



St. Mark's

LUTHERAN CHURCH

The First Sunday of Christmas

December 29, 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...

Prelude: Sing We Now of Christmas arr. Douglas E. Wagner

Welcome | **First Hymn Medley** beginning with ELW 268

Confession & Forgiveness | **Hymn of Praise** ELW 275 vv2-4 | Prayer of the Day

Children's Message

Scriptural Introit: **Sing We Now of Jesus**

Luke 2:8-40

Homily

Second Hymn Medley beginning with ELW 279

Prayers of Intercession

Sharing of the Peace | Offering: Let it Snow/Winter Wonderland; Oliver Sieja

Communion Liturgy with **Holy, Holy, Holy** ELW p.152

Distribution: **Where Shepherds Lately Knelt**

Table Blessing | Prayer after Communion | Benediction

Third Hymn Medley beginning with ELW 296

Dismissal | Postlude: Joy to the World arr. Don Hustad

Worship Assistants

Assisting Ministers: Phyllis Hutchins & Susan Wright | Acolyte: Edith Sieja

Lectors: Bob Boller, Karen Petersen, Kathy Sieja & Ryan Starkweather

Ushers: Andy Sieja & Steve Williams | Tech Volunteer: Andrew Caple

Coffee & Cocoa Host: Dennis Fakes

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.

Don't Put the Tree Away Yet!

While many businesses begin putting away the Christmas merchandise as soon as Santa's sleigh touches down in the North Pole (or sooner!), the truth is that the 12 Days of Christmas only begin on Christmas Day. Throughout the Christmas season, also known as Christmastide, we are invited to dwell on the miracle that God took on flesh and lived a human life with us in Jesus of Nazareth. The stories we will hear this week and next tell us about the infancy of Jesus and remind us that God chose to come to earth not in power and majesty, but in the vulnerability and humility of a child. So before we move on too quickly from Christmas, come, let us adore him!

Church Office Closed

The church office will be closed Tuesday, December 24 until Monday, January 6, 2025.

Altar Flowers

The flower arrangements on our Communion Table today are given by Peg Skrenes in remembrance of her and Norm's Wedding Anniversary.

Ready to Get Online?

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

By the Numbers: Sunday, December 22, 2024

Attendance

In Person Worship: 110 | Online Views: 51

Child & Youth Sunday School: 17 | Adult Sunday School: 7

General Offerings

Last Week: \$7,866.40 | YTD: \$674,726 | 2024 Budget: \$768,340

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



This Week We are Praying for...

Peace between nations and peace between people—especially for those victims of hate crimes and gun violence | Health, safety, and hopeful optimism for all as we celebrate the transition of one year into the next- “Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.” | St. Mark's Worship Assistants who help lead inspiring and meaningful worship services week in and week out | And those named by our Prayer Ministry, especially Ciera, Vicki, Carrie, Aaron, Jeanette, Suzy, Frank, Anabelle, John, Myra, Mija, Ed, 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.

Bible in a Year

Pastor Will is beginning a Bible in a Year reading plan on January 1, and you're invited to join! A calendar of readings is available to guide you through a few chapters a day. Every day, prompts will be posted to Pastor Will's Facebook to help you stay on track. Tuesdays at 10am, beginning January 7, he'll be leading a conversation in the Fellowship Hall about the readings from the past week. Come join the conversation and learn about how the story of our faith intersects with your story!

Children & Chit Chat

Families of preschoolers (infant-age 5) are invited to join us the second Saturday of every month for a play date. This month, we will go to EarlyWorks Children's Museum on Saturday, January 11 at 9am. Admission for toddlers is \$7 and \$12 for youth & adults. Please contact Madeline Wirtz with any questions.

Free Spirits—Thursday, January 16, 11am

This fun group of Seniors gets together every other month in the Fellowship Hall for a home made lunch and an interesting program. This month's program will be given by Jase Bakker, a member of the local police force (and St. Mark's!) on police jurisdiction and response designation in our area. Please sign up in Communication Central!

Thursday Reading Group

An eight-week series, beginning on January 9, our Thursday reading group meets via Zoom, at 6:30pm. (Look for the Zoom link in Monday emails). Our book selection: *The Wolf at Twilight: An Indian Elder's Journey through a Land of Ghosts and Shadows* by Kent Nerburn.

Lucy and Ethel's Chocolate Factory— WELCA Gathering

The first WELCA meeting of the new year will be Saturday, January 25 from 2 - 4pm in the Fellowship Hall. Participants will make chocolate truffles in assembly-line fashion, which can be taken home to share with others. There will also be a chocolate fountain and goodies for dipping during the business meeting in addition to a game of "Lucy and Ethel Bingo" while the chocolates set. Look for sign ups in the Narthex; no tickets will be sold, but a free will offering of \$10 would be appreciated.

St. Mark's Staff

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