

**ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF MECHANICSBURG
JULY 19, 2026
8th 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 (1st & 3rd Sundays—July and August)

Rev. Marleen Griffith-Stull, Pastor

Pastor's Cell Phone: 878-295-2173

Pastor's Email: revmarleen@stmarkmburg.com

Karen Fisher, Office Manager

Karen's Cell Phone: 717-580-7507

Church Office: 717-766-4482

Office Email: kfisher@stmarkmburg.com

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

Denise Hirn, Director of Children's Choir

Denise's Cell Phone: 717-802-1064

Email: denisehirn@hotmail.com

Brad Hull, Director of Music

Brad's Cell Phone: 202-738-2795

Email: bradleyjhull@gmail.com

www.stmarkmburg.com

Visit & like us on Facebook:

St Mark Lutheran Church Mechanicsburg

**ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF MECHANICSBURG**

**JULY 19, 2026
8th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
HOLY COMMUNION**



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

It is an age-old question: why is there evil in the world? In the parable of the wheat and the weeds Jesus suggests that both grow together until the harvest. With Paul, we long for the day that all creation will be set free from bondage and suffering. Having both weeds and wheat within us, we humbly place our hope in the promises of God, and from the Lord’s table we go forth to bear the fruit of justice and mercy.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Mary Magdalene, Apostle

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

Sometimes called “the apostle to the apostles” because she told them of her encounter with the risen Lord, Mary was a woman of Galilee who followed Jesus throughout his ministry. She was present at Jesus’ crucifixion and his burial.

Birgitta of Sweden, renewer of the church, died 1373

Thursday, July 23, 2026

Birgitta married at age thirteen and had four daughters. Widowed at age thirty-eight, she gave all that she owned to the poor, and founded a community of monks and nuns led by a woman. Her work is continued today by the Society of St. Birgitta.

James, Apostle

Saturday, July 25, 2026

James and his brother John were the sons of Zebedee, fishermen by trade before their call from Jesus. He was the first of the twelve apostles to be martyred, and his death is the only one recorded in scripture (Acts 12:1-2).

PRELUDE MUSIC

Psalm 19: The Heavens Declare

B. Marcello

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.

*GATHERING HYMN

Please bring items for New Hope to the Altar during the singing of the hymn.

Praise and Thanksgiving

1 Praise and thanks - giv - ing, God, we would of - fer for all things
2 God, bless the la - bor we bring to serve you, that with our
3 Fa - ther, pro - vid - ing food for your chil - dren, by Wis - dom's
4 Then will your bless - ing reach ev - 'ry peo - ple, free - ly con -

liv - ing, you have made good: har - vest of sown fields, fruits of the
neigh - bor we may be fed. Sow - ing or till - ing, we would work
guid - ing teach us to share one with an - oth - er, so that, re -
fess - ing your gra - cious hand. Where you are reign - ing, no one will

or - chard, hay from the mown fields, blos - som and wood.
with you, har - vest - ing, mill - ing for dai - ly bread.
joic - ing with us, all oth - ers may know your care.
hun - ger; your love sus - tain - ing show - ers the land.

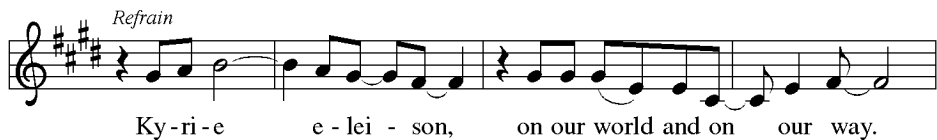
Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984, alt.
Music: BUNESSÁN, Gaelic tune; arr. hymnal version
Text © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.
Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

*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 -



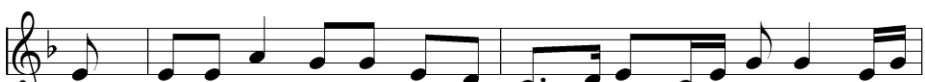
nounce it from coast to coast; de - clare it to dis - tant is - lands.



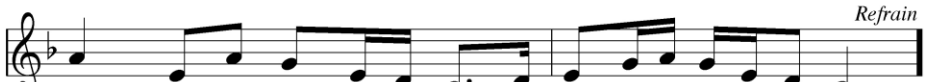
1 The Lord who scat - tered Is - ra - el will gath - er his peo - ple a - gain; and



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 Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

The Old Rugged Cross

Ben Yost

Music by George Bennard

Arr. Jerry Ray

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 44:6-8

There are no other gods besides God: the word of the LORD does not fail to come to pass. We can trust in God, through whom Israel—and we—are redeemed.

R A reading from Isaiah.

⁶ Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel,
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:
I am the first, and I am the last;
besides me there is no god.

⁷ Who is like me? Let them proclaim it;
let them declare and set it forth before me.
Who has announced from of old the things to come?
Let them tell us what is yet to be.

⁸ Do not fear or be afraid;
have I not told you from of old and declared it?
You are my witnesses!
Is there any god besides me?
There is no other rock; I know not one.

R The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 86:11-17

(Please read the Psalm in unison.)

¹¹ Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth; knit my heart to you that I may fear your name.

¹² I will thank you, O LORD my God, with all my heart, and glorify your name forevermore.

¹³ For great is your love toward me; you have delivered me from the nethermost pit.

¹⁴ The arrogant rise up against me, O God, and a band of violent men seeks my life; they have not set you before their eyes.

¹⁵ But you, O LORD, are gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger, and full of kindness and truth.

¹⁶ Turn to me and have mercy upon me; give your strength to your servant; and save the child of your handmaid.

¹⁷ Show me a sign of your favor, so that those who hate me may see it and be ashamed; because you, O LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

SECOND LESSON: Romans 8:12-25

For Paul, true spirituality means that we experience the reality of the Spirit, which enables us to pray as God's children, keeps us in solidarity with creation, and gives us unseen hope that God will liberate us and creation from bondage to death and decay.

A reading from Romans.

¹² So then, brothers and sisters, we are obligated, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—¹³ for if you live according to the flesh, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" ¹⁶ it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸ I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God, ²⁰ for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be set free from its enslavement to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning together as it suffers together the pains of labor, ²³ and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope, for who hopes for what one already sees? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

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 13:24-30, 36-43**

Jesus tells a parable about the coexistence of good and evil in this world. God's judgment will remove all evildoers and causes of sin, but not until the end of human history.

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

²⁴ Jesus put before the crowds another parable: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field, ²⁵ but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away. ²⁶ So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well. ²⁷ And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?' ²⁸ He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' The slaves said to him, 'Then do you want us to go and gather them?' ²⁹ But he replied, 'No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them. ³⁰ Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.' "

³⁶ Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples approached him, saying, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field." ³⁷ He answered, "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man; ³⁸ the field is the world, and the good seed are the children of the kingdom; the weeds are the children of the evil one, ³⁹ and the enemy who sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the age, and the reapers are angels. ⁴⁰ Just as the weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all evildoers, ⁴² and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with ears listen!"

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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

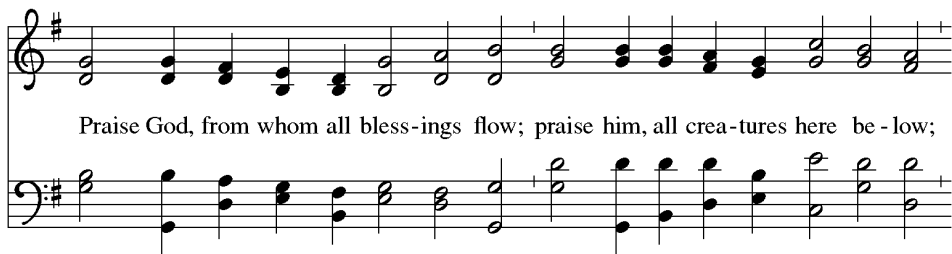
OFFERTORY

2-Part Invention #1 in C Major

J.S. Bach

*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.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711
Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

***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.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

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.

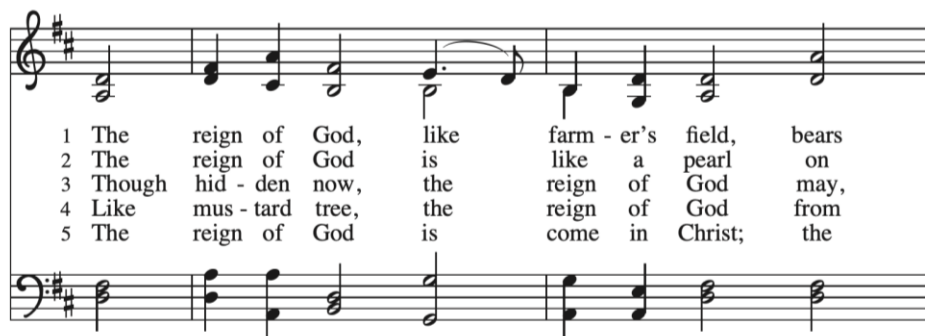
C Amen.

A The blood of Christ, shed for you.

C Amen.

-HYMN OF THE DAY-

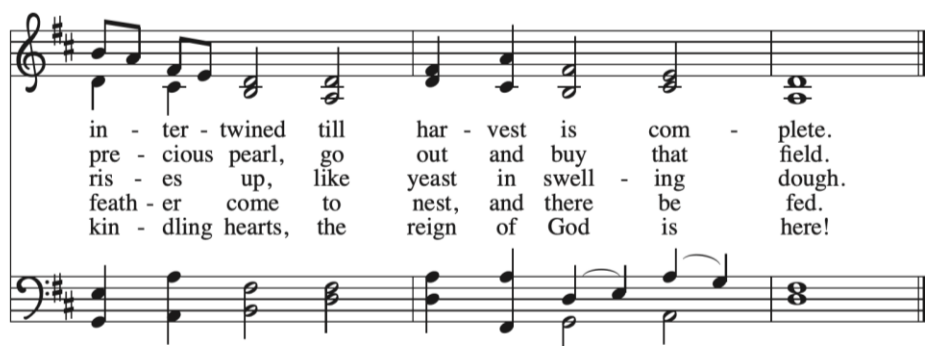
The Reign of God Like Farmer's Field



1 The reign of God, like farm - er's field, bears
 2 The reign of God is like a pearl on
 3 Though hid - den now, the reign of God may,
 4 Like mus - tard tree, the reign of God from
 5 The reign of God is come in Christ; the



weeds a - long with wheat; the good and bad are
 bar - ren land con - cealed. If once you find that
 yet un - no - ticed, grow; from deep with - in it
 ti - ny seed will spread, till birds of ev - 'ry
 reign of God is near. A - blaze a - mong us,



in - ter - twined till har - vest is com - plete.
 pre - cious pearl, go out and buy that field.
 ris - es up, like yeast in swell - ing dough.
 feath - er come to nest, and there be fed.
 kin - dling hearts, the reign of God is here!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: DUNLAP'S CREEK, Samuel McFarland, fl. 1816; arr. *With One Voice*, 1995

Text © 1995, 2003 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

Arr. © 1995 Augsburg Fortress

Duplication in any form prohibited without securing permission from copyright administrator or reporting usage under valid license.

-COMMUNION-

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart *Gift of Finest Wheat*

Refrain



You sat - is - fy the hun - gry heart with gift of fin - est wheat.



Come give to us, O sav - ing Lord, the bread of life to eat.



- 1 As when the shep - herd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice;
- 2 With joy - ful lips we sing to you our praise and grat - i - tude
- 3 Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ out - poured?
- 4 The mys - t'ry of your pres - ence, Lord, no mor - tal tongue can tell:
- 5 You give your - self to us, O Lord; then self - less let us be,

Refrain



so when you call your fam - 'ly, Lord, we fol - low and re - joice.
that you should count us wor - thy, Lord, to share this heav' n - ly food.
Do not one cup, one loaf, de - clare our one - ness in the Lord?
whom all the world can - not con - tain comes in our hearts to dwell.
to serve each oth - er in your name in truth and char - i - ty.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997

Music: BICENTENNIAL, Robert E. Kreutz, 1922–1996

Text and music © 1977 Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

(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

Sing to the Lord of Harvest



1 Sing to the Lord of har - vest your songs of love and praise;
 2 God makes the clouds drop fat - ness, the des - erts bloom and spring,
 3 Bring to this sa - cred al - tar the gifts his good-ness gave,




with joy - ful hearts and voic - es your al - le - lu - ias raise;
 the hills leap up in glad - ness, the val - leys laugh and sing.
 the gold - en sheaves of har - vest, the souls Christ died to save.




by him the roll - ing sea - sons in fruit - ful or - der move;
 God fills them with his full - ness, all things with large in - crease,
 Your hearts lay down be - fore him when at his feet you fall,




sing to the Lord of har - vest a joy - ous song of love.
 and crowns the year with good - ness, with plen - ty and with peace.
 and with your lives a - dore him who gave his life for all.



(Please be seated for announcements)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***DISMISSAL**

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

C Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE**

Postscript on a Hymn Tune

G. Martin



In memory of loved ones by Bev and Gary Reihart

In honor of family by Bev and Gary Reihart

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: Kevin Amos

Lay Reader: Dave Harnish

Acolyte: Katie Stull

Ushers: Tyson Murphy, Joan Murphy

Altar Guild: Joan Murphy, Andrea Sassaman

Zoom Operator: Gene Shaner

Council Money Duty: Kevin Amos, Marlin Brown

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK

Sunday, July 19

8th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Brownies, Cake Mixes, Icing for
New Hope

8:30 am

Worship Service—Communion

9:45 am

Summer Fellowship

10:00 am

Outdoor Worship Service

12:00 pm

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

Monday, July 20

2:45 pm

Violin Lessons

7:00 pm

German Club

Tuesday, July 21

6:30 pm

Church Council

Wednesday, July 22

Thursday, July 23

1:00 pm

Book Club

6:15 pm

Ladies & Friends Night Out—TBA

7:00 pm

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

Friday, July 24

2:45 pm

Violin Lessons

3:00 pm

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

Saturday, July 25

6:30 pm

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

Sunday, July 26

9th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
NOISY SUNDAY

8:30 am

Worship Service—Communion

9:45 am

Summer Fellowship

5:00 pm

Vacation Bible School at Trindle Spring

LESSONS:

JULY 26, 2026

FIRST READING

1st Kings 3:5-12

PSALM

Psalm 119:129-136

SECOND READING

Romans 8:26-39

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

-ANNOUNCEMENTS-

WELCOME BACK

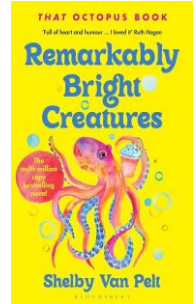
Pastor Marleen
Brad Hull

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)

BOOK CLUB

The Evangelism Committee is hosting a book club read on Thursday, July 23, at 1:00 pm in the parlor. The suggested book is *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt. A gentle reminder that sometimes taking a hard look at the past can help uncover a future that once felt impossible. We look forward to conversation and fellowship.



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. 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



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

Arrive at park:	12:00 pm
Picnic Lunch:	1:00 pm
Games & Bingo:	2:00 pm

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

The Parable of the Weeds

When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. Mathew 28:26 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Matthew 13:24-29



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

SOW
WHEAT
PARABLE

FIELD
ENEMY
HEAVEN

GOOD
PULL
BURN

UPROOT
KINGDOM
GROW

HARVEST
SEED
WEEDS



July 19	Outdoor Worship—10:00 am
July 23	Book Club
July 26-July 30	Vacation Bible School at Trindle Spring
August 2 & 16	Outdoor Worship—10:00 am
August 3-7	St. Mark Day Camp
August 9	Annual Church Picnic-Memorial Park
August 16	Blessing of the Backpacks
September 13	God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday
September 20	Peaches & Ice Cream following worship
October (TBA)	In-Gathering for LWR
October 13	Soup on the Sidewalk at Mechanicsburg Halloween Parade
October 18	55 th Annual CROP Walk-Memorial Park
November (TBA)	Annual Meeting
November 26	Tentative Thanksgiving Meal
December 24	Lighting of the Luminaries Christmas Eve Services

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: _____

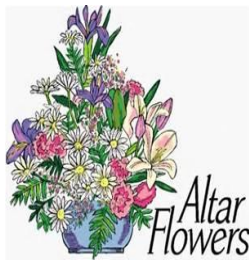
Date Requested: _____

- ☐ 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 16

DEEP-SEATED GRACE

The things we learn early on in life matter. Maybe the first time you rode a bike taught you about a deep sense of fulfillment. The first time your heart swooned with romance taught you about a whole new dimension of love. Painfully, we find out the stove is hot by that first, uninformed touch, and we learn to watch for the flame. That first heartbreak sows some mistrust in future relationships.

These core memories inform how we see and interact with the world, shaping our expectations and actions. They are like seeds planted deep that grow and grow within. As Jesus speaks in this parable of weeds among the wheat, we are reminded that within us are both good seeds and invasive plants that get in the way. As our early memories remind us, people can sow both good and evil. There is fulfillment and romance, and there is pain and mistrust—good seeds and pesky weeds.

In a radical move, God the gardener has planted the deepest seed, a seed of grace. And herein lies the promise of this story from Jesus: Though we may try to uproot the sin—the weeds—separating us from God and each other, only God can make this grace come to life. With dusty overalls and a warm smile, God, the greatest gardener, removes the weeds of pain and mistrust. In Jesus, all that separates us from one another and from God is no more. The earliest seed planted deep within (even before we can remember) is the seed of grace that cultivates the deepest connection to God.

How have you seen God's grace at work in you, and how has the Spirit sown trust and connection in your life?