



**Saturday December 2 , 2023 (5:00pm)  
Sunday December 3, 2023 (9:00am)**

*St. Mark's Lutheran Church*

**324 S. Sanborn Ave.**

**Jefferson, WI 53549**

**920-674-2370**

**st.marks.jefferson@sbcglobal.net**

**Rev. Christopher Raiford**

**Our Vision for St. Mark's:**

**Our church is a vibrant family of Christians committed to growing the love of Christ by welcoming and inspiring ALL people, through worship, fellowship, service and outreach.**

## Welcome to St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Welcome to St Mark's! We are restored and saved in a most important way. God has come down in His Christ and saved us. This is that awesome deed that we could never have expected of Him. But He does not stop there; He enriches us with good gifts to be used to bear fruit for His kingdom until He returns. He sustains us until that Day when He comes in the clouds with great power and glory to gather us with all the elect. This is His word to us, so we must be on guard, watching for His return.

Here at St Mark's, we celebrate Holy Communion in all of our worship services. We offer the Lord's Supper to all who are baptized and truly believe that the Lord's body and blood are present in, with, and under the bread and wine. We encourage you to come to the Lord's table, for in His body given on the cross and in His blood poured out for the sins of the world, He offers forgiveness and life everlasting to all who believe. Young children who have yet to be confirmed are welcome to come forward and receive a blessing. For those who prefer, white grape juice is provided. If you are unable to come to the altar, please let the usher know, and the Pastor will bring communion to you in your pew.

May God bless your worship with us this morning!

We pray you find Jesus,

For in Him you have...

Peace with God   Purpose for Living   A New Family of Faith   Eternal Life

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**PRELUDE** “*Masterpiece*” Maddie Welter, Duet (Sun)

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE**-Dale & Janet Gaugert (Sat)  
Tom & Verna Stelse (Sun)

**P:** We light one Advent candle, remembering Jesus who is coming again. He will come to gather His people from everywhere, both the living and the dead.

**C:** **We remember Jesus who will come at the end of time. None of us know when day that will be.**

**P:** We hear His call to watch.

**C:** **We light one Advent candle as a sign of our watchfulness and waiting.**

**P:** Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest.

**C:** **Through Your Word and Spirit may our souls be blessed.**

*The Prophecy Candle, the first of the Advent candles, is lit.*

### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**P:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** **Amen.**

**P:** God invites us to come into His presence and worship Him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask Him to forgive us.

**C:** **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed You in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve Your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me a sinner.**

**P:** God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given His only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, † and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** **Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN: “We Have Come To Join In Worship”**

We have come to join in worship  
And adore the Lord our God  
Let us come in prayer, expecting  
God to speak His mighty Word  
All is vain unless the Spirit  
Of the Holy One comes down  
Christians pray and holy manna  
Will be showered all around

Let us love our God supremely  
Let us love each other too  
Let us care for all His people  
Till our God makes all things new  
Christ will call us home to heaven  
At His banquet we'll sit down  
Christ Himself will rise and serve us  
Living manna all around

**APOSTOLIC GREETING**

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

**C:** And also with you.

**HYMN OF PRAISE: “Praise the one Who Breaks The Darkness” (Red #843)**

Praise the One who breaks the darkness  
With a liberating light  
Praise the One who frees the prisoners  
Turning blindness into sight  
Praise the One who preached the gospel  
Healing every dread disease  
Calming storms and feeding thousands  
With the very bread of peace

Praise the One who blessed the children  
With a strong yet gentle word  
Praise the One who drove out demons  
With a piercing two edged sword  
Praise the One who brings cool water  
To the desert's burning sand  
From this well comes living water  
Quenching thirst in every land

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P:** Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come. Protect us by Your strength and save us from the threatening dangers of our sins; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever

**C: Amen.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC:** : *“Mary Did You Know?” Aspen Wolter, (Sat.)*

## THE WORD OF GOD

### FIRST LESSON : Isaiah 64:1-9

<sup>1</sup> Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains would tremble before you! <sup>2</sup> As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil, come down to make your name known to your enemies and cause the nations to quake before you! <sup>3</sup> For when you did awesome things that we did not expect, you came down, and the mountains trembled before you. <sup>4</sup> Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who acts on behalf of those who wait for him. <sup>5</sup> You come to the help of those who gladly do right, who remember your ways. But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry. How then can we be saved? <sup>6</sup> All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away. <sup>7</sup> No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us and made us waste away because of our sins. <sup>8</sup> Yet, O LORD, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand. <sup>9</sup> Do not be angry beyond measure, O LORD; do not remember our sins forever. Oh, look upon us, we pray, for we are all your people.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 80:1-7** (*Read Responsively*)

**L:** Hear us, O Shepherd of Israel, You who lead Joseph like a flock

**C:** **You who sit enthroned between the cherubim, shine forth before Ephraim, Benjamin and Manasseh.**

**L:** Awaken Your might; come and save us.

**C:** **Restore us, O God; make Your face shine upon us, that we may be saved.**

**L:** O Lord God Almighty, how long will Your anger smolder against the prayers of Your people?

**C:** **You have fed them with the bread of tears;**

**L:** You have made them drink tears by the bowlful.

**C:** **You have made us a source of contention to our neighbors, and our enemies mock us.**

**L:** Restore us, O God Almighty;

**C:** **make Your face shine upon us, that we may be saved.**

**SECOND LESSON : 1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

<sup>3</sup> Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. <sup>5</sup> For in him you have been enriched in every way—in all your speaking and in all your knowledge—<sup>6</sup> because our testimony about Christ was confirmed in you. <sup>7</sup> Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. <sup>8</sup> He will keep you strong to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.

**L :** This is the word of the Lord.

**C :** Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: :“Seek Ye First”**

**Seek ye first the Kingdom of God  
And His righteousness  
And all these things shall be added unto you  
Alleluia, alleluia**

**Man shall not live by bread alone  
But by every word  
That proceeds from the mouth of God  
Alleluia, alleluia**

**Ask, and it shall be given unto you  
Seek and you shall find  
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you  
Alleluia, alleluia**

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St Mark, the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.

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

**THE GOSPEL : Mark 13:24-37**

<sup>24</sup> “But in those days, following that distress, “ ‘the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; <sup>25</sup> the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’ <sup>26</sup> “At that time men will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup> And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens. <sup>28</sup> “Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup> Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. <sup>30</sup> I tell you the truth, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. <sup>31</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. <sup>32</sup> “No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup> Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. <sup>34</sup> It’s like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with his assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. <sup>35</sup> “Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. <sup>36</sup> If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. <sup>37</sup> What I say to you, I say to everyone: ‘Watch!’ ”

**P:** This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

**HYMN OF THE DAY: “O Come O Come Emmanuel” (Red #257)**

**O come O come Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear  
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel  
Shall come to you O Israel**

**O come O Wisdom from on high  
Embracing all things far and nigh  
In strength and beauty come and stay  
Teach us your will and guide our way  
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel  
Shall come to you O Israel**

**O come O Key of David come  
And open wide our heavenly home  
Make safe the way that leads on high  
And close the path to misery  
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel  
Shall come to you O Israel**

**SERMON TEXT - James 1:17**

**SERMON THEME - Advent Series: Every Good and Perfect Gift**

**APOSTLES CREED**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.**

**The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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



## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**P:** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

**P:** Gracious Lord, sustain Your saints to the end as we enter another Church Year. Encourage the preachers of Your Word and all who hear, that the testimony about Christ may be confirmed among us as we wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** Heavenly Father, grant Your blessing to all marriages and keep all husbands and wives faithful to each other. Guide them as they care for the children entrusted to them. Bestow Your loving care upon all children who have suffered abuse or neglect, as well as upon all who open their homes to children in foster care. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** Almighty God, behold our nation and its leaders. Pour out Your Holy Spirit on them that they may look to You for guidance and wisdom so that they govern according to Your will. Keep and protect our armed forces, law enforcement, and our first responders, taking them under Your care and blessing. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** Visit us in Your compassion, O Lord. Deliver the sick from their infirmity, the troubled from their afflictions, the grieving from their sorrow and the dying from their fear *especially* all who are listed on our prayer list and all whose names we carry in our hearts. May all who cry to You receive grace according to Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** Merciful Lord, Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, entered Jerusalem to shouts and cheers of joy. Grant that we may be stirred by the Word and Sacraments to rejoice anew, now and at His second advent. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** Gracious Father, You have made us glad to enter into Your presence to hear the good news of our Savior and receive Your gifts. Preserve Your Church against all her enemies, and lead us to walk in Your ways and to follow Your paths, that when Jesus returns in His glory, we may welcome Him. Lord in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**P:** Heavenly Father we await the coming of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who also taught us to pray, Our Father...

## 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.

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

Please Be Seated

## GATHERING OF THE OFFERING

### OFFERTORY HYMN: *"We give Thee but Thine Own"*

We give thee but Thine own  
Whate'er the gift may be  
All that we have is Thine alone  
A trust O Lord from Thee

And we believe thy Word  
Though dim our faith may be  
Whate'er we do for thine O Lord  
We do it unto Thee

## OFFERING PRAYER

**P:** All gracious God, in Your infinite love You gave Your only Son Jesus Christ to die for our sins and rise again for our justification and have made us partakers of the divine nature through the gift of the Holy Spirit. Receive the offering we present to You and grant that our bodies, souls and spirits may be living sacrifices to You, holy and pleasing in Your sight, and that we may go forth in Your strength to freely serve You in all things; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

Please Stand

## **THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR**

P: The Lord be with you

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them up to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is good and right so to do.**

**P:** Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He raised Christ from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms and placed all things under His feet for the benefit of the Church. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ. To Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory forever and ever.

**C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might Heav'n and earth are full of your glory Hosanna in the highest, Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

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

He then took the cup and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, Drink from it all of you; this cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of Me.

O Christ, the Lamb of God, that takes away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us and grant us Your peace.

**C: Amen**

Please Be Seated

## DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

### COMMUNION HYMN: “ *O Living Bread From Heaven*” (Red #542)

O living Bread from heaven  
How well you feed your guest  
The gifts that you have given  
Have filled my heart with rest  
O wondrous food of blessing  
O cup that heals our woes  
My heart this gift possessing  
In thankful song o'erflows

### CORPORATE BLESSING

**P:** My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ – May this body which has been given for you and this blood which has been shed for you, strengthen and preserve you in the true faith until life everlasting. You can depart from the Lord’s table in joy and at peace with God, † your sins are forgiven.

**C: Amen**

### THANKSGIVING

**P :** O give thanks to the Lord for He is good; His mercy endures forever.

**C: Amen**

**P:** Let us pray: Dear Lord Jesus, at Your gracious invitation we have partaken of the heavenly feast which You have prepared for Your followers. How greatly You have honored us by receiving us as Your guests. How richly You have blessed us with the great treasure of forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. Keep us ever mindful of the great love which moved You to suffer and die and shed Your precious blood for us. Let this blessed sacrament serve to strengthen our faith, to deepen our love for You and each other, and to increase our patience in all affliction. And let this communion here below produce a yearning in us for the blessed supper with You in heaven. Hear us for Your name’s sake, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

## **BENEDICTION**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you

The Lord look upon you with favor † and give you peace

**C: Amen**

## **CLOSING HYMN: “Joy To The World” (Red #267)**

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come  
Let earth receive her King  
Let every heart prepare him room  
And heaven and nature sing  
And heaven and nature sing  
And heaven and heaven and nature sing**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns  
Let all their songs employ  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy**

**He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness  
And wonders of his love  
And wonders of his love  
And wonders, wonders of his love**

**P: Go in peace and serve the Lord!**

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

\*\*\*\*\***Announcements, Care, Concerns**\*\*\*\*\*

**In Our Prayers This Week**

Please continue to keep Owen Copsey, Louise Carter, Pat Stuessi, Randy & Carol Rogers, Shirley Heitz, Wendi Raiford, Brenda Volland, Adela Koch, Sue Van Den Einde, Pat Dobbs, Sarah Ley, Leo Koebler, Don & Jane Parlow, Kathy Lehman, Ron Kreklow, in your prayers for healing and comfort.

\* Pastor Steve Fossum went to his eternal home on Nov. 29. He was a Pastor at St. Mark's from 1973-1987. Please keep his wife Tami, and his children Scott and Christine and his family in your prayers.

\* Denny Van Den Einde went to his eternal home on Nov.21. Please keep his wife Sue and his family in your prayers.

- Pat Dobbs went to his eternal home on Nov. 12. Please keep her family in your prayers.

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**Advent Worship & Soup Supper**

The season of Advent begins December 3, 2023. On Wednesday evenings at 6:00pm St Mark's will be serving a Soup & Sandwich Supper followed by an Advent Worship Service. Our theme for the Advent Services: **Ageless Advent Questions**

Dec. 6, 2023	<i>Are You the One?</i>	<i>Amos 8:9-14 &amp; Matthew 11:2-11</i>
Dec. 13, 2023	<i>How Will This Be?</i>	<i>Isaiah 11:1-10 &amp; Luke 1:5-38</i>
Dec 20, 2023	<i>For Me?</i>	<i>Isaiah 62:1-12 &amp; Luke 2:8-16</i>

**Giving Manger:**

During December In front of the church altar is a Giving Manager. Visit the manger with the holy family anytime you are in church.

The question to ask yourself is "What can I bring him?"

1. My heart- give your life and follow Jesus. Meditate on this life decision.
2. Offering- money can be placed in the star basket and will be used to train up/educate young children in Small World Montessori Preschool
3. Prayer- have your own conversation with God for he is your best friend. Write a prayer on a notecard and we will place it by the Sunday School hand cross downstairs. Feel free to use the devotional books on display.
4. Acts of Kindness- serve God by serving others in need. Make a commitment to help someone every day.

Return each week to the Giving Manger and you will discover the true reason for the season that goes on each and every day. God is Love

**Church Council Installation**

Church council installation service will be held on Sunday, Dec. 10th. All council members are encouraged to attend. We praise and thank God for our new council members, and for those who have served St. Mark's so faithfully.

### **Altar Poinsettias**

The altar poinsettias given in memory of parents, daughter, granddaughter of the Prust sisters.

### **Christmas Caroling**

Anyone interested in Christmas Caroling on Thursday, December 14 at 6:00pm please sign up in the church narthex. We will sing favorite songs at Alden Estates & Sylvan Crossing and return to the church (7:15pm) for refreshments : hot cocoa and apple cider.

### **Poinsettias**

The time has come to order your poinsettias. You have the choice of white, red or pink and they are \$11.50 each. There are forms on the ushers table in the sanctuary and in the outbox on the church office door. If you wish to remember a loved one this holiday season, please fill out the form, for Poinsettias, and return it to the Church Office **NO LATER THAN SUNDAY DECEMBER 10th**. Memorials may be received until December 17th.

### **Children's Christmas Celebration**

The Children's Christmas Celebration will be held on Saturday, December 9 from 3:00 to 6:00pm with a Childrens' devotion by Pastor Chris, potluck, cookies to decorate, arts/crafts, color pages to share with shut-ins, Santa Claus, photos with friends, 5:00pm church service with Christmas songs and the Christmas Story with angels, shepherds and the Nativity. Come join us and bring a friend, this is open to the community. A Sign-up sheet for Volunteers and Food donations will be in the church narthex. Questions please text/call Kathy Dorn 920-253-6827.

### **Quilts for sale**

The quilters have put out quilts that are for sale. The baby and children's quilts are in the back of the church. If you see one you like you can take it, the quilters are asking for a \$20 donation. You can place an envelope with either cash or check in the offering plate. Please label the envelope quilt and if you write a check please make the check out to Janet Gaugert. Thank you

### **Apple Pie Filling**

Thank you to all who helped with apple pie filling! We produced 108 bags of prefilling for sale. Bags are \$9.00. Check with Dick or Patty to purchase.

### **100 year anniversary booklets & ornaments**

The 100 year anniversary booklets and ornaments are in the church office if you would like one please stop in the office or call the church office at 920-674-2370. The ornaments are \$10 and the booklets are free.

### **Bible Study**

\*Tuesday morning 8 am at 4 Sister's Restaurant in Jefferson

\*Thursday morning 9am—Fellowship Hall—Predestination

\*Sunday Morning after worship in Fellowship Hall—Families of the Bible

**Staff/Administrative**

Pastor	Christopher Raiford	570-238-2858
Office Administrator	Erin Henry	920-674-2370
Council President	Dick Kassner	920-674-2577
Small World Director	Bonnie Scholl– Rhode	920-542-0841
Music Director/Organist	Carroll Stevens	920-674-5263
Custodian	Cindy Howard	920-650-6045

**This Week’s Worship Helpers**

	5:00pm	9:00am
Readers	Kathy Dorn	Vicki Schicker
Usher	Jim Jeske	Kurt Sheil
Communion Helper	Scott & Cindy Howard	Vicki Schicker Wendi Raiford

**Upcoming Events**

Mon. Dec.4	Manna Monday 5:00pm-6:00pm
Tues. Dec.5	Quilters -9am Men’s Bible Study 8am Dartball 7pm
Wed. Dec.6	Choir Practice –6:30pm Advent Worship & Soup Supper-6pm Confirmation Class 6pm-7pm
Thurs. Dec.7	Bible Study– 9 am
Fri. Dec. 8	
Sat. Dec. 9	Kid’s Christmas Celebration 3pm Worship 5-pm
Sun. Dec.10	Worship service –9am Sunday School-10:15 am Bible Study-10:15 am

**Wish List                      Needed                      Given**

Boiler	\$45,000	\$2,355.00
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**Last Weeks Offering**

Saturday	808.00
Sunday	1462.50
Total	2270.00

**Last weeks attendance**

Saturday	33
Sunday	44



