

As we celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas, our gospel today confronts us with the death of innocent children at the hands of Herod. The birth of Christ does not remove the power of evil from our world, but its light gives us hope as we walk with all the "holy innocents" of past generations and today who have suffered unjustly. In our gathering around word and meal, God continues to redeem us, lift us up, and carry us as in days of old.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty Savior,
Prince of Peace.
Amen.

Hymn 275 Angels From the Realms of Glory
(please be seated)

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism for Axel Rowdy
Andrews

Hymn 278 Away in a Manger

First Reading: Isaiah 63:7-9

Psalm 148:1-4, 7-14 (Lector odd; Congregation even)

Children's Message (the first 5 days of Christmas)
Song: On The First Day of Christmas

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-23
Sermon
Hymn 302 As With Gladness Men of Old

Prayers of Intercession

Offering / Offertory "'Twas In the Moon of
Wintertime with Oh Come, All Ye Faithful" arr.
Thomas Keesecker

Offering Prayer with Hymn 294 In the Bleak
Midwinter vs. 3

The Words of Institution
The Lord's Prayer

Invitation to Communion

Postlude



Merry Christmas! Welcome elves, reindeers, Santa's helpers, givers and receivers, share-ers and care-ers, carolers and prayers in the name of Jesus Christ who was "born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth." Thank you for your presence today and for all your work and witness throughout 2025 for the sake of Jesus Christ! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the power of the Holy Spirit be with you always, especially in the coming year!



Prayer Concerns

Shepherd of the Week: Judith Fletcher

St. Mark's Members: Mary Trimberger, Lorri Monterose, Bob Anderson, Mike Carter, Ruth Ann Swart, Peter Cuocolo, all who are homebound, all who are caregivers.

St. Mark's Friends & Family: Mike Staley (Tracy Staley's dad), David Whitlow (son of Liz W), Wendy Phillips (friend of Nina Keck), Sandy Monterose (Tommy's sister), Luz Ortiz (friend of Peter Cuocolo), Adam Mann (son-in-law of Saleebys), Wes and Judy Koch (friends of the Hokes), Brynda Bechtold, Dave & Annette Simpson (friends of Peter Cuocolo), Renee (friend of Cindy Wilkins), Dave (friend of the Greene Family), Colin Goracke (Jack & Melanie Altman's grandson), Cindy Munsey Hall (friend of Peter Cuocolo), Glen Bannister (Sharon Roy's brother-in-law), Betty Lowe, Sue Wilson (Michelle Corbett's mother), Bleier family, Sandra Davis, Rick Barger (friend of Kathy Jo McLean), Zebulon Hounslea (friend/student of Judy Fletcher), Maria Cuocolo, Ronnie & kids, Emma (15- Hodgkins Lymphoma), Keith LaPrelle (nephew of Karen Pettit), David Moregas (friend of the Kecks), Harriett Hepler (Barbara Overcash's sister), James Nicholson (friend of Peter Cuocolo), Steve Belton (brother of Malinda Little), Tori (friend of Liz McNabb), Anne Monterosso (fiancé of Colin Davis), Marty Rink (friend of the Van Horns), Carol Masters (friend of Liz Whitlow), Pastor David Gerber (Diana Cosme Avery's stepfather), Clark 'Tiger' LeBrun (cousin of Donna Enroth & Linda Melin), Ian Russell

St Mark's Military Members: Tommy Upshaw, Erik Crowder, and Janet Smeltz's grandson-

Dalton Leik, Andrew Boman, BK & Laura Barringer's great-grandson- Christopher Barringer.

Congratulations and God's blessings to Josh & Holly Frankos and their family at the birth of Colt Henry Frankos on December 18!

Condolence: We extend our Christian Sympathy to the family and friends of those lost in the accident with Greg Biffle.

NEWS & EVENTS

Next Sunday, January 4

- + 7:30am LMM Breakfast
- + 8:30am Worship
- + 9:30am CONNECT for all ages
- + 9:45am SERVE (4th-6th)
- + 10:30am Worship (livestream)

Sunday, January 11

- + 8:30am Worship
- + 9:30am CONNECT for all ages
- + 10:30am Worship (livestream)

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday

Office closed

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704.664.5474
office@saintmarkslutheran.com

Pastor Dave Keck
dave@saintmarkslutheran.com



GIVING
CODE

Annual Chili Cookoff on *Friday, January 23 at 6:00pm* in the FLC. Bring chili to enter the competition or simply come to enjoy a bowl and vote. Prizes will be awarded for: best overall, most creative, and people's choice.

K-12 Youth Rock Climbing at Cliffhangers on *Sunday, January 15, at noon*. Call or text Jessica to RSVP: 828-514-9248.

Food for Days December item of the month: Vienna sausages. Donations can be dropped in the bin near the office hall.

Preschool Registration for 2026-27 is open for church families. To register before the public please contact Stephanie Mattingly at 704-609-6244 or mattinglysk920@gmail.com to secure your spot.

ENJOY (*Empty Nester's Just Older Youth*) Are you between the ages of 45ish and 65? Meet up with us on Friday, January 16 at 6:00pm at Florence Wine and Beer Garden, 518 S Church Street, Mooresville. Contact Kristie Ward with any questions at 704-807-6155 or rkward93@yahoo.com

Break Room If you need to step out of service for a moment away, you are welcome to visit the break room. Follow the signs to the room towards the back of the building.

LYO Assembly 2026: *Keeping Up with the Lutherans: The Church Has Left the Building, February 27–March 1, 2026* in Greensboro. Middle & high schoolers are invited to a weekend of worship, service, and fun exploring how we live our faith beyond the walls of the church. For more information contact Pastor Dave.

Ladies Lunch Bunch will meet on *January 14, 2026 at 11:30 am* at Jeffrey's Steak House at 117 Trade Court, Mooresville, 28115. Please RSVP to susanaltierinc@gmail.com or call 704-929-5648 by Monday, January 12, 2026.

Faith Formation CONNECT hour *9:30am Fellowship in the FLC, 9:45 groups begin.* Groups in the FLC: PreK-5th, Youth, Adult, Classy Leftovers. Groups in the main building: Adult 1 in the conference room. **4th-6th graders** are invited to SERVE group in the FLC every 1st Sunday during CONNECT hour.

Lutheran Men in Mission Breakfast *Sunday, January 11 at 7:30am in the FLC.* All men are welcome to join the LMM the 1st Sunday of each month for breakfast, fellowship, devotions, and a business meeting.

Altar Flowers 2026 The sign up sheet to provide flowers for the altar in 2026 is available on the bulletin board near the office. Instructions and more information can be found on the sheet.