



ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

OUR MISSION:

TO PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

TO MAKE DISCIPLES

TO EMBODY GOD'S LOVE

Introduction

As we are invited today to consider what it means to be managers (rather than owners) of all that we have, it is crucial to recognize that we are bought with a price. "Christ Jesus, himself human, . . . gave himself a ransom for all."

Apart from the generosity of God we have nothing—we are nothing. By God's gracious favor we have everything we need.

Thanks be to God!



SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SUNDAY MORNING FELLOWSHIP 9:00AM

BIBLE STUDY & SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:15AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00AM

YOUTUBE LIVE STREAM 10:00 AM



He paid the ransom for all.

Assisting in Worship Today

Preaching: Pastor Quentin Surace

Organist: Emily Schuttenberg

Acolyte: Silas Carpenter

Lay Reader: Linda Hewitt

Greeters: Cheryl Brown, Marcheta Campbell

Ushers: Hilka Cox

Assisting Minister: Carol Schaefer

Crucifer: Ashley Carpenter, Talen Denton

Communion Assistants:

Council Duties: Carol Schaefer, Matthew Watkins

Attendance last Sunday, September 14th was **89** (includes YouTube Live viewers).

ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

10:00 AM

SEPTEMBER 21, 2025

**Please stand as able*

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

GATHERING

Setting 8 ELW

GATHERING MUSIC (9:45AM)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS (9:55AM)

PRELUDE AND LIGHTING OF CANDLES BY ACOLYTE

Instrumental

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

C: Amen.

P: Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of GodMerciful and loving God,

C: **we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen.**

P: Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. 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. In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven!

C: Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

"Son of God, Eternal Savior"

ELW #655

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

ELW p.184-185

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths.

Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

WORD

LESSONS

Amos 8:4-7, 1 Timothy 2:1-7

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

"Alleluia"

ELW p.188

GOSPEL READING

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

Luke 16:1-13

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**

"Let Streams of Living Justice"

ELW #710

***APOSTLES' CREED**

ELW p.105

***PRAYERS BY ASSISTING MINISTER**

A: Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.....God of grace,

C: **receive our prayer.**

***SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE**

MEAL

THE OFFERING

INSTRUMENTAL

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

P: Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.144

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

ELW p.190

*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.146

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

"We Are an Offering"

sing 2 times

ELW #692

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION BY ASSISTING MINISTER

A: O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name. C: Amen.

SENDING

*BLESSING P: The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, + bless you now and forever. Together let us proclaim our mission:

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

*SENDING HYMN

"Be Thou My Vision"

WOV# 776

*Dismissal: P: Go in peace. Do not lose heart. C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Instrumental

Amos 8:4-7

Hear this, you who trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land, saying, “When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain, and the Sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale? We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier and practice deceit with false balances, buying the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals and selling the sweepings of the wheat.” The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

1 Timothy 2:1-7

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all—this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.

Luke 16:1-13

Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes. “Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

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