
St. Mark's Lutheran Church



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

IN-PERSON and LIVESTREAM SERVICE

OUR MISSION

Reaching out to the community to share the Gospel through faith, fellowship, and service.

OUR VISION

Become the visible presence of Christ in this community

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Blessing of the animals

October 3, 2021, 9:00 am

To view the service please use one of the following links on Sunday at 9:00 A.M. <https://stmarkshh.com> (Website)

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCf9V2pfd3FQRI5peGTYHMLQ> (YouTube)

<https://www.facebook.com/St.MarksLCHH> (Facebook page)

NEW APP (st mark's lutheran church hh)

SERVING TODAY

PASTOR: the Reverend James Mericle

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Karla Devine

DUET: Maddie Do & Blake Do

LECTOR: Rylee Birtja

CHILDREN'S SERMONETTE: Lynn Yann

ALTAR GUILD: Kim Winn

CO-DIRECTORS OF USHERS: Phil Barnhart, Frank Winn
HEAD USHERS: Ron Hussey, Steve Chou
USHERS: Dick Heinrich, Frank Winn, Emil Wolfe, Gary Bradford

Gathering + Word + Thanksgiving + Sending

PRELUDE Let All Things Now Living Keesecker

WELCOME AND THEMES OF THE DAY

Welcome to St. Mark's Lutheran here in Hacienda Heights. It is a blessing to have you with us today, whether here in person or joining us online. Today we begin a new 8 week series on the Letter to the Hebrews entitled, "Better." This is an opportunity to explore a Book of the Bible that is not covered too often. We have a very special worship service today as we also commemorate Francis of Assisi, a great sharer of the good news of Jesus in the early 13th century and known for his affinity for animals. Today we will be blessing our animals or pets later in the worship service. So make sure to have your pets or a picture of your pet with you when the time comes. The text of our Sending Hymn today was written by Francis of Assisi (1182–1226).

We will be sharing Holy Communion today as well – If you wish to receive communion, please pick up a communion kit at the tables where you came onto the patio or have bread/cracker and wine/juice available if you are joining us online. Please complete the Connect Card to let us know you were with us today – we are grateful for your presence at worship.

+ GATHERING LITANY

Leader Jesus Christ, we assemble with all your creatures in this circle of life.

People We ask you to join our circle and celebrate with us.

L Jesus Christ, as we join in celebration with you and all creation,

P We ask for your blessing, your shalom, on the creatures present here that we love and on all creatures celebrating in the wild.

L In the name of God, who creates all life, In the name of Jesus Christ, who redeems all life, and the name of the Spirit, who renews all life, we cry with all in the circle of life:

P Shalom! Shalom! Shalom! May your blessing come!

+ GATHERING HYMN

Morning Has Broken

1 Morning has broken like the first morning;
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

2 Sweet the rain's new fall, sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

3 Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning,
born of the one light Eden saw play!

Praise with elation, praise ev'ry morning,
God's recreation of the new day!

+ THANKS AND CONFESSION

L Lord, for all the animals in the whole wide world,

P We thank you, God!

L Lord, for all the fun and friendship we have with animals,

P We thank you, God!

L Lord, for all the times we have hurt or neglected animals,

P We are sorry.

L Lord, for all the times we have used poisons that have killed animals,

P We are sorry.

L Lord, for all the times we have destroyed the homes of animals in the forests,
oceans, or fields,

P We are sorry.

L I speak for Christ. For all your sins against the creatures of Earth, I forgive you and
I call upon you to honor and protect all my animals. Yes, I speak for Christ. May
the animals of Earth be your companions in life and lead you to celebrate your
place in the circle of life.

P Amen! Amen! Shalom! Shalom!

+ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.

L Almighty God, you have made us and all living things. For these pets who give
us joy, we thank and praise you. We trust your care, O God. Make us faithful
as we care for our pets in so doing we share in your love for all creation. In
Jesus' name we pray.

P Amen.

Gathering + Word + Thanksgiving+ Sending

PSALM 104

L O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all.

P The earth is full of your creatures. These all look to you to give them their
food in due season.

L When you give to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are
filled with good things.

P When you send forth your spirit, they are created; and you renew the face of
the ground.

L May the glory of the LORD endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works.

READING

Hebrews 1:1–4; 2:5–13

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

DUET God Made It So! –Taylor

CHILDREN'S SERMON Lynn Yann

GOSPEL

Mark 10:2–16

The Holy Gospel according to Mark the tenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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

+ HYMN OF THE DAY Let All Things Now Living

1 Let all things now living
 a song of thanksgiving
 to God the creator triumphantly raise,
 who fashioned and made us,
 protected and stayed us,
 who still guides us on to the end of our days.
 God's banners are o'er us,
 God's light goes before us,
 a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
 till shadows have vanished
 and darkness is banished,
 as forward we travel from light into light.
 2 God rules all the forces:
 the stars in their courses
 and sun in its orbit obediently shine;
 the hills and the mountains,
 the rivers and fountains,
 the deeps of the ocean proclaim God divine.
 We too should be voicing
 our love and rejoicing;
 with glad adoration a song let us raise
 till all things now living
 unite in thanksgiving:
 "To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!"

+ 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 THE CHURCH

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

PEACE

Gathering + Word + Thanksgiving+ Sending

+ OFFERINGS

+ OFFERING PRAYER

L God, our Creator, through your love you have given us these gifts to share. Accept our offerings as an expression of our deep thanks for all the animals and other creatures that have enriched our lives.

P With all animals around the throne, we bless the Lamb of God.

COMMUNION—WORDS OF INSTITUTION

L The Creator be with you and with all creation.

P And also with you.

L Open your hearts.

P We open them to our Creator.

L Let us give thanks to our Creator.

P It is right to join creation in thanking God.

L It is right to give you thanks...

P Holy, holy, holy, God of all life, Earth and sea and sky and all things that exist are full of your presence and glorify your name. Amen

+ THE 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.

+ DISTRIBUTION & BLESSING

Gathering + Word + Thanksgiving + Sending

+ BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Almighty and everlasting God, Creator of all things and giver of all life, let your blessing be upon all these animals. May our relationships with them mirror your love, and our care for them be an example of your bountiful mercy. Grant the animals health and peace. Strengthen us to love and care for them as we strive to imitate the love of Jesus Christ our Lord and God's servant Francis. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The minister/ worship leader circulates through the congregation, asks the name of the animal, places his/her hand on the animal's head (if appropriate) and then blesses the animal]:

[insert name], May you be blessed in the name of God, who created you. May you and your human family experience joy and companionship together, and continue to be a blessing to each other.

BENEDICTION

L As God has blessed you with these pets, so may they be blessed in your care.
(After all the animals have been blessed)

The blessings of Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you now and forever.

P Amen.

+ SENDING HYMN All Creatures, Worship God Most High!
 Stanzas 1,2 & 6

1 All creatures, worship God most high!
Sound ev'ry voice in earth and sky: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Sing, brother sun, in splendor bright;
sing, sister moon and stars of night:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

2 Sing, brother wind; with clouds and rain
you grow the gifts of fruit and grain: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Dear sister water, useful, clear,
make music for your Lord to hear:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

6 O sisters, brothers, take your part,
and worship God with humble heart: Alleluia! Alleluia!
All creatures, bless the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

+ DISMISSAL & VISION
So that we may be
the visible presence of Christ
in this community.
Let us Go in Peace.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE All Creatures, Worship God Most High Carter

+++

+ Indicates to stand as you are able. If it is difficult for you to stand please feel free to stay seated or sit back down at any time.

Use of all copyrighted music and liturgy in this service is allowed via live-streaming per licenses through CCLI and Sundays and Seasons. Copyright © 2016 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS021696. New Revised Standard Version Bible,

Printable Children's Bulletin

PRAYER LIST:

HEALING: Johanna Locke, Baby Felix (son of Elizabeth Batres & Trevor Duran), Rosie Scott, Kenna Dutil-Baker – lungs (Francoise's daughter), Francoise Dutil (back injury), Vernon Weigand, Krystal Barnhart, Pastor Lee Rozen (better health); Nancy Carnehl (Janna Barnhart's friend) lung cancer

ILLNESS: Diane Pierce (Barbara Richards' friend) stroke; Chuck Pierce (Diane Pierce's husband);

Nassar Sattar (Mary Rodriguez's friend) – cancer; Noris Maldonado – Alzheimer's (Natalie Pereda's mother); Jorge Maldonado – Parkinson's (Natalie Pereda's father); Donovan McLaughlin – cancer (Judy Willett's grandson)

SAFETY & HEALTH: Health care workers and families affected by COVID19

TREATMENTS: Tony Hernandez (Michael's brother) cancer, Nancy Richardson (Diana Hernandez's friend) cancer, Preslee Durston (Christine Birtja's niece) leukemia treatments, Bob Mericle – cancer (Pastor Mericle's father)

HOSPICE: Virginia Gussler (Sunny O'Hara's mother-in-law) and Faye Heinrich

ANNOUNCEMENTS



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The altar guild is in need of new members. Several people have moved. It's quite satisfying and not a huge commitment. To learn more about it, please stay after church on October 10. Grab some Porto's and coffee and join Kim and me in the side chapel. Present members—come to be updated Prospective members— come to learn about it. Hope to see you there. Lynn Yann 🙏

Our Women of the ELCA Ruth Circle will meet Monday, October 11th, 7:00 pm on Zoom. We will use the Bible Study in the September/October Gather magazine titled "The Gift of the Spirit: A divine wild goose chase." This month we are doing



Session Two which is entitled: Breath of God, reviver and reformer, and Sharon Heck will lead the study. All are welcome to join us.



Ladies' October Luncheon.
October 20, noon
Wood Ranch BBQ & Grill
Towne Center,
12801 Towne Center Dr,
Cerritos, CA 90703
562-865-0202



October Outing to Hana Fields at Tanaka Farms

Join us on Saturday, October 30th at 9:30 a.m. following the women's prayer breakfast. We can carpool to Tanaka Farms Hana Flower /Pumpkin Fields in Costa Mesa, and admire all the beautiful fall flowers and pumpkins. You can choose to pick a pumpkin 🍠 or cut up to 15 individual flowers and bring them home in a vase/cup that is provided. You will need to bring your own gloves and cutting shears. Cost is \$20.00 per person. There is also a \$10.00 parking fee per car.

Reservations are needed, deadline is October 15th. Please let Mary know if you are interested, so a reservation can be made at the same time for all who are interested.

Please watch for your Stewardship Packet in the mail the week of October 11th. We would appreciate it if all completed forms are returned to Church by either mail or by personal delivery on Stewardship Sunday, November 14th.



The Social Ministries committee is again collecting canned cut green beans (**not French cut**) for the Action Food Pantry's Thanksgiving baskets this year. The plan



is to have 2 cans in each basket and to make 300 baskets. Please help us to collect those 600 cans! Start shopping for a few at a time now. You can drop the cans **off at the drive-by FOOD DRIVE on November 13th** or make a monetary donation and we will do the shopping. Thank you in advance to all of our donors.



Food Collection

Remember we are back to the old ways of collecting food donations for our favorite FOOD BANK. Each month we will spotlight one kind of item which can be brought to the Narthex or church office at any time. For the month of October, we have traditionally collected canned soup and meals (no glass containers, please). Feel free to bring anything you wish to SHARE.



SAVE THE DATE

St. Mark's welcomes Dr. James Qi He (He Qi) for a presentation about his art and then the opening of an art exhibition of his work.

Date: November 6, 2021

Time: 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm

Location: St. Mark's Patio and Sanctuary

DINNER WITH THE PASTOR

Hi St. Mark's members and friends:

One of my hopes is to develop and strengthen relationships with each of you and I thought one way to do that was to invite you in to my home for an enjoyable meal with a few other St. Mark's friends along with myself (and Zoey). I invite you to join me one of the following dates below and plan for about two hours. Each meal is limited to 8 people in person and 10 virtually so please let me or Francoise know when you would to come over and who is coming. Francoise or I will confirm the date with you and, if it is already full, invite you to choose an alternate time. The three virtual dates would involve having your own meal with you and joining me online to eat and converse via Zoom. A link would be provided to you earlier that day so it is easy to locate.. All other dates will be a meal prepared by me at the house. Please note there are two dates that are at lunch. Please join me!

Blessings in Christ,
Pastor Jim Mericle

The dates and times are:

October 5 (Tues) @ Noon (Virtual)

October 6 (Wed) @ 6pm

October 7 (Thurs) @ 5pm

October 19 (Tues) @ 6pm

October 20 (Wed) @ 6pm
October 23 (Sat) @ 5pm
October 24 (Sun) @ 1pm
November 3 (Wed) @ 6pm
November 4 (Thurs) @ 5pm (Virtual)
November 10 (Wed) @ 6pm
November 11 (Thurs) @ 1pm

Call to reserve a seat at the table
(651) 249-6261 (Pastor Jim cell)
(626) 961-2486 (Church office)
Or
email me at: pastorjim@stmarkshh.com

If you would like to make a donation to St. Mark's Lutheran Church just click the link below. Thank you for your generosity.
<https://secure.subsplash.com/ui/access/34WJTS>

You can also give by text to St. Mark's Church. Just text Stmarksgive to 1-888-364-GIVE (4483) in order to receive a reply with the link to your giving interface. The code is not case sensitive. We would like thank you for your generosity.

You are also welcome to mail in your donation if you prefer not using the internet, our address is:
St. Mark's Lutheran Church
2323 Las Lomas Drive
Hacienda Heights, CA, 91745



Zoom Bible Fellowship with Pastor Jim on Tuesdays

We will have time to share highs and lows and have a discussion on the Bible readings in the coming week's sermon/readings.

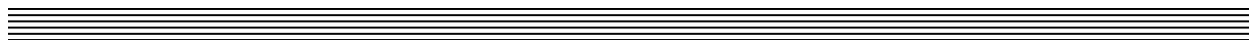
TIMES:
Tuesday at 11am – Noon
Tuesday at 8pm – 9pm

Readings; *Hebrews 4:12-16 and Mark 10:17-31*

For any emergency or pastoral care please feel free to call Pastor Mericle at 651-249-6261.



CONNECT WITH US!



St. Mark's Lutheran Church | 2323 Las Lomas Dr., Hacienda Heights, CA 91745 @STMarksLCHH

[Unsubscribe {recipient's email}](#).

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by church@stmarks.ws powered by



Try email marketing for free today!