

Saint Mark's Lutheran Church



Sixteenth Sunday after
Pentecost

September 13, 2026

Saint Mark's Lutheran Church

We welcome all to worship here: those who are strong in faith and those who are seeking, those who are hurting, and those who give comfort; all who are drawn to worship and faith. We represent a variety of backgrounds, political positions, races and ethnicities. We recognize that we are not of one mind or persuasion on many significant issues, and yet we gather in Christ to worship God together.

Children are welcome in this worship service, and encouraged to participate in any way they are able to. Teach the children sitting around you how to use their hymnals, bulletins, and to sing and speak loudly! We value the noise made by children!

If you have questions or need assistance, please ask. If you have concerns, please let us know. We are glad that you are here with us today.

Visitors, we are especially glad to see you. Please come again!!

*God's Blessing,
Saint Mark's Lutheran Church*

— The **BOLD** is read by the Congregation—

The Small Church with a **Big** Heart

ORDER OF WORSHIP
THE GATHERING

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please stand as you are able.

In the name of the Father,

and of the ✙ Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our
hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may
perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

A moment of silence for reflection

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you
and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry
and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins,
known and unknown, things we have done and things we have
failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your
Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in
sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have
been saved. In the name of ✙ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy
Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG

ELW 835

All Creatures, Worship God Most High!



- 1 All crea-tures, wor-ship God most high! Sound ev-'ry voice in earth and
2 Sing, broth-er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and
3 Sing, broth-er fire, so mirth-ful, strong; drive far the shad-ows, join the
4 All who for love of God for-give, all who in pain or sor-row



- sky: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Sing, broth-er sun, in splen-dor
grain: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Dear sis-ter wa-ter, use-ful,
throng: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Dear moth-er earth, so rich in
grieve: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia! Christ bears your bur-dens and your



- bright; sing, sis-ter moon and stars of night:
clear, make mu-sic for your Lord to hear: Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-
care, praise God in col-ors bright and rare:
fears; still make your song a-mid the tears:



- lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

- 5 And you, most gentle sister death,
waiting to hush our final breath:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Since Christ our light has pierced your gloom,
fair is the night that leads us home.
Alleluia.

- 6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,
and worship God with humble heart:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One:
Alleluia.

Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182–1226; tr. composite
Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623
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GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING:

Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM:

Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13

⁸ LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love;
⁹ **you will not always accuse us,
nor will you keep your anger forever.**
¹⁰ You have not dealt with us according to our sins,
nor repaid us according to our iniquities.
¹¹ **For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for those who fear you.**
¹² As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you removed our transgressions from us.
¹³ **As a father has compassion for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear you,
O LORD.**

SECOND READING:

Romans 14:1-12

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW 174

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

Celtic Alleluia



GOSPEL:

Matthew 18:21-35

The holy gospel according to...

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹ Peter came and said to [Jesus,] “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³ “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’

³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

CHILRENS SERMON

SERMON

Pastor Lloyd Menke

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 790

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

Where Charity and Love Prevail



1 Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
2 With grate-ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;
3 Let us re - call that in our midst dwells Christ, God's ho - ly Son;
4 Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease.
5 Let us for - give each oth - er's faults as we our own con - fess,



brought here to - geth - er by Christ's love, by love we thus are bound.
let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.
as mem - bers of each bod - y joined, in him we are made one.
Be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be his our on - ly peace.
that we may love each oth - er well in Chris - tian gen - tle - ness.

Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.
Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842
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APOSTLES' CREED

Gathered together, let us confess our faith...

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition ends with: ...Hear us, O God.

The congregation responds: **Your mercy is great.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

Please be seated.

OFFERING

You can send your offering through the mail to :

Saint Mark's Lutheran Church

PO Box 206

Randolph MN 55065

**or download the *Vanco Mobile* app on your mobile phone
or go to our *website* and click on the give button on the top.**

OFFERING PRAYER

Please stand as you are able.

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven,

**hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**



BLESSING OF THE QUILTS

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

ELW 543

Go, My Children, with My Blessing



1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.
Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional
Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Thank You!

It is a pleasure to have you worship with us today. We sincerely pray that the service was inspiring, and comforting. If you find occasion to worship with us again, please know that we appreciate your presence. If you are looking for a home church, please let the pastor know by phone, email, or text. Wherever you go, may God be at your side and bring you peace and joy.



Prayer Requests

Levi Stein (deployment to Kosovo), Don Otto,
Kate Moorhouse (Marie Otte's niece), Carolyn Horsch,
Tami Little (Karen Slininger's friend), Marc Slininger, Don Otte,
Mary Ohmann, Sarah & Jim Otto,
Tim Post (Stephanie Kruegers brother),
Cami Zeien (friend of Besters & Ottes),
Cyndi Christopher (Jill Ballards sister),
Jerry & Elaine Orvold (Lisa Molitor's parents).

When requested, we will be keeping loved ones on the prayer request list for a month. If you would like them to stay on longer please let Dixie know.

Please keep all our seniors in your prayers, especially:

Robert & Margaret Hayes, Carolyn Horsch, Clarice Krenik,
Leatrice Taylor, and Carolyn Weidner.

Pray for those who have lost loved ones recently.

Events this Week:

Church School Sign-up - Today 11:00 - 11:45 am
Bible Study Tuesday 9:30 am
Quilting - Tuesday 10:30am
Food Shelf - Tuesday 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm
Council Meeting - Tuesday 7:00 pm
Worship Service - Sunday 10:00 am

Announcements

Congregational Voting September 20th

There will be a Congregational vote on September 20th after the worship service. This vote is to decide if we plan to stay with our current Synod, the ELCA St Paul Synod. A 2/3 majority vote is needed to leave the Synod. You must be present to vote.

Installation Service for Bishop Grimm

If you would like to attend the Installation Service for Bishop-Elect Justin Grimm on September 13th at 3:30 at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Apple Valley, please go to this website and sign-up.

<https://spas-elca.org/event/bishop-installation-service/>

Church School Registration

In person registration at church Sunday September 13th 11-11:45

On Line Registration - <https://forms.gle/PTnRPKs9jGyLnsyt5>

We also have a live Sign Up Genius link where we will share dates when we need some volunteers.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F094EAAAA2EAAF85-65032126-stmarks>

Church School Class starts Sunday September 20th 9-9:45 am

2026 Feast & Festival Income - \$50,508

A big thank you to the Feast & Festival Committee and volunteers for another successful year!

Welcome to our New Office Assistant

Shelby Kuhn will be the new office assistant for St. Mark's Church. Dixie will be training her in for the next few weeks.

Community Events

Community Food Shelf

Here at Saint Mark's Lutheran, we try our best to serve our neighbors. One of the many ways we help is by providing food to our local communities. Saint Mark's Lutheran would like to thank you for your generosity in supporting our food shelf.

If you know anyone that could benefit from receiving some extra food please let them know we're here to help.

1st Tuesday 8:00 am to 9:30 am

2nd, 3rd & 4th Tuesdays 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm

All cash donations are used to buy healthy perishable food.

College Student Food Shelf Invite

The Food Shelf is inviting any College Student to come and get some supplies from the food shelf.

We want to help with your expenses during these years.

Please come when the Food Shelf is open or

at 9 am before Church on Sunday or

contact Beth Bester at randolphmnfoodshelf@gmail.com

Saint Mark's Lutheran Contact & Staff

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Treasurer	Christine Otte
Financial Secretary	Dixie Schaffer
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Saint Mark's Lutheran Church

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