



ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

OUR MISSION:

TO PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

TO MAKE DISCIPLES

TO EMBODY GOD'S LOVE

Introduction

God creates us for relationship, and our lives are richer when we make room for one another. The readings remind us that our time is more than something we manage; it is a gift we can offer through presence, attention, and care. In a world that constantly tells us to hurry, Jesus invites us to notice what—and who—is right in front of us.

Together, we will consider how making time for God and for one another can become an expression of faith.



SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

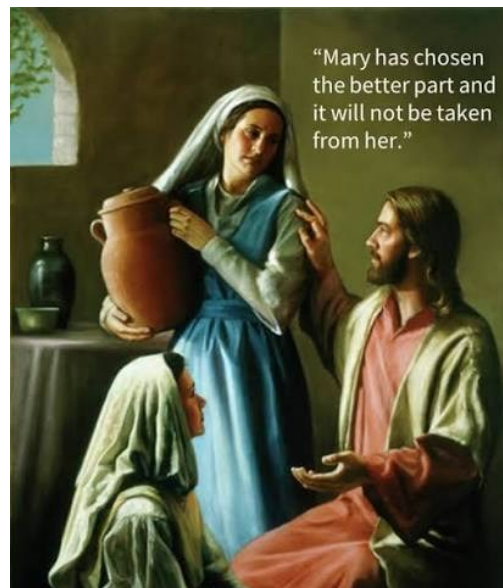
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SUNDAY MORNING LEARNING 9:00AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00AM

YOUTUBE LIVE STREAM 10:00 AM

[http:// www.youtube.com@st.markslutheranchurchclar6483](http://www.youtube.com@st.markslutheranchurchclar6483)



Assisting in Worship Today

Preaching: Pastor Quentin Surace

Organist: Emily Schuttenberg

Greeters: Nicky & Evelyn Setzer

Communion Asst.: Stan Sigmon

Crucifer:

Council Duties: Trey Hendren, Susan Williams

Ushers: Trey Hendren

Assisting Minister: Kermit Nash

Lay Reader: Kermit Nash

Acolyte: Deb Crawford

Attendance last Sunday 71 (includes YouTube Live viewers)

ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

10:00 AM

September 13, 2026

**Please stand as able*

P: Pastor; A: Assisting Minister; C: Congregation

GATHERING

SETTING 6 PG 165

GATHERING MUSIC (9:45AM)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (9:55AM)

PRELUDE AND LIGHTING OF CANDLES BY ACOLYTE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

C: Amen

P: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection

P: Compassionate God,

C: we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.

Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

P: Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ✝ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace. C: Amen

* OPENING HYMN "All Creatures Worship God Most High" Vs. 1, 4, 6

ELW #835

* APOSTOLIC GREETING

* KYRIE

P. 165 ELW

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. C: Amen

WORD

LESSONS

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; Ephesians 5:15-16, 19-21

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

"Alleluia Lord ..."

P. 171 ELW

GOSPEL READING

Luke 10:38-42

Pastor Quentin Surace

P: The Holy Gospel according to John

C: Glory to you, O Lord

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Pastor Quentin Surace

SERMON

Pastor Quentin Surace

*HYMN OF THE DAY

"Where Charity and Love Prevail"

ELW #359

*APOSTLES' CREED

ELW P. 127

*PRAYERS BY ASSISTING MINISTER

A: Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love C: Your Mercy Is Great.

*SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

MEAL

THE OFFERING HYMN

Instrumental Special

OFFERING PRESENTATION/RESPONSE “Praise God, from Whom all Blessings Flow”

Praise God, from whom all blessing flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heav’nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. **C: Amen.**

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise

*PROPER PREFACE FOR SUNDAY

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (sung)

ELW P. 173

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow’r and might, heav’n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

*WORDS OF INSTITUTION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

*THE LORD’S PRAYER

P: Lord, teach us to pray . . .

DISTRIBUTION

We welcome all who believe Jesus is Lord to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. An usher will guide you to the center aisle to receive communion. You may return to your seat by the outer aisle. If you are not able to come forward, please notify an usher by raising your hand and communion will be brought to you.

INVITATION

AGNUS DEI (LAMB OF GOD)

ELW P. 174

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

“I Come With Joy”

ELW #482

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **C: AMEN**

SENDING

*BLESSING

P: The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus. **C: Amen.**

The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit. **C: Amen.**

The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever. **C: Amen.**

P: Together let us proclaim our mission:

C: To proclaim the Gospel. To make disciples. To embody God’s love. Amen

*SENDING HYMN

“Wonderful Grace of Jesus”

Words on Screen

*Dismissal: P: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. **C: Thanks be to God !**

POSTLUDE

First Reading: Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

⁹ Two are better than one because they have a good reward for their toil. ¹⁰ For if they fall, one will lift up the other, but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help. ¹¹ Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone? ¹² And though one might prevail against another, two will withstand one. A threefold cord is not quickly broken.

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:15-16, 19-21

¹⁵ Be careful, then, how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁹ as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to one another, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, ²⁰ giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ being subject to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Gospel: Luke 10:38-42

³⁸ Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him. ³⁹ She had a sister named Mary, who sat at Jesus's feet and listened to what he was saying. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by her many tasks, so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her, then, to help me." ⁴¹ But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things, ⁴² but few things are needed—indeed only one. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

Church Staff

Pastor: Pastor Quentin Surace
Music Director: Emily Schuttenberg
Family Ministries Director: Wendy Hefner
Finance Secretary: Deanna Butcher
2026 Church Council President: Terry Hefner

Custodian: Larry Smyre / Mark Oakley
Office Administrator: Wendy Hefner
Preschool Co-Director: Randy Abernathy
Preschool Co-Director: Maria Wright