



**St. Mark's**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

***The First Sunday of Advent***

December 1, 2024



***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...*

## *Narrative Lectionary: Daniel's Hope in God*

Prelude: People, Look East arr. Wayne L. Wold

Welcome | Gathering Hymn: **Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn** ELW 242

Confession & Forgiveness | Prayer of the Day

Advent Wreath: **The People Who Walked in Darkness** | Children's Message

Scriptural Introit: **Come Now, O God**

Luke 23:1-5 *Pew Bible p.859* | Daniel 6:6-27 *Pew Bible p.723*

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: **Creator of the Stars of Night** ELW 245

Apostle's Creed | Prayers of Intercession

Sharing of the Peace | Offering: **People Look East** ELW 248

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

Distribution: **Be Known to Us** | **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** ELW 257

Table Blessing | Prayer after Communion | Benediction

Sending Song: **Even So Come**

Dismissal | Postlude

Our Liturgical Music comes from: *All Creation Sings Setting 12*

## *Worship Assistants*

Assisting Minister: Diana Rhodes | Lector: Gwen Dornbos | Acolyte: Trey Lear

Ushers: Margie & Todd Phillips | Tech Volunteer: Rob Caple

Communion Assistants: Trey Lear & Lauren Altman

Coffee Host: Rob Caple

## *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.

## *We Welcome the Joy, Laughter, Sights, and Sounds of Children in Worship!*

There are children's activity bulletins and 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.

## *Advent– Waiting in Hope*

The Church calendar begins with the season of Advent. The weeks leading up to Christmas are a time of preparation, waiting, and hope. As we prepare our hearts and homes to welcome Christ as a child in the manger, we are also meant to prepare for Christ to come again in glory. As we count the days leading up to family gatherings and exchanging gifts, we are meant to be mindful of our days and be present with those around us. As we remember the hope that was announced by angels and shepherds, we hope for the day when all will be made new. Let us enter into the season of advent with joy, and may we prepare our hearts and our hands to work for the building up of the Kin-dom of God.

## *Altar Flowers*

The flower arrangements on our Communion Table today are given by Ed and Pat Lichtner in celebration of their 70th Anniversary and by Marlin and Denise Williamson in celebration of Justin & Abby Jolley's 1st Anniversary!

## *Upcoming Advent & Christmas Worship Services*

Join us Wednesdays December 4, 11, & 18 for Advent Worship at 6:30pm; Sunday, December 15, for the Children's Christmas Program at 10:30am; Saturday, December 21, at 6:30pm for our Blue Christmas Worship Service; Christmas Eve, December 24, at 6:30pm & 11pm; and a Cozy Christmas Pajama Worship on Sunday, December 29, at 10:30am.

## *By the Numbers: Sunday, November 24, 2024*

### Attendance

In Person Worship: 141 | Online Views: 49

Child & Youth Sunday School: 16 | Adult Sunday School: 30

### General Offerings

Last Week: \$29,221.86 | YTD: \$607,392 | 2024 Budget: \$768,340

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



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

Our siblings of every faith as we come into a season of holidays in multiple religious traditions | All who fight against racism, antisemitism, gender bias, and all forms of inequity and discrimination | St. Mark's Roster Care Team who help check on, visit, and care for our members | And those named by our Prayer Ministry, especially Shawn, Ciera, Vicki, Carrie, Aaron, Jeanette, Suzy, Sue, Frank, John, Mija, Elwin, and Kim.

*A Prayer Ministry email filled with joys, concerns, and sorrows is sent weekly on Wednesday; if you would like to receive this email, please contact [prayer@stmarkshsv.org](mailto:prayer@stmarkshsv.org) Prayer cards are available in the pews to share your joys and concerns and can be placed in the offering plate.*

## *Christmas Decorating—Today after Worship!*

Join us after worship to help decorate the Sanctuary Christmas Tree and prepare the Nativity Scene for the coming Christmas Season. Talk to Patrick with any questions you may have.

## *Parents Morning Out*

On Saturday, December 7, from 9 – 11:30 am, is an opportunity to give our parents a morning for Christmas shopping, running errands, or maybe a brunch date! For the kiddos, we'll have games and activities, play time, a Christmas craft, and a yummy snack. Please sign up in Communication Central so we know how many supplies, snacks and people we need.

## *Congregational Meeting—December 8*

Immediately following worship on Sunday, December 8, 2024, we will conduct our regular semi-annual congregational meeting. Discussion will include approval of the 2025 budget proposal, Synod Assembly representatives, and minutes from the May meeting.

## *Mid-Week Advent Worship Services - “And He Shall Be Called”*

Join us Wednesdays December 4, 11, 18 for food and fellowship at 5pm followed by worship at 6:30pm. There is a sign up in Communication Central if you would like to bring soup.

## *Mom Bags*

Join us in making “Mom” Bags for guests at Manna House. Oftentimes, mothers (or mother figures) are neglected at Christmas and this is a special way to honor some of them. Our goal is to have 100 bags by December 13. If you would like to help out, please create a gift of five or six items. Suggestions include: shampoo and conditioner, body wash and lotion, nail polish, activity books or devotionals, jewelry, gloves, socks – be creative. The gift can then be packaged in a purse or handbag, a gift bag, or even a reuseable tote.

## *Christmas Caroling— December 22 at 2pm*

Come one! Come all! We are going Christmas caroling at Magnolia Trace. Wear your favorite Christmas ensemble – we'll provide extra Santa hats and jingle bells! And for all those interested, let's meet at Pappo's Pizzeria for lunch after worship before going to Magnolia Trace. Please sign up in Communication Central.

## *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)

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