



ST. MARK'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Baptism of Our Lord
January 12, 2025
Worship Service 9:30 am**

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Interim Senior Pastor
Rev. Bob Rasmus
200 South Main Street
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Visitation Pastor
Rev. Dick Hanson

Baptism of Our Lord

9:30 a.m.

January 12, 2025

***Introduction** – Today’s festival rejoices in God’s blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as God’s children, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty God when we “pass through the waters, the rivers, fire.” On this day the heavens open again for this assembly, and we receive the gift of God’s Beloved, Jesus, in bread and wine.*

***Welcome Pads** – are located at the end of pew, please sign and pass to your neighbor.*

***Nursery** – is staffed and located across from the Children’s Clubhouse.*

***Nursing Nook** – A private room for nursing mothers is available on the upper level of the sanctuary to the right of the elevator.*

***Noah’s Ark for Children** – There are books, puzzles, lacing and tracing cards, and weekly activity packets for use during the service for children. Re-useable items are returned to the ark at the end of the service.*

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. **Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.

Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.

At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all. We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE
PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Assisting minister

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God’s peo-ple on earth.

All

Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we

wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.

Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;

you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.

For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,

you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,

in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The congregation may be seated.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE & SENDING SONG

Pastor Bob Rasmus

“Jesus Loves Me”

FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:1-7

Near the end of Israel’s exile in Babylon, God promises to bring the people home. They need no longer be afraid, because the one who formed, created, and called them by name now redeems them from all their enemies. God declares them precious and honored, and God loves them.

1 But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. 2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. 3 For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. 4 Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. 5 Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; 6 I will say to the north, “Give them up,” and to the south, “Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth— 7 everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 29

(Read Responsively)

¹ Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,

ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

² **Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God’s name;**

worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

³ The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.

- ⁴ **The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**
- ⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- ⁶ **the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**
- ⁷ The voice of the LORD
bursts forth in lightning flashes.
- ⁸ **The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**
- ⁹ The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare.
And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"
- ¹⁰ **The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned asking forevermore.**
- ¹¹ O LORD, give strength to your people;
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

SECOND READING: Acts 8:14-17

Peter and John are sent to support the new Christians in Samaria, a group that was recently baptized after hearing the good news of Christ through the preaching of Philip. Here the Samaritans receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the laying on of hands.

¹⁴ Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵ The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶ (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷ Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand for the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The reading opens with questions about the identity of the Messiah. John the Baptist insists that he is not the Messiah; instead he points ahead to one who is coming. And whether the voice of God was heard by all or only by Jesus, God settles the matter: Jesus is God's beloved Son.

¹⁵ As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶ John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷ His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

²¹ Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The congregation may be seated.

MESSAGE

Pastor Bob Rasmus

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized" (Verses 1,2,4) Hymn# 304

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered
under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to
the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is
seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living
and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

God of Grace, **hear our prayer.**

SHARING OF PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING HYMN

"This Little Light of Mine"

Hymn#677

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

OFFERING PRAYER



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the
brim our cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY – (*Sung Responsively*)

Hymn# 153

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION
THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

The congregation may be seated.

COMMUNION SONG

“Lamb of God”

Hymn#154



The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Lamb of God" (Hymn #154). It consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace." The score includes a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. A small number "S 146" is visible in the top right corner of the score area.

COMMUNION AT THE ALTAR & IN THE PEW

If you need a communion packet, raise your hand and an usher will bring it to you. Children who have not been confirmed or received instruction in Holy Communion are invited forward for a blessing. Adults who are not baptized are invited to come forward for a blessing. If you desire to commune, extend your hand to the pastor, who will give you a wafer. Then, move to the communion assistant next to the pastor where you will be offered a tray with wine (dark colored) or grape juice (light colored) and in disposable cups which can be thrown away in receptacles.

COMMUNION HYMNS

“As the Grains of Wheat”

Hymn# 465

“The King of Love My Shepherd Is”

Hymn# 502

COMMUNION AT HOME

Please stand as you are able.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord’s face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

“Go My Children With My Blessing”

Hymn# 543

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to serve and love the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

SERVING TODAY AT ST. MARK'S

USHERS	Bret Shuckford, John Spring, Beth Funcannon, Cathy Leach
DEACONS	Dave Horwath, Mark Heiser, Pat Wagner, Roger French
READER	Roger French
FELLOWSHIP	Sam Waddell, Gina Williams, Beth Bradley
NURSERY	Sam Schweizer, Abby Swanson
AUDIO/VISUAL	Mike Griffith, Pam Marcoline-Griffith, Steve Demma
ALTAR GUILD	Pam Marcoline Griffith, Mike Griffith
ACOLYTES	Lorraine Berg, Christian Schleich



*The Altar flowers are sponsored today
by Joyce and Dean Zobrist
in honor of their children and grandchildren.*

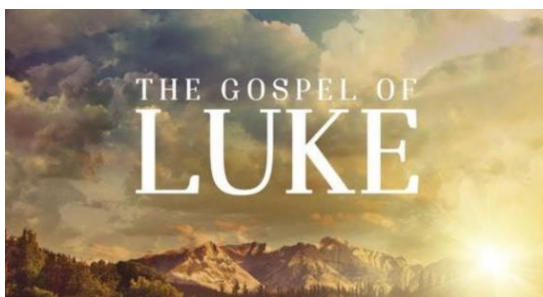


The Book of Revelations – Bible Study

Pastor Hanson will be starting a Bible Study on the book of Revelations.

This study will meet the 2nd & 4th Saturdays from 9:00 am -10:00 am in the conference room.

This study is open to the whole congregation!



Study of Luke – Bible Study

Pastor Bob Rasmus will be starting a Bible Study on the book of Luke today! This study will meet following service at 10:45 in the conference room. Everyone is invited to join!



2nd Grade Bible Milestone

Save The Date - February 9, 2025!

Second Grade Bible Milestone event will take place on February 9, 2025, during church service! The second-grade children of St. Mark's Lutheran Church will be invited to the altar with their families to receive their bible! A litany and prayer will be spoken over the children as well as their family as they receive their bible from the church. To sign your child up, please email Shannon at shannon.boynton@stmarkswashington.org or by call the church office.



Trees Needed for 2025 VBS

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Do you have an old Christmas tree you don't use anymore and it's taking up space in your closet? Did you buy a new tree for Christmas this year and don't know what to do with your old one? Bring it to St. Mark's! Ms. Shannon is already preparing for the 2025 Vacation Bible School event and is in need of Christmas trees! Preferably unlit and no ornaments needed! If you have any questions, please reach out to Shannon at shannon.boynton@stmarkswashington.org.

Online Member Directory

We are excited to announce that we are working on an online member directory for St. Mark's! We will need **every** member/family of the congregation to fill out the document that was sent out in the Buzz to accomplish this task! Please see the Buzz for more details, fill out the form and email Nate Fleming at nate.fleming@stmarkswashington.org or turn a copy into the office.

We will be offering photo days and will let you know when those dates have been set. If you have a photo you would like to use instead please email it to Nate with your copy of the completed form.

Nominating Committee



The nominating committee is still looking for help with the audit committee and the preschool team. If you are interested in filling any open spots, please contact Robin Hahn at robinhahn17@gmail.com.



PICKLEBALL

Pickleball starts this Tuesday January 14th! Join us for fellowship and fitness in the FLC at 6:00 pm.

Joyce Hughes an instructor from Five Points will be joining to give instructions on the rules and tips to help everyone improve their technique.

January WHIP Donations

WHIP (Washington Helps Its People) is a local food bank that serves the community through donations of food each month. **This month, WHIP is accepting canned chicken and tuna.** Any and all donations are greatly appreciated by the people of WHIP and the town of Washington. We are also asking for plastic bags to be collected and dropped off in our WHIP donation area as well, so clients may use them once WHIP donations are exported.



2025 Altar Flowers
Sign- up at the kiosk in the gathering space.

2025 Offering Envelopes
Pickup in Beckwith Hall.

Pray for	Reason for prayer	Requested by
Bob Page	Health	Laurie Mathes
Reed Fry	Health	Joe & Carol Madden
Marjorie Vogelsong	Healing	Mary Wilson
Bill Pribble	Healing	Ruth Alt-Lauterbach
Ed Pribble	Health	Ruth Alt- Lauterbach
Rodney Johnson	Healing	Pastor Hanson
Jackie French	Health	Roger French
Shirley Gerken	Health	Paul Gerken
Arlene Johnson	Health	Sue Essig
Kayla Strehlow	Health	Linda Keys
Eric Bell	Safe Deployment	Kathy Bell
Terry Hill	Health	Gloria Busman
Mary Christ	Healing	Barb Spring
Olsen Osterloo	Health	Lori Fuller
Steve Onion	Healing	Pam Marcoline- Griffith
Rich Gunther Jr.	Health	Sue Yocum
Dawn Mauschbaugh	Health	Sandy Jackson

Kindred Spirit Sisters

Kindred Spirit Sisters will be meeting today, January 12th at noon @ Kep's in Washington. Please, contact Sue Madden (309) 444-3096 or Kathleen Peters (309) 444-2360 with any questions.

Piece & Comfort Quilters

Piece and Comfort Quilters will meet Tuesday, January 14, 2025, at 9:30am in room LL29 for their first quilting meeting in 2025. Going forward, they will be meeting the second Tuesday of each month at 9:30am. January through October.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sunday, January 12th

9:30 am: Worship Service

10:30 am: Fellowship Hour & Blood Pressure Checks

10:45 am: Sunday School & Luke Bible Study

Monday, January 13th

9:30 am: Staff Meeting

6:00 pm: Council Meeting

8:00 pm: Washington AA

Tuesday, January 14th

9:30am: Piece & Comfort Quilters

Wednesday, January 15th

Q1 Marksman Release

6:30 pm: Cross Trainers & Confirmation

Thursday, January 16th

8:00 pm: Washington AA

SERVING JANUARY 19th

USHERS	Dee Mertens, Bruce Mathes, John Antrobus, Bryan Yocum
DEACONS	Steve Barton, Sue Ann Billimack, Beth Bradley, Bill Flowers, Annette Heller
READER	Dale Claus
FELLOWSHIP	Sam Waddell, Gina Williams, Beth Bradley
NURSERY	Marsha Rigg, Jan Braskich
AUDIO/VISUAL	Barry Moore, Elise Moore, Bethany Marshall
ALTAR GUILD	Pam Marcoline Griffith, Mike Griffith