



Celebrating 75 Years

The 11th Sunday after Pentecost

August 9, 2026



*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...

Food for All

Prelude; Mark Jerrell, Council Treasurer

Welcome & Announcements | Mission Moment; Julie Satterfeal, Vice President

Call to Worship; Katie Miner, Council Secretary

Gathering Hymn: **All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly**

Confession & Forgiveness; Sue Volz, Board of Worship

Canticle of Praise

Prayer of the Day | Children's Message

Isaiah 55:1-5 | 1 Corinthians 11:23-34

Gospel Acclamation | Matthew 14:13-21 | Sermon

Hymn of the Day: **Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken**

Blessing of Sunday Learning Teachers & Helpers; Crystal Peden, Board of Learning
Apostle's Creed

Prayers of Intercession; Karen Petersen, Board of Witness and Outreach

Sharing of the Peace | Offering: **One Bread, One Body**

Offertory Response: **The Doxology**

Offertory Prayer; Jed Deason, Board of Administration

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

Distribution: **Taste and See** *Choir & Congregation*

Table Blessing

Prayer after Communion; Stephanie Smith, Board of Congregational Care

Invitation to Open House | Benediction

Sending Hymn: **I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me**

Dismissal | Postlude

Worship Assistants

Assisting Minister: Crystal Peden | Lector: Ryan Starkweather | Acolyte: Annika Williams

Communion Assistants: Ryan Starkweather, Annika Williams

Greeter: Julie Starkweather | Ushers: Marlin Williamson & Paul Gradl | AV Tech: Oliver Sieja

St. Mark's Celebrates Open Communion

which means none are turned away from Christ's table. We believe Christ is fully present in the elements, **all of which** are free from alcohol, gluten, dairy, eggs, soy, rice, and corn products so that all may share from one loaf and one cup. If you wish instead to receive a blessing, you may signify this by crossing your arms over your chest.

One Body, One Blood; One Bread, One Cup

As we gather to join in communion each week, we celebrate the togetherness of sharing in Christ's body and blood given for all, for the forgiveness of sins. We believe Christ is fully and truly present in our communion elements: wafer, wine, bread, and juice and that all are welcome to participate at Christ's table. After prayerful deliberation, Bible study, and a hope for more welcome and inclusion, the Board of Worship has decided to use communion elements which are free from gluten and alcohol so that all may share in the same bread and same cup without feeling separated or concerns about cross contamination of allergens. We know that communion, and therefore changes to it, comes with a host of meaningful traditions, and our hope is to uphold these as best as possible as we move forward. Each Sunday we will commune at the rail, kneeling or standing as we do now, and receive communion through intinction. You will receive a piece of gluten free bread, and be invited to dip it into a cup of grape juice which is made from 100% grapes- not from concentrate, and has no water, sugar, or other products added to it. Please reach out to Pastor Will, Patrick, or Board of Worship chair, Sue Volz, with questions you may have or for continued conversation.

Altar Flowers

The flowers on our communion table today are given by Carol & Norwood Cutter in celebration of their 40th Wedding Anniversary and by The Wirtz Family in celebration of Teddy's Birthday!

By the Numbers Double Feature: Sundays, July 26 & August 2

July 26 Sunday Attendance:

In Person Worship: 143 | Online Views: 45

August 2, Ditto Landing Sunday Attendance:

In Person Worship: 91 | Online Views: N/A

General Offerings:

Week of July 20: \$17,996 | Week of July 27: \$11,134

YTD: \$419,023 | 2026 Budget: \$808,449

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



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!



SUNDAY LEARNING

11am

Welcome to Rally Day Open House! Please take a moment to read over the class descriptions and go meet with each of the instructors in their space. Bring your questions! We will kick off a full schedule of programming on Sunday, August 16.

Preschool - 5th Grade

Preschoolers (age 3) and Elementary aged children are invited to Godly Play, a curriculum based on Montessori principles in which the work of learning is engaged through play. Each week follows the flow of worship, as children enter, hear a story, engage in active learning, partake in a shared meal, and are dismissed with a blessing. Students learn not only from those teaching, but by engagement with learners of various ages and stages. Those interested in teaching or with questions about the curriculum can talk with Julie Starkweather. **Godly Play class will be held in Room 3.**

Confirmation

Confirmation is for students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. Over three years, students learn about the Old Testament, New Testament, and Luther's Small Catechism, exploring what all these things mean for their life of faith. We'll also learn about how our faith is expressed at St. Mark's, how our neighbors live out their faith, and how we can deepen our own spirituality. Those interested in knowing more about confirmation can talk with Pastor Will. **Confirmation classes will be held in Room 1.**

High School

High School students will meet to explore the intersection between faith and life. Come each week for faith, fun, and fellowship as we look at the ways God is showing up in our lives and in our world. Those with questions about High School ministry can contact Jason and Joanna Miller. **High School classes will be held in the Youth Room.**

Adult Learning

Donuts is for adults of all ages. The group will continue to meet to explore a variety of topics from trivia to Bible Study to faith in pop culture. For more information about what is happening with Donuts, talk with Phyllis Hutchins. **Donuts meets in Room 8.**

Adult Learning Continued...

Faith & Discovery is a reading group for adults of every age. The group chooses books that explore faith through a wide variety of perspectives. Each book offers opportunities for thought-provoking group discussion. If you'd like to know more about Faith and Discovery, talk with Kathy Sieja. **Faith & Discovery meets in Room 10.**

Parables is a limited series class this fall for adult learners that looks at the teachings of Jesus. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus famously challenges conventional wisdom, saying "you have heard.... but I tell you ..." so why would the parables be any different? In this class, we will work through what stories about wheat, vineyards, and treasure buried in a field could mean to Christ-followers in the 21st century Rocket City, through the lens of upending "the way things have always been." Drop-ins welcome, no pre-reading required. For more information, talk with Becca Phillips.

Parables will meet in the Gathering Place.

Witnessing by Compassion is a limited series this fall for adult learners that explores what it looks like to meet others where they are. When you hear, "Witnessing for Jesus," what is your response? The response may be some level of angst or even cringing. Why? Because it can seem daunting to share, or we have seen others witness in ways that are more negative than positive. How did Jesus witness, especially on an individual basis? Jesus met people at their point of need: physically, emotionally, and socially. We can emulate Jesus' example with an awareness of the Stages of Grief/Loss, Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, and being Trauma-Informed. This class seeks to expand our understanding of how to meet others at a time of grief/loss as a witness of God's love and empathy. To learn more, talk with Peggy Muller.

Witnessing by Compassion will meet in the Fellowship Hall.

We are so excited to have so many opportunities to learn and grow together. Keep watching for more updates on what classes are available and what each is doing as the year progresses. If you have questions about Christian Education at St. Mark's, please contact Pastor Will or Board of Learning Chair Crystal Peden.



Jim Law, Council President

Our Council President is the lay leader of the congregation, presiding at council and congregational meetings, and working in conjunction with the boards to coordinate the various functions, activities, and future plans for St. Mark's. The President oversees the overall life of the congregation and works to faithfully help us embody the constitution and by-laws in all we do.



Julie Satterfeal, Council Vice President

Our Council Vice President works in collaboration with the Council President to oversee the life of the congregation as a whole, and often times prepares to take on the role of Council President as their next term of service. The Vice President serves as the parliamentarian for council and congregational meetings striving to keep the rules and procedures in check for the business side of the church.



Katie Miner, Council Secretary

Our Council Secretary is the lay record keeper of all things council and congregation related. The Council Secretary records minutes and attendance for all meetings, and works alongside the Council President and Vice President to keep policies, procedures, and continuing resolutions up to date.



Mark Jerrell, Council Treasurer

Our Council Treasurer is the fiscal officer of the congregation, keeping accurate recordings of the financial receipts and disbursements in accordance with our accounting procedures. The treasurer is responsible for sharing financial reports to the council and congregation as well as the annual Audit Committee.



Jed Deason, Board of Administration

The Board of Administration oversees the business operations of the church. Covering everything from staffing, supplies, technology, human resources, and stewardship campaigns. Talk to Jed if you're interested in the work of the Board of Administration and serving with the "behind the scenes" of St. Mark's to keep operations running smoothly.



Karen Fletcher, Board of Congregational Care

The Board of Congregational Care brings our congregation together in fun fellowship events both on and off campus as well as connects with individual congregants through Care Teams, Card Ministries, and more. If you enjoy party and event planning, card writing, spending time with souls in need of a little extra love, or the general merriment of fellowship, reach out to Karen to get involved.



Crystal Peden, Board of Learning

The Board of Learning leads in the faith formation of our congregation including Sunday School Classes, Bible Studies, Book Studies, Confirmation Classes, Youth Groups, Guest Teachers, and Summer Camps! If you have interest in teaching or helping with Sunday School classes or camps, leading book studies, or if you just have questions about the many learning opportunities at St. Mark's, talk to Crystal.



Marlin Williamson, Board of Property Management

The Board of Property Management oversees the care, protection, upkeep, and scheduled maintenance for the building and grounds at St. Mark's. If you enjoy working with your hands, painting, deep cleaning, light bulb replacing, or identify yourself as a "can do fixer upper" Marlin would be happy to hear from you and help you get involved in caring for our campus.



Karen Petersen, Board of Witness and Outreach

The Board of Witness and Outreach connects with our community by spreading God's love and grace through food ministries, various supply drives, educational programs, and community fellowship events. If you would like to help prepare meals, stock or pack food pantry orders, create acts of kindness for our neighbors, or volunteer at events in the community, talk to Karen.



Sue Volz, Board of Worship

The Board of Worship oversees the worship and music life of St. Mark's developing worship experiences that reflect the needs of St. Mark's as well as our faithful commitment to the Gospel as a congregation within the ELCA. Talk to Sue if you would like to participate in leading worship as a speaker, server, musician or more behind the scenes on the Altar Guild.

WELCA Collection – Personal Care Kits

This year St. Mark's WELCA is assembling personal care kits on Tuesday, August 18 from 4-6 pm at St. Mark's. Anyone interested in helping assemble kits can come to the Fellowship Hall for a drop-in "Brown Bag Dinner" and kit assembly meeting. Bring your dinner and be ready to assemble health kits. Assembled kits will be delivered to LWR along with quilts to be distributed throughout the world to needy families. Items to be included can be brought to the donation bin in Communication Central before August 18 or, if helping to assemble, bring the items at that time.

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

On Saturday, August 22, from 9am - 2pm, we will be hosting a workshop featuring award-winning author and advocate Jamie Bruesehoff. Rooted in her queer identity, her experiences raising a transgender child, and over two decades of working with youth and families, Jamie brings clarity, compassion, and hope to conversations often marked by fear and misinformation. Jamie's workshop will help us with becoming a more open, compassionate, and inclusive congregation. This is a free event, with lunch provided, but you must register beforehand (please use the QR code to register). If you would like to help with this event, please use the link in the Monday email to sign up.

In addition to the workshop on Saturday, Jamie will also be joining us for worship and Sunday Learning on Sunday, August 23. She will lead a discussion on her recent book *Raising Kids beyond the Binary: Celebrating God's Transgender and Gender-Diverse Children*.



New Member Class - Sunday, August 23 at 2pm

Curious About Membership? Start Here. If you've been worshipping with us, exploring St. Mark's, or just wondering what it would mean to call this community home, we'd love to invite you to our New Member Class on Sunday, August 23 from 2-3:30pm in The Gathering Place. Coffee and light refreshment will be provided. Come learn about St. Mark's, ask whatever questions are on your mind, and find out how your gifts and story fit the life of the congregation. After the class, those who wish to become members will be received and celebrated in worship the following Sunday. We hope you'll consider taking this first step with us! A sign up is located in Communication Central. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Will.

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
Patrick Marchant, Director of Worship Arts | patrick@stmarkshsv.org
Shelby Billman, Multimedia Coordinator | shelby@stmarkshsv.org
Heather White, Office Manager | heather@stmarkshsv.org
Ashley Bowley, Interim Office Assistant | ashley@stmarkshsv.org