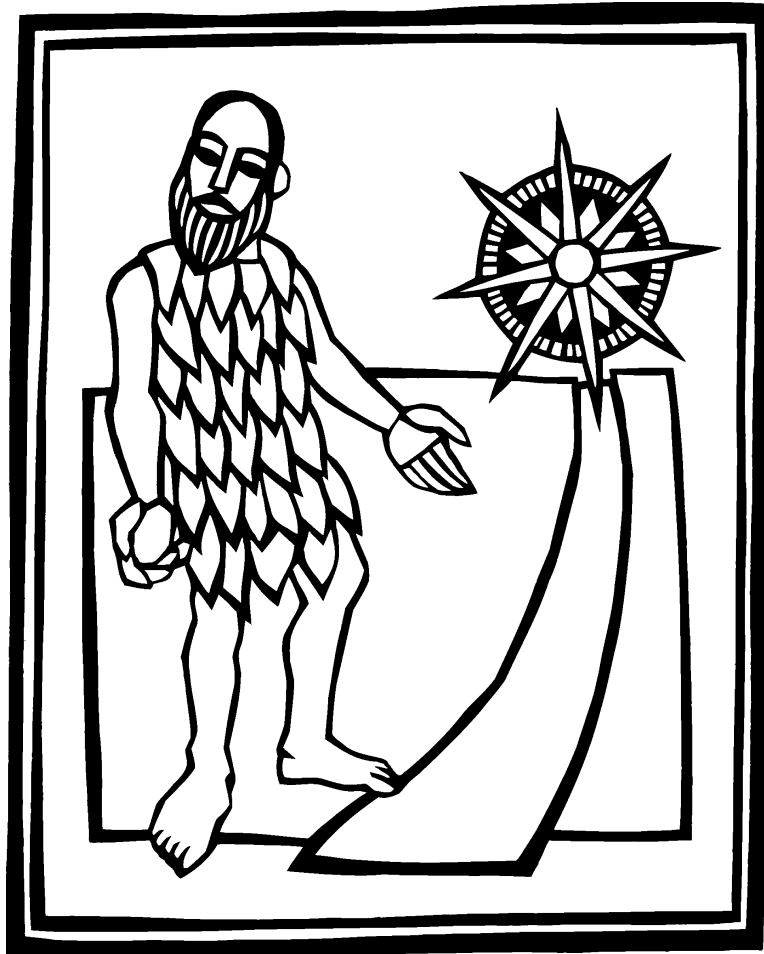


# Saint Mark's Lutheran Church



Third Sunday of Advent  
December 14, 2025

## 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.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people,  
turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of  
your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your  
forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior  
and Lord.

**Amen.**

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

*A moment of silence for reflection*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.  
We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what  
we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not  
loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors  
as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy  
on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight  
in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy  
name.**

**Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us,  
and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and  
ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I  
therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the  
name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

ELW 715

*Please sing verse 1-3*

Christ, Be Our Light



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for  
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for  
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for  
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for  
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,  
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone  
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,  
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,  
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.  
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.  
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.  
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.  
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957  
Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell  
Text and music © 1993 Bernadette Farrell. Published by OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.  
All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

## GATHERING SONG

ELW 250

Blessed Be the God of Israel



1 Blessed be the God of Is - ra - el who comes to set us free  
2 With prom - ised mer - cy will God still the cov - e - nant re - call,  
3 My child, as proph - et of the Lord you will pre - pare the way,



and rais - es up new hope for us: a Branch from Da - vid's tree.  
the oath once sworn to A - bra - ham, from foes to save us all;  
to tell God's peo - ple they are saved from sin's e - ter - nal sway.



So have the proph - ets long de - clared that with a might - y arm  
that we might wor - ship with - out fear and of - fer lives of praise,  
Then shall God's mer - cy from on high shine forth and nev - er cease



God would turn back our en - e - mies and all who wish us harm.  
in ho - li - ness and righ - teous - ness to serve God all our days.  
to drive a - way the gloom of death and lead us in - to peace.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944, based on Luke 1:68-79

Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune

Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

## 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.

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## WORD

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

### FIRST READING:

**Isaiah 35:1-10**

<sup>1</sup> The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus <sup>2</sup> it shall blossom abundantly  
and rejoice with joy and shouting.  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the LORD,  
the majesty of our God.]]

<sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands  
and make firm the feeble knees.

<sup>4</sup> Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.”

<sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;

<sup>6</sup> then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness  
and streams in the desert;

<sup>7</sup> the burning sand shall become a pool  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

<sup>8</sup> A highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Holy Way;  
the unclean shall not travel on it,  
but it shall be for God's people;  
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

<sup>9</sup> No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.

<sup>10</sup> And the ransomed of the LORD shall return  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM:**

**Psalms 146:5-10**

*The psalm will be read responsively by the congregation*

<sup>5</sup> Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help,  
whose hope is in the LORD their God;

<sup>6</sup> **who made heaven and earth, the seas,  
and all that is in them;  
who keeps promises forever;**

<sup>7</sup> who gives justice to those who are oppressed,  
and food to those who hunger.  
The LORD sets the captive free.

<sup>8</sup> **The LORD opens the eyes of the blind;  
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down;  
the LORD loves the righteous.**

<sup>9</sup> The LORD cares for the stranger;  
the LORD sustains the orphan and widow,  
but frustrates the way of the wicked.

<sup>10</sup> **The LORD shall reign forever,  
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!**

**SECOND READING:**

**James 5:7-10**

<sup>7</sup> Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. <sup>8</sup> You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. <sup>9</sup> Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! <sup>10</sup> As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**ELW 142**

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*



## GOSPEL:

Matthew 11:2-11

The holy gospel according to...

### Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>2</sup> When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup> and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup> And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.”

<sup>7</sup> As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup> What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup> What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> This is the one about whom it is written,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way before you.’

<sup>11</sup> “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## CHILDRENS SERMON

## SERMON

Pastor Lue Moua

## HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 251

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

### My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness



1 My soul pro-claims your great-ness, Lord; I sing my Sav - ior's praise!  
2 To all who live in ho - ly fear your mer-cy ev - er flows.  
3 To Is - ra - el, your ser - vant blest, your help is ev - er sure;

You looked up - on my low - li - ness, and I am full of grace.  
With might - y arm you dash the proud, their schem-ing hearts ex - pose.  
the prom-ise to our par-ents made their chil - dren will se - cure.

Now ev - 'ry land and ev - 'ry age this bless-ing shall pro - claim—  
The ruth-less you have cast a - side, the low - ly throned in - stead;  
Sing glo - ry to the Ho - ly One, give hon - or to the Word,

great won - ders you have done for me, and ho - ly is your name.  
the hun - gry filled with all good things, the rich sent off un - fed.  
and praise the Pow'r of the Most High, one God, by all a - dored.

Text: *With One Voice*, 1995, based on the Magnificat  
Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune  
Text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.



## 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: ...God of grace.

The congregation responds: **Hear 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.

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, 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 634

### All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!



1 All hail the pow'r of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall;  
2 O seed of Is - rael's cho - sen race now ran - somed from the fall,  
3 Hail him, you heirs of Da - vid's line, whom Da - vid Lord did call—  
4 Sin - ners, whose love can ne'er for - get the worm-wood and the gall,



bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all.  
hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.  
the God in - car - nate, man di - vine—and crown him Lord of all.  
go spread your tro - phies at his feet and crown him Lord of all.



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem and crown him Lord of all.  
Hail him who saves you by his grace and crown him Lord of all.  
The God in - car - nate, man di - vine—and crown him Lord of all.  
Go spread your tro - phies at his feet and crown him Lord of all.

5 Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe      6 Oh, that with yonder sacred throng  
on this terrestrial ball      we at his feet may fall!  
to him all majesty ascribe      We'll join the everlasting song  
and crown him Lord of all.      and crown him Lord of all.

Text: Edward Perronet, 1726–1792, sts. 1–4; J. Rippon, A Selection of Hymns, 1787, sts. 5–6  
Music: CORONATION, Oliver Holden, 1765–1844

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

*Portions of the liturgy are reprinted from Evangelical Lutheran Worship copyright 2006 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission. Any hymns are reprinted under OneLicense.net #729225-A and SundaysandSeasons online subscription. Used by permission.*

## 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

Cyndi Christopher (Jill Ballards sister), Candace Volkert, Keith Bester, Joe Ries, Jr. (Chicky Otte's brother), Diane Barrett, 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), and Nicole Anderson, Dureen Mies 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, especially:

The family & friends of Bill Richer, his wife Rhonda Richer, and mother-in-law Alma Johnston.

## Events this Week:

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

Bible Study - Tuesday 9:30 am

Quilting - Tuesday 10:30 am

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

Church School Program- Sunday 10:00 am - 11:00 am

Worship - Sundays 10:00 am



## Announcements

### Church School Christmas Program

The Church School will be having their Christmas program  
Sunday, December 21st at the 10:00 am service.  
There will be cookies after the service

### Adult Bible Study Starting January 14, 2026

Join us Wednesday nights 6:30-7:30 for 4 weeks starting January 14<sup>th</sup> 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.

## 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

Pastor	Lue Moua <b>Church:</b> (507) 263-9182 <b>Cell:</b> (651) 500-9890 <b>Email:</b> pastorluemoua@gmail.com
Office Assistant	Dixie Schaffer <b>Cell:</b> (612) 578-8743 <b>Email:</b> dixie.schaffer@gmail.com
Musician	Lisa Molitor <b>Email:</b> lisa.molitor@yahoo.com
President	Dan Kuhn
Vice President	Tyler Otte
Secretary	Keri Lorenzen
Treasurer	Christine Otte
Financial Secretary	Dixie Schaffer
Deacons	Kelly Tate Stephanie Krueger Lucinda Preston
Trustee	Luke Dubbels Robert Nivala

## Saint Mark's Lutheran Church

PO Box 206,  
28595 Randolph Blvd.  
Randolph, MN 55065  
(507) 263-9182

**Email:** stmarksrandolph@gmail.com

**Website:** stmarksrandolph.com

**Facebook:** St. Mark's Lutheran Church

**Instagram:** stmarksrandolph

**WELCA Facebook:** St. Mark's Randolph MN WELCA