

ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF MECHANICSBURG
JUNE 21, 2026
4th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY
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—June, July, August)

Rev. Marleen Griffith-Stull, Pastor

Pastor's Cell Phone: 878-295-2173

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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

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Brad Hull, Director of Music

Brad's Cell Phone: 202-738-2795

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www.stmarkmburg.com

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St Mark Lutheran Church Mechanicsburg

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JUNE 21, 2026
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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

God does not promise that the path of the disciple will be easy. Jeremiah feels the pain of rejection from those who do not want to hear what he has to say. Jesus declares that his words may bring stark division. Even so, we need not be afraid for God accounts for each hair on our heads. Though we may experience rejection, frustration, division, and death, God's grace and love make us a new creation each day. Marked with the cross and filled with holy food, we are sent from worship to witness to Christ in the world.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

John the Baptist

Wednesday, June 24, 2026

John said, "[Jesus] must increase, but I must decrease." And so his birth is celebrated half a year before Jesus', just as the daylight in the northern hemisphere begins to wane. Jesus honored John as being the greatest prophet.

Presentation of the Augsburg Confession, 1530

Thursday, June 25, 2026

On this day in 1530 the German and Latin editions of the Augsburg Confession were presented to the Emperor Charles of the Holy Roman Empire. The Augsburg Confession was written by Philipp Melanchthon and endorsed by Martin Luther and consists of a brief summary of points in which the reformers saw their teaching as either agreeing with or differing from that of the Roman Catholic Church of the time.

PRELUDE MUSIC

Come, Holy Ghost, Our Souls Inspire

arr. F. Peeters

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.

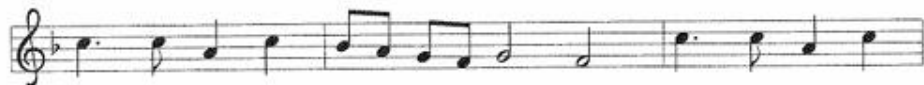
Silence for reflection and self-examination. Please kneel or be seated.

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.

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.

*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

Refrain

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-'ry day.

- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 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

u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you

this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
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,

Refrain

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

*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 Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Jeremiah 20:7-13

Jeremiah accuses God of forcing him into a ministry that brings him only contempt and persecution. Yet Jeremiah is confident that God will be a strong protector against his enemies and commits his life into God's hands.

R A reading from Jeremiah.

⁷ O Lord, you have enticed me,
and I was enticed;
you have overpowered me,
and you have prevailed.
I have become a laughingstock all day long;
everyone mocks me.

⁸ For whenever I speak, I must cry out;
I must shout, "Violence and destruction!"
For the word of the Lord has become for me
a reproach and derision all day long.

⁹ If I say, "I will not mention him
or speak any more in his name,"
then within me there is something like a burning fire
shut up in my bones;
I am weary with holding it in,
and I cannot.

¹⁰ For I hear many whispering:
"Terror is all around!
Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"
All my close friends
are watching for me to stumble.

"Perhaps he can be enticed,
and we can prevail against him
and take our revenge on him."

¹¹ But the Lord is with me like a terrifying warrior;
therefore my persecutors will stumble,
and they will not prevail.

They will be greatly shamed,
for they will not succeed.

Their eternal dishonor
will never be forgotten.

¹² O Lord of hosts, you test the righteous;
you see the heart and the mind;
let me see your retribution upon them,
for to you I have committed my cause.

¹³ Sing to the Lord;
praise the Lord!

For he has delivered the life of the needy
from the hands of evildoers.

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 69:8-20

(Please read the Psalm responsively—Men, the regular print; women, the bold print.)

⁸ Surely, for your sake have I suffered reproach, and shame has covered my face.

⁹ **I have become a stranger to my own kindred, an alien to my mother's children.**

¹⁰ Zeal for your house has eaten me up; the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.

¹¹ **I humbled myself with fasting, but that was turned to my reproach.**

¹² I put on sackcloth also and became a by-word among them.

¹³ **Those who sit at the gate murmur against me, and the drunkards make songs about me.**

¹⁴ But as for me, this is my prayer to you, at the time you have set, O LORD:

¹⁵ **"In your great mercy, O God, answer me with your unfailing help.**

¹⁶ Save me from the mire; do not let me sink; let me be rescued from those who hate me and out of the deep waters.

¹⁷ **Let not the torrent of waters wash over me, neither let the deep swallow me up; do not let the pit shut its mouth upon me.**

¹⁸ Answer me, O LORD, for your love is kind; in your great compassion, turn to me.”

¹⁹ **Hide not your face from your servant; be swift and answer me, for I am in distress.**

²⁰ Draw near to me and redeem me; because of my enemies deliver me.

SECOND LESSON: Romans 6:1b-11

In baptism we were incorporated into the reality of Christ's death and resurrection. We have been made new in Christ through his death and resurrection to live freed from sin.

A reading from Romans.

^{1b} Should we continue in sin in order that grace may increase? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? ³ Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.

⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, so we might no longer be enslaved to sin. ⁷ For whoever has died is freed from sin. ⁸ But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. ¹⁰ The death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹ So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

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 10:24-39

Jesus warns his disciples that their ministry in his name will meet with opposition. However, he assures them that they need not fear for the truth will come to light. Life is found in Christ.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 10th chapter.
C Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the twelve:] ²⁴ “A disciple is not above the teacher nor a slave above the master; ²⁵ it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

²⁶ “So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known. ²⁷ What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. ²⁸ Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰ And even the hairs of your head are all counted. ³¹ So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

³² “Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven, ³³ but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

³⁴ “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword.

³⁵ For I have come to set a man against his father,
and a daughter against her mother,
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law,

³⁶ and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

³⁷ “Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me,
and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me,

³⁸ and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

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 Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray for the church and the needs of the world.

A God of grace,
C **hear our prayer.**

P Trusting you receive all our prayers, we commend our spoken and unspoken prayers to you, O God, through Jesus our Savior.
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

Holy Spirit, Now Outpoured

J. Peterson

*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;

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff in G major (one sharp). The treble staff features a melody of eighth and quarter notes, while the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines.

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

The second system continues the musical notation from the first system, ending with a double bar line. The treble staff melody concludes with a final chord, and the bass staff accompaniment provides a steady harmonic support.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711
Music: OLD HUNDREDDTH, 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.

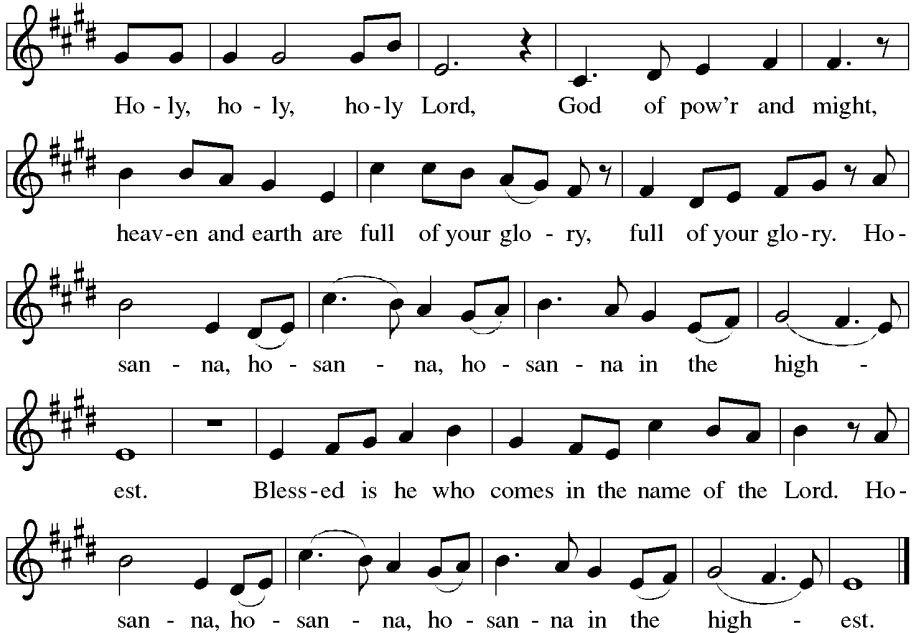
P Lift up your hearts.

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.

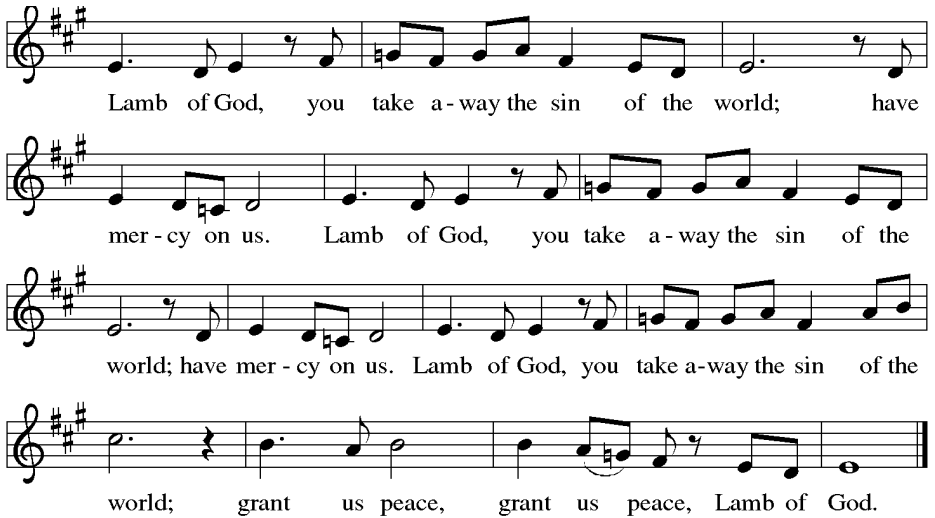
C Amen.

***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.



The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: 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-

Will You Come and Follow Me

The Summons



1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
 2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
 3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
 4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call
 5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't
 your name? Will you care for cruel and
 your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
 your name? Will you quell the fear in -
 my name. Let me turn and fol - low



know and nev - er be the same?
 kind and nev - er be the same?
 free and nev - er be the same?
 side and nev - er be the same?
 you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
 Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be
 tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
 this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
 world a - round, through my sight and touch and
 foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"
 pray'r in you and you in me?"
 mean in you and you in me?"
 sound in you and you in me?"
 grow in you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish traditional

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-COMMUNION-

Children of the Heavenly Father

Tryggare kan ingen vara



Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra än Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,

- 1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;
- 2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour-ish.
- 3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;
- 4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth;



stjär - nan ej på him - la - fäs - tet, få - geln ej i kän - da näs - tet.

nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.
un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.
his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.



Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958

Music: TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA, Swedish folk tune

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(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

Let the Whole Creation Cry

1 Let the whole cre - a - tion cry, "Glo - ry to the Lord on high!"
2 Ser - vants striv - ing for the Lord, proph - ets burn - ing with the word,
3 Men and wom - en, young and old, raise the an - them loud and bold,

Heav'n and earth, a - wake and sing, "Praise to our al - might - y king!"
those to whom the arts be - long add their voic - es to the song.
and let chil - dren's hap - py hearts in this wor - ship take their parts;

Praise God, an - gel hosts a - bove, ev - er bright and fair in love;
Pow'rs of knowl - edge and of law, to the glo - rious cir - cle draw;
from the north to south - ern pole let the might - y cho - rus roll:

sun and moon, lift up your voice; night and stars, in God re - joice.
all who work and all who wait, sing, "The Lord is good and great!"
"Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly One; glo - ry be to God a - lone!"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*DISMISSAL

A Heaven has come near. Go share the good news!
C Thanks be to God.

*POSTLUDE

Renew Me, O Eternal Light

J.G. Walther



To the Glory of God by the Altar Guild.

ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORS

Altar flower sponsors are needed for August through November. Please use the form located in bulletins and the newsletter. Check with Connie Kuntz at 717-503-5244 for available dates.

TODAY'S ASSISTANTS

Assisting Minister:	Kevin Amos
Lay Reader:	Amy Gimbel
Acolyte:	Phyllis Mihalich
Ushers:	Terry Shaner, Dee Bernatos
Altar Guild:	Michele Connor, Cindy Larkin, Andrea Sassaman
Money Duty:	Barb Yost, Karen Fisher

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK

Sunday, June 21

**4th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY
Worship Service—Communion
Summer Fellowship
Outdoor Worship Service
Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros**

Monday, June 22

**2:45 pm
7:00 pm**

**Violin Lessons
German Club**

Tuesday, June 23

1:00 pm

Social Ministry

Wednesday, June 24

Thursday, June 25

6:15 pm

**Ladies & Friends Night Out at Fiddlers
Bar & Grill at Mayapple Golf Course**

Friday, June 26

2:30 pm

Violin Lessons

Saturday, June 27

Sunday, June 28

**8:30 am
9:45 am
12:00 pm**

**5th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
Worship Service—Communion
Summer Fellowship
Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros**

LESSONS:

FIRST READING

PSALM

SECOND READING

GOSPEL

JUNE 28, 2026

Jeremiah 28:5-9

Psalms 89:1-4, 15-18

Romans 6:12-23

Matthew 10:40-42

-ANNOUNCEMENTS-

LADIES & FRIENDS NIGHT OUT

Reservations have been made for **6:15 pm. June 25**, at Fiddlers Bar & Grill. Mayapple Golf Course, 1 Mayapple Dr., Carlisle, PA. If you are planning on attending, please RSVP to Karen Fisher at 717-580-7507 or by email at kfisher@stmarkmburg.com no later than Wednesday June 24.

MONTHLY SUNDAYS TO BENEFIT NEW HOPE MINISTRIES

The Social Ministry Outreach Committee designates one Sunday a month to collect items for New Hope Ministries. Here are the items for June, July, and August:

July 19

August 16

September 20

Brownie and Cake Mixes and Icing

Canned Spaghetti-O's and Ravioli

Puddings and Applesauce

SUMMER DAY CAMP FOR KIDS

Mark your calendars! Day Camp at St. Mark will return this summer for kids from K- 5th grade. Those who are older are encouraged to come and help during camp this summer. On **August 3 through August 7 from 8:30 am—3:30 pm**. This year we use the ELCA's National Youth Gathering's theme: *Imagine More, Courage, Joy, Love, Welcome, and Grace*. We will learn how the Kingdom of God is a place of **more**. This **FREE** camp is a great way for our youth and youth in our community to grow in their faith! If you know young people who would like to attend, invite them to join us. If you want to be part of sharing faith with the next generation, let Pastor Marleen know, and we will find ways for you to participate.

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 bottles of acrylic paint
(assorted colors)

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!)

PURSE PROJECT

Again, this summer, the Social Ministry Outreach Committee will be collecting items for their *Purse Project*. **WE NEED YOUR HELP**. Our Purse Project is aimed at supplying women with some of the little things they need to get back on their feet. Here are some items to consider when donating:

Large purses or totes (preferably new or gently used)

Full size bottle of shampoo

Wash cloth

Bar of soap

Body wash

Toothpaste

Toothbrush

Any hygiene product

Make-up

Hand wipes

Bottled Water

Hand sanitizer

Hand lotion

Beef jerky

Applesauce

Mints

Deodorant

Comb

Razor

Scarf

Hat

Gloves

Small first aid kit

Thermal socks

Chapstick

Facial Wipes

Trail Mix

Gum

Other appropriate items

Containers have been placed at the back entrance of St. Mark for your donations. Please contact Karen Fisher, Chair, Social Ministry Committee, with questions.

LUHERAN 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. That 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 **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.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

ELECTRONIC GIVING

St Mark has successfully established a non-profit Venmo account which enables electronic giving. Venmo has some fees, a 1.9% processing fee and a 10 cents per transaction fee. When you give, St Mark will pay these fees. Your donation record will reflect your full donation.

To give this way, you must have an active Venmo account. You can give using the charity name, St Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mechanicsburg, @StMark-117 or by using the following QR code.



If you have any questions, please contact Kevin Amos or Barb Yost.

Vacation Bible School at Trindle Spring Lutheran Church

📅 Sunday, July 26, 2026 to Thursday, July 30, 2026

🕒 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

📍 14 State Road, Mechanicsburg, PA, USA

Sign up today for VBS! Throughout this program, we will go on a Tropical Trek and along the way be guided by our Savior, Jesus who is the way, the truth, and the life! Let's go on an unforgettable journey!

<https://vbsmate.com/students/trindlespringlutheranvbs/32028>

Register through the above web link for Trindle Spring Lutheran Church Vacation Bible School. Each night we'll serve a kid-friendly dinner beginning at 5pm, and VBS will run from 5:45-8pm. On Thursday evening, we'll have a big celebration open to the whole family with lots of activities, games, and more great food. Then, on Sunday, August 2, at 9:15am, all VBS participants and their families are encouraged to join our congregation for VBS Sunday - where we'll share pictures, songs and stories about our week together! So, mark your calendars now - we can't wait to see you!



June 21	Outdoor Worship-10:00-am
June 25	Ladies & Friends Night Out
July 5 & 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	Thanksgiving Dinner at St. Mark
December 24	Lighting of the Luminaries Christmas Eve Services

LECTIONARY 12

BETWEEN HIDING AND EXPOSING

The desire to make known that which is currently hidden can evoke various responses. When abusive power and fear suppress opposition, or when liberating truth is just under the surface, the desire for uncovering and justice is likely strong. However, when harm or injustice is not an obvious outcome and that which is hidden is perceived to benefit stability or peace, there may be resistance to making the hidden known.

Through a variety of images, the speech in Matthew's gospel calls for the unknown to be revealed and intentions made plain. Our liturgical practice of corporate confession provides an opportunity to acknowledge our relationship with what stays hidden and what we wish to reveal in our own lives. The confession may be discomforting, but it reminds us of an important dynamic in the life of faith: Just as Jesus tells his disciples not to fear and reassures them of their value, the words of forgiveness in the liturgy orient us toward a God who restores relationships and calls us beloved.

If only the liturgical practice of confession and forgiveness would once and for all set us on the right path and give us permanent assurance! But that would also free us from curiosity about what taking up the cross means in our lives. Once the cross is exposed, we must face our response to it, and it challenges our allegiances and prods at our vulnerabilities. However, Jesus is clear that the cross also uncovers a path to life. Instead of this path being a lonely, exposing journey, Jesus knows it well and joins us on the way.

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