



St. Mark's

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Baptism of Our Lord

January 12, 2025



*Growing together in faith to abundantly
nourish our community*

200 Longwood Drive SE

Huntsville, AL 35801

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In Worship Today...

Narrative Lectionary: Jesus' Baptism

Prelude: från Dalarna - Oskar Lindberg

Welcome | Thanksgiving for Baptism | Gathering Song: **Here I Am to Worship**

Prayer of the Day

Children's Message

Psalm 51:6-17 *Pew Bible p.452*

Gospel Acclamation: **Alleluia** ELW p.171 | Luke 3:1-22 *Pew Bible p.834*

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: **Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized** ELW 304

Prayers of Intercession | Baptism

Sharing of the Peace | Offering: **God of Wonders**

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

Distribution: **All Who Are Thirsty | Here All Will Be Fed**

Table Blessing | Prayer after Communion | Benediction

Sending Hymn: **Songs of Thankfulness and Praise** ELW 310

Dismissal | Postlude: **Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning** arr. Wayne L. Wold

Worship Assistants

Assisting Minister: Raziq Yaqub | Lector: Nancy Lorine | Acolyte: Zach Gastler

Ushers: Butch Lloyd & Larry Partesotti | Tech Volunteer: Grace Billman

Communion Assistants: Zach Gastler, Andrew Caple, Josh Cutter, Louise Boller

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.

Baptism

Today we celebrate the baptism of Elizabeth Nicole Carter and Jacob Allen Carter. In Holy Baptism, God makes promises to us, and we make promises to God. God's promise to us is an irrevocable "yes"; God claims us and calls us "Beloved," and there is nothing that can take away God's love for us. Secure in God's "yes," we make promises as well: to gather with the community of believers, to learn God's word and participate in the sacraments, to share the Good News of God's love, to follow Jesus' example in serving others, and to work for justice and peace in the world. While Lutherans often baptize infants (a reminder that there is nothing we have to do to earn God's "yes"), there is no wrong time to come to the waters and be washed in God's love. As we celebrate today with Lizzie and Jake, may we all remember our own baptism, and affirm our commitment to following in the ways of Jesus.

Altar Flowers

The flower arrangements on our Communion Table today are given by The White family in celebration of Haiden's Birthday and by Mike & Michelle Price in celebration of Mike's Birthday.

By the Numbers: Sunday, December 29, 2024

Attendance

In Person Worship: 102 | Online Views: 63

No Sunday School Last Week

General Offerings Last Week

Through 12/31: \$13,924.08 | End of Year: \$710,429 | 2024 Budget: \$768,340

Beginning 1/1: \$6,665.00 | YTD: \$6,665.00 | 2025 Budget: \$787,899

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



This Week We are Praying for...

Daily affirmation of our baptismal calling: to live among God's faithful people; to hear the word of God and share in the holy supper; to share the good news of God in Christ through word and deed; to serve all people, following the example of Jesus; and to strive for justice and peace in all the world | The St. Mark's Kitchen Angels who prepare delicious meals for the Free Spirits luncheons | Evacuees and all threatened by the Pacific Palisades fire in California | And those named by our Prayer Ministry, especially Joan, Patti, Ciera, Polly, Vicki, Carrie, Jeanette, Suzy, Frank, Anabelle, Mija, Ed, Kim, and Kay

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!

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.

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!

Ready to Get Online?

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

St. Mark's Staff

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