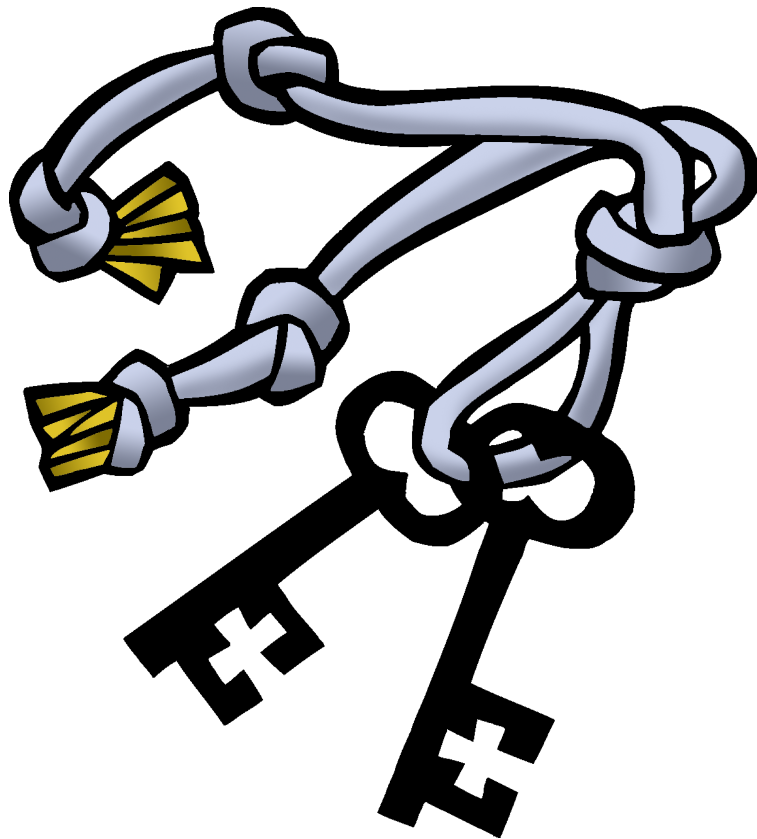


Saint Mark's Lutheran Church



Thirteenth Sunday after
Pentecost

August 23, 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 654

The Church's One Foundation



1 The church's one foun-da-tion is Je-sus Christ, her Lord;
2 E-lect from ev-'ry na-tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
3 Though with a scorn-ful won-der this world sees her op-pressed,
4 Through toil and trib-u-la-tion and tu-mult of her war,
5 Yet she on earth has u-nion with God, the Three in One,



she is his new cre-a-tion by wa-ter and the word.
her char-ter of sal-va-tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:
by schisms . rent a-sund-er, by her-e-sies dis-tressed,
she waits the con-sum-ma-tion of peace for-ev-er-more;
and mys-tic sweet com-mu-nion with those whose rest is won.



From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho-ly bride;
one ho-ly name she bless-es, par-takes one ho-ly food,
yet saints their watch are keep-ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
till with the vi-sion glo-rious her long-ing eyes are blest,
Oh, bless-ed heav'n-ly cho-rus! Lord, save us by your grace,



with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
and to one hope she press-es with ev-'ry grace en-dued.
and soon the night of weep-ing shall be the morn of song.
and the great church vic-to-rious shall be the church at rest.
that we, like saints be-fore us, may see you face to face.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839–1900
Music: AURELIA, Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–1876

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 God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

WORD

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

FIRST READING:

Isaiah 51:1-6

¹ Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
you who seek the LORD.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

² Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah, who bore you,
for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.

³ For the LORD will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the LORD;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴ Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation,
for a teaching will go out from me
and my justice for a light to the peoples.

⁵ I will bring near my deliverance swiftly;
my salvation has gone out,
and my arms will rule the peoples;
the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.

⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens
and look at the earth beneath,
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats,
but my salvation will be forever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM:

Psalm 138

¹ I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart;
before the gods I will sing your praise.

² **I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your
name, because of your steadfast love and faithfulness;
for you have glorified your name and your word above all
things.**

³ When I called, you answered me;
you increased my strength within me.

⁴ **All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O LORD,
when they have heard the words of your mouth.**

⁵ They will sing of the ways of the LORD,
that great is the glory of the LORD.

⁶ **The LORD is high, yet cares for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty from afar.**

⁷ Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;
your right hand shall save me.

⁸ **You will make good your purpose for me;
O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever;
do not abandon the works of your hands.**

SECOND READING:**Romans 12:1-8**

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

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 16:13-20**

The holy gospel according to...

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”

¹⁴ And they said, “Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸

And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

CHILRENS SERMON**SERMON**

Pastor Lloyd Menke

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 820

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

O Savior, Precious Savior



1 O Sav - ior, pre - cious Sav - ior, whom yet un - seen we love;
2 O bring - er of sal - va - tion, who won - drous - ly hast wrought,
3 In thee all full - ness dwell - eth, all grace and pow'r di - vine;
4 Oh, grant the con - sum - ma - tion of this our song a - bove,



O name of might and fa - vor, all oth - er names a - bove:
thy - self the rev - e - la - tion of love be - yond our thought:
the glo - ry that ex - cel - leth, O Son of God, is thine.
in end - less ad - o - ra - tion and ev - er - last - ing love;



we wor - ship thee; we bless thee; to thee a - lone we sing;
we wor - ship thee; we bless thee; to thee a - lone we sing;
We wor - ship thee; we bless thee; to thee a - lone we sing;
then shall we praise and bless thee where per - fect prais - es ring,



we praise thee and con - fess thee, our ho - ly Lord and King.
we praise thee and con - fess thee, our gra - cious Lord and King.
we praise thee and con - fess thee, our glo - rious Lord and King.
and ev - er - more con - fess thee, our Sav - ior and our King!

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879
Music: ANGEL'S STORY, Arthur H. Mann, 1850–1929

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.**

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

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 596

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less



- 1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and righ-teous-ness;
- 2 Whendark-ness veils his love-ly face, I rest on his un - chang-ing grace;
- 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus - tain me in the rag - ing flood;
- 4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,



no mer-it of my own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
in ev-'ry high and storm - y gale my an - chor holds with-in the veil.
when all sup-ports are washed a-way, he then is all my hope and stay.
clothed in his righ-teous-ness a-lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

Refrain



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is



sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt.

Music: THE SOLID ROCK, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

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

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, Sharon Kappedahl,
Clarice Krenik, Leatrice Taylor, and Carolyn Weidner.

Pray for those who have lost loved ones recently.

Events this Week:

Bible Study - Tuesday 9:30 am - 11:00 am
Quilting - Tuesday 10:30am
Newsletter Deadline - Tuesday 11:30 am
Food Shelf - Tuesday 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm
Worship Service - 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 will start September 20th

Registration information for our 2026-2027 Church School year.

Our new Interim Pastor, Lloyd Menke, will be leading confirmation this fall (Grades 7-10). If you have any questions about that, I'd be happy to help mediate while things are sorted out.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to check in with Christine or Shelby.

The registration Link on Google Forms

<https://forms.gle/PTnRPKs9jGyLnsyt5>

Sign Up Genius for Volunteers when needed

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F094EAAA2EAAF85-65032126-stmarks>

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

Fun Fest at St. Mathias Church in Hampton

Please join our friends and neighbors for a day of fun!

Today, Sunday, August 23, 2026

Mass is at 10:00 am

Fun Fest begins at 11:00 am

Live Auction starts at 1:45 pm

Saint Mark's Lutheran Contact & Staff

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Saint Mark's Lutheran Church

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WELCA Facebook: St. Mark's Randolph MN WELCA