



ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

OUR MISSION:

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

Introduction

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.



DECEMBER 7, 2025

SECOND 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: Kermit Nash
Greeters: Hilka Cox, Kay Deal

Ushers:
Assisting Minister: Kermit Nash
Crucifer: Brynlee Denton
Communion Assistants:
Council Duties: Jonathan Ray, Susan Williams

Attendance last Sunday, November 30th was **79** (includes YouTube Live viewers).

ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10:00 AM

DECEMBER 7, 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 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**

"Hark, the Glad Sound!"

ELW #239

***KYRIE** (Setting 2) Pastor sings the verses, assembly sings the refrain.

ELW p.120-121

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; 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 7:10-16, Romans 1:1-7

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

"Alleluia"

ELW p.124

GOSPEL READING

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

Matthew 1:18-25

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**

"On the Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"

ELW #249

***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.....C: hear our prayer.

***SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE**

MEAL

THE OFFERING

Instrumental Special

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

"The King Shall Come"

ELW #260

*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

"Prepare the Royal Highway"

ELW #264

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

POSTLUDE

Instrumental

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Romans 15:4-13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the gentiles; in him the gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. "I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

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