

# welcome

## sunday worship

Please join us Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. for the Traditional service and at 11:00 a.m. for *The Current*. You can either join us in person at St. Mark's or view from our website or Facebook page anytime, Visit [stmarkscarmel.org/connected](http://stmarkscarmel.org/connected).

## sunday small groups

**Adults**  
Learn more about Sunday classes and small groups on the Welcome Center screen, on the GROW Connection Tables and at [stmarkscarmel.org/studygroups](http://stmarkscarmel.org/studygroups). All are welcome to an informal, drop-in gathering called "The Living Room," meeting in our brand new, permanent space in Room N (past Cornerstone Commons).

**Kidz Church:** (Check-in station & classes located in the Children's Wing.)

**Nursery & Toddler Care**  
9:00, 10:00 & 11:00 a.m.  
Ages 6 weeks - 3 years  
Staffed by trained & experienced leaders, our nursery & toddler areas are here to care for our littlest members.

**Kidz Church: 9:00 a.m.**  
Ages 4 - Grade 2, Lower Level (Children in grades 3 and up are encouraged to remain in worship).  
This program opens with worship arts, followed by a rotational style class. Each week includes a variety of fun activity stations like music, drama, Bible stories, crafts and more.

**Kidz Church: 10:00 a.m.**  
Ages 4 - Grade 5, Lower Level  
This program opens with music and worship arts, followed by a grade-specific education hour that divides children into the following groups: Preschool (4+) - Grade 1; Grades 2 & 3; Grades 4 & 5. Classes include Bible stories, games, and engaging activities that help children relate God's word to their everyday lives.

**Kidz Music & Praise: 11:00 a.m.**  
Ages 4 - Grade 5, Upper Level  
This high energy program is an immersive experience that offers children the opportunity to explore the weekly bible story through singing, movement, instruments, drama, puppets, and more! This class also rehearses for seasonal musicals and shares their talents in worship services, programs, and special events.

**Children's Worship Activities**  
Worship activities for children are available behind the sanctuary! There are shelves with items for children 3+ and Worship Bags for 6+. Please return all materials at the end of the service so they are available for others.

**Youth: 10:00 a.m.**  
Grades 6-12, Youth Wing  
This program will start in Room M with a fun activity and announcements, then we will break into middle and high school groups as we dive into God's Word, build lasting friendships, and grow in our faith together.

**circle of caring**  
Please join us in praying for the following individuals this week: Carol Hollinger, Carole Anderson, and Donna Clary.

**sunday flowers**  
Flowers this week are given by Lynn Donnelson in memory of her father, Don.

## May mission focus

**Habitat for Humanity**  
Having a home is important to the quality of life, health, and economic prosperity of families as well as the entire community. In Indiana, the average hourly wage necessary to afford a two-bedroom unit at the fair market rent is \$22.18; however, the average Indiana renter earns significantly less, at around \$18.05 an hour. Greater Indy Habitat for Humanity offers homeownership opportunities to low-income individuals and families who are unable to obtain conventional home financing. Research shows that Habitat for Humanity's home ownership program leads to benefits beyond housing, including improved mental health, a decreased reliance on social services, and improved academic achievement of children. You can make a difference in the lives of families right here in Central Indiana. For more information, visit [stmarkscarmel.org/missions](http://stmarkscarmel.org/missions). Financial donations may be given online at [stmarkscarmel.org/give](http://stmarkscarmel.org/give) or by using the offering envelope in the blue attendance pads.



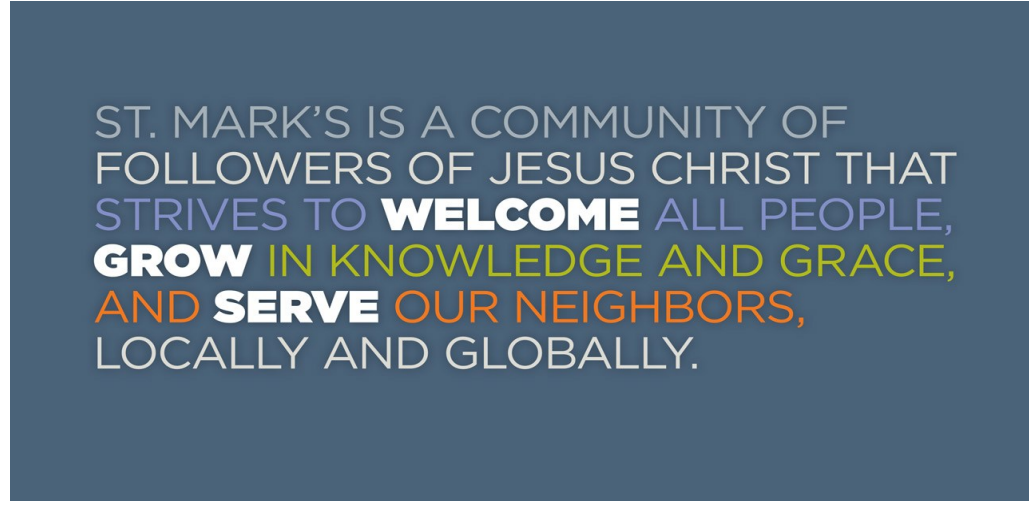
May 17, 2026 11:00 a.m. Ascension Sunday

# THE Current

<b>Welcome &amp; Announcements</b>		Pastor Nathan Whybrew
	<i>(Find this week's announcement slides at <a href="http://stmarkscarmel.org/announcements">stmarkscarmel.org/announcements</a>.)</i>	
<b>Worship in Song</b>	<i>The Father's House</i>	by Asbury, Hastings, & Hulse
<b>Opening Prayer</b>		Scott Melvin
<b>Reception of New Members</b>	Jerry & Sharon Whybrew Sarah Whybrew Susie Fama	
<b>Kidz Chat</b>		
<b>Passing the Peace</b>		
<b>Worship in Song</b>	<i>Abide</i>	by Housefires
<b>Message</b>	<i>Why Should I Go to Church? Psalm 100</i>	Pastor Nathan Whybrew
<b>Prayers &amp; Offerings</b>	<i>Coming Home</i>	by Housefires
	<b>God, open doors to reveal new hopes and dreams for St. Mark's and in our own lives. Give us the courage to follow where You lead. Amen.</b>	
	<i>(Tithes and offerings may be placed in the baskets at the entrance of the sanctuary or given online using the QR code inside the bulletin or at <a href="http://www.stmarkscarmel.org/give">www.stmarkscarmel.org/give</a>. May God add God's blessings to our gifts today and always.)</i>	
<b>Sending</b>	<i>House of the Lord</i>	by Smith & Wickham
<b>Blessing</b>		

Rev. Nathan E. Whybrew & Rev. Karla J. Elliott / Pastors  
Scott Melvin / Worship Leader

Follow us on Facebook @stmarkscarmel or Instagram at Stmarkscarmel



May 17, 2026 9:00 a.m. Ascension Sunday

## order of worship

\*Please Stand As You Are Able

<b>Prelude</b>	<i>Trumpet Tune in C</i>	by Henry Purcell Kathy Heetland
<b>Introit</b>	<i>Take My Life, and Let it Be</i>	arr. George Kinsley St. Mark's Chancel Choir
<b>Welcome &amp; Announcements</b>		Pastor Nathan Whybrew
	<i>(Please fill out the attendance pad at the end of the pew or register your attendance at <a href="http://stmarkscarmel.org/attend">stmarkscarmel.org/attend</a>. Observe who is sitting near you and greet them after the service.)</i>	
<b>*Call to Worship</b>	<p>Leader: We wonder if it is important to come to church.  <b>People: We come to be in God's holy presence.</b>                      Leader: We wonder if worshiping with others matters.                      We want to know.  <b>People: Let us join together with praise on our lips and joy in our hearts!</b></p>	
<b>*Opening Hymn</b>	<i>Forward Through the Ages</i>	Hymnal No. 555
<b>*Opening Prayer</b>	<p>Let us pray:  <b>God of community, challenge us, surprise us, stretch us as we come together to worship you.</b>  <b>May we find that within our shared stories, Your Story is revealed. Amen.</b></p>	
<b>*Passing God's Peace</b>	The Lord be with you. <b>And also with you.</b>	
<b>Reception of New Members</b>	Jerry & Sharon Whybrew Sarah Whybrew Susie Fama	

Congregational Response

We rejoice to recognize you as members of Christ’s holy church, and bid you welcome to St. Mark’s. With you we renew our vows to uphold it by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness. With God’s help, we will so order our lives after the example of Christ, that surrounded by steadfast love, you may be established in the faith and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal.

Kidz Chat

Scripture Lesson Psalm 100 OT 552
This is the Word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.

Anthem Make a Joyful Noise by Mark Hayes
St. Mark’s Chancel Choir
Ed Rowell, drums

Breakthrough Prayer
God, open doors to reveal new hopes and dreams for St. Mark’s and in our own lives. Give us the courage to follow where You lead. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer
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. Amen.

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings (Offering envelopes may be found in sign-in folder.)
Prayer of Dedication
Offertory Blest Be the Tie That Binds arr. Emma Lou Diemer

\*Doxology Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow Hymnal No. 94
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Sermon Why Should I Go to Church? Pastor Nathan Whybrew

\*Hymn Blest Be the Tie That Binds Hymnal No. 557

\*Benediction

\*Postlude March by F. J. Haydn

Community

To learn about other ways we connect and grow in community at St. Mark’s, visit our website at https://stmarkscarmel.org/events.

St. Mark’s Presents: The Happy Enchiladas

TODAY | 2:00 p.m.
The Happy Enchiladas are a John Prine inspired folk band featuring vocals, guitar, mandolin, and string bass. Their infectious energy will delight your souls! Please join us!

Calling All Graduates!

St. Mark’s is excited to celebrate our High School, College, and Post-Graduate graduates on Sunday, May 31st! If you or a family member are graduating this year, we want to recognize your achievement. This info is due by May 21st at stmarkscarmel.org/grads.

Indianapolis Indians Game

Sunday, June 14
Come join your St. Mark’s friends to see the Indianapolis Indians play! The game begins at 1:35 PM. Plan to meet in the JW Marriott lobby by 1:20, so we can walk over as a group and find a place to sit on the outfield lawn. Tickets (\$15 for adults, \$14 for kids) should be purchased in advance at indyindians.com. Contact Peter Elliott at peter.elliott@att.net for questions.

5 Crowns Game Day

Sunday, May 31 | 2:00-5:00 p.m.
The Fellowship Team invites you to join us for 5 Crowns Game Day! Visit stmarkscarmel.org/events to find out more.

Grow

VBS Volunteer Callout

There are many ways to serve at VBS, but the most pressing need is having enough Crew Leaders! Crew Leaders are friendly guides to campers and serve alongside other leaders for support—no teaching required and leader training provided! Visit stmarkscarmel.org/vbs to learn more about this fulfilling way to serve.

Donate to Summer Camps!

Supplies, snacks, and scholarship donations are needed for music camps and VBS in June and July. Please see the rolling board in the narthex for specific items needed or visit stmarkscarmel.org/give to support camps financially. Thank you for your generosity!

Laser Flash

Saturday, May 30 | 5:00 p.m.
Incoming 6th graders through graduating seniors are invited to meet at Laser Flash in Carmel for a night of laser tag, pizza, and arcade time. Email youth@stmarkscarmel.org to RSVP for you and your friends!

Serve

In-Kind & Kidz Monthly Mission: E. 10th & Grassroot Projects

During the month of May, we are collecting items to support East Tenth’s summer camps and children’s board books to support Grassroot Projects. East Tenth United Methodist Children & Youth Center is an accredited early learning center in east Indianapolis. They offer an income based sliding scale for tuition costs and are proud to serve a diverse population. Grassroot Projects creates and supports equitable communities for under-resourced immigrant and refugee children. Please support these important missions by donating the following items in May: soccer balls & basketballs (new or used); toilet paper; paper towels; NEW preschool board books.

Serve Fletcher Place Breakfast

Friday, May 29 | 7:15-11:15 a.m.
“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat” (Matthew 25:35). Help is needed to cook and serve a hot breakfast for the homeless and low-income population served by Fletcher Place Community Center. Volunteers ride together to and from St. Mark’s. SIGN UP ONLINE at stmarkscarmel.org/signups.

Youth Mission Camp

Mission Camp: Serve. Grow. Make a Difference. June 8-11 | 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. | Grades 6-12
Looking for a meaningful way to spend your time and impact others this summer? Mission Camp is a hands-on service experience where youth step outside church walls and into the community to serve, love, and lead. Register: stmarkscarmel.org/missioncamp by May 31st. Questions? Contact Amy Adams at aadams@stmarkscarmel.org. Sign up today and be part of something bigger than yourself!

Community Food Relief

Recent cuts in government funding have placed added strain on local food relief programs, leaving many families struggling to access the essentials they depend on. With demand for food assistance rising, community support has never been more important. You can make a difference by donating food or funds to the CUMC Food Pantry, our partner organization in combatting food insecurity right here in Hamilton County. Every contribution, big or small, helps us continue providing food and essentials to those who need them most. Together, we can nourish and support our community through challenging times.

this week at st. mark’s

Sunday, May 17

- The Living Room Informal Gatherings (Room N), 10:00 a.m.
St. Mark’s Presents: The Happy Enchiladas (Sanctuary), 2:00 p.m.
Messy Faith Life Group (Room G/H), 5:00 p.m.
Young Parents’ Life Group (Room J/K), 5:00 p.m.
AA (Room B/C), 8:00 p.m.

Monday, May 18

- Teatime Discipleship (The Living Room), 9:30 a.m.
Education Volunteer Leader Dinner (Cornerstone Commons), 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 19

- Men’s Basketball (Wesley Hall), 7:00 p.m.
Hoosier Brass Band (Sanctuary), 7:00 p.m.
UWF Bookmarker Group (Library), 7:00 p.m.
The Page Turners (Room G/H), 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 20

- Men’s Bible Study (Room B/C), 8:00 a.m.
Pastors’ Bible Study (Room B/C), 9:30 a.m.
Wed AM Study (Room J/K), 9:30 a.m.
ROMEOs (Maple), 11:00 a.m.
Al Anon (Room G/H), 11:30 a.m.
New Member Class: Fast Track Version (Room B/C), 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, May 21

- Marksmen (Starbucks), 6:30 a.m.
Thurs AM Study (The Living Room), 10:00 a.m.
AA (Room G/H), 12:00 p.m.
Current Rehearsal (Sanctuary), 6:00 p.m.

Friday, May 22

- Song Circle (Cornerstone Commons), 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, May 23

- No scheduled activities

Sunday, May 24

- The Living Room Informal Gatherings (Room N), 10:00 a.m.
Sun AM Encouragement Group (Chapel), 10:00 a.m.
AA Meeting (Room B/C), 8:00 p.m.

attendance

stmarkscarmel.org/attend



ways to give

stmarkscarmel.org/give



St. Mark’s United Methodist Church
4780 East 126th Street
Carmel, IN 46033
stmarkscarmel.org
317-846-4912

Sign up for these opportunities at stmarkscarmel.org/signups.
Donations can be left inside Door #2, M-F, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.