

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

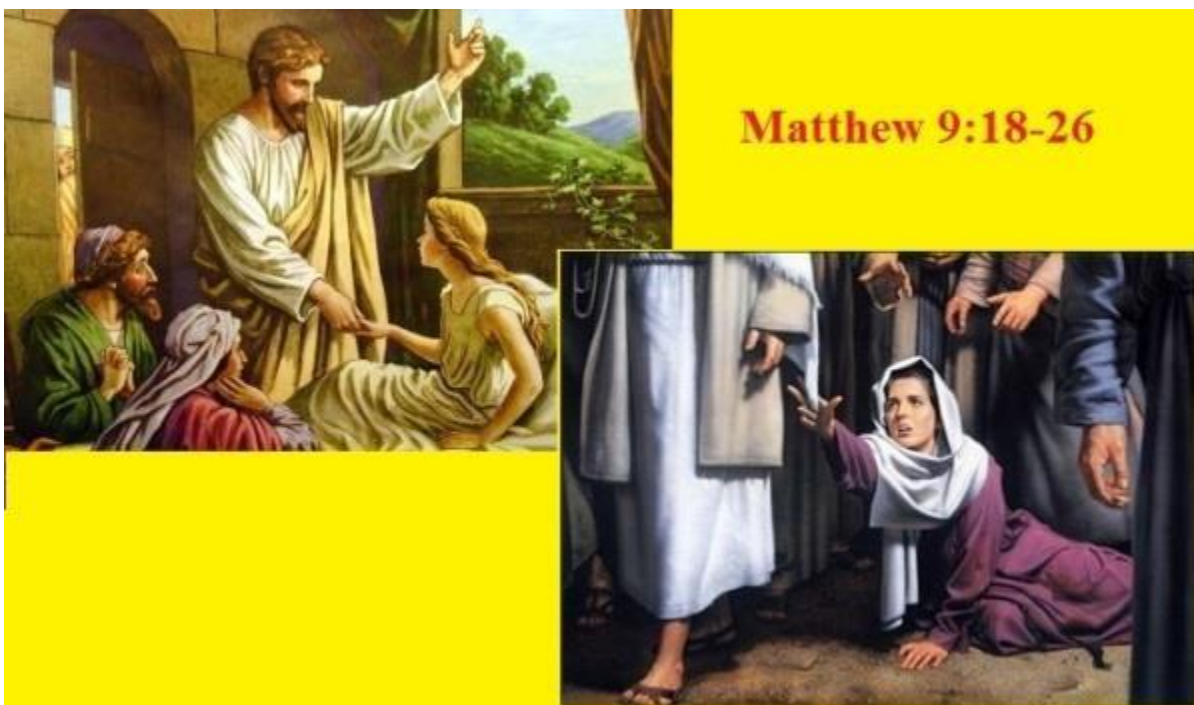
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Trinity

19 November A.D. 2023

Lutheran Service Book - Divine Service, Setting IV

✠ Welcome in the name of Jesus! ✠

Today we observe the Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Trinity. On this day, we consider the great power of the Lord to save. On our own, we are lost, subject to sin and death, hopeless in our condemnation. However, while we are powerless, God is almighty. He sent Jesus to suffer and die in our place and now, having raised Christ from the dead, He powerfully works through His Word and Spirit to raise us with Christ and to save us from every evil.

Also, it is with great joy that we celebrate the **Sacrament of Holy Baptism** in the Divine Service this morning for Dillon Michael O'Brien & Riley Ann O'Brien, children of Aaron and Robin O'Brien, and grandchildren of Jim O'Brien, their baptismal sponsor.

If you are a VISITOR here, we offer you our warmest welcome! We pray that your experience among us is blessed, and that you depart filled with God's peace and life.

Also, toward the end of our service today we will be celebrating Holy Communion, in which we will eat and drink Jesus' body and blood, under bread and wine, for the forgiveness of our sins (Matthew 26:26-28). Therefore, we ask that you would please see the statement titled "On the Sacrament of Holy Communion," printed below, which describes our beliefs and practices regarding this sacred gift.

O Lord, my creator, redeemer, and comforter,
as I come to worship You in spirit and in truth,
I humbly pray that You would open my heart
to the preaching of Your Word so that I may
repent of my sins, believe in Jesus Christ as my
only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness.
Hear me for the sake of His name. Amen.

ON THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION: We believe that when we receive Holy Communion together, we are publicly declaring both our unity in Christ and our agreement in doctrine (1 Cor. 10:16-17; 1 Cor. 1:10). We also believe that if we receive this sacrament in unbelief, we risk God's judgment (1 Cor. 11:27-30).

Therefore, communion at this altar is reserved for those who believe and confess the teachings of our church body, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Those who have not been formally instructed in our teachings should wait to commune until completing a course of instruction with us.

If you are a VISITOR and would like to commune with us today, please speak with the pastor before the service. If you will not be communing, you are welcome to kneel at the altar with your arms folded across your chest to receive a blessing, or you may remain in your pew.

The Service of Holy Baptism

Stand

Baptismal Hymn: 601 All Who Believe and Are Baptized



1 All who be-lieve and are bap-tized Shall see the Lord's sal - va - tion;
2 With one ac - cord, O God, we pray: Grant us Your Ho - ly Spir - it.



Bap-tized in - to the death of Christ, They are a new cre - a - tion.
Help us in our in - fir - mi - ty Through Je - sus' blood and mer - it.



Through Christ's re-demp-tion they shall stand A - mong the glo-rious,
Grant us to grow in grace each day That by this sac - ra -



heav'n - ly band Of ev - 'ry tribe and na - tion.
ment we may E - ter - nal life in - her - it.

Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. George A. T. Rygh, 1860–1942, alt.

Tune: Etlich Cristlich liden, 1524, Wittenberg

Text and tune: Public domain

Remain Standing

The Rite of Holy Baptism

Service of the Word

Introit (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 95:1–4; antiphon: vv. 6–7a

P Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

C For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

P Oh come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

C Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

P For the LORD is a great God,
and a great King above all gods.

C In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his also.

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

C For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

Kyrie

Mark 10:47



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

Gloria in Excelsis

Luke 2:14; John 1:29



- C** 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro- claimed at Je-sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shipped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of Your faithful people that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may by You be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

⁹Awake, awake, put on strength,
O arm of the LORD;
awake, as in days of old,
the generations of long ago.
Was it not you who cut Rahab in pieces,
that pierced the dragon?
¹⁰Was it not you who dried up the sea,
the waters of the great deep,
who made the depths of the sea a way
for the redeemed to pass over?
¹¹And the ransomed of the LORD shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain gladness and joy,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.
¹²“I, I am he who comforts you;
who are you that you are afraid of man who dies,
of the son of man who is made like grass,
¹³and have forgotten the LORD, your Maker,
who stretched out the heavens
and laid the foundations of the earth,
and you fear continually all the day
because of the wrath of the oppressor,
when he sets himself to destroy?
And where is the wrath of the oppressor?
¹⁴He who is bowed down shall speedily be released;
he shall not die and go down to the pit,
neither shall his bread be lacking.
¹⁵I am the LORD your God,
who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar—
the LORD of hosts is his name.
¹⁶And I have put my words in your mouth
and covered you in the shadow of my hand,
establishing the heavens
and laying the foundations of the earth,
and saying to Zion, ‘You are my people.’”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Gradual (*spoken responsively*)

Psalm 116:8, 1

- P** You have delivered my soul from death,
my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.
C I love the LORD, because he has heard
my voice and my pleas for mercy.

Epistle

Colossians 1:9–14

⁹And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. ¹¹May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, ¹²giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. ¹³He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

- P** This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



C These things are writ - ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



C Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the ninth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹⁸While [Jesus] was saying these things to them, behold, a ruler came in and knelt before him, saying, “My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live.” ¹⁹And Jesus rose and followed him, with his disciples. ²⁰And behold, a woman who had suffered from a discharge of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his garment, ²¹for she said to herself, “If I only touch his garment, I will be made well.” ²²Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, “Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.” And instantly the woman was made well. ²³And when Jesus came to the ruler’s house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, ²⁴he said, “Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping.” And they laughed at him. ²⁵But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl arose. ²⁶And the report of this went through all that district.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sit

Hymn of the Day: 940 Holy God, We Praise Thy Name



1 Ho - ly God, we praise Thy name; Lord of all, we
2 Hark! The glad ce - les - tial hymn An - gel choirs a -
3 Lo, the a - pos - tles' ho - ly train Join Thy sa - cred
4 Thou art King of Glo - ry, Christ; Son of God, yet
△ 5 Ho - ly Fa - ther, ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it,



bow be - fore Thee. All on earth Thy scep - ter claim,
bove are rais - ing; Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim,
name to hal - low; Proph - ets swell the glad re - frain,
born of Mar - y. For us sin - ners sac - ri - ficed,
three we name Thee; Though in es - sence on - ly one,



All in heav'n a - bove a - dore Thee. In - fi - nite Thy
In un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing, Fill the heav'ns with
And the white - robed mar - tyrs fol - low, And from morn to
As to death a Trib - u - tar - y, First to break the
Un - di - vid - ed God we claim Thee And, a - dor - ing,



vast do - main, Ev - er - last - ing is Thy reign.
sweet ac - cord: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!
set of sun Through the Church the song goes on.
bars of death, Thou hast o - pened heav'n to faith.
bend the knee While we own the mys - ter - y.

Text: Latin, c. 4th cent.; German version Katholisches Gesangbuch, 1774, Vienna; tr. Clarence A. Walworth, 1820–1900, alt.

Tune: Katholisches Gesangbuch, 1774, Vienna

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Stand

Prayer of the Church

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the wounded people of God, redeemed by Christ's blood, that they would be healed and strengthened to lead worthy and fruitful lives in His kingdom, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the churches of the Lord, tended as lights in the darkness, that they may shine by the power of His Spirit and show forth His Gospel, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For St. Mark's Call Committee and this congregation, that God would grant to them the guidance of His Holy Spirit to choose a suitable pastor according to His will, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For all in authority over us, especially those who work to bring peace and justice, that God would supply them with His blessing; for areas of the world that are at war, that God would defeat the plans of those who stir up violence and strife, and according to His will, end all conflicts in the world, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For [_____ and] all who cry out to their Father in heaven, that He would answer their prayers and vindicate them, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For certainty in the promises of the Christ's body and blood, that we may be drawn to our Lord's presence in the blessed Sacrament to eat and drink in faith, adoring Him who is our Rock and Salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P For confidence in the power of Christ's resurrection, so mocked in this dying world, that we may arrive faithfully at the gate of death to join the saints in glory, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

P Hear us, heavenly Father, for the sake of Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Sit

Offering

During the Offering, we ask that you please sign a black attendance book located in your pew.

Service of the Sacrament

Stand

Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]

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 Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

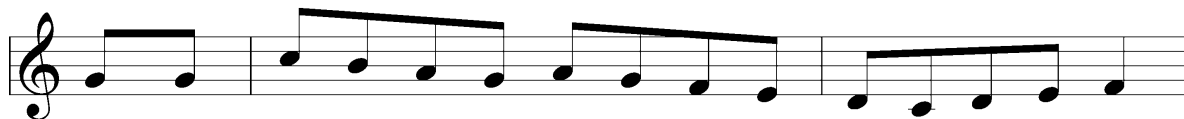
Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Prayer of Thanksgiving

- P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

In Your righteous judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, and made His cross a life-giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord's Prayer

- C** Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Agnus Dei

John 1:29

C 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world a - way;
You take the sin of the world a - way;
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Sit

Distribution

Visitors – Please see the note on the inside, front cover of this service folder regarding our Holy Communion policy.

Distribution Hymn: 659 Lord of Our Life



1 Lord of our life and God of our sal - va - tion, Star of our
2 See round Your ark the hun - gry bil - lows curl - ing; See how Your
3 Lord, be our light when world - ly dark - ness veils us; Lord, be our
4 Peace in our hearts, where sin - ful thoughts are rag - ing, Peace in Your



night and hope of ev - 'ry na - tion: Hear and re - ceive Your
foes their ban - ners are un - furl - ing And with great spite their
shield when earth - ly ar - mor fails us; And in the day when
Church, our trou - bled souls as - suag - ing, Peace when the world its



Church's sup - pli - ca - tion, Lord God Al - might - y.
fi - ery darts are hurl - ing, O Lord, pre - serve us.
hell it - self as - sails us, Grant us Your peace, Lord:
end - less war is wag - ing, Peace in Your heav - en.

Text: Matthäus Apelles von Löwenstern, 1594–1648; tr. Philip Pusey, 1799–1855, alt.

Tune: Antiphoner, 1746, Poitiers

Text and tune: Public domain

Distribution Hymn: 797 Praise the Almighty



1 Praise the Al - might - y, my soul, a - dore Him!
 2 Trust not in rul - ers; they are but mor - tal;
 3 Bless - ed, oh, bless - ed are they for - ev - er
 4 Pen - i - tent sin - ners, for mer - cy cry - ing,
 Δ 5 Praise, all you peo - ple, the name so ho - ly



Yes, I will laud Him un - til death; With songs and
 Earth - born they are and soon de - cay. Vain are their
 Whose help is from the Lord Most High, Whom from sal -
 Par - don and peace from Him ob - tain; Ev - er the
 Of Him who does such won - drous things! All that has



an - thems I come be - fore Him As long as
 coun - sels at life's last por - tal, When the dark
 va - tion can noth - ing sev - er, And who in
 wants of the poor sup - ply - ing, Their faith - ful
 be - ing, to praise Him sole - ly, With hap - py



He al - lows me breath. From Him my life and
 grave en - gulfs its prey. Since mor - tals can no
 hope to Christ draw nigh. To all who trust in
 God He will re - main. He helps His chil - dren
 heart its a - men sings. Chil - dren of God, with



all things came; Bless, O my soul, His ho - ly name.
 help af - ford, Place all your trust in Christ, our Lord.
 Him, our Lord Will aid and coun - sel now af - ford.
 in dis - tress, The wid - ows and the fa - ther - less.
 an - gel host Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost!



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Johann Daniel Herrnschmidt, 1675–1723; tr. Alfred E. R. Brauer, 1866–1949, alt.
 Tune: New-vermehrte Christliche Seelenharpf, 1665, Ansbach
 Text and tune: Public domain

Stand
Nunc Dimittis

Luke 2:29–32



1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, All
part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the
glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;
A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is
to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -
peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Benedicamus

Psalm 103:1

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C** Amen.

Closing Hymn: 791 All People That on Earth Do Dwell

1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, Sing to the
2 Know that the Lord is God in - deed; With - out our
3 O en - ter then His gates with praise; Ap - proach with
4 For why? The Lord our God is good: His mer - cy
Δ 5 To Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, The God whom

Lord with cheer - ful voice. Him serve with mirth, His
aid He did us make. We are His folk, He
joy His courts un - to. Praise, laud, and bless His
is for - ev - er sure. His truth at all times
heav'n and earth a - dore, From us and from the

praise forth - tell; Come ye be - fore Him and re - joice.
doth us feed, And for His sheep He doth us take.
name al - ways, For it is seem - ly so to do.
firm - ly stood And shall from age to age en - dure.
an - gel host Be praise and glo - ry ev - er - more.

Text: William Kethe, d. c. 1593, alt.

Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, 1551, Geneva, ed. Louis Bourgeois

Text and tune: Public domain

Announcements

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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THIS WEEK'S CHURCH CALENDAR

- Sun. 11/19** **Twenty-fourth Sunday after Trinity**
Pastor Frank Pies presiding
Baptisms: Dillon & Riley O'Brien
• **Divine Service** 9:30 a.m.
• **Adult Bible Class** 10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall
- Tue. 11/21** **Church Council Mtg.** 7:00 p.m., Library (final discussion & vote on 2024 budget)
- Wed. 11/22** **December's Newsletter Distribution**
- Thu. 11/23** **Thanksgiving Day – St. Mark's church office closed**
National Day of Thanksgiving Worship Service 10:00 a.m., Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church, Hartland
- Fri. 11/24** **St. Mark's church office closed**
- Sat. 11/25** **Decorate St. Mark's for Christmas** 10:00 a.m.
- Sun. 11/26** **The Last Sunday of the Church Year**
Pastor Rodney Zwonitzer presiding
• **Divine Service** 9:30 a.m.
• **Adult Bible Class** 10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall

TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADULT BIBLE STUDY THIS MORNING – All are welcome and encouraged to join Pastor Pies in the Fellowship Hall after church this morning for Adult Bible Study. Pastor will be teaching on the 3 scripture readings from today's worship service and/or the day's Introit. Snacks, coffee and juice will also be available. Start your week off right with Bible study!

CALL COMMITTEE NEWS/UPCOMING VOTERS' MEETING – The Call Committee received a pastoral Call List from our Michigan District on November 14. The Committee then met that evening to discuss and summarize the pastoral "options" research that has been completed to date. They organized their research so that it can be presented to our voters' assembly during the Semi-annual Voters' Meeting on **December 3** after church. The Committee has decided to pause the call process until they have had a chance to present 4 options to the voters' assembly and solicit the voters' input. Please continue to pray for our Call Committee! It is only by the guidance of the Holy Spirit that they will be led to help the congregation find our next shepherd! And **it is essential that ALL voters attend the Voters' Meeting on December 3!**

CELEBRATE THANKSGIVING DAY AT OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN, HARTLAND - Because St. Mark's is still in a pastoral vacancy, we will not be having our traditional Thanksgiving Eve worship service this year. However, we invite and encourage you to attend the National Day of Thanksgiving worship service at Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church **on Thanksgiving Day, Thursday November 23 at 10:00 a.m. instead.** Our Savior is located at 13667 W. Highland Road in Hartland, and Pastor Chris Thoma will be presiding. Go, and give thanks to the Lord for all that he has blessed you with this past year!

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING – Please be aware that St. Mark's Church Office will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday on Thursday and Friday, **November 23 and 24.** The office will re-open on Monday, November 26.

DECORATE ST. MARK'S FOR CHRISTMAS - Calling all church members! If you are going to be in town for Thanksgiving weekend, we could use your help in decorating St. Mark's for Christmas on **Saturday, November 25** starting at 10:00 a.m. There will be wreaths to hang (indoor and outdoor), our large Christmas tree to put up and decorate, a nativity set to put together, and more! If you could help, it would be greatly appreciated! We hope to see you there!

QUILTING BEE ON HAITUS – St. Mark's Quilting Bee group will be taking a break during December and January. They will resume meeting, and sewing, in February.

MIDWEEK ADVENT WORSHIP SCHEDULE – Due to not having a permanent pastor at this time, St. Mark's will not be having our usual midweek Advent worship services. However, some of our area sister congregations will be taking turns hosting the midweek services and all parishioners in our circuit are invited to attend! The services will take place at 7:00 p.m. with a theme of: ***The Way, The Truth, The Life***, and the schedule is as follows:

- December 6 at Peace Lutheran Church, 7390 Elizabeth Lake Road, Waterford: *The Way of the World, the Way of Christ*
- December 13 at Faith Lutheran Church, 3501 E. Highland Road, Highland Twp.: *The Truth of Man, the Truth of God*
- December 20 at Christ Lutheran Church, 620 General Motors Road, Milford: *Life in the Flesh, Life in the Spirit*

Please make plans now to attend, if you are able!

GREETING CARD DONATIONS NEEDED - St. Mark's Board of Human Care has a Greeting Card Ministry that we would like to expand! This past year we have taken 5 batches of cards to MediLodge in Milford, where their staff give them to their residents who they feel can benefit from a friendly greeting. If you have any cards, either blank inside, Christmas, Easter, Valentine, 4th of July, etc... and especially general "thinking of you" type, and would like to donate them, there is now a box on the shelves at the bottom of the sanctuary stairs where you can put them. Also, any stickers or cut outs that can be used to decorate blank cards would be very useful. These cards can be secular or religious. And if you would be interested in helping make cards, or have suggestions of places or individuals who would like an occasional card from St. Mark's, please let us know!! If you would like more information, please call Leslie Oehring.

UPCOMING YOUNG ADULTS' TRIVIA NIGHT – All young adults, from college-age to those in their 30's, are welcome and encouraged to attend the upcoming Young Adults' Trivia Night on **Saturday, December 2** at St. Mark's from 4:00-8:00 p.m. Dinner will be included, and young adults from our sister congregations have also been invited. Bring your children, if you have any, and enjoy a fun night out with other young adults! Questions regarding this event can be directed to Trent Johnson.

WE ARE SEEKING A CHURCH SECRETARY - Our long-time Office Manager, Debbie LoCascio, will be retiring in mid-March of 2024. We are currently starting a search to hire a secretary to replace her. Duties will include sorting mail, answering the phones, creating publications (weekly bulletins, monthly newsletters) and other miscellaneous duties. Training for the position will take place part-time (days/times are flexible) between now and mid-March. We're not sure yet if the new position will be part-time or full-time, but if you're interested, or know anyone who might be interested, please talk to either Trent Johnson or Tom LoCascio.

ADOPT-A-FAMILY FOR CHRISTMAS - Once again this year, St. Mark's is working with the Open Door Outreach Center in Waterford to Adopt-A-Family for Christmas. The Open Door has provided us with the names of 4 individuals along with their Christmas gift wishes. If you would like to purchase a gift or two for any of the 4 people, there is a sign-up sheet on an easel in the lobby where you can list your name next to the item(s). All gifts should be brought to St. Mark's by November 30. Also, if you can be at St. Mark's to help distribute some, or all, of the gifts either on **December 1** from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., or **December 7** from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m., please sign up on the smaller sheet at the bottom of the easel. Any questions on the Adopt-A-Family Christmas program can be directed to Karen Kaufman.

THE LUTHERAN CHORALAIRES ARE COMING TO MICHIGAN! The Lutheran Choralaires will be performing a Christmas Concert at 2 different LCMS churches in metro Detroit in early December. The first will take place on **Saturday, December 2** at 4:00 p.m. at St. John Lutheran Church, 1101 W. University Dr., Rochester. The second will take place on **Saturday, December 9** at 4:00 p.m. at Historic Trinity Lutheran Church, 1345 Gratiot Ave., Detroit. The suggested donation to attend is \$10/adult and \$5/child. For more information, visit their website at www.lutheranchoralaires.org, or call Paul Kienman at (248) 890-4405.

ST. MARK'S ADVENT/CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES – We hope you and your family, friends, neighbors, etc. will make plans now to attend St. Mark's Advent & Christmas worship services! The schedule for these is as follows:

- Sunday, December 3 The First Sunday in Advent – Divine Service at 9:30 a.m.
- Sunday, December 10 The Second Sunday in Advent – Divine Service at 9:30 a.m.
- Sunday, December 17 The Third Sunday in Advent – Divine service at 9:30 a.m.
- Sunday, December 24 (No Advent 4 service that morning) – The Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord Candlelight & Carols Service at 5:00 p.m.
- Monday, December 25 The Nativity of Our Lord – Divine Service at 10:00 a.m.
- Sunday, December 31 The First Sunday After Christmas – Divine Service at 9:30 a.m.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO WORK AT LIVE NATIVITY – Christ Lutheran Church in Milford is seeking volunteers to help with their Live Nativity program called Journey with Jesus. Information about the program from their website: *on **Friday, December 8** from 5:00-8:00 p.m. and **Saturday, December 9** from 4:00-8:00 p.m., you're invited to join a family on their way to Bethlehem. This free, 30-minute, interactive walk through the Nativity will guide you to meet shepherds, innkeepers, villagers, and will give you a glimpse into what it may have been like the day Christ was born all those years ago.* If you'd like to volunteer to be a shepherd, wise man, innkeeper, structure builder, etc., please visit this website to sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0E4CACA82AA1FE3-45086959-journey?useFullSite=true#/>

BOARD OF PROPERTIES' REPAIR/MAINTENANCE SHEET – St. Mark's Board of Properties now has a sheet on the bulletin board outside of the church office where you can list projects that you see around church that need to be completed. See a light bulb that's out? List it on the sheet. See something that's broken? List it on the sheet. Please help the board discover repairs that need to be fixed by listing them on this sheet. Thank you in advance for your help!

COMBINED EPIPHANY WORSHIP SERVICE ON JANUARY 6 – For the upcoming Epiphany Service on **January 6, 2024**, our circuit is planning to have a combined worship service to be held at Christ Lutheran Church in Milford (time TBD), and all church members of St. Mark's are invited to attend! The circuit has already secured David Davis, President of our Michigan District LCMS headquarters, to preach at the service. Final details are still in the works, but you'll want to put this event on your calendars now as it'll be something you won't want to miss!

IF YOU SHOP AT A KROGER STORE, please consider participating in their Community Rewards program and **link your shopper's bonus card to St. Mark's** so that our congregation will receive free cash each quarter! There is no cost to you! Kroger will send a percentage of what you spend to our congregation as a way of supporting the community. If interested (and we hope you will be!), please click on this URL below to see how you can link your Shopper's Bonus Card to our congregation: <https://www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards>. In order to locate St. Mark's Lutheran Church, search for business # 82449. Thanks so much!

WE CONTINUE TO COLLECT used postage stamps for Wycliffe Bible Translation Ministries, and used eyeglasses for MOST Ministries in the two plastic bins on the shelves at the bottom of the sanctuary stairs. Wycliffe sells the stamps to stamp collectors and then uses the proceeds to fund Bible translation projects throughout the world. MOST Ministries repairs/refurbishes used eyeglasses and distributes them via eyeglass clinics to the needy around the world. If you donate postage stamps, please leave ¼" of the paper around the stamp.

TOILETRY/HYGIENE DONATIONS FOR THE OPEN DOOR OUTREACH CENTER – We continue to receive hygiene & toiletry products year around for the Open Door Outreach Center in Waterford. There are two bins located on the shelves at the bottom of the sanctuary stairs where you can place product donations. The Open Door is a non-profit organization that assists needy families in the Lakes Area. They are ALWAYS in need of toiletry and hygiene items, so **if you can provide any of these throughout the year, it would be appreciated.**

COLLECTING BOTTLES/CANS FOR ZIAH TOWN LUTHERAN SCHOOL - If you would like to donate your returnable cans and bottles, the Board of Human Care is accepting them weekly! Just bring your bag to church and an usher will let you know where you can put them. A member of the Human Care Board will collect them and make the return. All money will then go into the fund for the Ziah Town Liberian Lutheran School to be used for catechisms and/ or school supplies. You may also make donations at any time by either putting your check/cash in a green envelope and writing “Joe Boway” on the front (checks made payable to St. Mark’s), or visiting the St. Mark’s website, clicking on the online giving button and selecting the fund titled Joe Boway/Liberian School.



SERVING THE LORD WITH GLADNESS THIS MORNING

Presiding Minister

Rev. Dr. Frank Pies

Pastor Emeritus

Altar Guild

Paula Albert & Jennie Kaufman

Worship Assistant

Charlie Powell

Greeter(s)

Tom & Debbie LoCascio

Offering Counters

Jennie & Karen Kaufman

Organist

Rob Wheeler

Usher

Tom Kaufman