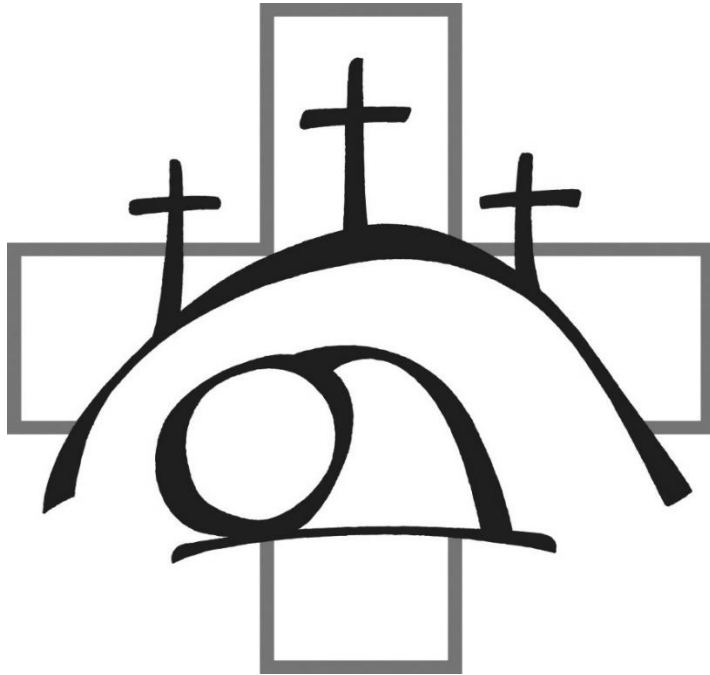


CELEBRATING THE GOODNESS OF GOD

Worship Bulletin for March 19, 2023



**GLORIFY HIM ...
GROW IN HIM ...
GO WITH HIS GOSPEL**

We are St. Mark's Church & School

A WELST[†]NorCal Ministry ... Other Locations
Foundation – Folsom, Hope – Penryn,
Elk Grove Mission – Elk Grove, Christ – Lodi, St. John – Vacaville

4th Sunday in Lent

March 19, 2023

A place to call home: St. Mark's Lutheran Church & School

In the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, welcome home. We especially welcome to our house of worship our guests who have joined us today. We pray you will be strengthened by the good news about God's grace, love, and forgiveness to us through Jesus.

We say with the Psalmist, whether here on campus or viewing online, *"I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD'"* (Psalm 122:1).

May the Lord continue to help us grow in His grace and knowledge as we hear, speak, and sing His holy Word.

Some items to keep in mind as we gather for worship in this place:

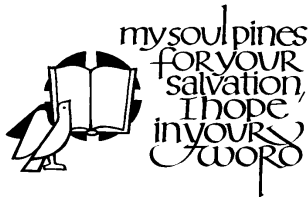
Members & our Guests ... Please pick up and fill out a **Connection Card** which can be found in the Entryway; before you leave place it in the box on the wall or in the basket labeled "Filled out Connection Cards." Thank you!

We do have **LARGE PRINT** copies of the Service; they can be found at the entrance to the Sanctuary.

Hymns from 'Christian Worship' are in the 'red' book / 'Christian Worship Supplement' in the 'blue' 'Christian Worship Hymnal' is our 2021 Edition (not yet in the Pews)

Personal **hearing assistance** devices are available on the entryway wall near the west entrance. The Sanctuary is also 'looped' for those who have hearing aids that can pick up the signal.

Holy Communion is offered on the 1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays. Since Holy Communion is a confession of faith, we ask that at this time only members partake of the Sacrament. If you are not a member and would like to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion, please reach out to our Pastor.



Explore our website. You will find information on Worship, Bible Study, Devotions, Children's Sunday School, and More.

Follow us to stay connected: Like us on Facebook: facebook.com/stmarksch; Follow us on Instagram: Instagram.com/stmarkslutheran; Subscribe to our videos on Vimeo: vimeo.com/channels/stmarksch.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Worship Focus: Why me? Why do I have to get sick? What did I do wrong to deserve this? Sound familiar? It is natural for us to ask why and assume ‘we’ must have done something to have ‘this’ not good happen to us. Yet, not everything negative can be tied to something specific; at times life will just not go as hoped or planned because we do live in a world that is not perfect. Thankfully God has something to help us sort through the why questions and the consequences of sin. His answers are rooted in His grace. To this God indeed be our praise and thanks today and always.

PRELUDE

Not All the Blood of Beasts

Arr. by Valerie Floeter

Greeting & Invocation

Minister: Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

Congregation: Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

M: We worship this day in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

HYMN

Musical Introduction

How Great Thou Art

Christian Worship (red) # 256

**O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,**

Thy pow’r throughout the universe displayed. *(to Refrain)*

Then sings my soul, my Savior-God, to thee, “How great thou art! How great thou art!”

Then sings my soul, my Savior-God to thee, “How great thou art! How great thou art!”

**When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze, *Refrain***

**And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin. *Refrain***

**When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim: “My God, how great thou art!” *Refrain***

M: Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

C: who forgives all our sins and heals all our diseases

M: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

**All: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.
For faithless worrying and selfish pride,
For sins of habit and sins of choice,
For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,
You should cast me away from your presence forever.
O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.**

M: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: All your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen. Thanks be to God.

M: Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

C: as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

HYMN

Musical Introduction

Father, God of Grace, You Knew Us

Christian Worship Supplement (blue) # 753

**Praise the Father, great Creator. Praise the Son, who took our place.
Praise the Spirit, Sanctifier, God of free and faithful grace!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.**

Baptism at 10:45 ... Leila Garner

HYMN at 10:45

Musical Introduction

See This Wonder in the Making

Christian Worship (red) # 300

**See this wonder in the making: God himself this child is taking
As a lamb safe in his keeping, His to be, awake or sleeping.**

**Miracle each time it happens As the door to heaven opens
And the Father beams, "Beloved, Heir of gifts a king would covet!"**

**Far more tender than a mother, Far more caring than a father,
God, into your arms we place her, With your love and peace embrace her.**

**Here we bring a child of nature; Home we take a newborn creature,
Now God's precious son or daughter, Born again by Word and water.**

M: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: Christ, have mercy.

M: For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

M: Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.

C: Amen.

HYMN

Musical Introduction

Father, God of Grace, You Knew Us

Christian Worship Supplement # 753

**Lord, your changeless Word has fed us, Spanning time, transcending space.
Water, bread, and wine sustained us When the darkness hid your face.
Keep us with you, faithful Shepherd, By your saving means of grace!**

A READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 42:14-21

God's patience ran out with Israel as they continued to turn to gods which were not truly real, something they remained blind to see.

“For a long time I have kept silent, I have been quiet and held myself back. But now, like a woman in childbirth, I cry out, I gasp and pant. ¹⁵ I will lay waste the mountains and hills and dry up all their vegetation; I will turn rivers into islands and dry up the pools. ¹⁶ I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them. ¹⁷ But those who trust in idols, who say to images, ‘You are our gods,’ will be turned back in utter shame. ¹⁸ “Hear, you deaf; look, you blind, and see! ¹⁹ Who is blind but my servant, and deaf like the messenger I send? Who is blind like the one in covenant with me, blind like the servant of the LORD? ²⁰ You have seen many things, but you pay no attention; your ears are open, but you do not listen.” ²¹ It pleased the LORD for the sake of his righteousness to make his law great and glorious.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

HYMN

Musical Introduction ... See page 6

Your Works, Not Mine, O Christ

Christian Worship (red) # 401

**Your works, not mine, O Christ, Speak gladness to this heart.
They tell me all is done; They bid my fear depart.**
(Refrain) To whom but you, who can alone For sin atone, Lord, shall I flee?

**Your blood, not mine, O Christ, Can heal my sinful soul;
Your wounds, not mine, contain The balm that makes me whole.** *Refrain*

**Your cross, not mine, O Christ, Has borne the dreadful load
Of sins that none could bear But the incarnate God.** *Refrain*

**Your death, not mine, O Christ, Has paid the ransom due;
Ten thousand deaths like mine Would have been all too few.** *Refrain*

**Your righteousness, O Christ, Alone can cover me;
No other righteousness Can set a sinner free.** *Refrain*

A READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

Ephesians 5:8-14

It is clear when it comes to the why and how followers of Christ are to be set apart from those who don't follow Him.

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) ¹⁰ and find out what pleases the Lord. ¹¹ Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. ¹² It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. ¹³ But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. ¹⁴ This is why it is said: “Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

CHOIR

Lord, I Was Blind

David Rasbach © Choristers Guild

*Lord, I was blind; I could not see in Your marred visage any grace.
But now the beauty of Your face in radiant splendor dawns on me.
Once I was blind, but now I see!*

*Lord, I was deaf, I could not hear the thrilling music of Your voice.
But now I hear You and rejoice, and all Your tender words are clear.
Once I was deaf, but now I hear!*

*Lord, I was mute; I could not sing the grace and glory of Your name.
But now, as touched with living flame, my lips shall praise my God and King!
Once I was mute, but now I sing!*

*Lord, I was dead. I could not raise my lifeless soul from sin's cold grave.
Naught but the gift of life You gave, could e'er have raised me up.
The pow'r of Your redeeming love raised me to life, and now I live!*

Lord, I was dead, mute, deaf, blind, but now I see!

Our Worship centers on the Gospel Reading for the day.

A READING FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39

No matter the evidence before them, some sadly remain in spiritual blindness.

As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³ “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴ As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶ After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. ⁷ “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. ¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. ¹⁴ Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man’s eyes was a Sabbath. ¹⁵ Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. “He put mud on my eyes,” the man replied, “and I washed, and now I see.” ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others asked, “How can a sinner perform such signs?” So they were divided. ¹⁷ Then they turned again to the blind man, “What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” The man replied, “He is a prophet.” ³⁴ To this they replied, “You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!” And they threw him out. ³⁵ Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶ “Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷ Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.” ³⁸ Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.”

M: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Praise be to You, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY

Amazing Grace—How Sweet the Sound

Musical Introduction ... Song continues on page 8

Christian Worship (red) # 379

**Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found, Was blind but now I see.**

**The Lord has promised good to me; His Word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be As long as life endures.**

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.**

**When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we'd first begun.**

FOCUS ON THE SCRIPTURES

Based on John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39

“God Be Praised You Can See”

A CONFESSION OF OUR FAITH – THE NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,

was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OUR THANK OFFERING

Thank you for continuing to support our ministry. Your thank offering can be received in the following ways: placed in the box on the wall as you enter the Sanctuary, mail your thank offering to the church, give online through our website under the “Resources” tab, or give by texting 916.915.9552. The QR Code to the web giving link is at the end of the bulletin.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we praise you for reconciling us to yourself through the sufferings and death of your dear Son. Through him we have confidence to enter into your presence and to bring you our prayers and petitions. Out of the infinite bounty of your goodness, grant us a rich measure of your Spirit.

C: Let the love of Christ fill your Church, so that it may flourish in all good works. Help us show love and compassion for all who are in need.

M: Bestow on the nations of the earth the knowledge of your mercy, that they may turn to you, the only God, and find salvation in you.

C: Strengthen our faith so that we unflinchingly come to you in prayer for all our bodily needs.

M: Give a special measure of your power to those who are sorrowful or mourning, to those who are in pain or sickness, to those who may be in temptation or peril, that they may receive your blessed aid.

C: And help us patiently endure any chastening and afflictions you permit to come into our lives, knowing that you are using them in love to prepare us for that joyful communion with you, which is ours for all eternity.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Accept our prayers and intercessions, and provide for all our needs not because we are worthy but for the sake of Jesus our Savior.

C: Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

M: Blessed are you, O Lord of heaven and earth. We praise and thank you for sending your Son, Jesus Christ, and we remember the great acts of love through which he has ransomed us from sin, death, and the devil's power.

**C: By his incarnation, he became one with us.
By his perfect life, he fulfilled your holy will.
By his innocent death, he overcame hell.
By his rising from the grave, he opened heaven.**

M: Invited by your grace and instructed by your Word, we approach your table with repentant and joyful hearts. Strengthen us through Christ's body and blood, and preserve us in the true faith until we feast with him and all his ransomed people in glory everlasting.

C: Amen.

And we also pray ...

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

M: 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."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my ☩ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE SACRAMENT

The Ushers will direct Communicants by way of the center aisle, returning by way of the outer aisle. Either pick up a Wafer from the table by the Baptism Font or receive a Wafer in your hand from the Communion Assistant. Note: Tinted cups in the center of the Trays are filled with Grape Juice. Your empty Cup can be put in the basket located by the outer aisles. If seated on the east side, approach the Rail from left to right; if on the west side, right to left. When at the Rail, you may kneel or stand. If you need Communion in the Pew, please let an Usher know of this.

As a reminder: Since Holy Communion is a confession of faith, we ask that at this time only members and those who spoke with the Pastor ahead of time partake of the Sacrament. In the future, if you would like to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion, please reach out to our Pastor following the Service / during the week.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Musical Introduction

Just As I Am, without One Plea

Christian Worship (red) # 397

**Just as I am, without one plea But that thy blood was shed for me
And that thou bidd'st me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am and waiting not To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am, though tossed about With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind; Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am, thou wilt receive, Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am; thy love unknown Has broken ev'ry barrier down.
Now to be thine, yea, thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Musical Introduction

Blessed Are the Saints of God

Christian Worship (red) # 394

**Blessed are the saints of God; They are bought with Christ's own blood.
They are ransomed from the grave; Life eternal they shall have.
With them numbered may we be Here and in eternity.**

**They are justified by grace; They enjoy the Savior's peace.
All their sins are washed away; They shall stand in God's great day.
With them numbered may we be Here and in eternity.**

**They are lights upon the earth, Children of a heav'nly birth.
One with God, with Jesus one, Glory is in them begun.
With them numbered may we be Here and in eternity.**

M: Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart, that being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may hold firmly to the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

M: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.

C: Amen.

HYMN

Musical Introduction ... Song continues on page 12

Lamb of God, We Fall before You

Christian Worship (red) # 354

**Lamb of God, we fall before you, Humbly trusting in your cross.
Our great joy is to adore you; All things else are only dross.**

**Jesus is the perfect Savior, Only source of all that's good;
Ev'ry grace and ev'ry favor Come to us through Jesus' blood.**

**Jesus gives us true repentance By his Spirit sent from heav'n,
Whispers this assuring sentence, "All your sins are now forgiv'n."**

**Faith he grants us to believe it, Grateful hearts his love to prize;
Want we wisdom? He must give it, Hearing ears and seeing eyes.**

**Jesus gives us pure affections, Wills to do what he requires,
Makes us follow his directions, And what he commands, inspires.**

**All our prayers and all our praises, Rightly offered in his name—
He that asks for them is Jesus; He that answers is the same.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

Behold the Lamb of God

Arr. by Valerie Floeter



TODAY AT ST. MARK'S

Serving at Worship

Presiding Minister: Pastor Jonathan Kolander

Musical Accompanist: Marty Puckett

Violin/Cello: Vince Biederbecke

Percussion: Don Black

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Sunday Bible Studies

Adults, 9:30 (also online) ... A further look at “The Augsburg Confession”

Children, in person Sunday School ... meet at 9:15 in the Chapel

Teens, in person at 9:30 in the Gathering Space on the 2nd level ... “Parables”

For Reflection based on Today's Scripture Readings ...

1st: What can't God hold back on any longer? What is His solution to the blindness people have by nature? What are the challenges to getting people to 'see the light'? Read Isaiah 45.

2nd: What is it that separates disciples of God from those who are not (at least is to)? What is the Lord's will? What does making the most of every opportunity look like for you? Read Colossians 3.

3rd: Is every consequence tied to a specific sin, why or why not? Why is God often the one blamed for the consequences of sin in this world? What is the overall message of Jesus in this section, and how does this take place? Read Luke 11:28 & 1 John 5:3

To connect to the auto giving option:



To online Connect Card:



THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Weekly Calendar

Today		****Mission Box Offering****
	8:00 & 10:45	Worship Service with Holy Communion
	9:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	4:00 p.m.	Catechism
Monday	6:00 p.m.	Women's Bible Study
Wednesday	8:20 a.m.	School Chapel
	5:30 p.m.	Midweek Lenten Supper
	6:30 p.m.	Midweek Lenten Service
	7:30 p.m.	Adult Choir
Thursday	9:30 a.m.	JOL Women's Bible Study
Friday		No School – Staff Development Day
Next Sunday		****Mission Box Offering****
	8:00 & 10:45	Worship Service
	9:30 a.m.	Bible Study

<i>Birthdays</i>		<i>Anniversaries</i>
Kim McDonald	<i>Mar 23</i>	Fran & Dave Schmidt
Greg Lazaga	<i>Mar 24</i>	Gary & Gail Verthein
Rosemarie Boushek	<i>Mar 25</i>	Steve & Ellie Ennis
		Frankie & Peachy Galvez



St. Mark's LUTHERAN CHURCH

Founded on the Word. Focused on the Cross.

7869 Kingswood Drive * Citrus Heights, California 95610

Phone: (916) 961-7891 Fax: (916) 961-5034

Website: www.StMarksLutheran.com

St. Mark's Guest Wi-Fi Password: [stmarks7869](#)

Sunday Services at 8:00 am (Live streamed) & 10:45 a.m.

Children's Sunday School Study, 9:15-10:30, meet in the Chapel

Sunday Bible Discussion 9:30-10:20 (Live streamed) ... Teens in the Teen Room

Monday Evening Service at 6:30 PM in the Adm Building Chapel

Wednesday School Chapel Service at 8:20 a.m.

Jonathan Kolander	Pastor
Stacie Malone & Linda Halfhill	Office Admin
Erin Donoho	Ministry Assistant
Shawn Butler & Suzanne Schlais	Facility Managers
Mike Rausch & Daniel Joseph	Teen Study Leaders
Darren Vogt	Principal, Grades 7-8
Tyler Wahl	Grades 5-6
Jodi Rowe	Grades 3-4
Rosemarie Boushek	Grades 1-2
Hannah Ripley	Jr.K/Kindergarten
Greg Thiesfeldt	Associate Teacher, Grades 5-8
Ruth Vogt	Art
Dena Oswald	Ext. School Day Care

Glorify God • Grow in Grace • Go with the Gospel