

# What We Believe

---

We believe, teach, and confess the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We believe, teach, and confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and the gospel as the power of God for the salvation of all who believe in him.

- Jesus Christ is the Word of God incarnate, through whom everything was made and through whose life, death, and resurrection God fashions a new creation.
- The proclamation of God's message to us as both law and gospel is the Word of God, revealing judgment and mercy in the person and work of Jesus Christ through whom God was pleased to reconcile all things to himself.
- The canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the Word of God. Inspired by God's Spirit speaking through their authors, they record and announce God's revelation centering in Jesus Christ. Through them God's Spirit speaks to us to create and sustain Christian faith and fellowship for service in the world.

We believe, teach, and accept the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God and the sole authoritative source and norm of our proclamation, faith, and life.

We accept the Apostles', Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds as true declarations of the scriptural faith we believe, teach, and confess.

We believe, teach, and accept the Unaltered Augsburg Confession and the Small Catechism as true witnesses to the Word of God, normative for our teaching and practice. We acknowledge that we are one in faith and doctrine with all churches that likewise accept the teachings of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession.

We believe, teach, and confess the other confessional writings in the Book of Concord namely, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald Articles, the Treatise, the Large Catechism, and the Formula of Concord, as further valid expositions of the Holy Scriptures.

We believe, teach, and confess the gospel, recorded in the Holy Scriptures and confessed in the ecumenical creeds and Lutheran confessional writings, as the power of God to create and sustain the priesthood of all believers for God's mission in the world.

St. Mark is “Outwardly” focused and is intent on making a difference by sharing the love of Christ through His Word and our actions; within our local neighborhood, the greater St. Joe area, and the surrounding Dekalb County area.

# What We Believe

---

**St. Mark's Mission Statement:** *"Making Christ Known"*

**St. Mark's Vision Statement:** St Mark Lutheran Church is "Making Christ Known" by following the two "Great Commandments of Christ." <sup>37b</sup>*"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. <sup>38</sup>This is the great and first commandment. <sup>39</sup>And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. <sup>40</sup>On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."* (ESV)

We love our neighbor by feeding the community with:

1. Food & Clothing for the Body
2. Social & Relational Fellowship
3. Devotional & Spiritual Interaction.
  1. St Mark strives to meet the needs of "Food & Clothing" by providing needed simple & healthy foods, gloves & hats to the Riverdale Elementary School. Support is provided to Dekalb County Children's Social Services with clothing for all ages, diapers, and fuzzy stuffed animals. Christmas & Easter baskets are prepared annually for shut-ins.
  2. "Social & Relational Fellowship" is accomplished through a monthly "Senior Fun Day" which includes; devotions, games, and a full lunch. There are Sewing, Quilting, & Craft classes open to the adult community. There are many community dinners provided both in the church & outdoors in the park. Rice bags (hot/cold compresses which are microwavable) are made & distributed to seniors for pain management.
  3. "Devotional & Spiritual Interaction" is accomplished through weekly Bible Studies, monthly & annual Community Worship Events, & light counseling offered to the community monthly. Outdoor worship services are held (weather permitting). Prayer walks are done multiple times a year. The "Needy Family Fund" provides gas cards or food cards to those in an emergency situation. Every person who receives a card is evangelized by the sharing of the Good News of the Gospel and the love of Jesus Christ.

At the delivery of ALL activities & donations, St. Mark makes it clear to the recipients that "God Loves You", [John 3:16] *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."* (ESV)

This Good News of the Gospel allows us to freely give, "In the Name of Jesus Christ."