



# ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## OUR MISSION:

TO PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL  
TO MAKE DISCIPLES  
TO EMBODY GOD'S LOVE

### Introduction

A note of joyful expectation marks today's worship. Isaiah announces that the desert shall rejoice and blossom, and Jesus points to the unexpected and transforming signs of God's reign.

We wait with patience for the coming of the Lord, even as we rejoice at his presence among us this day: in word and holy supper, in church and in our homes, in silent reflection and in works of justice and love.

We pray that God would open our eyes and ears to the wonders of Christ's advent among us.

Thanks be to God!



DECEMBER 14, 2025

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP 9:00AM

BIBLE STUDY & SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:15AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00AM

YOUTUBE LIVE STREAM 10:00 AM



### Assisting in Worship Today

Preaching: Pastor Quentin Surace  
Organist: Emily Schuttenberg  
Acolyte:  
Lay Reader: Carol Schaefer  
Greeters:

Ushers:  
Assisting Minister: Carol Schaefer  
Crucifer:  
Communion Assistants:  
Council Duties: Jonathan Ray, Susan Williams

Attendance last Sunday, December 7th was **83** (includes YouTube Live viewers).

**ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**10:00 AM**

**DECEMBER 14, 2025**

*\*Please stand as able*

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

**GATHERING**

**Setting 2 ELW**

**GATHERING MUSIC (9:45AM)**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (9:55AM)**

**PRELUDE AND LIGHTING OF CANDLES BY ACOLYTE**

**Instrumental**

**INVOCATION AND LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE BY PASTOR QUENTIN**

**HYMN** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" **V. 1, 2 & 3** **ELW #257**

**\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure. **C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.....Long-expected God,

**C: we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.**

P: God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. ✠ You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior. 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. **C: Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

**"Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn"**

**ELW #242**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: 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. **C: Amen.**

**WORD**

**LESSONS**

**Isaiah 35:1-10, James 5:7-10**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

**"Alleluia"**

**ELW p.124**

**GOSPEL READING**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **C: Glory to you, O Lord**

**Matthew 11:2-11**

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**MESSAGE**

**ST. MARK'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

*Please refer to the insert page or video screens for the hymns*

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY**

**"Joy to the World"**

**ELW # 267**

**\*APOSTLES' CREED**

**ELW p.127**

**\*PRAYERS BY ASSISTING MINISTER**

**A:** In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.....God of grace, **C: hear our prayer.**

**\*SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE**

## MEAL

**THE OFFERING**

**"In the Bleak Midwinter"**

**vs. 1**

**ELW #294**

**OFFERING PRESENTATION/RESPONSE "Praise God, from Whom all Blessings Flow"**

**ELW #885**

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**

P: Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. **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 ADVENT**

**\*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (sung)**

**ELW p.130**

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, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

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

**ELW p.134**

**\*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. 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.135**

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**

**"People, Look East"**

**ELW #248**

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION BY ASSISTING MINISTER**

A: God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. **C: Amen.**

## SENDING

**\*BLESSING** P: May God who comes among us, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always. Together let us proclaim our mission:

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

**\*SENDING HYMN**

**"He Came Down"**

**vs. 1 & 4**

**ELW #253**

**\*Dismissal:** P: Go in peace. Keep awake. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

**Instrumental**

**Isaiah 35:1-10**

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus 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.]] Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. 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.” Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; 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; 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. 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. 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. 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.

**James 5:7-10**

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. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

**Matthew 11:2-11**

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?” Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: 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. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me.” 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? What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 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.’ “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.”

**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