



St. Mark's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Celebrating 75 Years

The 15th Sunday after Pentecost

September 6, 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...

Reconciliation in Community

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements | Call to Worship

Gathering Song: **Your Grace is Enough**

Service of Baptism for Elliott Grace Alvis with **You Have Put on Christ**

Prayer of the Day

Children's Message

Ezekiel 33:7-11 | Romans 13:8-14

Gospel Acclamation | Matthew 18:15-20

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: **Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom**

Prayers of Intercession

Sharing of the Peace | Offering: The Deer's Cry *Choir*

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

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

Distribution: **Taste and See** | **O Come to the Altar**

Table Blessing | Prayer after Communion | Benediction

Sending Hymn: **Go, My Children, with My Blessing** *ELW 543*

Dismissal | Postlude

Worship Assistants

Assisting Minister: Julie Starkweather | Lector: Larry Lechner | Acolyte: Ryan Starkweather

Greeter: Rob Caple | Ushers: Rodney & Phyllis Hutchins | AV Tech: Andy Sieja

Additional Communion Assistants: Edith Sieja

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 Andy & Brianna Sieja in Celebration of Edith's 15th Birthday and by Julie, Sesalie, Noah, and Kinsley Satterfeal in Celebration of Craig's Birthday!

An Update on Communion

Friends,

Since the Board of Worship introduced One Body, One Blood; One Bread, One Cup in August, we have shared in communion together using gluten free bread, and a nonalcoholic red grape juice in worship so that all could participate through the same elements reflecting our desire to continually pursue greater welcome and hospitality. We uphold the great importance of Holy Communion in the Lutheran tradition and reaffirm that changes in how we come to the table are never to be taken lightly; they require dignity, respect, and open conversation. Over the last month, we have had meaningful conversations, heard feedback from the congregation, and answered the questions and concerns that were brought forward.

The information we gathered through this process was shared at our meeting on Tuesday, September 1. After mindful discussion, considering both the positive feedback and the concerns we received over changing the elements used in communion, we, as a board representing the needs and desires of our congregation, have chosen to return to using both wine and grape juice in worship as communion elements at this time. We will also be returning to the use of individual cups in trays as we address concerns around the logistics of communing by intinction. The heart of our intention for inclusion and welcome will continue in our work as a board as we continuously look not just at Holy Communion, but at all the ways worship could be more welcoming for all.

Beginning this Sunday, September 6, we will be communing at the rail using gluten free bread and trays offering both cups of red wine and white grape juice. You will be welcomed to come forward and kneel or stand at the rail, receive a piece of bread and take a cup of wine or juice from the tray. After sharing in the elements, you will be dismissed to place your cups in the baskets available at the front of the side aisles and return to your seats.

We are grateful for the open and honest conversations we've been able to have, and look forward to our continued work of leading St. Mark's in striving for worship experiences that reflect our congregation's faithful commitment to the Gospel.

By the Numbers: Sunday, August 30

Sunday Attendance:

In Person Worship: 130 | Online Views: 53 | Sunday Learning: 52

General Offerings:

Last Week: \$7,545 | YTD: \$467,133 | 2026 Budget: \$808,449

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



This Week We are Praying for...

All who struggle with mental health and those who advocate and care for them | All who work in professional fields, vocations, and jobs of any kind, and for fair and equitable labor policies | Those named by our Prayer Ministry: Niki, Andrew, Ivan, Joe, Mary, Carol, Linsey, Carl, Kevin, Ellie, Jeff, Cailey, Suzy, and Frank.

Informational Meeting on Staffing Our Future

Please join us next Sunday, September 13, at 11am for an Informational Meeting on the next steps of St. Mark's staffing transition including an update from the Church Council, the finalized work of the Transition Committee, as well as a chance to ask questions on the formation of a Call Committee. An email was sent with more information, if you didn't receive the email reach out to Shelby or visit the website's News & Events page to read it online.

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!



Council Highlight- Nominating Committee

Consider saying YES. It takes a lot of hands to run St. Mark's...and not just on Sunday mornings. The Nominating Committee is talking to congregation members interested in Board of Administration, Board of Learning, and Board of Witness & Outreach. We have additional committee-based slots available too. Whether you've been at St. Mark's for decades or are newer to our congregation, there's a place for you. Terms start in January 2027. Contact Tori Lande for more information.

Sunday Learning Volunteers Needed

The Board of Learning is looking for Adult Mentors for Confirmation and for Senior Youth as well as Teachers and Door Watchers to help with Godly Play on Sunday morning during the Sunday Learning hour. Godly Play is the curriculum for students, preschool - 5th grade. Teachers will have lesson plans provided and be trained by experienced teachers. Door Watchers function as 2nd in the room, fulfilling safety needs and assisting the primary teacher as they are comfortable. If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to BOL Board Chair Crystal Peden.

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
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