



ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

***6 South Second Street
Oakland, Maryland 21550
301-334-2668***

***connect@stmarksoakland.com
stmarksoakland.com***

***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.

September 6, 2026
15th Sunday After Pentecost
Order of Worship

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“Toccata in F Major”

Dietrich Buxtehude

**** 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,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth.

Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith,
let us confess our sin.

Compassionate God,

we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hear this good news:

We have peace with God through ✙ Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

Amen.

**** SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

**** PROCESSIONAL HYMN**

“Earth and All Stars”

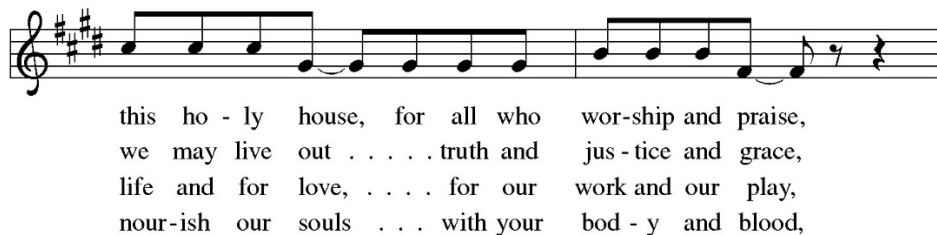
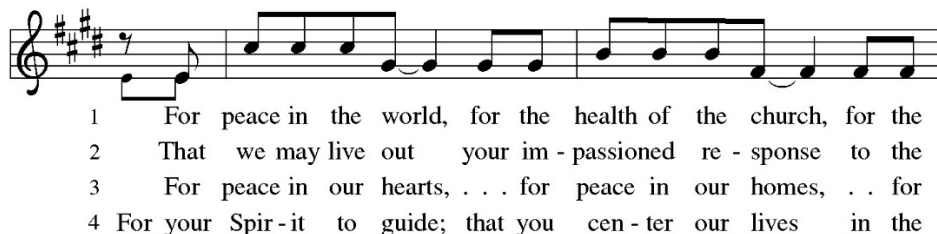
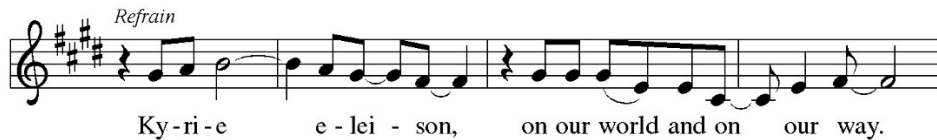
No. 731

**** 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



**** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 33:7-11

⁷ So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸ If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life. ¹⁰ Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” ¹¹ Say to them: As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

PSALM: Psalm 119:33-40

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

Refrain: I desire the path of your commandments. (Ps. 119:35)

³³ Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes,
and I shall keep it to the end.

³⁴ **Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching;
I shall keep it with all my heart.**

³⁵ Lead me in the path of your commandments,
for that is my desire.

³⁶ **Incline my heart to your decrees
and not to unjust gain. R**

³⁷ Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood;
give me life in your way.

³⁸ **Fulfill your promise to your servant,
which is for those who fear you.**

³⁹ Turn away the reproach that I dread,
because your judgments are good.

⁴⁰ **Behold, I long for your commandments;
by your righteousness enliven me. R**

SECOND READING: Romans 13:8-14

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. ¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the

night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

**** 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 18:15-20**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵ “If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Carrie Hoff

**** HYMN OF THE DAY**

No. 603

“ God, When Human Bonds are Broken ”

**** 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)*

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.
A brief silence.

Proclaiming God, empower your church throughout the world to announce the words you give us.
Open us to receive your word in unexpected ways. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Forming God, renew the cycles of your creation that provide for the needs of all. Protect grasslands, marshes, swamps, and all places of transition. Heal communities crying out after disaster. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Governing God, turn all who create, enforce, or interpret legislation away from selfish gain and toward your promise of good for all, especially the good of all who labor. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Attending God, wake us up to any around us who are in need. Restore broken relationships, failing health, frayed emotions, and the hurts we carry with us. *(We pray especially for . . .)* Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gathering God, resolve conflicts in this community through your righteousness and grace. Reconcile us to each other, making your good news known even through our imperfections. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Loving God, all who die in faith have life with you. We give you thanks for the nearness of your salvation for all who have gone before us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

OFFERING

SPECIAL MUSIC

“ Agnus Dei (How Great Thou Art) ”

** OFFERTORY HYMN

No. 184

“ Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful ”

** OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. **Amen.**

** 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 our 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

**** THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

**** 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.

**** COMMUNION SONG**



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION

Distribution of Communion

All are welcome to receive the wine and bread at our Lord's table. Grape Juice is in pre-poured glasses and gluten-free wafers are available on the tables as you come forward.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

COMMUNION HYMNS

No. 522

"As We Gather at Your Table"

No. 532

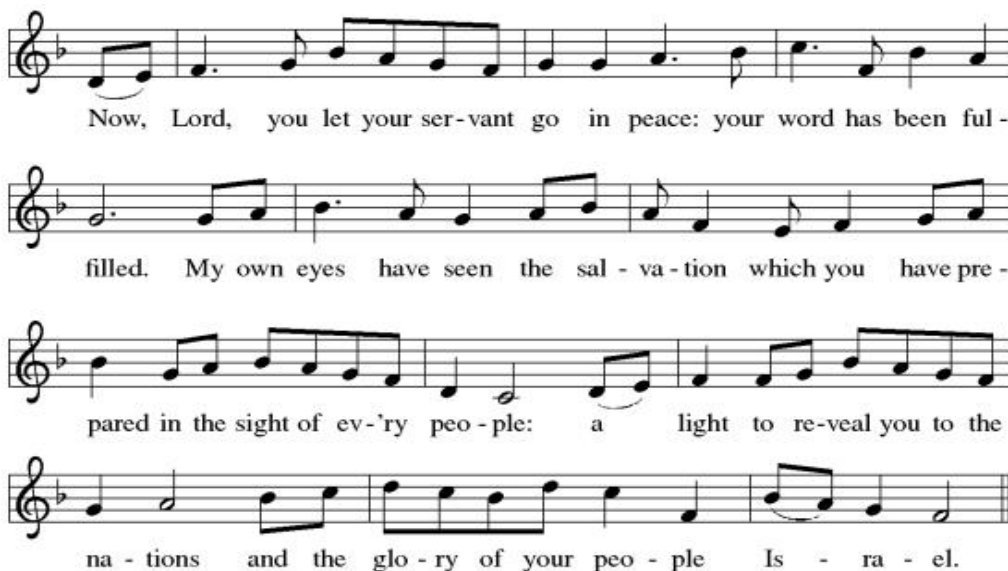
"Gather Us In"

** TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

** POST COMMUNION CANTICLE



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -

filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -

pared in the sight of ev-'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the

na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

** PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

** BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy,

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Amen.

**** RECESSIONAL HYMN**

No. 543

“ Go, My Children, With My Blessing ”

**** DISMISSAL**

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God. We WILL!

POSTLUDE

“ Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart ”

Gordon Young

St. Mark's Mission Statement

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

Church Calendar September 6, 2026 – September 13, 2026

- Today** - Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.
with Holy Communion
- Tuesday** - Yoga at 4:30 p.m.
- Wednesday** - HandBell Choir Practice at 7:00 p.m.
- Chancel Choir at 8:00 p.m.
- Next Sunday** - Worship Service at 10:00 a.m. at Lewis Pavilion
Family Picnic

Serving Today

Acolyte:	Nicklaus Bennett
Lector:	Nancy Pagenhardt
Organist:	Sean Beachy
Co-Directors of Music:	Sean & Debi Beachy
Special Music:	Debi Beachy & Leah Shaw
Recorder:	Kathy Johnson
Communion Clean-up:	BJ Gallagher & Rob Sharps
Flower Delivery:	Judy Bertsch
Safe Keeper:	Jana Brown
Ushers:	Paul Lewis, Capt.

Liz Lewis, Dave Hoff, Bob Dempsey, Joann Kinzy

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 are given by Peggy Jamison
in honor of all teachers, past and present. Thank you!

Prayer Requests



Special Occasions: Paul gives thanks for healing and continued healing

Illness: Emelee DeWitt, Helen Ferrell, Valerie Minor, Viola, Josh Wilhelm, Tom Bittinger, Dorothee Bittinger, 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, C.J., Nicholas, Jack, Ken Bachtel, Tim DeWitt, Patti Shanes, Nancy Keating, Tobi, Bruce Meck

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, Dave, Judy, Kate & Allen, Belva

Upcoming Events

Saturday, September 12

Marsh Mountain Consort Concert 3 p.m.

Sunday, September 13

St. Mark's Outdoor Worship & Family Picnic

Sunday, September 26

Apple Canning Workshop 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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!**

A Letter from Council President

I would like to update everyone on the recent changes to the Hinebaugh Lane (back) parking lot. As some of you may know, Council has given permission to Mountain Postal to use three (3) parking spaces located at the corner of the Hinebaugh Lane parking lot.

These spaces can only be used during normal 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM business hours Monday through Friday and 8:00 AM to Noon on Saturday. Mountain Postal will not be paying to use these spots but is offering St. Mark's several services (printing/sign making) as a return gesture.

The area we are talking about has had a long-used walk through that was, quite frankly, a bit dangerous. Rotted wood and deep divots in the steps. There was no handicapped access. This is also an area of the parking lot seldom used by us.

A friend of the owner of Mountain Postal noted the issue and has made a restricted donation for parking lot improvement to St. Mark's to update that area. A good thing for Mountain Postal and St. Mark's.

The work is essentially completed, except for gravel being spread on the entire parking lot next week by the Town of Oakland.

I do apologize for the late notice to our congregation, but everything happened quite quickly, and the project was underway and completed in a very timely manner. We are still working out a couple of issues, but please feel free to contact me, Monty Pagenhardt, or Pastor Carrie with questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Johnson

301 616 1226

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.



September 6, 2026, 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 18:15-20

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



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

Merciful God, you have forgiven us a world of transgressions. Make us likewise gracious to those who are in debt to us, showing them the mercy which you offer to all. In Jesus' name. Amen.



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

"Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

(Matthew 18:19-20)



Reflect: Reflect on the scripture summary.

We owe God a considerable debt, yet all has been forgiven us. How much more ought we to pardon our brothers and sisters for their relatively minor sins against us?



Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household.

- What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?
- In what gatherings/settings do you feel the presence of God the most palpably? Where do you feel the absence of God?
- What could you accomplish if you set out to do a task with two or more gathered in Jesus' name?
- For the littles: Who are your favorite people? When do you get to see them all at the same time?



Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God gather you and bless your endeavors. Amen.



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

Invite a small group of like-minded people to coffee or lunch. Set an intention to accomplish a goal. Pray for God's guidance before you begin.



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

Monday, Psalm 121; Exodus 12:14-28; 1 Peter 2:11-17

Tuesday, Psalm 121; Exodus 12:29-42; Romans 13:1-7

Wednesday, Psalm 121; Exodus 13:1-10; Matthew 21:18-22

Thursday, Psalm 114; Exodus 13:17-22; 1 John 3:11-16

Friday, Psalm 114; Exodus 14:1-18; Acts 7:9-16

Saturday, Psalm 114; Exodus 15:19-21; Matthew 6:7-15