



St. Mark's
LUTHERAN CHURCH

The 1st Sunday in Lent

March 9, 2025



***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...

Blessed By Mercy: The Good Samaritan

Prelude: The Glory of These Forty Days arr. Timothy Albrecht

Welcome | Gathering Hymn: **Jesus Calls Us, O'er the Tumult** ELW 696

Confession and Forgiveness | **Joyous Light of Glory** ELW 230 | Prayer of the Day

Children's Message

Psalm 15 *Pew Bible p.430*

Gospel Acclamation: **Lenten** ELW p.189 | Luke 10:25-37 *Pew Bible p.844*

Sermon

Hymn of the Day: **Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart** ELW 800

Apostle's Creed | Prayers of Intercession

Sharing of the Peace | Offering: **Jesus, Friend of Sinners**

Communion Liturgy with **Holy, Holy, Holy** ELW p. 207

Distribution: **Clean | Cornerstone**

Table Blessing | Prayer after Communion | Benediction

Sending Song: **Stand in Your Love**

Dismissal | Postlude: Savior, When in Dust to You arr. Gerald Near

Worship Assistants

Assisting Minister: Phyllis Hutchins | Lector: Gisela Rieger | Acolyte: Edith Sieja

Ushers: Terry Szymczyk & Norwood Cutter | Tech Volunteer: Andy Sieja

Communion Assistants: Edith Sieja, Zach Gastler, Julia Sharpe

Coffee Host: Karen Cunningham

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.

Broken & Blessed

This year, we're going to approach Lent through the lens of Broken and Blessed. On Wednesdays we'll gather in the Fellowship Hall to worship around the table together, and we'll have the opportunity to reflect on some of the things that cause brokenness in our world; not just sin, but grief, despair, fear, resentment, and failure. On Sundays, we'll be reminded that the God who sees our brokenness also calls us blessed, and restores us to life through gifts of mercy, empathy, joy, hospitality, generosity, & praise. We'll journey together through this season of penitence and preparation, in all our blessed brokenness, until we reach the foot of the cross, where we are invited to lay our burdens down and be held by the wounded hands of Christ.

Be a Part of Church Council!

St. Mark's Nominating Committee is looking volunteers interested in any of the upcoming open council positions: Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Board of Learning Chair, Board of Witness & Outreach Chair, & Board of Worship Chair. If any of these positions interest you or you would like more information, please reach out to any of the members of the Nominating Committee: Kathy Corpus, Josh Cutter, Mark Jerrell, David Provancha, Hannah Vandeveire, or Deb Williams.

By the Numbers: March 2, 2025

Attendance

In Person Worship: 146 | Online Views: 46

Child & Youth Sunday School: 24 | Adult Sunday School: 30

General Offerings Last Week

Last Week: \$15,232.25 | YTD: \$115,080 | 2025 Budget: \$787,899

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...

Areas of the world impacted by ongoing war, conflict, and violence, especially Ukraine, Palestine, Myanmar, and South Sudan | Refugees, migrants, and detained peoples around the world | Our SMLC AV Team as they use their gifts to work behind the scenes running the sights and sounds of our worship services | And those named by our Prayer Ministry, especially Dorothy, Ciera, Carrie, Suzy, Frank, Mija, Kim, and Toni.

A Prayer Ministry email filled with joys, concerns, and sorrows 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.

Worship Assistants

Each Sunday's worship service includes approximately 30 volunteers before, during, and after the service! There's a place for everyone to serve and an opportunity for any talent or skill set – from lector, to greeter, to choir, to altar guild and so many things in between! Check out the bulletin board in Communication Central for more details and to sign up.

Lenten Dinner & Worship

We invite you to join us for a new Lenten mid-week experience! On Wednesdays, March 12 - April 9, we will gather around the table to share a meal and worship together in the Fellowship Hall. Dinner will be at 6pm and flow into worship at 6:30. If you would like to help with dinner, a sign-up is available in Communication Central.

Thursday Reading Group—It's not too late to join!

Our Thursday reading group meets, via Zoom, at 6:30pm. (Look for the Zoom link in Monday emails) New book selection: *The Girl Who Sang to the Buffalo: A Child, An Elder, and the Light from an Ancient Sky* by Kent Nerburn.

Church Work Day

Time to do some sprucing up! Hosted by the Board of Property, join us for a church work day on Saturday, March 29 from 9am - 1pm. Anyone with a pressure washer, rake, shovel, pruning shears, or wheelbarrow, your help would be greatly appreciated! Lunch will be provided. In case of rain or other inclement weather, we'll reschedule for Saturday, April 12. If you plan on coming, please sign up in Communication Central.

Community Free Lunch

No foolin' - St. Mark's is providing a free lunch to the community on Tuesday, April 1 from 11am – 1pm...just because! Stop by for a hot dog, sides, and a drink. Sit and eat in the sunshine or if you're in a hurry, get it to go. All for free - while supplies last.

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

Rev. Will Starkweather, Pastor | pastorwill@stmarkshsv.org

Traci Billman, Director of Christian Education | traci@stmarkshsv.org

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