



**St. Mark's**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Celebrating 75 Years*

*The 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*

July 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...*

## *The Kingdom of Heaven is Like...*

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements | Call to Worship

Gathering Hymn: **O Worship the King!**

Confession & Forgiveness | Cantic of Praise

Prayer of the Day | Children's Message

1 Kings 3:5-12 | Romans 8:26-39

Gospel Acclamation | Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 | Sermon

Hymn of the Day: **Be Thou My Vision**

Apostle's Creed | Prayers of Intercession

Sharing of the Peace | Offering: **Jesus, Priceless Treasure**

Offertory Response: **The Doxology** | Offertory Prayer

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

Distribution: **The Bread and the Wine Are Here** | **In the Garden**

Table Blessing | Prayer after Communion | Benediction

Sending Hymn: **Holy God, We Praise Your Name**

Dismissal | Postlude: The Church of Christ in Every Age arr. J. Bert Carlson

## *Worship Assistants*

Assisting Minister: Rob Caple | Lector: Bob Boller | Acolyte: Marielle Peugeot

Communion Assistants: Marielle Peugeot & Katie Roome

Greeter: Collin Caple | Ushers: Marlin Williamson & Klaus Dahl | AV Tech: Todd Phillips

## *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 Amy!*

Pastor Amy Guida has been ordained and serving in the ELCA since 2015. She is a graduate of Mississippi University for Women and attended seminary at The Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. She has served big and small churches in Eastern Iowa and since moving to Alabama, has served the ELCA and Episcopal diocese of Alabama as a supply pastor and an interim pastor. She served St. Mark's in 2022 as an interim pastor. She lives in Huntsville with her husband and three daughters.

## *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 Jill Smerick in loving memory of her parents.

## *By the Numbers: Sunday, July 19*

### Sunday Attendance:

In Person Worship: 140 | Online Views: 49

### General Offerings:

Last Week: \$10,016 | YTD: \$389,893 | 2026 Budget: \$808,449

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



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

Parents, Teachers, Students and all who prepare for the upcoming school year as back to school meetings, appointments, and supply shopping is underway | Those made ill by the cyclospora outbreak, medical professionals who care for the sick, and epidemiologists who monitor outbreaks | Those who feel vulnerable within their communities, especially immigrants, migrants, and refugees | Those named by our Prayer Ministry, especially Niki, Ted, Ivan, Annie, Joe, Jeff, Mary, Peggy, Glenda, Suzy, Frank, and Ciera.

## *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

### *Worship at Ditto Landing – Next Weekend, August 2!!!*

We're taking worship outside! Join us at the Ditto Landing Pavilion at 9:30am for worship, a picnic potluck, and outdoor fun in an end-of-summer celebration! We'll be grilling hotdogs, providing the condiments and buns – we just ask everyone to bring sides and desserts to share. Don't forget to wear comfy clothes; a dish (or two) to share; chairs and/or picnic blanket; any outdoor games you want to play; sunscreen, a hat, bug spray; and your playful, joyous self!

### *NOMA End Addiction Walk – Saturday, August 8*

St. Mark's will have a table again at this year's NOMA's End Addiction Walk on Saturday, August 8 from 8:30-11:30am. We can use your help showing hospitality, passing out literature and waters, and setup/cleanup duties. Sign up in Communication Central if you are interested. Reach out to Karen Petersen with any questions.

### *Rally Day – Sunday, August 9*

It's time to elevate and celebrate as we launch into a new year of learning, serving, music making, and so much more! Rally Day festivities start in worship on August 9 as our council members lead various parts of worship and then hang out in the coffee area for a meet and greet for all who want to get involved. Further down the hallway, we'll have an open house where you'll be invited to meet the teachers & classrooms of our upcoming fall learning schedule. If making music is more your speed, Patrick will be hanging out in the music wing of the sanctuary to chat about choir, handbells, or praise team.

### *St. Mark's Night at Huntsville City Football Club - Sunday, August 16*

Olé, Olé, Olé, Olé! Join us for a fun night of sport with Huntsville's own soccer team, the Huntsville City Football Club! On Sunday, August 16 at 6pm, we'll watch Huntsville City FC play against Inter Miami CF II. Tickets are on sale now at \$23 each (children 3 & under are free). Purchase tickets in the Narthex on Sundays using cash or check.

### *From Welcome to Witness: Supporting LGBTQIA+ People in Today's World*

St. Mark's is kicking off a series of events designed to cultivate a more compassionate and understanding environment for our larger LGBTQIA+ community. For our first event on Saturday, August 22, 9am-2pm, we have invited award-winning advocate and speaker Jamie Bruesehoff to lead a workshop and discussion on practical ways to make our churches and communities more welcoming, supportive, and affirming. This is a free event, open to the public, with lunch included. If you would like to attend, please RSVP using the QR code. If you would like to volunteer to help with this event, please sign up in Communication Central.



### *St. Mark's Staff*

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