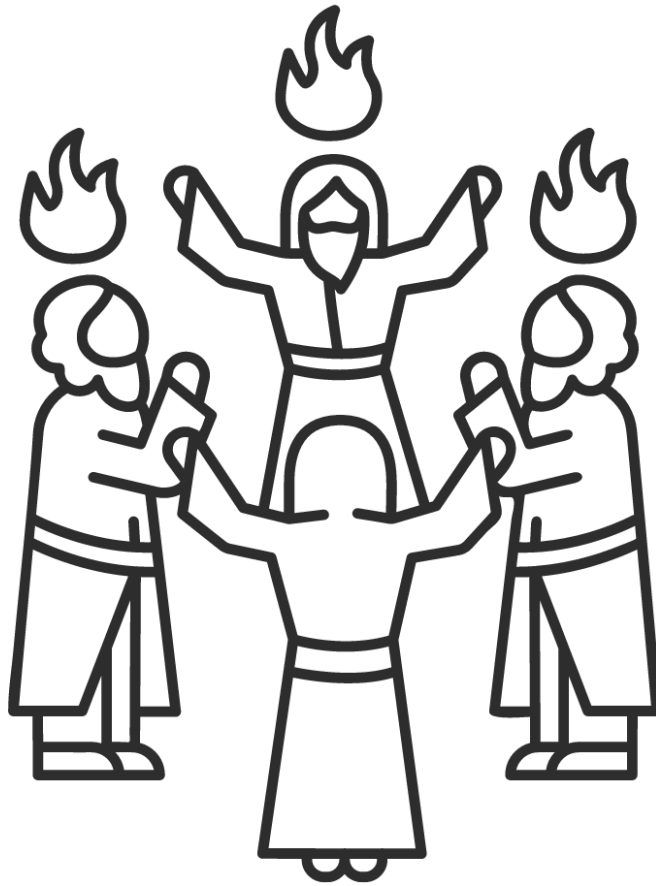


The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost



September 8, 2024

St. Mark's and St. John's Episcopal Church

Welcome to St. Mark's and St. John's!

Name tags are available. We'd love to make one for you if you do not have one already.

Help yourself to coffee in the "cafe," and feel free to bring it to your pew. We're casual.

We invite children to make themselves at home at our children's table, where there are weekly activity bulletins and crayons.

Our live YouTube broadcast begins at 9:15 am. Our YouTube channel link is available on our website, stmarksandstjohns.org.

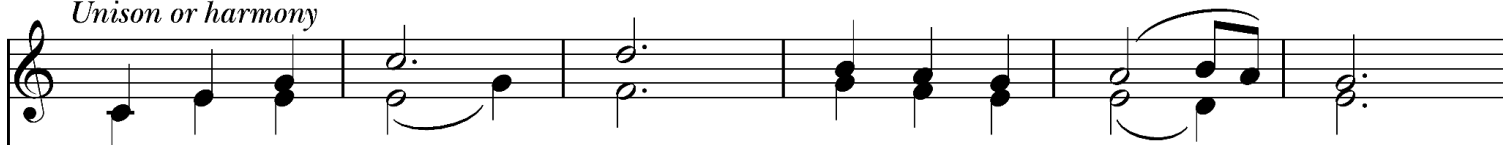
We do not pass an offering plate during the service. If you would like to make a financial gift, you can place it in the plate (by the sign-in binder) or contribute online.

PRELUDE

OPENING MUSIC

"Morning has Broken"

Unison or harmony



1 Morn-ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing,
2 Sweet the rain's new fall sun - lit from hea - ven,
3 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing



black-bird has spo - ken like the first bird. _____
like the first dew - fall on the first grass. _____
born of the one light E - den saw play! _____



Praise for the sing - ing! Praise for the morn - ing!
Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet gar - den,
Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - ery morn - ing,



Praise for them, spring - ing fresh from the Word! _____
sprung in com - plete - ness where his feet pass. _____
God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day! _____

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 35:4-7a

A reading from the book of Isaiah, the thirty-fifth chapter...

Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.

Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying

People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 146

Hallelujah!

Praise the Lord, O my soul! *

I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

**Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth, *
for there is no help in them.**

When they breathe their last, they return to earth, *
and in that day their thoughts perish.

**Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! *
whose hope is in the Lord their God;**

Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; *
who keeps his promise for ever;

**Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *
and food to those who hunger.**

The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; *
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

**The Lord loves the righteous;
the Lord cares for the stranger; *
he sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.**

The Lord shall reign for ever, *
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Hallelujah!

SECOND LESSON

James 2:1-10, 14-17

A reading from the book of James, the second chapter...

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

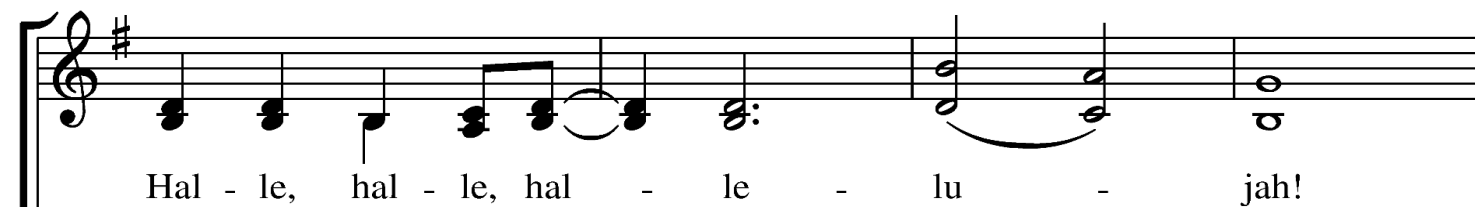
What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked

and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

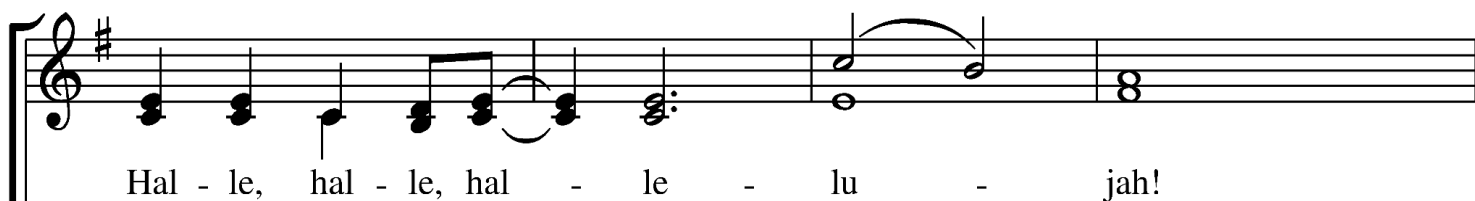
Lector: Hear what the Spirit is saying

People: **Thanks be to God.**

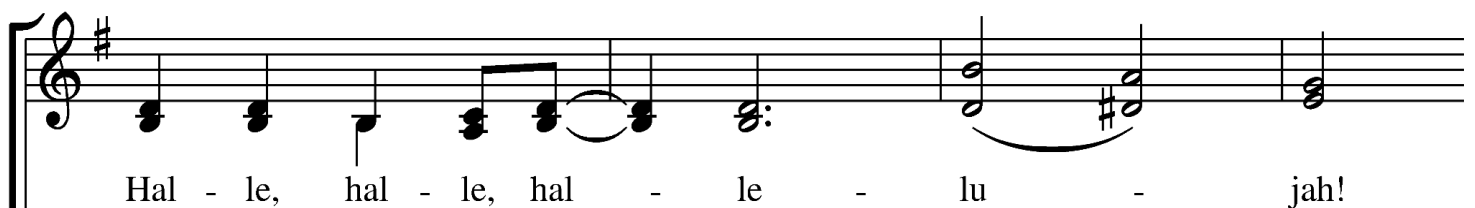
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (2x)



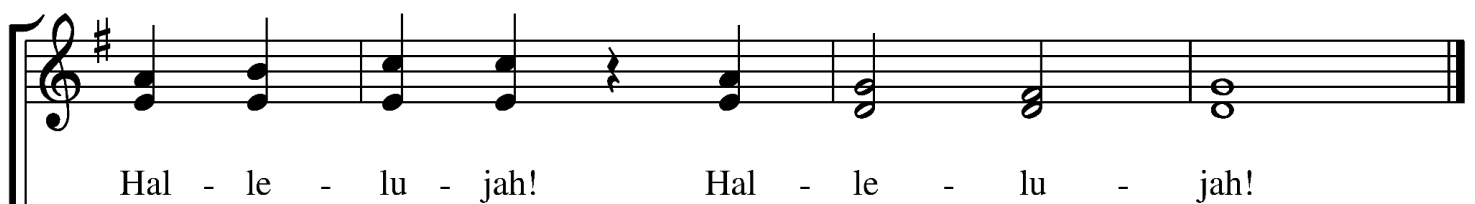
Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah!



Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah!



Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah!



Hal - le - lu - jah! Hal - le - lu - jah!

Setting: Caribbean traditional; arr. Mark Sedio © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.
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GOSPEL

Mark 7:24-37

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go – the demon has left your daughter." So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue.

Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He

has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, Lord Christ

SERMON

Pastor Cindy

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe in God above us,
Creator of all things, sustainer of all life.
We believe in Christ beside us,
companion and friend,
redeemer of all the broken pieces of our universe.
We believe in Spirit deep within us,
Advocate and guide, who lives with us eternally.
We believe in God’s resurrection created world
where all things are fixed,
and all creation fits together in vibrant harmonies.
We believe in God above, beside, within,
God yesterday, today and forever,
the three in one, the one in three.**

SPECIAL MUSIC FOR PRAYER AND MEDITATION *Please be seated*

You’re invited to light a candle at our prayer table and write your prayer intentions on one of the Prayer Boards during the music.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. We especially pray for...

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Celebrant: O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. *Amen.*

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us offer a sign of God's peace to one another.

After the Passing of the Peace

Celebrant: Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

DOXOLOGY

“Heal Me, Hands of Jesus”

Eucharistic Ministers bring the Communion elements to the altar during the music.

1. Heal me, hands of Je - sus, and search out all my pain: re -
4. Fill me, joy of Je - sus: anx - i - e - ty shall cease and
store my hope, re - move my fear and bring me peace a - gain.
heaven's se - ren - i - ty be mine, for Je - sus brings me peace!

MUSIC

“Crowded Table”

*by Brandi Carlile, Natalie Hemby, and Lori McKenna
Text adapted for worship*

Refrain: I want a church with a crowded table

And a place at the altar for everyone

Let us take on the world while we're fed and able

And bring us back together when the day is done

Verse: If we want a garden we're gonna have to sow the seed

Plant a little happiness - let the roots run deep

If it's love that we give - then it's love that we reap

If we want a garden we're gonna have to sow the seed

HOLY EUCHARIST

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift-up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; Now we join hands around your table, and with all creation we say together,

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

To you indeed be glory, almighty God, on the night before he died, your Son, Jesus Christ, took bread; when he had given you thanks, he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said:

Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

After supper he took the cup; when he had given you thanks, he gave it to them and said:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood poured out for you; do this in remembrance of me.

And so, remembering all that was done for us: his life and ministry, the cross, the tomb, and the resurrection longing for Christ's coming in glory, we present these gifts to you that your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Dying, you destroyed our death.

Rising, you restored our life.

Christ Jesus, come in glory!

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time, gather us with all your whole creation into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit. Blessed are you now and forever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

**Our Father in Heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

We who are many are one body, for we share in this one bread.

The gifts of God for the people of God take them in remembrance of Christ's life, death, and resurrection and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

WELCOME TO THE TABLE

All are welcome to receive communion.

COMMUNION MUSIC

“Jesu, Jesu”

Chorus

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show

us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.

1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their
2 Neigh-bors are rich___ and poor, neigh-bors are black___ and
3 These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should
4 Lov - ing puts us on our knees, serv - ing as though we were

Repeat Chorus

feet, Mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
white, neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way.
love. All___ are neigh-bors to us and you.
slaves; this is the way we should live with you.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world as we live out your call to love and serve. Amen.

“THE BLESSING” (Aotearoa)

adapted for SMSJ liturgy - original music and words by
Chris Brown, Cody Carnes, Kari Jobe, Steven Furtick

The Lord bless you and keep you,
make Her face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord turn Her face toward you and give you peace. (2x)

Amen, amen, amen.

Amen, amen, amen.

May Her favor be upon you and a thousand generations
And your family and your children and their children,
and their children. (2x)

Amen, amen, amen.

Amen, amen, amen.

BLESSING OF BACKPACKS, TEACHERS AND LEARNERS

Almighty God, we bring before you these instruments of teaching and of learning and ourselves. We pray that your Holy Spirit of wisdom goes with all who seek to learn and teach that we may all rest secure in the knowledge of your abiding strength, peace and love. May we all, like Jesus and his disciples grow in wisdom, in stature, and in favor with God and each other. **Amen.**

FINAL BLESSING

May the God of all peace bless you and keep you.
And the wisdom, love and grace of God strengthen you to be God’s hands and heart in this world. And the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer be with you today and remain with you always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Alleluia. Alleluia. Go forth in the peace of Christ. Tend our neighborhood.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Worship Leaders for September & October (*Lectors*)

Date	First Lesson & Psalm	Second Lesson & Usher	Prayers of the People & Greeter
9/8	Nancy W.	Tom F.	Theresa H.
9/15	Dave E.	Sharon K.	Mike F.
9/22	Mary E.	Dave E.	Bob C.
9/29	Heather G.	Terri C.	Deb S.
10/6	Joe C.	Michele H.	Tom F.
10/13	Theresa H.	Steve F.	Sharon K.
10/20	Mike F.	Nancy W.	Terri C.
10/27	Deb S.	Joe C.	Michele H.
11/3	Tom F.	Theresa H.	Steve F.

Worship Leaders for September & October *(Eucharistic Ministers)*

Date	Common Cup	Single Cup Tray	Collect Cups
9/8	Michele H.	Joe C.	Deb S.
9/15	Terri C.	Heather G.	Bob C.
9/22	Mike F.	Sharon K.	Theresa H.
9/29	Nancy W.	Michele H.	Joe C.
10/6	Deb S.	Terri C.	Heather G.
10/13	Bob C.	Dave E.	Mary E.
10/20	Mary E.	Mike F.	Sharon K.
10/27	Theresa H.	Tom F.	Michele H.
11/3	Joe C.	Deb S.	Terri C.

Weekly Garden Times

Tuesday	5 PM - Deacon Mike @ Parsells 6 PM - Deb @ Merchants
Wednesday	9 AM - Mary Ellen @ Church
Saturdays	9 AM - Maria @ 1199 Culver

Garden Captains are needed for EDEN 1199, Children's, and Denver. If you are interested in serving in this capacity with a team of volunteers, we would love to have you onboard!

September Birthdays & Anniversaries

Are we missing your information? Let us know so we can add it and celebrate!

Birthdays	Anniversaries
Ginnie S. - September 2	Bob C. & Dennis R. - September 10
Sharon K. - September 9	
Sue L. - September 14	
Bob C. - September 16	

Announcements

Farm Stand going strong for one more week! We'd love your help in harvesting, setting up and helping at the stand. Join us for our last Saturday of the Season on September 14!

Join us for a gathering all about our honey bees! **September 15 following Worship**, our Beekeeper Nick will be here to teach us about the busy bees on our Church Roof.

Episcopal 101 - Reboot - Bishop Kara will be visiting SMSJ in December. During her visit we will celebrate Confirmations and Receptions into the Episcopal Church. Moving forward our Episcopal 101 classes will be offered after church (*instead of Thursday evenings*) September 8th, October 6th, and November 3rd. Please see Pastor Cindy for details.



Save the Date for **Empty Bowls 2024!** This yearly fundraiser will take place on **Friday, October 25**. Tickets are on sale now at bit.ly/SMSJEmptyBowls2024 or by scanning the QR code. Want to make a soup? Let Terri C. know. Able to bake? Let Theresa H. know. Have a raffle prize to donate? Let Ginnie S. know.

We are looking for volunteers to be part of the **Stewardship team** this Fall. Please see Pastor Cindy for details.

Our next **Community Garden Work Day** is Saturday, September 21 at 10 am in the EDEN Children's Garden!

Our **Vestry Meeting** schedule for the Fall - September 22nd (Vestry Retreat), October 20th, November 17th, and December 15th.

An update on **Maria's process for Ordination to the Priesthood** - Maria will be serving a few Sundays a month at Church of the Epiphany in Gates, as required for "field education" as a Postulant for Holy Orders. She will be shadowing the Rector, preaching, and learning from a different setting. When she's not there, she will be here for Worship!

Diocesan News

2024 Convention 93 will be held on Saturday, **October 26th** at Hobart and William Smith Colleges. Our delegates (Clergy & Lay) are required to pre-register by September 9th. The pre-Convention Meeting will be held on Zoom, **Tuesday, October 1st 5:30 pm-6:30 pm**. The agenda will include reviewing the Diocesan Proposed 2025 Budget (inc. Apportionment), meeting the Nominees for Elective Office, and learning about Convention logistics.

A **Celebration of New Ministry** will be held on Saturday, 9/28 at 10:30 am for The Rev'd Jim Trimble at St. John's (Honeoye Falls).

SMSJ Weekly Calendar

September 9-15

Monday, 9/9	
Tuesday, 9/10	A.M. - Foodlink Delivery (Help Needed!) 1 p.m. - Food Shelf Bagging 5 p.m. - Gardening at EDEN Parsells 6 p.m. - Gardening at EDEN Merchants
Wednesday, 9/11	9 a.m. - Gardening at EDEN Church 10:30 a.m. - Food Shelf (Help Needed!)
Thursday, 9/12	6 p.m. - Crossroads of Caring Board Meeting
Friday, 9/13	
Saturday, 9/14	9 a.m. - Gardening at EDEN 1199 9:30 a.m. - Farm Stand
Sunday, 9/15	9:15 a.m. - Sunday Worship with Eucharist



St. Mark's & St. John's Staff

Rector: *The Rev'd Cynthia Rasmussen, Ph.D.*

crasmussen@stmarksandstjohns.org

Operations and Missions Director: *Maria Hartz, M.Div.*

mhartz@stmarksandstjohns.org

Musician: *Andy Lacey*

Audio and Video Producer: *Robert Thornton*

Deacon Emeritus: *The Rev'd Mike Finn*

wetlandnomad88@gmail.com

St. Mark's & St. John's Vestry

Co-Wardens: Walt Snyder & Sharon Kowalski

Vestry Members: Bob Caruso (Clerk), Heather Gilfoy, Ella Gruel,
Theresa Harte, Nancy Ramsay, Ginnie Schindler, and Nancy Willer

Diocesan Delegates: Nancy Ramsay, Ella Gruel, and Deb Snyder

Alternate Diocesan Delegate: Terri Censak

Treasurer: Michele Holmes

Beechwood Neighborhood Coalition Representative

Terri Censak