



St. Mark's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Third Sunday of Advent

December 15, 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...

Welcome | Call to Worship | Gathering Song: The King of Glory

Greeting | Prayer of the Day | Lighting of Advent Wreath

Isaiah 52:7-10 | Scriptural Introit | Hebrews 1:1-4

Children's Play: Look Around the Manger

Children's Song: The Friendly Beasts | Children's Message

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

Prayers of Intercession

Sharing of the Peace | Offering

Thanksgiving for the Word Prayer | The Lord's Prayer

Benediction | **The Twelve Days of Christmas** | Dismissal

Who's Who in the Cast & Crew

Narrators: Oliver Sieja, Andrew Caple, Zeah Gastler, Martin Taylor

Donkey: Teddy Wirtz

Sheep: Oliver Wright & Michael Taylor

Wolf: John Michael Brown

Doves: Zander Gastler & Evelyn Taylor

Mary: Ryan Starkweather

Joseph: Mason White

Innkeeper: Annika Williams

Shepherd: Payton Sieja

Angels: Alice Ratcliff, Elizabeth Smith, Sylvia Smith

Star: Edie Williams

Wise Guys: Zach Gastler, Dax Gradl, Tess Gradl

Baby Jesus: Everett Hyder

Prop Masters: Edith Sieja & Ben Sieja

Worship Readers: Zach Gastler, Payton Sieja, Edith Sieja, Ryan Starkweather, John Michael Brown, Katie Roome, Annika Williams, Tess Gradl, Zander Gastler, Dax Gradl, Zeah Gastler, Martin Taylor, Elizabeth Smith, Daniel White, Ben Sieja, & Evelyn Taylor

Worship Assistants

Acolyte: Katie Roome | Ushers: Mike & Michelle Price

Tech Volunteer: Todd Phillips | Coffee Host: Karen Cunningham

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 joyfully created by our children and given by Doug & Joan Bloomberg in celebration of their 9th Anniversary!

By the Numbers: Sunday, December 8, 2024

Attendance

In Person Worship: 161 | Online Views: 56

Child & Youth Sunday School: 34 | Adult Sunday School: 32

General Offerings

Last Week: \$13,890.75 | YTD: \$638,366 | 2024 Budget: \$768,340

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



Ready to Get Online?

Wi-Fi is available using the SMLC Guest network with password: GrowingTogether

This Week We are Praying for...

The children of St. Mark's who share the good news of God's love with us through their words and actions | Those struggling to afford or access healthcare | Those affected by earthquakes in California and Nevada | Peace among nations of the world especially in Syria amidst conflict, transition, and uncertainty | Those named by our Prayer Ministry, especially Shawn, Ciera, Vicki, Carrie, Aaron, Jeanette, Suzy, Sue, Frank, Anabelle, John, Mija, Ed, Elwin, and Kim. A Prayer Ministry email filled with joys, concerns, and sorrows is sent on Wednesdays; 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.

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 together 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.

Christmas Eve Worship

Join us this year at one of our Christmas Eve services, 6:30pm and 11pm. Both services will include Holy Communion and a candle-lit rendition of "Silent Night". At 6:30pm, we will celebrate with a full festival service while worship at 11pm will be less formal and more intimate. Let's create new memories, honor traditions, and embrace the joy of the season.

Cozy Christmas

On Sunday, December 29, we will be having a "cozy" Christmas worship service. Wear your pajamas or favorite Christmas apparel and come sing some familiar but not often sung in church carols while celebrating the Christmas message and sipping yummy hot chocolate!

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, Free Spirits, and more!

St. Mark's Staff

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