



ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

OUR MISSION:

TO PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

TO MAKE DISCIPLES

TO EMBODY GOD'S LOVE

Introduction

Jeremiah's promise of the execution of "justice and righteousness in the land" finds ironic fulfillment in the execution of Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. It appears utterly contradictory that a king should be crucified with a criminal.

This victory appears for all the world as humiliating defeat. Yet through the gate of death Jesus opens the door to paradise.

Thanks be to God!



NOVEMBER 23, 2025

CHRIST THE KING / WOMEN'S THANKOFFERING SUNDAY

SUNDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP 9:00AM

BIBLE STUDY & SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:15AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00AM

YOUTUBE LIVE STREAM 10:00 AM

STRENGTH, SOUL, AND SPARK: CELEBRATING THE GIFTS OF WOMEN

Thankoffering service 2025

Created by students and staff of the Office of Spiritual Life and
Campus Ministry at Wartburg College for Women of the ELCA

Assisting in Worship Today

Preaching: Bishop Emily Hartner

Organist: Emily Schuttenberg

Acolyte:

Lay Reader: Tamarah Hefner

Greeters: Cheryl Brown, Marchetta Campbell

Ushers: Hilka Cox, Nobia Summer

Assisting Minister: Carol Schaefer

Crucifer: Jennifer & Liam Carpenter

Communion Assistants: Tiffany Caudill,

Jean Cloninger

Council Duties: Jerry Herman, Nicky Setzer

Attendance last Sunday, November 16th was **85** (includes YouTube Live viewers).

ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

CHRIST THE KING/WOMEN'S THANKOFFERING SUNDAY 10:00 AM

NOVEMBER 23, 2025

**Please stand as able*

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

GATHERING

Setting 8 ELW

GATHERING MUSIC (9:45AM)

ANNOUNCEMENTS (9:55AM)

PRELUDE AND LIGHTING OF CANDLES BY ACOLYTE

Instrumental

WELCOME BISHOP EMILY HARTNER and explain THANKGIVING

***THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

P: We gather in the name of our creator, redeemer ✝, and sustainer. **C: Amen.**

P: Joined to Christ and named as God's beloved, we give thanks for the gift of baptism that roots us in life, renews us in strength, and frees us to be bold. We give you thanks, O God, for at the beginning of time, your creative spirit moved over the waters, your Word brought new life, and you called it good. We give you thanks, O God, for waters that sustain and heal. You revealed a spring of water to Hagar, saving her and her son Ishmael. You brought your people out of the waters of the Exodus, leading Miriam to shout out in song. You held Moses in the River Nile, where Pharaoh's daughter would find him and care for him as her own. You kept the party going when, at Mary's request, Jesus turned water into wine at a wedding. You led a Samaritan woman to a well, where she would be met by Jesus' grace and given living water that lasts. Even today, you shower us with life, and we praise you. With your living water, sustain our souls, show us empathy and welcome, give us strength, and lead us by your divine spark to lives of compassion and mercy. **C: Amen.**

***OPENING HYMN**

"For All The Faithful Women"

ELW #419

***GREETING**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

***KYRIE (Setting 8) Pastor sings the verses, assembly sings the refrain.**

ELW p.184-185

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: God of Glory, we are gathered today in your presence to celebrate and give thanks for all of the gifts and talents given to women. While we recognize the abundance we have, we also recognize the struggles of women in our own country and around the world. Sometimes these struggles are voiced or are internal conflicts that only You know about. Lord, bring peace and joy to our hearts today. Allow us to fully absorb the presence of you and of the community of strong women surrounding us. **C: Amen.**

WORD

LESSON

Ruth 1:7-16, Psalm 139:1-14

Tamarah Hefner

P: Holy Wisdom, Living Word. **C: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL READING P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the ninth chapter. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: The Gospel, the Good News made real for you. **C: Praise to you, O Christ!**

Matthew 9:18-25

Bishop Emily Hartner

***CHILDREN'S SERMON**

Bishop Emily Hartner

SERMON

Bishop Emily Hartner

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

"Canticle of the Turning"

ELW #723 Praise Band

***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE BY ASSISTING MINISTER**

A: In solidarity with your people from every nation and knit together with all of creation, we boldly pray for the church, our world, and all those in need.... God our soul,

P: Hear our prayer.

***SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE**

***THANKOFFERING**

"Simple Gifts"

Piano Special

MEAL

OFFERING PRAYER

P: God of Abundance,

C: You create goodness in everything we offer. Use these gifts to bless the world. Strengthen ministries, empower leaders, and inspire generosity so that all may know your love. Reveal this love to us once again as we gather at your table that we might embody your compassionate care in all we do. Amen.

***PROPER PREFACE FOR SUNDAY**

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION FOR HOLY COMMUNION II**

Bishop Emily Hartner

***THE LORD'S PRAYER** P: Lord, teach us to pray . . .

P. 191

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. After communing all who wish may go to the altar for prayer. You may also come forward for a blessing.

AGNUS DEI (LAMB OF GOD)

ELW p.191

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, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

"All Who Are Thirsty"

CCLI #2489542

Praise Band

***POST COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER**

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C: Amen.**

P: Generous God, **C: We give thanks!**

P: You've gathered us together across generations and created a place at the table for each of us. **C: We give thanks!**

P: Strengthen us with this meal of your love poured out, fill us with compassion, and nourish us until we meet again. **C: We give thanks!**

P: In the name of Jesus Christ, **C: Amen.**

SENDING

***BLESSING** P: Receive the blessing of God who breathes creativity into every soul and lights up every vision with purpose. Bless the women of the world with the strength that they need, with empathy that brings us together, and with gratitude that moves us all forward + . May your love be our guide, and your justice our song that we sing and live out each day. **C: Amen.**

***SENDING HYMN**

"Now Thank We All Our God"

ELW #840

***SENDING** P: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord! **C: Thanks be to God!**

Ruth 1:7-16

So Naomi set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The LORD grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband." Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. They said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me?...No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the LORD has turned against me." Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. So Naomi said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law." But Ruth said, "Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge, your people shall be my people, and your God my God.

Psalms 139:1-14

O LORD, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away. You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. Even before a word is on my tongue, O LORD, you know it completely. You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it. Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there. If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast. If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and night wraps itself around me," even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you. For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

Matthew 9:18-25

While [Jesus] was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live." And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from a flow of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, for she was saying to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well." Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And the woman was made well from that moment. When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, he said, "Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up.

Church Staff

Pastor: Pastor Quentin F. Surace
Music Director: Emily Schuttenberg
Family Ministries Director: Wendy Hefner
Finance Secretary: Deanna Butcher
2025 Church Council President: Terry Hefner

Custodian: Larry Smyre/Mark Oakley
Secretary: Patricia Hoke
Preschool Co-Director: Randyl Abernathy
Preschool Co-Director: Maria Wright