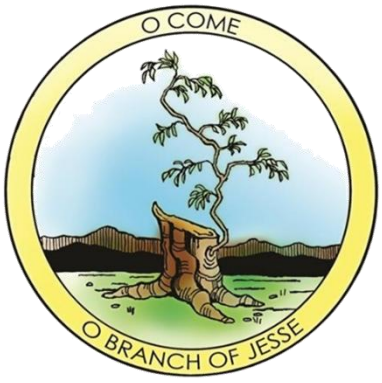
ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

A congregation of the
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
welcomes you!

December 7, 2025



The Second Sunday of Advent

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SATURDAY

"SHINE" CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP: 6:00 PM (1ST SATURDAYS-CHAPEL)

SUNDAY

THE DIVINE LITURGY: 9:00AM
EDUCATION HOUR: 10:30AM

105 EAST "D" STREET BELLEVILLE, IL 62220
EMAIL: WORSHIP@STMARKBELLEVILLE.ORG

THE REV. BRIAN M. ROBISON, PASTOR
THE REV. RONALD C. NEUSTADT, PASTOR EMERITUS

+ **To parents with small children:** We are glad your family is worshiping with us today! ***"Quiet Bags"*** (supplies & activities for use by small children) are available in the Welcome Area. If you or your child need a break from the service, feel free to use the Welcome Area/narthex (the service is audible over the speakers).

+ An **accessible Restroom** is available off the Welcome Area/Narthex next to the **accessibility lift** to the lower level. **Parish Hall and additional Restrooms** are located on the lower level of the main church building. The stairway is off the entrance foyer. An usher will be happy to assist you with the lift.

+ **Assistive listening devices** and **low vision items** are available. Please ask one of our ushers for assistance.

+ **Land Acknowledgement:** This church is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the **Quapaw**, **Myaamia**, **Kaskaskia**, and **Kickapoo** peoples, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and still call this land home.

PRELUDE *"Jefferson"* *D. Lanky*

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS *Please* **STAND** *as you are able*

Blessed be the Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit – the one God whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Please **KNEEL**, *or* **remain as you are**. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Long-expected God, **we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake.**

Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.

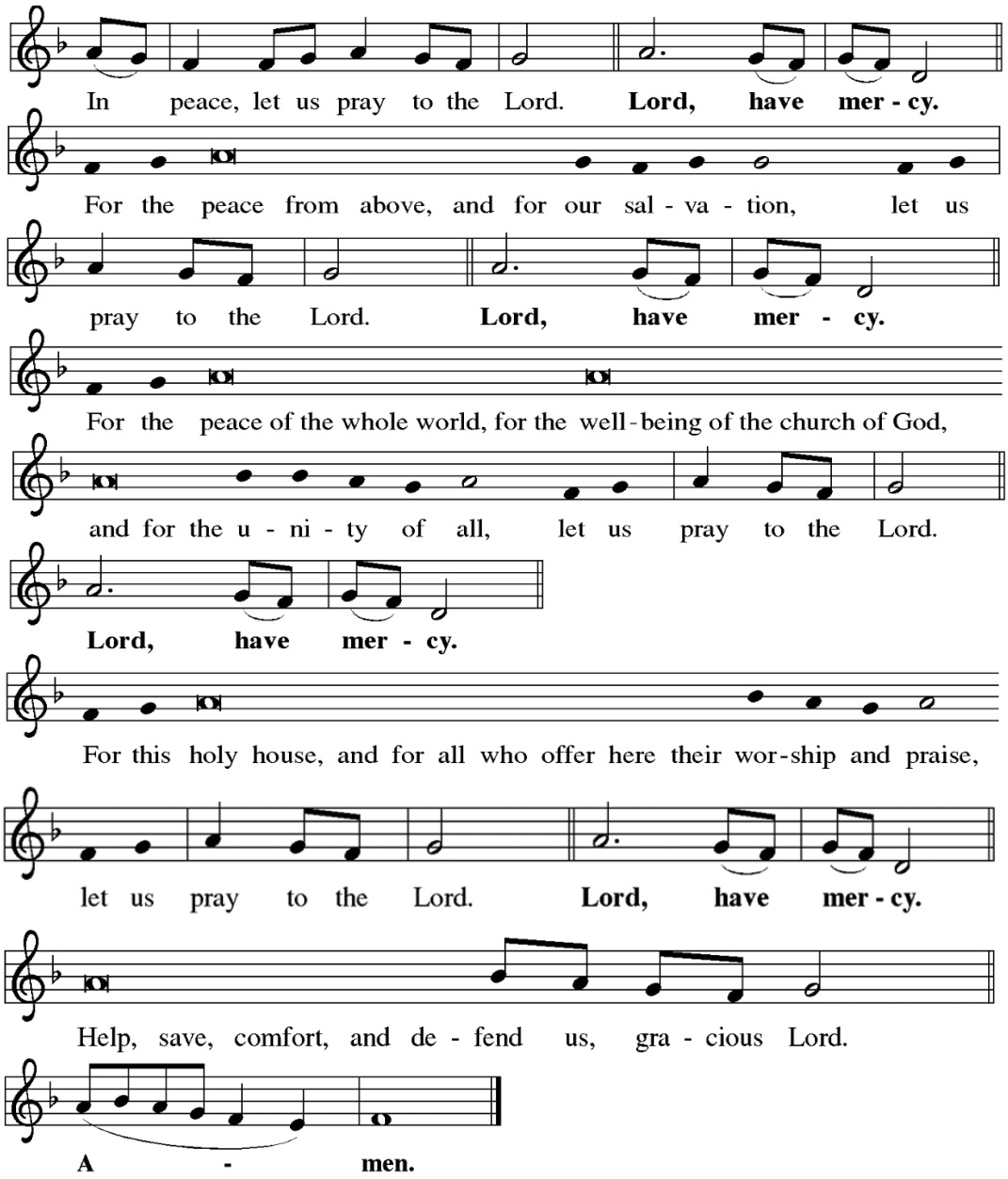
God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. You are freed and + forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN *Please* **STAND** **"O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"** **ELW 241**

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

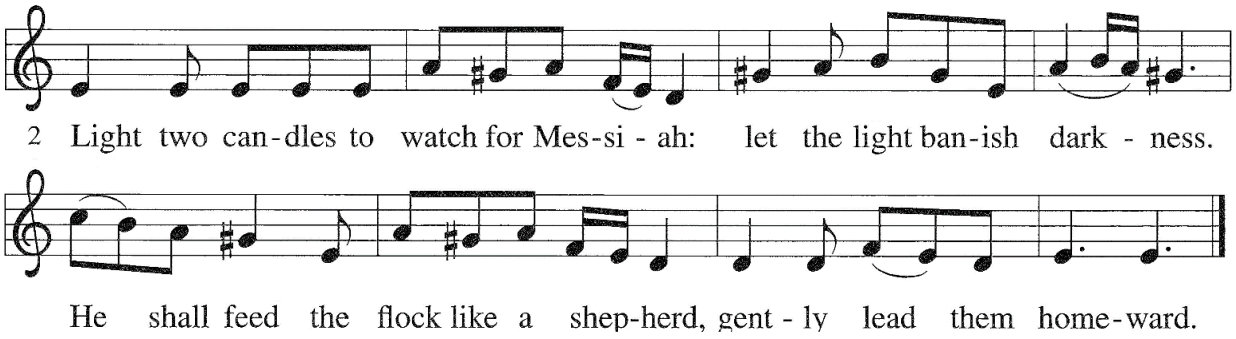


LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Blessed are you, God of hope, for you promise to bring forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse who will bring justice to the poor, who will deliver the needy and crush the oppressor, who will stand as a signal of hope for all people. As we light these candles, turn our wills to bear the fruit of repentance, transform our hearts to live in justice and harmony with one another, and fix our eyes on the root of Jesse, Jesus Christ, the hope of all nations. O people of hope, come,

let us rejoice in the faithfulness of the Lord. Amen.

"Light One Candle" **ELW 240 vs. 2**



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray... Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Following the prayer, please **SIT.**

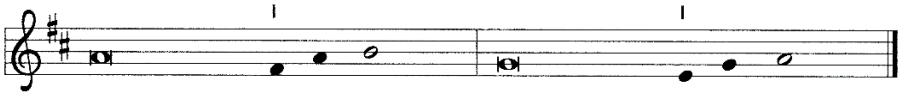
WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10

[1] A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
[2] The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
[3] His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear,
[4] but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
[5] Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
[6] The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them.
[7] The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
[8] The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
[9] They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.
[10] On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 72:1-7, 18-19 *chanted responsively between choir and congregation*



1 Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,
and your righteousness to | the king's son;
2 **that he may rule your | people righteously**
and the | poor with justice;
3 that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,
and the | hills, in righteousness.
4 **Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,**
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor.
5 May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,
from one generation | to another.
6 **Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,**
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.
7 In his time may the | righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no more.
18 **Blessed are you, LORD God, the | God of Israel;**
you alone do | wondrous deeds!
19 And blessed be your glorious | name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. A- | men. Amen.

SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-13

4 Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. 5 May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, 6 so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

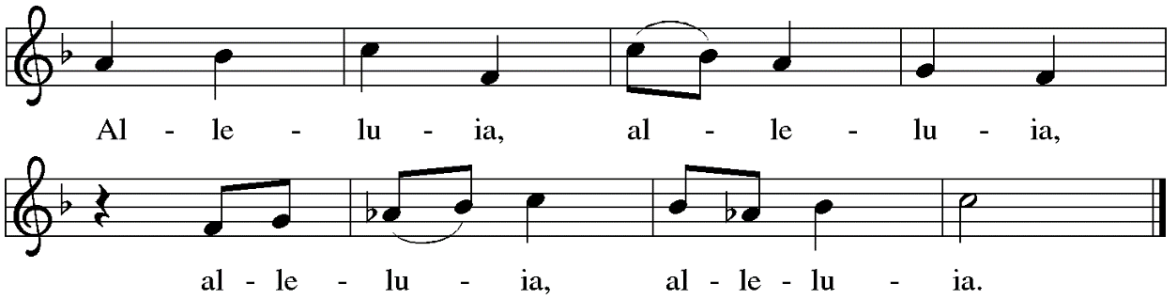
7 Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. 8 For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors 9 and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles and sing praises to your name";
10 and again he says, "Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people";
11 and again, "Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him";
12 and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the gentiles;
in him the gentiles shall hope."

[13] May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

ALLELUIA VERSE *The assembly* **STANDS** *to welcome the gospel.*



GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12

A reading from the Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as recorded by the apostle Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[1] In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, [2] "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." [3] This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.' "

[4] Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. [5] Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, [6] and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

[7] But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? [8] Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, [9] and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. [10] Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

[11] "I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. [12] His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.** *Please* **SIT**

SERMON *"Facing the Right Direction"* **The Rev. Brian M .Robison**

Following the sermon, the assembly **STANDS** *to proclaim the word of God in song.*

HYMN OF THE DAY **"On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry"** **ELW 249**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *The names of those for whom we pray aloud (members, staff, first-time additions) are listed below. Please read only the first names. Other prayer intentions can be found in the back of this bulletin. The response to "God of grace," is* **"Hear our prayer."**

Ken Augustine, **Eleanor** Benton, **Toni** Brendel, **Gary** Dozier, **Evelyn** Duncan, **Art** Engelage, **Michael** Foppe**, Morris** Kugler, **Bruce** Martens, **Lucy** Montgomery, **Kim** Palmer, **Tina** Partelow, **Marilyn** Robinson, **Cohen** Summers, **Carol** Weshinskey**, Gary** Weshinskey

PEACE *The assembly is invited to share a greeting of God's peace with one another. Following* ***the Peace****, you may be* ***seated*** *for a few moments.*

CHANCEL CHOIR **"***Come, O Precious Ransom" by Sheppard* Bell Player: *Ellie Geppert*

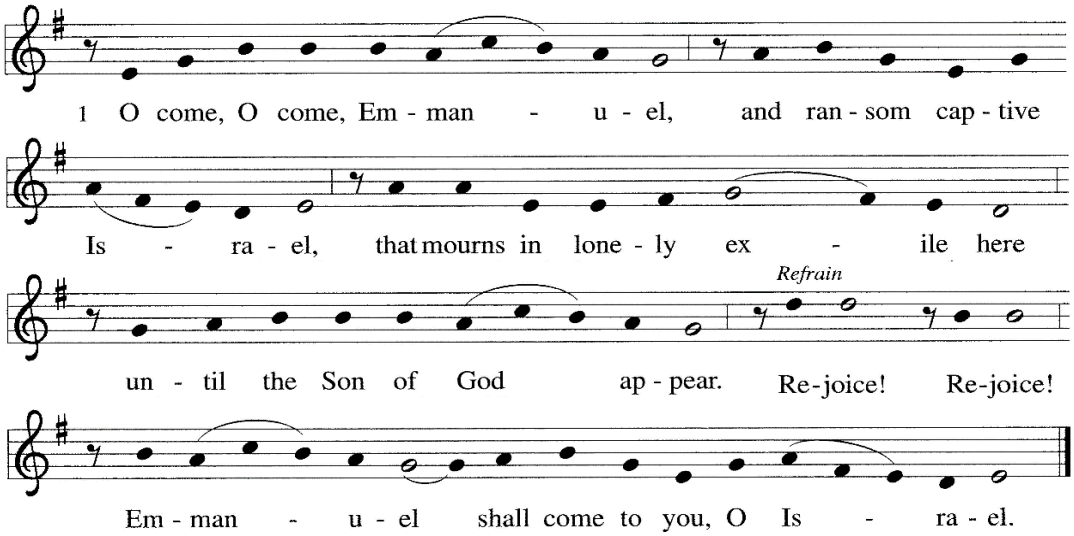
OFFERING *Should you wish to leave an offering today, it may be placed in the wooden box on the table near the baptismal font at any point during or after the service.*

OFFERING PRAYER *Please* **STAND** *as you are able*

Assistant: Let us pray together…

Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come. Amen.

OFFERTORY **"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"** **ELW 257 v. 1**



GREAT THANKSGIVING *(Chanted to the tune of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel")*

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

Lift up your hearts, **we lift them to the Lord.**

We give our thanks to Go-d our Lord

It's right to give our tha--nks and praise.

Rejoice! Rejoice, Emmanuel, shall come to you O, Israel.

It's right to praise God every time and place, through Jesus, promised gift of grace, whose advent sets God's people free; with all creation we sing joyfully:

Rejoice! Rejoice, Emmanuel, shall come to you O, Israel.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY *(tune: O Come, O Come Emmanuel)*

Oh, holy, holy, ho--ly Lord,

the God of pow'r and Go--d of might.

Your glory fills the hea-ven and earth;

Hosanna in the high--est!

Rejoice! Rejoice, Emmanuel, shall come to you O, Israel.

Lord Jesus took and blessed & broke the bread;
"My body giv'n in love for you," he said.
"This cup binds you in cov'nant with me;
Thus be forgiven and re-mem-ber me!
Rejoice! Rejoice, Emmanuel, shall come to you O, Israel.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *traditional*
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
Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

LAMB OF GOD *(tune: O Come, O Come Emmanuel)* *Please* **SIT**
Oh, Jesus, wisdom, our Emmanuel,
you take away the si-n of the world.
Have mercy on us La-mb of God;
Have mercy on us, gra-nt us your peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice, Emmanuel, Shall come to you O, Israel.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Communion is open to everyone. *In this sacrament,* ***we believe that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine***. *At this service, communion will be served from around the altar rail. At the usher's direction, please come forward and kneel at the altar rail.*

- ✠ *After receiving the bread, you may take an individual cup or drink from the chalice.*
- ✠ *You may return to your seat after communing.*
- ✠ *Those who do not wish to commune may come forward for a blessing. Please cross your arms over your chest to indicate this preference.*
- ✠ *Reception of the Eucharist under one kind (bread or wine) is valid communion for those who must avoid either for health reasons.*
- ✠ *If you are unable to go to the altar for communion, please notify an usher or the pastor, so that communion may be brought to you in your pew.*

SONGS DURING THE DISTRIBUTION:

Flute Solo **Nick Baker**

"Lost in the Night" **ELW 243**

After the distribution is complete, the assembly **STANDS** *for the blessing.*

TABLE BLESSING

The Body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

CANTICLE AFTER COMMUNION "O Lord, Now Let Your Servant" **ELW 313 v. 1**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Assistant: Let us pray together…

God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus. Amen.

BENEDICTION

May our God who comes among us grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share - Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit - today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN **"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"** **ELW 244**

ANNOUNCMENTS

DISMISSAL Go in peace. Do not lose heart. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE *"Lo, He Comes With Clouds Descending"* *F. Ritter*

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Presider & Preacher: The Rev. Brian M. Robison + **Assisting Minister:** Greg Martens

Lector: Charlie Duncan + **Crucifer:** Rex Rothgangel

Chalice Bearer & Tech Minister: Mike Murakami + **Safety Volunteer:** Jan Richards

Ushers: Frank Dressel & Jason Martens + **Organist**: Evelyn Duncan

Prayer Intentions

St. Mark Members

Ken Augustine, Eleanor Benton, Toni Brendel, Gary Dozier, Evelyn Duncan, Art Engelage, Michael Foppe, Morris Kugler, Bruce Martens, Lucy Montgomery, Kim Palmer, Tina Partelow, Marilyn Robinson, Cohen Summers, Carol and Gary Weshinskey

St. Mark Family and Friends

Dennis Althardt, Stellamarie Bearth, Bonnie Baete, John Belz, Thomas Boxdorfer, Jim Braeutigam, Patty Brennecke, Susan Carson, Christine, Arianna Curnes, Catherine Davis, Mike Ellison, Katrina Fenner, Josh Gansmann, Marge Gardner, Christine Gass, Viv Gillespie, Joni Giordano, David Graber, Donna Greenwell, Stephanie Groennert, TC Groennert, Andrea Hendrix, Jamie House, Jimmy Jurgens, Austin Lickenbrock, Dusty Little, Donna Loesche, Becky Loeschner, Wyatt Madison, Christopher Martiszus, Bobby & Joyce McCall, Don McCoy, Allen Martens, Janet Middendorf, Linda Munn, Pr. Ron & Debbie Neustadt, Dean Norrenberns, Hilda Parnell, Tim & Missy Partelow, Debbie & Larry Powers, Goldie Rideout, Darrell Robinson, Shirley Saia, Sarah and Family, Jill Schlueter, Stefanie Schroeder, Denise Sebastian, David & Donna Sims, Margie Snep, Ingrid Thompson, Bob Vaughn, David Vaught, Toni Walston, Louise Wilson, Margie Wilson, Karen Woolf, Wilma Woolf, Jeanie Workman, Ken Zika, Chloe Zipperer

Members and Friends Serving in Our Nation's Military

Taiylar Foppe Merrel, Josh Merrel, Ryan McKenzie

Members who celebrate birthdays this week

Ann Martens (12/7), Rick Crosby (12/9), Lauren Richards (12/9), Brad Geppert (12/12), and Patty Bearth (12/13)

Members who celebrate Wedding Anniversaries this week

Brandon & Jamie Perry (12/7) and Mike & Randi Cardoza (12/12)

St. Mark Staff

Pastor: The Rev. Brian M. Robison + **Pastor *Emeritus***: The Rev. Ronald C. Neustadt
Administrative Assistant: Randi Cardoza + **Music Director**: Carol Kugler
Organist: Evelyn Duncan + **Parish Nurse:** Becky Schnitzius

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