

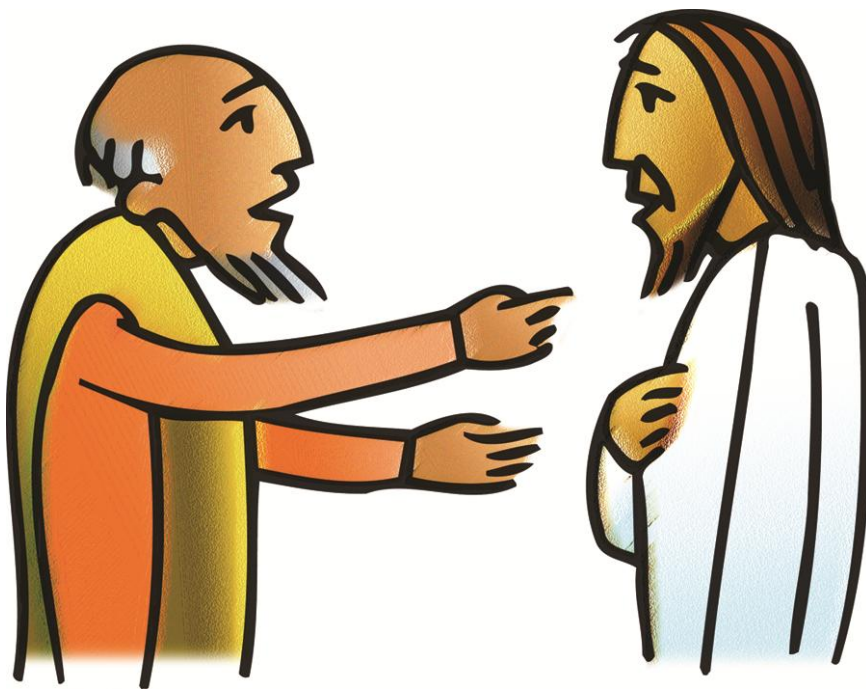


St. Mark's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Celebrating 75 Years

The 13th Sunday after Pentecost

August 23, 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...

Peter's Faith

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements | Call to Worship

Gathering Song: **Your Grace is Enough**

Confession & Forgiveness | **Kyrie**

Prayer of the Day

Children's Message

Isaiah 51:1-6 | Romans 12:1-8

Gospel Acclamation | Matthew 16:13-20

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: **The Church's One Foundation**

Apostle's Creed | Prayers of Intercession

Sharing of the Peace | Offering: **Goodness of God**

Offertory Response: **O God Beyond All Praising** | Offertory Prayer

Communion Liturgy with **Great Thanksgiving & Holy, Holy, Holy**

Distribution: **Taste and See** | **Jesus, Friend of Sinners**

Table Blessing | Prayer after Communion | Benediction

Sending Song: **God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand**

Dismissal | Postlude

Worship Assistants

Assisting Minister: Deb Williams | Lector: Dane Williams | Acolyte: Taryn Miller

Communion Assistants: Taryn Miller & Terry Deason

Greeter: Jennifer Mullin | Ushers: Allen Krell & Jim French | AV Tech: John Peugeot

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.

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 Jim & Betty French in Celebration of their Wedding Anniversary and by The Wirtz Family in Celebration of Madelin's Birthday!

By the Numbers: Sunday, August 16

Sunday Attendance:

In Person Worship: 166 | Online Views: 45 | Sunday Learning: 68

General Offerings:

Last Week: \$12,631 | YTD: \$447,550 | 2026 Budget: \$808,449

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



This Week We are Praying for...

All who are in search of safe and affirming faith communities, especially our LGBTQ siblings | All people recovering from natural disasters and aid workers seeking to help | Leaders at home and abroad to seek peace and govern with wisdom and compassion | The mental health of all, especially young people experiencing social pressures, cyberbullying and harassment on social media platforms | Those named by our Prayer Ministry: Niki, Ivan, Austin, Joe, Jeff, Mary, Carol, Peggy, Linsey, Carl, and Kevin.

Prayer Requests

A Prayer Ministry email with joys, concerns, and sorrows is sent weekly on Wednesday. Email 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

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

Yesterday we hosted 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 brought clarity, compassion, and hope to conversations often marked by fear and misinformation. The goal of Jamie's workshop is to help us with becoming a more open, compassionate, and inclusive congregation. Today! Jamie will also be joining us for worship and leading a discussion during the Sunday Learning Hour 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.

St. Mark's Land's End Store

St. Mark's has partnered with Land's End and created an online store for you to purchase quality clothing items with St. Mark's logos! Polo shirts, pull-overs, button down shirts, jackets, and more! Make your clothing selection and then choose which St. Mark's logo (75th anniversary or standard) you'd like to have embroidered on it. Access this online store by going to stmarkshsv.org/store. If you have any questions or need assistance, please reach out to 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

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