

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

601 Eighth Street | Laurel, Maryland 20707

301.776.8885 | stmarkslmd@gmail.com



"We come together at St. Mark's to praise God, celebrate His love for us, and grow together in Christ by equipping the people of God to implement and spread His Word to the world."

Rev. Eugene W. Matthews, Pastor

443.257.2730 | reveugene@comcast.net

Rev. Dr. George F. DeFord, Pastor Emeritus

Bishop LaTrelle Millet Easterling

Baltimore/Washington Conference

Rev. Sarah Schlieckert

District Superintendent

for the Southern Annapolis Region

Welcome, as we gather here to worship!

Sunday, November 26, 2023

Christ the King Sunday

United Methodist Student Sunday

Order of Service

Ushers:

Ralph Laquerre and Thomas Matthews

Jaden and Eli Coffen, Worship Leaders

Prelude..... Rev. Henry Tindal

Lighting of the Candles Usher

Gathering SongSt. Mark's Choir/Congregation

“Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place, and I know that it's the spirit of the Lord; There are sweet expressions on each face, and I know they feel the presence of the Lord. Sweet holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove, stay right here with us filling us with your love; and for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise; without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived when we shall leave this place.

Greeting/Call to Worship.....Eli Coffen

Leader: The Shepherd of our souls bids us to gather.

People: From our scattered places and rambling thoughts, we come to hear the voice that soothes.

Leader: All who are hungry and thirsty will be fed.

People: All who are wounded and battled scarred shall be healed.

Leader: The lost are welcome, and those who have strayed are south.

People: Every injury shall be addressed. And the weak will be strengthened.

ALL: This is Christ, our Potentate. We have come to offer our praise and thanks to the Lord.

Hymn of Praise **St. Mark's Choir / Congregation**

"Lord I Thank You, Thank You, Thank You"

Prayer of Confession and Assurance (*In Unison*)

We want to be kings and queens of our own castles and captains of our own ships. But our castles are crumbling, and ships have gone astray. There is only ONE who can rule with justice. There is only ONE who can steer us into light. When we seek to govern our own lives, it is sin. Let us confess: Ruler of heaven and earth, we bow before your majesty. Earthly Kings have given us such a pitiful portrait of your divine order. Forgive us for our sins. Lead us into the pastures where our souls might be restored. The realm and glory belong to you. In the name of Christ, we pray. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer (*sung*)

The Invocation **Jaden Coffen**

Song of Meditation **St. Mark's Choir**

The Prayer of Illumination (*In Unison*)

Spirit of wisdom and revelation, reveal to us your providence and love through the divine scriptures that we shall soon hear. May we relieve your directions through the WORD that your glory will be spread throughout the world. In his matchless name we pray. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading #1 **Jaden Coffen**

(*Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24, Common English Bible*)

¹¹ The Lord God proclaims: I myself will search for my flock and seek them out. ¹² As a shepherd seeks out the flock when some in the flock have been scattered, so will I seek out my flock. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered during the time of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³ I will gather and lead them out from the countries and peoples, and I will bring them to their own fertile land. I will feed them on Israel's highlands, along the riverbeds, and in all the inhabited places. ¹⁴ I will feed them in good pasture, and their sheepfold will be there, on Israel's lofty highlands. On Israel's highlands,

they will lie down in a secure fold and feed on green pastures. ¹⁵ I myself will feed my flock and make them lie down. This is what the Lord God says. ¹⁶ I will seek out the lost, bring back the strays, bind up the wounded, and strengthen the weak. But the fat and the strong I will destroy, because I will tend my sheep with justice.

²⁰ So the Lord God proclaims to them: I will judge between the fat and the lean sheep. ²¹ You shove with shoulder and flank, and with your horns you ram all the weak sheep until you've scattered them outside. ²² But I will rescue my flock so that they will never again be prey. I will even judge between the sheep! ²³ I will appoint for them a single shepherd, and he will feed them. My servant David will feed them. He will be their shepherd. ²⁴ I, the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David will be their prince. I, the Lord, have spoken.

Scripture Reading #2.....Eli Coffen
(*Ephesians 1:15–23, Common English Bible*)

¹⁵ Since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, this is the reason that ¹⁶ I don't stop giving thanks to God for you when I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷ I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, will give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation that makes God known to you. ¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart will have enough light to see what is the hope of God's call, what is the richness of God's glorious inheritance among believers, ¹⁹ and what is the overwhelming greatness of God's power that is working among us believers. This power is conferred by the energy of God's powerful strength. ²⁰ God's power was at work in Christ when God raised him from the dead and sat him at God's right side in the heavens, ²¹ far above every ruler and authority and power and angelic power, any power that might be named not only now but in the future. ²² God put everything under Christ's feet and made him head of everything in the church, ²³ which is his body. His body, the church, is the fullness of Christ, who fills everything in every way.

Selection..... St. Mark's Choir

Acknowledgement of Visitors /

Announcements.....Jaden Coffen

Blessing of the Offering.....Jaden Coffen

Special Offering —United Methodist Student Day calls the church to support students as they prepare for life in uniting faith with knowledge. The

special offering provides **scholarships for qualified United Methodist applicants.**

Offertory

Scripture Reading #3 (Gospel)Jaden Coffen
(*Matthew 25:31–46, Common English Version, please stand*)

³¹ “Now when the Human One comes in his majesty and all his angels are with him, he will sit on his majestic throne. ³² All the nations will be gathered in front of him. He will separate them from each other, just as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will put the sheep on his right side. But the goats he will put on his left.

³⁴ “Then the king will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who will receive good things from my Father. Inherit the kingdom that was prepared for you before the world began. ³⁵ I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me. ³⁶ I was naked and you gave me clothes to wear. I was sick and you took care of me. I was in prison and you visited me.’

³⁷ “Then those who are righteous will reply to him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? ³⁸ When did we see you as a stranger and welcome you, or naked and give you clothes to wear? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’

⁴⁰ “Then the king will reply to them, ‘I assure you that when you have done it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you have done it for me.’

⁴¹ “Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Get away from me, you who will receive terrible things. Go into the unending fire that has been prepared for the devil and his angels. ⁴² I was hungry and you didn’t give me food to eat. I was thirsty and you didn’t give me anything to drink. ⁴³ I was a stranger and you didn’t welcome me. I was naked and you didn’t give me clothes to wear. I was sick and in prison, and you didn’t visit me.’

⁴⁴ “Then they will reply, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and didn’t do anything to help you?’ ⁴⁵ Then he will answer, ‘I assure you that when you haven’t done it for one of the least of these, you haven’t done it for me.’ ⁴⁶ And they will go away into eternal punishment. But the righteous ones will go into eternal life.”

The Gloria Patri – “Glory Be to the Father” (Hymnal, #71)

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. **Amen.**

Hymn of Preparation **St. Mark’s Choir**

Inspirational Message **Rev. Eugene W. Matthews**

“The Power Within”

“God’s power was at work in Christ when God raised him from the dead and sat him at God’s right side in heaven”

(Ephesians 1:20, CEB)

Invitation / Praise and Concerns

Altar Call..... **Rev. Eugene W. Matthews**

Benediction

Announcements

Wearing a mask while in the sanctuary is at your discretion.

Worship Attendance — 11/19/2023

In-Person	41
YouTube	21
Total	62

Pray Daily at Noon

Please remember to pray daily at NOON. Some areas to include in your prayer can include the pandemic, racial healing, government leaders, educational challenges, our youth and most importantly for our sick and shut-ins and each other.



Tuesday Women’s Roundtable (6:30 p.m.) — Book Study — Purpose Driven Life.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88571184455?pwd=UmpvVERkcjkyVFVoVHR1YlJxK284Zz09>; Meeting ID: **885 7118 4455**; Passcode: **459563**

Wednesday Night Experience (7:15 p.m.) — This study is based on the Upper Room reading for Wednesday. **Call in info:** 267.807.9611, **Access Code:** 331960.

Thursday, November 30th (6:30 p.m.) — Choir rehearsal

Friday, December 1st (7:00 p.m.) — Rehearsal with Queens Chapel (at church) for Christmas Program

Attention Women: Roundtable Recharge Retreat, April 25th–April 27th at the Maritime Conference Center in Linthicum. For additional information, please **Nena Hughes**. \$100 deposit will hold your reservation.

LARS “Adopt-A-Family” Christmas Program

St. Mark’s is participating in the **LARS “Adopt-A-Family”** Christmas Program. We are sponsoring 4 children. Please select the item(s) you would like to donate from the Wishlist sheet (*back of bulletin*). Once items are purchased, please notify Sandy Johnson (410.530.0399 and/or email: sandra7767@msn.com) or Millicent George (stmarkslmd@gmail.com). **Items should be wrapped or placed in gift bags. PLEASE** write the Family Number, Child’s Initials, age, and gender on each individual gift.

Bring the gifts to St. Mark’s on Sunday, December 3rd or no later than Sunday, December 10th. You can also drop the gifts off at the church on Tuesday, **December 5th** or **Thursday, December 7th** between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. We’re praying every St. Mark’s member will participate. Thank you for being a blessing to these 4 children.

Note from Finance: First, thank you to all that have been giving. This is a reminder that there are several ways to get your offering to the church:

1. You can drop it off at the church and place it in church mailbox
2. You can mail it to the church (601 Eighth Street, Laurel, MD 20707)
3. You can use on-line giving (Give–St. Marks — <https://www.shelbygiving.com/app/giving/stmarkslmd>)



***“Proclaiming Christ to the generations...
Equipping disciples to transform the world”***

Special Prayers / Sick and Shut-In List: If you hear of anyone that needs special prayer or is taken to the hospital, please contact: Rev. Eugene Matthews (443.257.2730), reveugene@comcast.net.

Joseph Ballard, Robert (Bobby) Marshall, Oscar Johnson, Harold (Bubby) Awkward, Jr., Tyrone Awkward, William (Jimmy) Scott, Charles Gregg, Rev. Henry Tindal, Rev. George F. DeFord, Janet Carey, Lafayette and Elaine Harvey, All branches of the Military, Bernice Jackson, Brenda Jackson, Shawn Settles, Floyd Hughes Sr., Chantel Ashley, Jannette Shuford-Reeves, Phillip Reese, Naomi Williams (Ms. Cynthia's Mom), Leah Henry, Sonja Smith, Marvin Hebron, Eric Smith, Gloria Thomas, Wanda Dumas, Tyrone Mundell, Ernestine Gibson, James Matthews, Birdie Walker, Paul Browder, Lamar Payne, Kevin Miller, Hannah Polk

Eunice Dumas

1909 Sheffield Court
Severn, MD 21144
410.551.2435

Edlin Chambers

14904 4th Street
Laurel, MD
347.423.2764

Umbrenda Fisher

9160 Charlton Place
Douglasville, GA 39135

Grace Elaine Catchings

15505 Clayburn Drive
Laurel, MD 20707
301.312.7465 (Grace cell)

Ruth Miller

1206 Peachwood Ln.
Bowie, MD 20716
240.245.4560

Adopt A Family — **Family #39** Wish List

Child's Initial (SMC) , Age (1) , Gender (Female) :	Child's Initial (EMC) , Age (3) , Gender (Male) :
Stuffed animals	Basketball
Moon Lamp	Remote Control Car
Robotic Pet	Remote Control Car
Toy with Lights and Music	Building Blocks
Hair Accessories	Wooden Puzzles
Kids Plan Kitchen	Musical Instrument
Gift Card (at least 4, any amount)	Gift Card (at least 4, any amount)

Adopt A Family — **Family #43** Wish List

Child's Initial (YE) , Age (7) , Gender (Male, 2nd Grade) :	Child's Initial (JE) , Age (14) , Gender (Male, 8th Grade) :
Smart Watch	Smart Watch
Legos	Microscope
Scooter	Scooter
Gift Card (at least 4, any amount)	Gift Card (at least 4, any amount)