

**ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OF MECHANICSBURG  
JULY 26, 2026  
9<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
HOLY COMMUNION**



**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES**

**8:30 am - Sanctuary & Zoom Worship Service**

**9:45 am - Summer Fellowship Time**

**10:00 am - Outdoor Service (1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays—July and August)**

**Rev. Marleen Griffith-Stull, Pastor**

**Pastor's Cell Phone: 878-295-2173**

**Pastor's Email: [revmarleen@stmarkmburg.com](mailto:revmarleen@stmarkmburg.com)**

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**Office Hours: 10:00 AM-1:00 PM - Monday through Thursday**

**Denise Hirn, Director of Children's Choir**

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**Brad Hull, Director of Music**

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***St Mark Lutheran Church Mechanicsburg***

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**GUESTS:**

*We would like to get to know you! Please complete a "Welcome to St. Mark Church" card found in the pew and place it in the offering plate at the time of the offering. Thank you!*

**INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY**

*As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!*

**UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS**

**Johann Sebastian Bach, died 1750; Heinrich Schütz, died 1672;  
George Frederick Handel, died 1759; musicians  
Tuesday, July 28, 2026**

These three German-born musicians have done much to enrich the life of the church. Schütz was an early master who focused on settings of biblical texts. Bach wrote over 300 cantatas along with works for organ and instrumental pieces, and has been called the "fifth evangelist" for the way he proclaimed the gospel in music. Handel's great work, Messiah, is a setting of scriptural texts.

**Mary, Martha, and Lazarus of Bethany  
Wednesday, July 29, 2026**

Friends of Jesus, Mary and Martha are remembered for the hospitality of their home that they offered him—Martha focused on serving their guest, and Mary on listening to him. Their brother Lazarus was raised from the dead as a sign of the greater resurrection to come.

## PRELUDE MUSIC

*2-part Invention #2 in C Minor*

J.S. Bach

## GATHERING

### PSALM 118:24

P This is the day that the LORD has made;  
C let us rejoice and be glad in it.

### \*BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
C Amen.

P Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination. Please kneel or be seated.*

P Merciful and loving God,  
C we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen.

P Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of ✙ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!  
C Amen.

Asterisk (\*) in the margin of this bulletin indicates to please stand as you are able.

# \*GATHERING HYMN

## Gather Us In



1 Here in this place the new light is stream-ing, now is the dark - ness  
2 We are the young, our lives are a mys - t'ry, we are the old who  
3 Here we will take the wine and the wa - ter, here we will take the  
4 Not in the dark of build-ings con - fin - ing, not in some heav - en,



van - ished a - way; see in this space our fears and our dream-ings  
yearn for your face; we have been sung through - out all of his - t'ry,  
bread of new birth, here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ers,  
light years a - way— here in this place the new light is shin - ing,



brought here to you in the light of this day.  
called to be light to the whole hu - man race.  
call us a - new to be salt for the earth.  
now is the king - dom, and now is the day.



Gath-er us in, the lost and for - sak - en, gath-er us in, the  
Gath-er us in, the rich and the haugh-ty, gath-er us in, the  
Give us to drink the wine of com-pas - sion, give us to eat the  
Gath-er us in and hold us for - ev - er, gath-er us in and



blind and the lame; call to us now, and we shall a - wak - en,  
proud and the strong; give us a heart, so meek and so low - ly,  
bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash - ion  
make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo - ples to - geth - er,



we shall a - rise at the sound of our name,  
give us the cour - age to en - ter the song.  
lives that are ho - ly and hearts that are true.  
fire . . . of love in our flesh and our bone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: GATHER US IN, Marty Haugen

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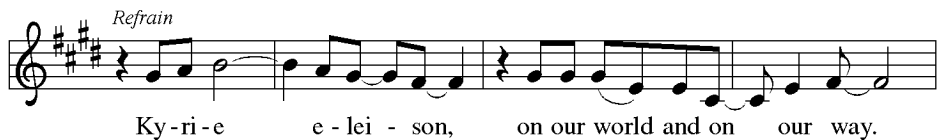
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## \*GREETING

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C And also with you.

## \*KYRIE



2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the

3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for

4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



hun - gry and the poor; that

friends and fam - i - ly; for

wa - ter and the word; that you



we may live out . . . . truth and jus - tice and grace,

life and for love, . . . . for our work and our play,

nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



\*HYMN OF PRAISE

# Listen! You Nations

*Refrain*



Lis - ten! you na - tions of the world: lis - ten to the Word of the Lord. An -



nounce it from coast to coast; de - clare it to dis - tant is - lands.



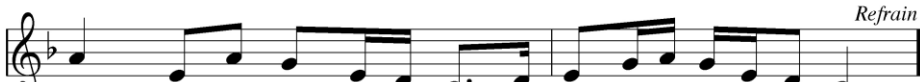
1 The Lord who scat - tered Is - ra - el will gath - er his peo - ple a - gain; and



he will keep watch o - ver them as a shep - herd watch - es his flock. *Refrain*



2 With shouts of joy they will come, their fac - es ra - diant - ly hap - py, for the



Lord is so gen - 'rous to them; he show - ers his peo - ple with gifts. *Refrain*



3 Young wom - en will dance for joy, and men young and old will make



mer - ry. Like a gar - den re - freshed by the rain, they will nev - er be in want a -



gain. Break in - to shouts of great joy; Ja - cob is free a - gain! Teach



na - tions to sing the song: "The Lord has saved his peo - ple!"

## **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P Let us pray.

P Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

## **SPECIAL MUSIC**

*Amy Gimbel and Werner Jonas*

## **FIRST LESSON: 1<sup>st</sup> Kings 3:5-12**

*Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well.*

R A reading from 1<sup>st</sup> Kings.

<sup>5</sup> At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I should give you." <sup>6</sup> And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. <sup>7</sup> And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. <sup>8</sup> And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. <sup>9</sup> Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?"

<sup>10</sup> It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. <sup>11</sup> God said to him, "Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, <sup>12</sup> I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you."

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

## **PSALM: Psalm 119:129-136**

*(Please read the Psalm responsively; men the regular print; women the bold print.)*

<sup>129</sup> Your decrees are wonderful; therefore I obey them with all my heart.

<sup>130</sup> **When your word goes forth it gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.**

<sup>131</sup> I open my mouth and pant; I long for <sup>l</sup> your commandments.

<sup>132</sup> **Turn to me in mercy, as you always do to those who love your name.**

<sup>133</sup> Steady my footsteps in your word; let no iniquity have dominion over me.

<sup>134</sup> **Rescue me from those who oppress me, and I will keep your commandments.**

<sup>135</sup> Let your countenance shine upon your servant and teach me your statutes.

<sup>136</sup> **My eyes shed streams of tears, because people do not keep your law.**

## **SECOND LESSON: Romans 8:26-39**

*These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.*

R        A reading from Romans.

<sup>26</sup> The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. <sup>27</sup> And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

<sup>28</sup> We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. <sup>30</sup> And



those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

<sup>31</sup> What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? <sup>33</sup> Who will bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. <sup>35</sup> Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

<sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

R        The word of the Lord.  
C        Thanks be to God.

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**\*GOSPEL: Matthew 13:31:33, 44-52**

*Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.  
C Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>31</sup> Jesus put before the crowds another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field;<sup>32</sup> it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

<sup>33</sup> He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

<sup>44</sup> "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

<sup>45</sup> "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; <sup>46</sup> on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

<sup>47</sup> "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; <sup>48</sup> when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad.

<sup>49</sup> So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous <sup>50</sup> and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

<sup>51</sup> "Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." <sup>52</sup> And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

P The Gospel of the Lord.  
C Praise to you, O Christ.

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**  
**NOISY SUNDAY**

**SERMON**

## **\*APOSTLES CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.\*

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

---

\*Or, He descended to the dead.

## **\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A      Trusting in God's steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray  
for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A      God of grace,  
C      hear our prayer.

P Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.  
C Amen.

### \*PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
C And also with you.

P Let us greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

### OFFERING

#### OFFERTORY

*Footsteps Of Jesus*

A. Everett

### \*THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE

#### Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be-low;

praise him a-bove, ye heav'n-ly host; praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost.

### **\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

- A Loving God,  
we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart  
in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can  
taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus through  
the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

### **\*PREFACE**

- P The Lord be with you.
- C **And also with you.**
- P Lift up your hearts.
- C **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**
- P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all  
times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty  
and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this  
day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious  
resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so,  
with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the  
hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending  
hymn:

## \*SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -



san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -



est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## **\*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

**P** Holy, mighty and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## **\*THE LORD'S PRAYER**

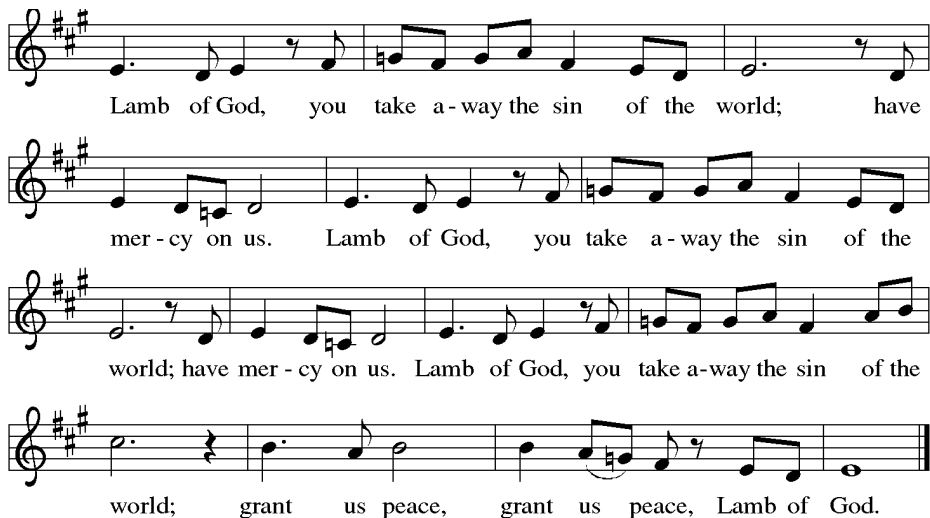
**C** Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

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 and ever. Amen.

## \*COMMUNION

P Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.



## COMMUNION

*All baptized, communion Christians are welcome to partake of the Holy Sacrament. We have gluten-free bread available and white grape juice (in addition to our traditional homemade bread and red wine) for those who need or prefer those. Simply let the pastor or assisting minister know if you prefer something other than bread and wine. Remember that we are promised that Christ is truly present in, with, and under each element.*

P The body of Christ, given for you.

C Amen.

A The blood of Christ, shed for you.

C Amen.



PLEASE SING THE FOLLOWING HYMNS DURING THE DISTRIBUTION

## -HYMN OF THE DAY-

### Lord of All Hopefulness



1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,  
2 Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,  
3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,  
4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy:  
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:  
your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace:  
whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm:



be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,  
be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,  
be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,  
be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



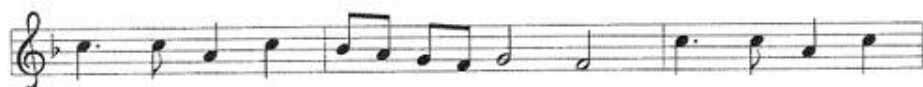
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.  
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.  
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.  
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Text: Jan Struther, 1901–1953  
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional  
Text © Oxford University Press 1931.

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# -COMMUNION-

## All My Hope on God Is Founded



1 All my hope on God is found - ed who will all my  
2 Mor - tal pride and earth - ly glo - ry, sword and crown be -  
3 Great thy good-ness, e'er en - dur - ing; deep thy wis - dom,  
4 Still from earth to God e - ter - nal sac - ri - fice of



trust re - new, who through change and chance will guide me,  
tray our trust; what with care and toil we fash - ion,  
pass - ing thought; splen - dor, light, and life at - tend thee,  
praise be done, high a - bove all prais - es prais - ing



on - ly good and on - ly true. God un - known, God a -  
tow'r and tem - ple, fall to dust. But thy pow'r, hour by  
beau - ty spring - ing out of naught. Ev - er - more from thy  
for the gift of God's own Son. Christ doth call one and



lone, call my heart to be thine own.  
hour, is my tem - ple and my tow'r.  
store new - born worlds rise and a - dore.  
all: ye who fol - low shall not fall.

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650-1690; para. Robert Bridges, 1844-1930, alt.  
Music: Herbert Howells, 1892-1983  
Music © 1968 Novello & Co. Ltd., London

MICHAEL  
8787337

*(Please stand as you are able.)*

**\*P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C** Amen.

**\*POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

**A** Let us pray.

**A** O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

**C** Amen.

**\*BLESSING**

**P** God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Holy Spirit, our advocate and peace, ☩ bless you now and forever.

**C** Amen.

# \*CLOSING HYMN

## Every Time I Feel the Spirit

*Refrain*

Ev - 'ry time I feel the spir - it mov - ing

in my heart, I will pray. Ev - 'ry time I feel the

spir - it mov - ing in my heart, I will pray.

1 Up - on the moun - tain my Lord spoke,  
 2 . . All a - round me looked so fine,  
 3 . . Jor-dan riv - er, chilly and cold,

*Refrain*

out of his mouth came fire and smoke.  
 asked . . . . my Lord if all was mine.  
 chills the bod - y but not the soul.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: PENTECOST, African American spiritual; arr. Melva W. Costen, b. 1933

Arr. © 1990 Melva W. Costen, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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*(Please be seated for announcements)*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **\*DISMISSAL**

**A** Heaven has come near. Go share the good news!

**C** Thanks be to God.

### **\*POSTLUDE**

*Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God*

K. Lafferty



In memory of my sister, Elva, by Dave Harnish.

### **ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORS NEEDED**

Altar flowers are needed for August 2 and 23 (both vases); August 30 (one vase). We need all of September (both vases) except September 27. We need one vase for October 4 and both vases for October 18 and 25. In November, we need one vase for November 22. Sponsor sheets are located at entrances to the church, in bulletins, and newsletters, or you may contact Connie Kuntz at 717-503-5244.

### **TODAY'S ASSISTANTS**

**Assisting Minister:** Sean Gimbel

**Lay Reader:** Connie Kuntz

**Acolyte:** Joan Murphy

**Ushers:** Marlin Brown, Sandy Brown

**Altar Guild:** Muretta Yentzer, Connie Kuntz

**Zoom Operator:** Katie Stull

**Council Money Duty:** Kevin Amos, Marlin Brown

## THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK

**Sunday, July 26**

**9<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
NOISY SUNDAY**

**8:30 am**

**Worship Service—Communion**

**9:45 am**

**Summer Fellowship**

**12:00 pm**

**Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros**

**5:00 pm**

**Vacation Bible School at Trindle Spring**

**Monday, July 27**

**2:45 pm**

**Violin Lessons**

**5:00 pm**

**Vacation Bible School at Trindle Spring**

**7:00 pm**

**German Club**

**Tuesday, July 28**

**1:00 pm**

**Social Ministry Outreach**

**5:00 pm**

**Vacation Bible School at Trindle Spring**

**Wednesday, July 29**

**1:00 pm**

**Worship & Music**

**3:00 pm**

**Worship Planning**

**5:00 pm**

**Vacation Bible School at Trindle Spring**

**Thursday, July 30**

**5:00 pm**

**Vacation Bible School at Trindle Spring**

**7:00 pm**

**Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros**

**Friday, July 31**

**2:45 pm**

**Violin Lessons**

**Saturday, August 1**

**6:30 pm**

**Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros**

**Sunday, August 2**

**10<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**8:30 am**

**Worship Service—Communion**

**9:45 am**

**Summer Fellowship**

**10:00 am**

**Outdoor Worship Service**

**12:00 pm**

**Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros**

**LESSONS:**

**AUGUST 2, 2026**

**FIRST READING**

**Isaiah 55:1-5**

**PSALM**

**Psalms 145:8-9, 14-21**

**SECOND READING**

**Romans 9:1-5**

**GOSPEL**

**Matthew 14:13-21**

## **-ANNOUNCEMENTS-**

### **SUMMER FELLOWSHIP TIME**

Treats and Talk—9:45 am-10:45 am in the Parlor (Through August)  
(Sunday School for All Ages Resumes in the Fall)

### **MONTHLY SUNDAYS TO BENEFIT NEW HOPE MINISTRIES**

Thank you for the brownie, cake mixes, and icing for July's collection.  
Here are the items for August, September, and October:

**August 16**

**September 20**

**October 18**

**Canned Spaghetti-O's and Ravioli**

**Puddings and Applesauce**

**Canned Vegetables**

### **LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF—SCHOOL KITS**

Education is one of the strongest tools a community has for breaking the cycle of poverty. Ensuring that girls attend school, especially in places where their access is deprioritized, has even stronger results. Lutheran World Relief School Kits contain essential supplies to help children—and in some cases—adults continue learning in the face of serious obstacles. Learning leads to a better life for them, their families, and their communities.

**The Social Ministry Outreach Committee is collecting items listed below for Lutheran World Relief to fulfill their urgent need of School Kit requests. We will be collecting items through **Sunday, September 6.****

Please place items in the containers marked "School Kits." Thank you so much for helping individuals who are in need.

- Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper approximately 8" X 10½"; no loose-leaf paper
- One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- One pencil sharpener
- One blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- Five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secured together with a rubber band
- Five black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secured together with a rubber band
- One box of 16 or 24 crayons
- One 2½" eraser

If you would like to contribute toward the purchase of backpacks, supplies, or shipping fund, please mark your contributions accordingly.

### BACKPACK BLESSING

Start the school year off by joining us for the blessing of backpacks. During the service on **Sunday, August 16**, Pastor Marleen will bless the backpacks/bookbags of students and teachers for a spirit-filled sendoff into the new academic year.



### NEW HOPE SUNSHINE BAGS

The Women in God's Service (WinGS) are collecting **TRAVEL SIZE ITEMS** for New Hope Ministries Sunshine Bags. Please fill a gallon size Ziploc bag with **travel size items**. These bags are provided to individuals when they go to New Hope to take a shower. A container has been placed at the back entrance of the church. Please contact Tina Freidhof with any questions. THANK YOU!

**Items for women:** shampoo, conditioner, razor, shaving cream, soap, deodorant, comb, toothbrush, toothpaste.

**Items for men:** shampoo, razor, shaving cream, soap, comb, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste.



## TRINDLE SPRING LUTHERAN CHURCH VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

The congregation of Trindle Spring Lutheran Church would like to extend an invitation to our community to join us for Vacation Bible School 2026! Our theme this year is "Tropical Trek" and we will be learning about how Jesus seeks us out no matter where we go. We will do this through bible stories, songs, crafts, games, and even service projects. TSLC VBS will take place from Sunday, **July 26—Thursday, July 30, 2026**. A kid-friendly dinner is served for the whole family at 5:00 pm, followed by VBS from 5:45-8:00 pm. To register, go to the TSLC website at [www.trindlespringlutheran.org](http://www.trindlespringlutheran.org). We hope you will join us!



JOIN US FOR TSLC VBS 2026!

**Dates:** Sunday, July 26 - Thursday, July 30, 2026

**Time:** Kid-Friendly served for *the whole family* at 5pm  
VBS runs from 5:45-8:00pm

**Location:** Trindle Spring Lutheran Church  
14 State Road, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

**Ages:** Ages 3-Grade 5, as well as an adult class offering

**Register at:** [www.trindlespringlutheran.org](http://www.trindlespringlutheran.org)



ST. MARK LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
DAY CAMP

## Snacks Provided

**BIBLE STORIES, SPORTS, ACTIVITIES,  
AND MUCH MORE**

**August 3-7  
2026**

8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.



FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES K-5 (2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR)



Registration by phone



(717) 766-4482

revmarleen@stmarkmburg.com



Address

117 West Keller Street  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

## **DAY CAMP WISH LIST**

Pastor Marleen has developed a Wish List for this year's Day Camp which will be held **August 3-7**. Please look over the following list and select something that you might be willing to donate. Keep checking, as well, because the list is sure to be updated as we get closer to August.

**Toilet paper rolls**

**Paper towel rolls**

**Large metal cans**

**Scrap paper—especially  
colored paper**

**Cardboard boxes**

**Masking tape**

**Colored cardstock**

**Ping pong balls**

**\*\* children, grandchildren, neighbors!**

**\*\* loving adults and older youth (Even 2 hours of your time that week helps!)**



**ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC  
SOLDIERS & SAILORS MEMORIAL PARK  
1 Memorial Park Drive  
Mechanicsburg, Pa 17055**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2026**

|                           |                 |
|---------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Arrive at park:</b>    | <b>12:00 pm</b> |
| <b>Picnic Lunch:</b>      | <b>1:00 pm</b>  |
| <b>Games &amp; Bingo:</b> | <b>2:00 pm</b>  |

We have reserved the “Baseball Pavilion” to the right of the restrooms upon entering the park. The Fellowship Committee will provide hamburgers, hotdogs, buns, ketchup, mustard, lemonade/tea, and water. **Please bring a salad, casserole, vegetable, or dessert to share.** There are some electric outlets in the pavilion if you would like to bring a hot dish that needs plugged in. Hoping to see everyone there.

**Please sign up at entrances to St. Mark. Contact Marlin Brown, Chair, Fellowship, if you have any questions.**

## -WORD SEARCH

# Parables of Jesus

R H F Z P T E V S Q Q F W X T Q F B M L J T E X  
O R J G M N E L B A R A P W V O D R W V O O N Q  
L R R S E G O N S N F H O I C H N I C G Y R C E  
G Z Q V J Z N A Q V O W X E U O S Z U Q U B D Q  
J K A B S T Y C F K Z J W J F S E P B T M S X O  
B E I I V V N C O S J H X C L W I G T F B F S R  
H T Q I X G Y Q K T X T Q S V N R H B X Q B V A  
M M E Q U N E C S O R E S L Y R E Y B N U N S S  
E M C U U I B N M R I W L M C I S S F W X R Q D  
S L Q S U E Z L M Y S C R I P T U R E W R P O X  
V E I C O E M Y S T E R I E S R V I U E K W Z V  
F A X S S S U F F E B I C O P E N X V Y R I E W  
Z A V C Z H T P L L X C T Y D H Y I L F C U T I  
X M Z I Y E O G G L Y M G G X O W Y R I W V A S  
C I J C Z A M T C I N F V U S V L D G E V U T D  
Z E U B K R E S J N R O J O Y U D N R U A E I O  
I C D J A I G F Q G S X W W C G S L X V N W D M  
J T N O N N J S D J Z A E I C T W E K I O M E Y  
D K N F G G O O K F A M K Q F F L L J R Q A M S  
E I N H O M F H U F I L Z N M I B Z G Z J C Z O  
G C V B I H E J B H E A R T M K P P D P X G V Z  
Z R E N Y D U L E L M R K B F P L C A K U R L Q  
A A D Y U U N D E R S T A N D E N U C E K L B T  
J Z D H E W M M H U H J Y E G D E L W O N K M Z

|              |            |           |           |
|--------------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| STORYTELLING | UNDERSTAND | MYSTERIES | KNOWLEDGE |
| SCRIPTURE    | MEDITATE   | HEARING   | PARABLE   |
| SEEING       | HEAVEN     | SERIES    | WISDOM    |
| HEART        | JESUS      | GROW      | LIVE      |
| OPEN         | MIND       | GOD       |           |



|                          |                                                                   |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>July 26-July 30</b>   | <b>Vacation Bible School at Trindle Spring</b>                    |
| <b>August 2 &amp; 16</b> | <b>Outdoor Worship—10:00 am</b>                                   |
| <b>August 3-7</b>        | <b>St. Mark Day Camp</b>                                          |
| <b>August 9</b>          | <b>Annual Church Picnic-Memorial Park</b>                         |
| <b>August 16</b>         | <b>Blessing of the Backpacks</b>                                  |
| <b>September 13</b>      | <b>God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday</b>                              |
| <b>September 20</b>      | <b>Peaches &amp; Ice Cream following worship</b>                  |
| <b>October (TBA)</b>     | <b>In-Gathering for LWR</b>                                       |
| <b>October 13</b>        | <b>Soup on the Sidewalk at Mechanicsburg<br/>Halloween Parade</b> |
| <b>October 18</b>        | <b>55<sup>th</sup> Annual CROP Walk-Memorial Park</b>             |
| <b>November (TBA)</b>    | <b>Annual Meeting</b>                                             |
| <b>November 26</b>       | <b>Thanksgiving Meal</b>                                          |
| <b>December 24</b>       | <b>Lighting of the Luminaries<br/>Christmas Eve Services</b>      |

# Altar Flower Sponsorship Form

Please check the one that applies to your sponsorship and complete the following statements:

- ☐ In memory of \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ In honor of \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ To the Glory of God

Sponsor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor Email: \_\_\_\_\_

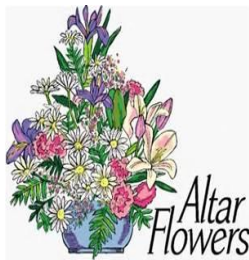
Date Requested: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Willing to Share

Circle Payment Enclosed:

\$25.00 One Vase of Flowers

\$50.00 Both Vases of Flowers



***Checks should be made payable to St. Mark Lutheran Church and note "Altar Guild" in the memo line.*** Place in the offering plate or mail directly to the church office



Please check any that apply!

- ☐ Flowers will be picked up by sponsors.
- ☐ Deliver one vase of flowers to shut-in or hospital
- ☐ Deliver both vases of flowers to shut-in or hospital

Please contact Connie Kuntz at 717-503-5244 with any questions.

THANK YOU!

## LECTIONARY 17

### IT'S THE SMALL THINGS

Children like to collect things: rocks, sticks, and more. Adults tend to pretend-love the items that are brought to them: “Oh, how beautiful!” “Oh, that’s a good one.” Children, encouraged, continue their collections, finding the smallest of things and displaying them like they are the most valuable items in the world.

Jesus’ parables in today’s gospel reading teach the disciples about things that are so small they are often overlooked: a mustard seed, a little bit of yeast, a tiny pearl, and even a net that is quite small until it is filled with fish. These little things in his parables are treasures important for understanding the reign of God.

Adults tend to overlook the small things while seeking larger things, heavier things, shinier things. We walk right past the tiny flower in the crack of a sidewalk, which once would have caught our eye. One pearl? A full necklace is better. A shrub that provides creatures a home? It’s now in an inconvenient place.

But Jesus teaches that in God’s reign all things, large and small, matter. All people matter. It is a wise disciple who recognizes this. Even King Solomon, with all his wealth, prayed for wisdom. Wisdom helps us see more clearly and begin to understand the depth of God’s grace. And that grace Jesus displayed immediately. “Have you understood all this?” he asked. The disciples answered simply, “Yes” (Matthew 13:51). What a bold answer! They were too worried to admit they did not understand. A little yeast, though, goes a long way. Jesus knew this. Each parable would build on another until the disciples understood the entire collection.

For us today, understanding God’s grace takes study, prayers for wisdom, and walking the path while looking for the small things that matter. The reign of God is like a rose among a bramble bush? A child’s picture of their home? However you visualize it, it is a treasure to cherish and to share.

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