

# Saint Mark's Lutheran Church



**Third Sunday after Epiphany**  
**January 25, 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 314**

**Arise, Your Light Has Come!**



1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;  
2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;  
3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,  
4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!



show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.  
pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.  
bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.  
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893

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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.

Lord God, your lovingkindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## WORD

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

### FIRST READING:

**Isaiah 9:1-4**

- <sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.
- <sup>3</sup> You have multiplied exultation;  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.
- <sup>4</sup> For the yoke of their burden  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**



### PSALM:

**Psalm 27:1, 4-9**

*The psalm will be read responsively by the congregation*

- <sup>1</sup> The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom then shall I fear?  
The LORD is the stronghold of my life;  
of whom shall I be afraid?
- <sup>4</sup> **One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek;  
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD  
all the days of my life;  
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD  
and to seek God in the temple.**
- <sup>5</sup> For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter,  
hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary,  
and raise me high up on a rock.
- <sup>6</sup> **Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who  
surround me.  
Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary,  
sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and  
make music to the LORD.**
- <sup>7</sup> Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call;  
have mercy on me and answer me.
- <sup>8</sup> **My heart speaks your message— “Seek my face.”  
Your face, O LORD, I will seek.**
- <sup>9</sup> Hide not your face from me,  
turn not away from your servant in anger.  
Cast me not away—you have been my helper;  
forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

**SECOND READING:****1 Corinthians 1:10-18**

<sup>10</sup> Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you but that you be knit together in the same mind and the same purpose. <sup>11</sup> For it has been made clear to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. <sup>12</sup> What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." <sup>13</sup> Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

<sup>14</sup> I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, <sup>15</sup> so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. <sup>16</sup> I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else. <sup>17</sup> For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel—and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

<sup>18</sup> For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION****ELW 142**

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*

**GOSPEL:****Matthew 4:12-23**

The holy gospel according to...

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>12</sup> Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. <sup>13</sup> He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, <sup>14</sup> so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

<sup>15</sup> "Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,  
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—

<sup>16</sup> the people who sat in darkness  
have seen a great light,  
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death  
light has dawned."

<sup>17</sup> From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

<sup>18</sup> As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. <sup>19</sup> And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people." <sup>20</sup> Immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>21</sup> As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. <sup>22</sup> Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

<sup>23</sup> Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

**CHILDRENS SERMON**  
**SERMON**

Pastor Lue Moua

## HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 574

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

### Here I Am, Lord



1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.  
2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.  
3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.  
I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.  
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.  
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.  
Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"  
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"  
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

Text: Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946

Music: HERE I AM, LORD, Daniel L. Schutte

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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: ...Merciful God,  
The congregation responds: **Receive our prayer.**

*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

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 677

### This Little Light of Mine

1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;

this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,

let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: THIS JOY, African American spiritual

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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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

Cami Zeien (friend of Besters & Otte's) Dan Harris, Marc Slininger, Cyndi Christopher (Jill Ballards sister), Candace Volkert, Keith Bester, Joe Ries, Jr. (Chicky Otte's brother), Dennis Kuhn, Carolyn Chester, Austin Burlage, Tim Mulvihill, Bob Neil, Don Otte, Sandra Nicolai, Sarah and Jim Otto, Mary Ohmann, Kou Thao (Nou Moua's Dad), Jerry & Elaine Orvold (Lisa Molitor's parents), Nicole Anderson, and her family.

*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, Sharon Kappedahl, Clarice Krenik, Leatrice Taylor, and Wayne Weidner.

## Pray for those who have lost loved ones recently.

## Events this Week:

Bible Study - Tuesday 9:30 am

Quilting - Tuesday 10:30 am

Food Shelf - Tuesday 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm

Confirmation - Wednesday 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Adult Bible Study - Wednesday 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Church School - Sunday 9:00 am

Worship - Sundays 10:00 am

## Announcements

### Adult Bible Study Starting January 14, 2026

Join us Wednesday nights 6:30-7:30 for 4 weeks starting January 14th to learn the power of simple prayer. Do you struggle to find the right words to pray? Do you feel you are not qualified to pray? Do you simply not have the time to pray? Max Lucado provides a thoughtful and scriptural perspective on prayer in his study guide "Before Amen Bible Study Guide: The Power of a Simple Prayer." You do not need to purchase the study guide to attend but it does provide day to day devotions that dig deeper into the topic.

### You are invited to a Birthday Party

The family of Alma Johnston invites you to come

Celebrate with Alma for her 80th Birthday

Saturday, January 31st

From 12:30-3:00 pm

at St. Mark's Lutheran Church

No gifts, cards only please.

## **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 6:00 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 (651) 246-9301

## **Saint Mark's Lutheran Contact & Staff**

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## **Saint Mark's Lutheran Church**

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