2026 Budget: \$808,449

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



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

Those who face financial stress in this tax season, and for renewed wisdom among leaders who discern how to use shared resources for the common good | All who struggle amidst rising fuel costs around the globe | Victims of gun violence, especially in school shootings | Those named by our Prayer Ministry, especially Ciera, Susan, Paula, Ivan, Suzy, Frank, Emmalou, and Joe.

## *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

## *Calling all Thrivent Members (and anyone else who's curious!)*

Join us today after worship in the Fellowship Hall to hear more about how you can tap into your Thrivent Action Teams and help with different ministries at St. Mark's. We have a need and Thrivent members have an opportunity to help!

## *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.



## *New Member Class*

On Sunday, May 3, 2-3:30pm in Room 8 in the Sunday School hallway, we will offer a new member class. All those who are interested in joining St. Mark's are invited to attend. Join us for some Lutheran basics, tour of the facility, opportunity survey, as well as a time for questions and answers. Please be prepared to fill out a brief questionnaire of family information, i.e. birthdays, baptisms, address, etc. There is a sign-up in Communication Central to let us know you will be attending – we are so excited to have you join us!!

## *75th Anniversary T-shirts for Sale - Three Weeks Only!*

We have an official 75th Anniversary shirt that will be on sale from April 26 - May 17. ~\$20/each; purchase your shirts online at [stmarkshsv.org/tshirts](http://stmarkshsv.org/tshirts) or pay with cash or check using one of the envelopes available in Communication Central or the church office.

## *Affirm June 14-19 at LaGrange College*

AFFIRM is a summer youth event of the ELCA Southeastern Synod. AFFIRM nurtures faith, equips youth leaders for today and tomorrow, and trains youth in discipleship skills. This event is for students who have completed grades 6-12 and for college freshman and sophomores interested in exploring a call to youth ministry. Register today at [sesyouth.org/affirm](http://sesyouth.org/affirm)

## *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)  
Traci Billman, Director of Christian Education | [traci@stmarkshsv.org](mailto:traci@stmarkshsv.org)  
Patrick Marchant, Minister of Music | [patrick@stmarkshsv.org](mailto:patrick@stmarkshsv.org)  
Shelby Billman, Multimedia Coordinator | [shelby@stmarkshsv.org](mailto:shelby@stmarkshsv.org)  
Heather White, Office Manager | [heather@stmarkshsv.org](mailto:heather@stmarkshsv.org)  
Niki Maldonado, Office Assistant | [niki@stmarkshsv.org](mailto:niki@stmarkshsv.org)