



St. Mark's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Second Sunday of Advent

December 8, 2024



*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...

Narrative Lectionary: Spirit of the Lord Upon Me

Prelude

Welcome | Gathering Song: **The King of Glory**

Confession & Forgiveness | Prayer of the Day

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

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

Luke 4:16-21 *Pew Bible p.835* | Isaiah 61:1-11 *Pew Bible p.603*

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: **Prepare the Royal Highway** ELW 264

Apostle's Creed | Prayers of Intercession

Sharing of the Peace | Offering: **Ding Dong Merrily on High**; Handbells

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

Distribution: **Be Known to Us** | **Come Now, O Prince of Peace** ELW 247

Table Blessing | Prayer after Communion | Benediction

Sending Hymn: **Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers** ELW 244

Dismissal | Postlude: **The King of Glory** arr. Aaron David Miller

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

Worship Assistants

Assisting Minister: Kathy Sieja | Lector: Julie Foreman | Acolyte: Zach Gastler

Ushers: Don Sieja & Karen Cunningham | Tech Volunteer: Rodney Hutchins

Communion Assistants: Zach Gastler, Julia Sharpe, Abigail Still, Madelyn Vandevveire

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.

Interfaith Panel– Sunday, December 15

As Christians, we often associate the Holiday Season with Advent and Christmas; that's fairly true in the wider culture as well, as stores have been selling Christmas trees and ornaments since before Halloween. But did you know that, between Thanksgiving and Christmas, there are dozens of holidays celebrated by religions and cultures around the world? Next Sunday, December 15, Pastor Will joins an interfaith panel gathering at the Hindu Cultural Centre of North Alabama (14800 Vishnu Way, Harvest, AL 35749) at 2pm for a conversation about religious harmony. As we celebrate the holiday season, we invite you to come to this event and learn more about how our siblings of other faith backgrounds celebrate this time of year.

Altar Flowers

The flower arrangements on our Communion Table today are given by Judy Stevens in loving memory of Butch Stevens.

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, December 1, 2024

Attendance

In Person Worship: 105 | Online Views: 58

Child & Youth Sunday School: 7 | Adult Sunday School: 24

General Offerings

Last Week: \$17,108.25 | YTD: \$624,501 | 2024 Budget: \$768,340

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



This Week We are Praying for...

Adequate heat and shelter for all as the temperatures drop during the winter | Retail, food service, and hospitality workers as they continue to serve through the hectic holiday season | The St. Mark's Handbell Ensemble as they ring in the Joy of the Holidays | 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 Prayer cards are available in the pews to share your joys and concerns and can be placed in the offering plate.

Congregational Meeting—Today!

Immediately following worship, we will conduct our semi-annual congregational meeting.

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

Join us Wednesdays for food and fellowship at 5pm followed by worship at 6:30pm.

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.

Poinsettias

Sponsor and dedicate a poinsettia for Christmas Eve! Each plant is \$10; please sponsor your plant by Monday, December 16. There are flower envelopes in Communication Central, but you can also sponsor a plant on the St. Mark's giving page, using the offering QR code.

Blue Christmas– A Longest Night Evening Worship Service

While Advent is a season of hope and Christmas is a season of joy, not everyone feels hopeful or like celebrating. Blue Christmas provides a time and place of solace as we come together for worship seeking healing and room to share grief, sadness, loneliness, or confusion when these emotions often feel out of place during the holidays. Join us on Saturday, December 21 at 6:30pm as we come on the longest night of the year with our honest yearnings seeking the return of light and hope.

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

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