

## YOUTH

### SUNDAY COOL

(WE'LL BE OFF FOR THE NEXT THREE WEEKS,  
RESUMING ON JANUARY 11, 2026)

There's never been a better time to jump in and check out Sunday Cool. We've got games, highs and lows, donut holes, icebreakers, devotionals, and more! Look for Calvin Moore and Rachel Peterson to participate.

**When:** Sundays at 9:45 am

**Who:** Grades 6 – 12

**Where:** the Narthex

#### Attendance for December 13 & 14

Wednesday 7:00	63
Saturday 5:30	20
Sunday 8:30	133
Sunday 10:45	134
Virtual	69
<b>Total in-person &amp; views</b>	<b>419</b>

#### MISSION STATEMENT

To share the gospel through worship and service.  
To be an inclusive community  
for justice and peace among diverse peoples.

### St. Mark's Lutheran Church

316 E 24th Ave | Spokane WA 99203 | 509.747.6677  
[office@stmarks-spokane.org](mailto:office@stmarks-spokane.org) | [www.stmarks-spokane.org](http://www.stmarks-spokane.org)

## prayers

Alice Nelson  
Dan Tutt  
Judy Jensen  
Neil Kinkel  
Bruce Hille  
Martha Harvie  
Marla Jo Dittrich  
Foxie Evans  
Bill Sachse  
Jon Merrell  
Lori Cornell  
Debbie Hansen  
Keith Beck  
Kurt Rudy, brother of Scott Rudy  
Amy Faurot, daughter-in-law of Judy & Bob Palrud  
Robin Pickering, daughter of Diana Pickering  
Allison Rasor, daughter of Rachel Devlin  
Kim McDaniel, cousin of Tammy Zimmer  
Val Adkins, sister of Yvonne Davis & Liz McGaughy  
Chris Huck, brother of Donna Huck  
Anna Matthews  
Robert Mayer  
Carla Brewer  
Steve Warner  
John  
Brad  
Michael  
Sophia  
Patsy  
Rick  
Sarah  
Rachel, Ezra, and Xavier  
Jack  
John  
Lisa



## ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 21, 2025

### Worship Participants

Preaching Pastor	Gretchen Olson
Presiding Pastor	Edwin Weber
Greeters	
8:30	Jim and Val Davis
10:45	Ted Olson, Marilyn Thordarson
Ushers	
8:30	Heidi and Scott Rudy
	David Custer, Lance Jacobson
10:45	Anna and Ryan Ragaza-Bourassa
	Joe Nevill
Cantor	Ramona Benson
Lectors	
5:30	Linda Webster
8:30	Jim Davis
10:45	Randy Belstad
Creed and Prayers	
8:30	Sharon Straub
10:45	Barbara Belstad
Altar Guild	
8:30	Tim Olson
10:45	Laren Sunde
Bread Baker	Jane Summers
Communion Set-up	Randy Darst
Sound/Livestream	Randy Darst
	Matt Ophardt
Service Coordinator	
5:30 & Altar Guild	Matt Daly
8:30	Deidre Jacobson
10:45	Sande Paulson
Director of Music/Instrumental	Carol Miyamoto
Director of Music/Choral	Ann Benson

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## MUSIC

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Dotty Thomas

Flute

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## TODAY

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**Welcome** - Whether you are a regular visitor, longtime member, or worshipping with us at St. Mark's for the first time, we're grateful you are with us today. Please fill out an attendance card from the pew and place it in the offering plate. Listing everyone in your household helps us keep our membership records current and strengthens our pastoral care. All are welcome at the Lord's Table for Holy Communion. More information is available at [stmarks-spokane.org](http://stmarks-spokane.org).

**Nursery** – The nursery is open from 8:15 am – 12:00 noon, go up the stairs and follow the signs. We welcome infants to kindergarten aged children.

**Godly Play** – We'll be off for the next three weeks, resuming on Sunday, January 11.

**Alleluia Choir** - We'll be off for the next three weeks, resuming on Sunday, January 11.

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## THIS WEEK

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**Monday Yoga** - Please join us for a Vinyasa flow class from 4:30 - 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Hope to see you!

**Women's AA meets Tuesdays from 8:00 - 9:00 am in the Parish House.**

**Scripture and Coffee** - We meet in the Conference Room on Tuesdays at 10:30 am and explore Bible passages. The readings for this week: **Hosea 11:1-9 and the Gospel: Matthew 2:13-16, 19-33.**

**Crosswalk food for Spokane's homeless youth should be at the church by Tuesday, December 23, by 3:00 pm. Sign up sheets will be passed around during worship.**

**The church office will be closed from Wednesday, December 24, through Friday, December 26.**

**Sunrise Saints and Sinners** – We'll meet Wednesday, December 24, at 7:00 am, at The Chalet Restaurant, 2918 S. Grand Blvd. In this group you'll have lots of laughs, interesting discussions about a variety of topics, plus a good breakfast. All men are welcome, saints and sinners!

### Christmas Eve Worship Wednesday, December 24



**4:00 pm** - Christmas Eve family worship with a children's message, carols, candle lighting and Holy Communion

**8:00 pm** - Christmas Eve worship with candle lighting, carols, and Holy Communion, live-streamed

\*Children are welcome at all services, no childcare at these times

**Choir practice** – No choir practice this week or next. We resume on Thursday, January 8, at 7:15 pm. We meet in the sanctuary.

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## COMING UP

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**Sunday Forum for next Sunday, December 28 – We'll hear from Cara Myers, Director of Development and Innovation for the Mozambique School Lunch Initiative.** She and her father, Paul Myers, longtime members of St. Mark's, are co-founders of this nonprofit organization. In this forum we'll learn about their work with preschools and secondary schools to encourage youth to come to school every day by offering meals. St. Mark's has financially supported this worthwhile organization since its inception in 2016. Join us in the Conference Room at 9:45 am to learn more.

**The church office will be closed on Wednesday, December 31, and Thursday, January 1, 2026.**

**Our next Stewards of Creation meeting is on Monday, January 5, at 6:00 pm by Zoom.** Please contact the church office, 509.747.6677 or [office@stmarks-spokane.org](mailto:office@stmarks-spokane.org) for more information.

**Eat, Pray, Laugh** – All women are invited to this fellowship group for conversation, laughter, prayer, and refreshments. **We'll meet on Tuesday, January 6, at 7:00 pm in the Choir Room.** We usually meet the first Tuesday of the month. Please contact Pastor Gretchen through the office with questions.

The 2026 Eastern Washington Legislative Conference is on Saturday, Jan. 31, at Spokane Valley United Methodist Church, 115 N. Raymond. It will be in-person/Zoom hybrid with a link for those who wish to participate on Zoom. Please RSVP early, the deadline is Monday, January 26. The conference goes from **8:30 am to 3:00 pm and features** plenary panels and workshops on the theme **"We Shall Overcome: Building the Beloved Community Today."** The Fig Tree and the planning team seek sponsors and organizations to present displays. Information is at GiveLively. For information, call 509-535-1813 or register at <https://secure.givelively.org/event/the-fig-tree/2026-legislative-conference>.

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## OF NOTE

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**Let's support members Jon and Lindsey Merrell showing their work at Terrain Art Studio, 628 N. Monroe St. Their show "Time Dilation" runs through Saturday, Dec. 27.**

**Calling All Who Have Installed Solar at Their Homes!** - This year we are looking for those who have installed solar on their properties or those who are about to. Please contact Janet at [janet.farness@gmail.com](mailto:janet.farness@gmail.com) to talk about your willingness to share your experiences at an upcoming Sunday Forum.

**Stars of Hope** – Notice the stars of hope around the perimeter of the sanctuary. These were made by St. Mark's women as a Collaborative Advent Art Project.