

Welcome to St Mark Lutheran Church

Eight Sunday after Pentecost

August 3, 2025 9:00 AM



We are grateful you have chosen to join worship with St Mark today. Many will worship in the sanctuary while others will be joining this service via *Facebook Live* from wherever they may be. The text in **Bold print** in this service outline indicates responses all persons are invited to speak together. Holy Communion will be celebrated during this service. The Lord's Table is open to believers of all Christian traditions. The songs may be found in the books located in the backs of the pews: Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW), All Creation Sings (ACS), and With One Voice (WOV). Protective masks and hand sanitizer are available at the entrances to the building.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

God of the past who whispered in the prophets' ears;
who rescued us from sin's slavery:

we are here to thank you.

God of the future,
who is tearing down the old world,
and building your kingdom in our midst:

we are here because we trust you.

God of the present who,
in the giftedness of our diversity,
creates us to be one people:

we are here to praise you.

God of life that surprises us when we find it within us:

we celebrate your grace.

CONFESSION AND FOREGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,
you free us to love others,
but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,

but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.
You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity,
but we grow weary in doing what is right.
In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us.
Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.

You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith.
In the cross of ✠ Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven.
Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation. **Amen.**

the congregation is seated

GATHERING HYMN

"Build a Longer Table"

ACS 1062 vs 1,3,4

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus, the love of God,
and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Benevolent God, you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives.
Teach us to love what is worth loving,
to reject what is offensive to you,
and to treasure what is precious in your sight,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

READING: Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23

The teacher of wisdom who wrote Ecclesiastes sees that working for mere accumulation of wealth turns life into an empty game, a "vanity of vanities." Nevertheless, he asserts in the next verse, it is good to find enjoyment in one's work because such enjoyment is a gift from God.

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes,

² Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher,
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

¹² I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. ¹³ I applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to humans to be busy with. ¹⁴ I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun, and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.

^{2:18} I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to my successor, ¹⁹ and who knows whether he will be wise or foolish? Yet he will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. ²⁰ So I turned and gave my heart up to

despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, ²¹ because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. ²² What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? ²³ For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: Colossians 3:1-11

Life in Christ includes a radical reorientation of our values. Just as the newly baptized shed their old clothes and put on new garments, so Christians are called to let go of greed and take hold of a life shaped by God's love in Christ.

A reading from the Apostle Paul's letter to the church in Colossae,

¹ So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, ³ for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

⁵ Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). ⁶ On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. ⁷ These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. ⁸ But now you must get rid of all such things: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. ⁹ Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices ¹⁰ and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. ¹¹ In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, enslaved and free, but Christ is all and in all!

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL- Luke 12:13-21

In God's reign, the "rich will be sent away empty." Jesus uses a parable to warn against identifying the worth of one's life with the value of one's possessions rather than one's relationship with God.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Thanks be to God.

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus,] "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." ¹⁴ But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" ¹⁵ And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." ¹⁶ Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced

abundantly. ¹⁷ And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' ¹⁸ Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' ²⁰ But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' ²¹ So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

The Gospel of our Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

"A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!"

ELW 393 VS 1,3,5

APOSTLES CREED

With the whole church, 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,
as 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

In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

A brief silence.

Renew in your church a perspective of life beyond worldly pursuits. Build an enthusiasm to embrace life in Christ, so that Christ, the life of the world, is revealed to everyone. God of grace,

hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions will be offered.

Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

May the peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

We want to thank everyone who is financially supporting the ministries of this congregation. The sharing of financial gifts to support St Mark during the Summer months is especially needed as historically May through September are the months when giving is the lowest. This summer we have come upon a number of unexpected repair projects that need immediate attention in addition to our expected costs of ministry. All gifts will make a difference. If you have a financial gift you would like to share today:

- *You are invited to place it in the offering box found at the Welcome Center on Sundays.*
- *Mail or drop an offering off at the Church Office;*
- *Give online by going to www.stmarkstormlake.com/give ;*
- *or use the QR code to the side. Thank you for supporting our life together as St Mark.*



OFFERING PRAYER

Creator God,

in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful.

**Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor,
that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW page 152

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread,
and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples,

saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.



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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

DISTRIBUTION

The Lord's Supper will be distributed at this time. All followers of Jesus are welcome to receive this gift of grace. An usher will guide those who would like to receive, up the center aisle. You are invited to place your hands with palms up to receive the bread, wine or grape juice. After receiving the elements, you may kneel at the altar rail for a time of reflection if you desire. Please depart via the outside aisles and place your empty cup in the basket located along the outside wall. Thank you.

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

"Break Now the Bread of Life"

ELW 515

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Mothering God,
**you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace.
Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves
and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

The love of God abound in you;
the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;
and the life of the Spirit ✠ bless you and give you peace. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN-

"In Christ There Is No East or West"

ELW 650 vs 1,3,4

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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WORSHIP LEADERS

Preach and Preside-	Pastor Dave Kebschull	Greeter/Usher - Jodi & Kristi Bihrer
Organist-	Linda Glienke	Reader- Jodi Bihrer
Communion Server-	Julie Sievers	Worship Tech-Craig & Kathy Jones
Altar Guild-	Norma Williams & Carole Suhr	



Life Together

ST MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

1614 West 5th Street, Storm Lake, Iowa 50588

Phone- 712-732-5255

Email- hello@stmarkstormlake.com

Website- www.stmarkstormlake.com

Facebook- www.facebook.com/stmarkstormlake/

You may log into Saint Mark Wi-Fi by using the password- **devotion**.

WORSHIP- We gather for worship each Sunday morning at 9:00. You can join us in-person in the Sanctuary, or via livestream on our [Facebook page](#). Recordings of services may be also found on the [St Mark Website](#).

PROCLAIM RADIO MINISTRY- Proclaim is a radio ministry of St Mark and is broadcast every Sunday morning at 7:30 AM via FM 101.7 KAYL. The message and music are from the previous weekend. This ministry is one of the ways St Mark reaches out to Storm Lake and Western Iowa with the love of Jesus. If you would like to support this ministry, in addition to your regular financial support of St Mark, the cost is \$38 per week and can be given online, or by check. You can sign-up for a Sunday online or by contacting [Jane Hartwell](#) in the church office.

PRAYERS- we are all invited to keep the following persons in our prayers:

Prayers for Healing and wholeness

Pat Wilson, Paul Bengtson, Lisa, Tatum, and Noah Shepherd; Steve Berg, Mark Johnson, Carolyn Stille (mother of Kristi Bihrer), Gladys Eddie, Ed Anderson, Donna Schulz, Steve Korner, Alex Kron, Dick Mooney, Caleb Vander Broek, Kristine Taylor, Dianne White, Tony Bodholdt, Julie Eglund, Cheryl Lustgraaf, Kim Anderson, Harper Ledford (great granddaughter of Don and Carol Northrup), Cheryl Crampton, David Walker, Greg Kruse, all persons seeking healing and wholeness

Prayers for persons on active duty in the US Military Service

Aiden Deitering, SLPD Officer A.J. Chase, SLPD Officer Gerardo Bravo, Ed Bochtler

SUMMER FINANCIAL GIFTS

We want to thank everyone who is financially supporting the ministries of this congregation. The sharing of financial gifts to support St Mark during the Summer months is especially needed as historically May through September are the months when giving is the lowest. This summer we have come upon a number of unexpected repair projects that need immediate attention in addition to our expected costs of ministry. All gifts will make a difference. If you have a financial gift you would like to share today:

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INVITATION TO CELEBRATE REV. DR. MELANIE HAUSER ORDINATION

Everyone is invited to join Melanie Hauser, her family and friends at Lakeshore Center at Okoboji, 1864 IA-86, Wahpeton, IA , on Saturday August 9, 3:00-5:00PM. Casual dress and NO presents. Just be present with friends to celebrate this special milestone in Melanie's life. Pastor Melanie has a special relationship with St Mark as she fills in for Pastor Dave when he is gone, worships with us as she can, helps out with outreach projects, and is Chaplain at BVU.

LIFE SERVE BLOOD DRIVE:

Life Serve staff wants to thank everyone for donating and helping to save lives. If you would like to give blood at the next drive, this Tuesday, August 5th, you can register online or text LIFESERVE to 999-777 to make an appointment to Give Blood. If you would like to know any other info about donating blood and Life Serve Blood Center, just click on this link, or contact Jane Hartwell in the Church Office.



FRIENDS WITH FOOD: *The next distribution is Thursday, August 21*

We are grateful for everyone who helps as we deliver to over 100 households in our community each month. Friends with Food is a partnership of St Mark, SALUD, Western Iowa Synod- ELCA, Food Bank of Iowa, and other persons from the Storm Lake area who work together to deliver a monthly food distribution to those who are permanently or

temporarily homebound and with no easy access to transportation. If you know of someone who needs food, or you would like to help, contact Di Daniels 712-299-9863, Julie Cook 712-732-4968 or Jane Hartwell 712-732-5255.

SEW & DO is needing gently used sheets for their projects. You may drop off in the church office.



SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE UPDATE

We want to thank all who have been involved and supportive of this ministry. You are making a difference in the lives of children in this area! Beds continue to be delivered to children in the Storm Lake area. The smiles and excitement of children (and parents) upon the completion of the delivery are priceless! All are so appreciative. When our inventory of beds gets low, the Sioux City Chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace brings more beds to us!

Fourteen beds have been delivered to children in the area since late May, for a total of 89 since we began this mission from Storm Lake late last year. Updates on this mission will continue to be posted in eNews, church bulletins and the monthly newsletter. More information on the local chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace located in Sioux City, or if you would like to know more about SHP in Storm Lake, go to <https://shpbeds.org/chapter/ia-sioux-city/>

THIS WEEK AT ST MARK

Sunday, August 3

7:30AM	Proclaim Radio broadcast on FM101.7
9:00AM	Sunday Worship Service- in-person and streamed live on Facebook
10:00AM	Fellowship Time (Fellowship Hall)
10:15AM	Pastor's Bible Study

Monday, August 4

6:30PM	Stephen Ministry (Conference Room)
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Tuesday, August 5

12:30PM-5:30PM	Life Serve Blood Drive (Fellowship Hall)
6:30PM	Quilt Sewciety (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesday August 6

5:45PM	St Mark Endowment Meeting (Conference Room)
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Thursday, August 7

8:30AM-4:30PM	ASSIST TRAINING (Fellowship Hall, Room 128, Library)
12:00PM	AA- (Fellowship Hall)

Friday, August 8

8:30AM-4:30PM ASSIST TRAINING (Fellowship Hall, Room 128, Library)

Saturday, August 9

10:00AM-1:00PM Event (Fellowship Hall)
1:00PM-8:00PM Family Event (Fellowship Hall)

Sunday, August 10

7:30AM Proclaim Radio broadcast on FM101.7
9:00AM Sunday Worship Service- in-person and streamed live on [Facebook](#)
10:00AM Fellowship Time (Fellowship Hall)
10:15AM Pastor's Bible Study



Announcement of a Special Meeting of the Congregation

will take place on Sunday, August 17, in the sanctuary following worship (@10:00 AM). The purpose of the meeting is to approve building repairs and updates to the building (*carpet, technology, air conditioning, and steeple relocation*). A link to a detailed description has been included in this week's eNEWS and a paper copy can be picked up in the Church Office and Welcome Center. A letter describing the projects will also be sent out with the August newsletter. Most of all of the funds (memorials/ savings) needed for these projects have already been received.



*lease place all donations and gifts in the BIG bin
located in the main hall by the Church Office.*