



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

***6 South Second Street
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301-334-2668***

***connect@stmarksoakland.com
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***Sunday Worship Service is at 10:00 a.m.
Our Daily Ministers are The People of St. Mark's
Rev. Carrie Hoff, Pastor***

WELCOME

We extend a sincere welcome to all who join us for worship.

August 30, 2026
14th Sunday after Pentecost
Order of Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“Make Me a Channel of Your Peace” by Sebastian Temple

**** CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

✙ All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God, whose compassion endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Compassionate God,

we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ’s name we pray, Amen.

Jesus says, “Come to me,
all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest.”

In the name of God,

Father, ✙ Son, and Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.

Rest in God’s love.

Amen.

**** SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

**** PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

“For the Beauty of the Earth ”

No. 879

**** 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.

** KYRIE

Refrain



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
life and for love, for our work and our play,
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



Refrain
let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

** PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 15:15-21

¹⁵ O LORD, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult.

¹⁶ Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart, for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts. ¹⁷ I did not sit in the company of merry-makers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation. ¹⁸ Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail. ¹⁹ Therefore thus says the LORD: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them. ²⁰ And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the LORD. ²¹ I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

PSALM: Psalm 26:1-8

We will read the Psalm responsively, starting with the refrain and repeat where indicated.

Refrain: Your love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you. (Ps. 26:3)

¹ Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived with integrity;

I have trusted in the LORD and have not faltered.

² **Test me, O LORD, and try me;
examine my heart and my mind.**

³ For your steadfast love is before my eyes;

I have walked faithfully with you.

⁴ **I have not sat with the worthless,
nor do I consort with the deceitful. R**

⁵ I have hated the company of evildoers;

I will not sit down with the wicked.

⁶ **I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD,
that I may go in procession round your altar,**

⁷ singing aloud a song of thanksgiving
and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

⁸ **LORD, I love the house in which you dwell
and the place where your glory abides. R**

SECOND READING: Romans 12:9-21

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord.

¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers. ¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ Instead, "if your enemies are

hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.”²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

**** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**** GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-28**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹ From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised.²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.”²³ But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.”²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?²⁷ “For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done.”²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Carrie Hoff

**** HYMN OF THE DAY**

No. 667

“Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said”

**** 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 INTERCESSION *(Please be seated)*

With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence.

For the church in every land, that its mission and ministry is anchored in the love of Christ. When threats or challenges arise, teach us to take up our cross and follow you in faith. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

For the well-being of your creation, that all that lives and grows on the earth may thrive. Bring relief to areas ravaged by droughts, floods, fires, storms, and other disasters (*especially*). Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

For the nations and all in authority, that they seek to live in peace with one another. Bless the work of international and diplomatic organizations and all who work to bring peace to a world scarred by violence. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

For all those in need, that they be satisfied. Ensure all your children have safe access to food, water, shelter, and medical care. Bring healing to all who bear wounds in body, mind, and spirit (*especially*). Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

For the congregation gathered here to serve you, that they remain strong in faith and united in purpose. Guide our church council, committees, study groups, and other meetings toward honesty and humility, always seeking genuine love. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

For the faithful departed, that their witness continues to strengthen and guide the church. Renew our hope in your promises in this life and the life to come. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

OFFERING

SPECIAL MUSIC

“ Let the Beauty ”

**** OFFERTORY HYMN**

No. 188

“ Create in Me a Clean Heart ”

**** OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. Loving God, we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever. **Amen.**

**** LORD’S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

**** BLESSING**

Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,

✠ one God,
bless, heal, and hold you
today and always.

Amen.

**** RECESSIONAL HYMN**

No. 660

“ Lift High the Cross ”

**** DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God. We WILL!

POSTLUDE

“ Thine is the Glory ” by George Frederick Handel; arr. by Lloyd Larson

St. Mark's Mission Statement

“United in Christ, Sharing his Good News,
we invite all people to grow in God's love.”

Church Calendar August 30, 2026 – September 6, 2026

- Today** - Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.
- Tuesday** - No Yoga
- Wednesday** - HandBell Choir Practice
- Chancel Choir
- Next Sunday** - Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.
with Holy Communion

Serving Today

Acolyte:	Nicklaus Bennett
Lector:	Sarah LeDuc
Organist:	Sean Beachy
Co-Directors of Music:	Sean & Debi Beachy
Special Music:	Judy Bertsch & Juli Morris
Recorder:	Nicole Bosley
Flower Delivery:	Marta Turney
Safe Keeper:	Jim Murray
Ushers:	Terry Savage, Capt.
	Carol Savage, Paul LeDuc, Donna Swift

Pastor Carrie can be reached by email at pastorcarrie@stmarksoakland.com or
phone 443-974-1738 for any pastoral needs or concerns.



The Altar Flowers have been placed today by Ida, Gene, & Debra Durben
in memory of beloved family members.

Prayer Requests



Illness: Emelee DeWitt, Helen Ferrell, Valerie Minor, Viola, Josh Wilhelm, Tom Bittering, Dorothee Bittering, Peter, Robert Hodges, Ava, Connie Leary, Emily, Marie, Joyce Chaney, Debbie, Bill & Diana Bachtel, Norma, Joe, Kimmie, Abe, Angie, Fred Meyer, Tom Bingham, Senta Heinrich, Mary, Eric, Jeff Gilbert, Marylynn, Michael, Sally, George, David, Roger, Clint, C.J. Bennett, Micah Teter, John Arnold, Ray, Laura and her unborn child, Katie LeDuc, Diane LeDuc, Jean, Bil McGahn, Sara, Debra Lohman, Annie Wiles, Danny, Ada Viattero, Debra DeWitt, Sonny Vincent, Kate Schenk, Louie Kitzmiller II, Griffith, Dave, Judy, C.J., Nicholas, Jack, Ken Bachtel, Tim DeWitt, Patti Shanes, Nancy Keating, Tobi

Special Needs: Chase, Jeremy Lewis, Christine Chaney, Autumn and Jordan, Bravo, Shania, Joey Welch & his family, Mr. Kittle, Eli M., Athena, Kella & Baby, Garrett, Amy Bacha, Jimmy Meyers, Gary Thorn, Thomas Swastintruber, Alice Davidson, Baby Fiona, Shirley Lewis, Dustin Flynn, Jake

Upcoming Events

Saturday, September 12

Marsh Mountain Consort Concert 3 p.m.

Sunday, September 13

St. Mark's Outdoor Worship & Family Picnic

Announcements

St. Mark's Outdoor Worship & Family Picnic

Sunday, September 13

Worship and our picnic will be held at the **Lewis Pavilion**, located at **2449 Oakland Sang Run Rd, Oakland, MD**. The pavilion is just past the Country Club on the left. If you know where the Sang Run Sports Shop is, the pavilion is only a couple hundred feet farther down the road. You'll see the pavilion before the road at the end of the property—turn in there. If you have any questions, please contact the church office during the week. You may also try texting Ellda at **(304) 698-5295**, but please keep in mind that cell phone service is limited in that area. There is a sign-up sheet in the **Narthex** if you would like and are able to bring something to share. This is always such a fun day and a special time of worship, fellowship, and enjoying one another. **We hope you can join us!**

Welcome to St. Mark's Lutheran Church

We are so glad you are worshiping with us this morning. Here are a few things to help you feel comfortable in our space and more fully participate in worship. If you have questions at any time, our ushers will be happy to help.

Restrooms

- A first-floor restroom is available. Facing the pulpit, use the door to the left, enter the church office, and the restroom is located on the right.
- Restrooms and water fountains are also available downstairs. From the back of the sanctuary (narthex), take the steps downstairs, turn right into Fellowship Hall, restrooms are on the right and the water fountain is on the left.

Accessibility & Comfort

- Our bulletins contain the order of worship so you can easily follow along. You are invited to participate in the liturgy in areas indicated in bold and hymns can be found in the red hymnal.
- If standing during worship is uncomfortable, please feel free to remain seated.
- Hearing assistance devices and large-print bulletins are available—please ask an usher.

Visitors

- If you are visiting, we invite you to sign the guest registry located on the stand near the front doors or fill out a visitor envelope found in the pew rack in front of you and place it in the offering plate.
- If you or someone you know is in need of an extra prayer, please fill out a card in the pew back in front of you, and an usher will be by during the prelude to collect it.

Children

- Children's worship bags are available in the narthex. You are welcome to pick one up for your child(ren).

Electronics

- Please silence or turn off cell phones and electronic devices so that all may focus on worship.

Holy Communion

- If Holy Communion is celebrated today, please know that all are welcome at the Lord's table. Those who prefer not to receive communion are invited to come forward for a blessing. Grape juice is available on the side tables and wine will be poured from the chalice. Gluten-free wafers are also available.

Thank you for worshiping with us today—we are glad you are here.



August 30, 2026, 14th Sunday after Pentecost Matthew 16:21-28

Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions.



Pray: Light a candle and open your devotion time with a prayer.

God of vocation, stir up in us a passion for your creation that we might have the courage to follow the difficult path Jesus led. Give us both the sustenance we need to flourish and a heart for sacrifice on behalf of others, that all might have life and have it abundantly. For the sake of your son, Jesus Christ our savior. Amen.



Read: Read the key verse from Sunday's reading.

But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." (Matthew 16:23)



Reflect: Reflect on the scripture summary.

Jesus had his mind set on heavenly things so that he could give his life for the sake of the world. He taught his disciples to look upward and live forward.



Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household.

- What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?
- Why do you think Jesus reprimanded Peter for rejecting his expectation of suffering? What was Jesus' mind set on?
- When has your suffering led to a positive outcome?
- For the littles: Sometimes we get turned around and need help getting pointed in the right direction. When has someone pointed you in the right direction?



Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God turn you toward the things of God. Amen.



Do: By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

Sometimes we get set in our ways and have trouble breaking out of our regular routine. Use your GPS this week to find different routes to familiar places. Shop the aisles backward from your regular routine. Consider how the shift in routine can also shift your perspective.



Go Deeper: Read and reflect on the readings for each day of the week.

Monday, Psalm 83:1-4, 13-18; Exodus 4:10-31; Revelation 3:1-6

Tuesday, Psalm 83:1-4, 13-18; Exodus 5:1-6:13; Revelation 3:7-13

Wednesday, Psalm 83:1-4, 13-18; Exodus 7:14-25; Matthew 12:22-32

Thursday, Psalm 149; Exodus 9:1-7; 2 Corinthians 12:11-21

Friday, Psalm 149; Exodus 10:21-29; Romans 10:15b-21

Saturday, Psalm 149; Exodus 11:1-10; Matthew 23:29-36