

**ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OF MECHANICSBURG  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2025  
HOLY CROSS SUNDAY  
HOLY COMMUNION**



**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES**

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

**9:45 am - Sunday Church School**

**9:45 am - Children's SS and Choir**

**9:45 am - Sunday Church School and Children's Choir**

**11:00 am - First Sunday of each month**

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

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

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

**Karen Fisher, Office Manager**

**Karen's Cell Phone: 717-580-7507**

**Church Office: 717-766-4482**

**Office Email: [kfisher@stmarkmburg.com](mailto: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](mailto:denisehirn@hotmail.com)**

**Brad Hull, Director of Music**

**Brad's Cell Phone: 202-738-2795**

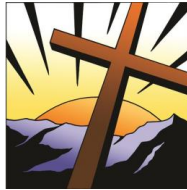
**Email: [bradleyjhull@gmail.com](mailto:bradleyjhull@gmail.com)**

**[www.stmarkmburg.com](http://www.stmarkmburg.com)**

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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**

*This festival, which originated in the fourth century, celebrates the triumph of the cross. Paul reminds us that Christ crucified is the power and wisdom of God. As Moses put a serpent on a pole to be a source of healing for the Israelites, we lift high the cross as the sign of our health and salvation. Each time we make the sign of the cross we remember our baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ.*

**UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS**

**Holy Cross Day**

**Sunday, September 14, 2025**

Helena, mother of Constantine, made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and found what may be the actual site of Jesus' crucifixion. Her son built two churches there, and the dedication of one of them gave rise to this celebration of our Lord's victory on the cross.

**Dag Hammarskjöld, renewer of society, died 1961**

**Thursday, September 18, 2025**

A Swedish diplomat, Hammarskjöld served as the second Secretary General of the United Nations until his death in a plane crash while trying to negotiate peace in present-day Zambia. His journal, published as *Markings*, revealed the depth of his Christian faith.

Asterisk (\*) in the margin of this bulletin indicates the congregation shall rise as able.

## PRELUDE MUSIC

*Volunteer in G Major*

J. Stanley

## 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 Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, our maker, our helper,  
and our keeper.  
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

# Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
 2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";  
 3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to be;

streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.  
 and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.  
 let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan - d'ring heart to thee.

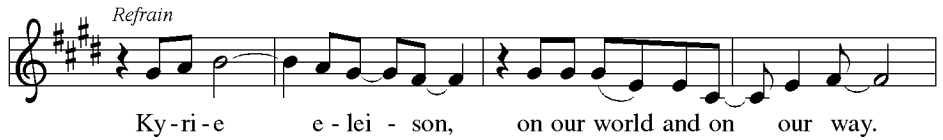
While the hope of end - less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,  
 Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan - d'ring from the fold of God;  
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.

teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good - ness prove.  
 he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.  
 Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

## \*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.

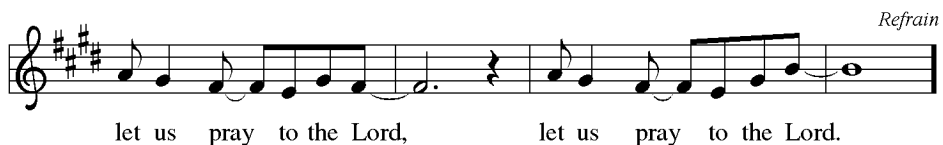
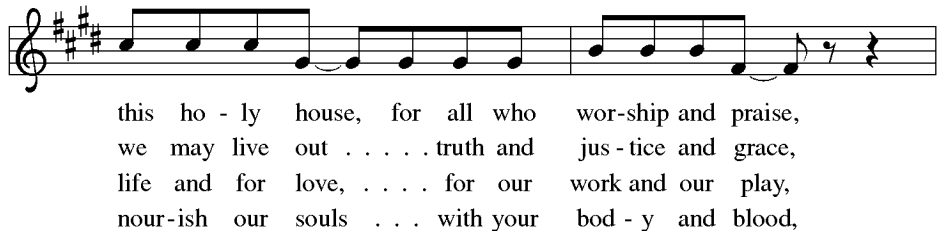
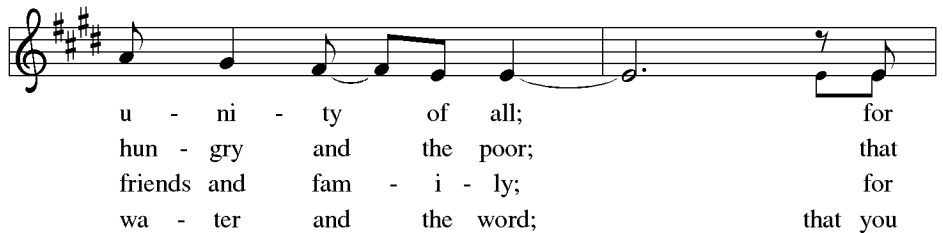
## \*KYRIE



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

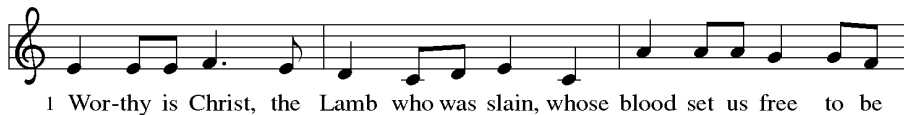
3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for

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

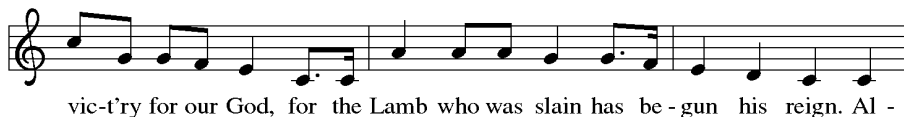


# \*HYMN OF PRAISE

*Refrain*



*Refrain*



*Final refrain*



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

**P** Let us pray.

**P** Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that he might draw the whole world to himself. To those who look upon the cross, grant your wisdom, healing, and eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## **FIRST LESSON: Numbers 21:4b-9**

*When the people spoke against God and Moses, the Lord sent poisonous snakes against them. Moses interceded for the people, and the Lord ordered him to erect a serpent of bronze on a pole. All who looked at it after having been bitten by a serpent would live.*

A reading from Numbers.

From Mount Hor the Israelites set out, <sup>4b</sup> but the people became discouraged on the way. <sup>5</sup> The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." <sup>6</sup> Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup> The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup> And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." <sup>9</sup> So Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it upon a pole, and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

**R** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## PSALM: Psalm 98:1-5

*(Please sing the Psalm responsively—Choir, the regular print; Congregation; the **bold print.**)*



<sup>1</sup> Sing to the Lord | a new song,  
for he has done | marvelous things.

<sup>2</sup> **With his right hand and his | holy arm**  
**has he won for him- | self the victory.**

<sup>3</sup> The Lord has made | known his victory;  
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight | of the nations.

<sup>4</sup> **He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the | house of Israel,**  
**and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory | of our God.**

<sup>5</sup> **Shout with joy to the Lord, | all you lands;**  
**lift up your voice, re- | joice, and sing.**

## SECOND LESSON: 1 Corinthians 1:18-24

*At the heart of the Christian message is the word of the cross. This proclamation seems foolish to many because it reveals true divine power in the absolute weakness of Christ's crucifixion. True wisdom understands how ours is a God who suffers for and with humankind in the cross.*

A reading from 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians.

<sup>18</sup> The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup> For it is written,  
“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

<sup>20</sup> Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

<sup>21</sup> For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

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: John 3:13-17

*After explaining to Nicodemus that one must be born of water and Spirit, Jesus speaks of being lifted up on the cross, with reference to the bronze serpent lifted up by Moses in the desert. Here the Son of God is revealed as the source of healing.*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter.  
C Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: <sup>13</sup> “No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup> “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

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

## CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

## SERMON

## \*HYMN OF THE DAY

### There's a Wideness in God's Mercy



1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide - ness of the sea;  
2 There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and a prom - ised grace made good;  
3 For the love of God is broad - er than the mea - sures of our mind;  
4 'Tis not all we owe to Je - sus; it is some - thing more than all:



there's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty.  
there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing in his blood.  
and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.  
great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy through the fall.



There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n.  
There is grace e - nough for thou - sands of new worlds as great as this;  
But we make this love too nar - row by false lim - its of our own;  
Make our love, O God, more faith - ful; let us take you at your word,



There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.  
there is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.  
and we mag - ni - fy its strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.  
and our lives will be thanks - giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863, alt.

Music: LORD, REVIVE US, North American, 19th cent.

## **\*NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,  
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

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

P We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

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 ANTHEM

*Come and Kneel at The Cross*

D. Besig And N. Price

### \*THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;

praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711

Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

### \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

- A Lord of the harvest,  
We return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us  
to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who  
richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless  
all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- 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 him 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.

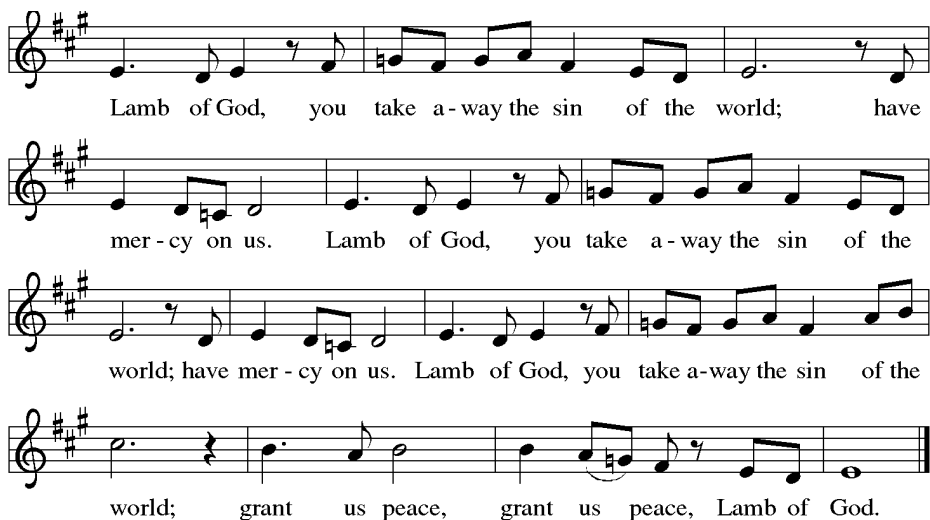
**C**      **Amen.**

### **\*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.



(PLEASE SING THIS HYMN TWICE.)

Create in Me a Clean Heart  
*Offering Song*



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take  
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of  
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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## Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us



- 1 Sav-ior like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten-der care.  
2 We are yours; in love be-friend us, be the guard-ian of our way;  
3 You have prom-ised to re-ceive us, poor and sin-ful though we be;  
4 Ear-ly let us seek your fa-vor, ear-ly let us do your will;



In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us, for our use your fold pre-pare.  
keep your flock, from sin de-fend us, seek us when we go a-stray.  
you have mer-cy to re-lieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.  
bless-ed Lord and on-ly Sav-ior, with your love our spir-its fill.



Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, you have bought us; we are yours.  
Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, hear us chil-dren when we pray.  
Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, ear-ly let us turn to you.  
Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, you have loved us, love us still.



Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, you have bought us; we are yours.  
Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, hear us chil-dren when we pray.  
Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, ear-ly let us turn to you.  
Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, you have loved us, love us still.

Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779–1847

Music: BRADBURY, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

*(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** The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, ✝  
bless you now and forever.

**C** Amen.

\*CLOSING HYMN

# Lift High the Cross

*Refrain*

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till

all the world adore his sacred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,  
 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied  
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,  
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

*Refrain*

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God,  
 bear on their brows the seal of him who died.  
 as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.  
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \*DISMISSAL

A      Go in peace. Do not lose heart.  
C      Thanks be to God.

### \*POSTLUDE

*Near the Cross*

F. Crosby



### ALTAR FLOWERS

To the Glory of God by the Altar Guild.

### ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORS

Altar flower sponsors are needed for the following remaining dates in 2025: October 5, 19, 26 (both vases), November 2 and 9 (both vases), and November 23, (one vase).

### TODAY'S ASSISTANTS

Assisting Minister:	Karen Heath
Lay Reader:	Connie Kuntz
Acolyte:	Katie Stull
Ushers:	Susan Fissel, Dave Harnish
Altar Guild:	Phyllis Mihalich, Muretta Yentzer
Money Duty:	Jo Ann Novinger, Denise Hirn

## THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK

**Sunday, September 14**

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

**14<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**HOLY CROSS SUNDAY**  
Worship Service-Communion  
Sunday Church School  
Children's SS and Choir  
Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

**Monday, September 15**

2:45 pm  
7:00 pm

Violin Lessons  
German Group

**Tuesday, September 16**

**Wednesday, September 17**

11:00 am  
6:00 pm  
7:00 pm

Bible Study  
Bell Choir  
Adult Vocal Choir

**Thursday, September 18**

7:00 pm

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

**Friday, September 19**

3:00 pm

Violin Lessons

**Saturday, September 20**

**Sunday, September 21**

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

**15<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**Toiletries for New Hope Sunday**  
Worship Service  
Sunday Church School  
Children's SS and Choir  
Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

**LESSONS:**

**FIRST LESSON**

**PSALM**

**SECOND LESSON**

**GOSPEL**

**SEPTEMBER 21, 2025**

**Amos 8:4-7**

**Psalm 113**

**1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 2:1-7**

**Luke 16:1-13**

### **DISCLAIMER FOR RECORDING SERVICES**

We are blessed to be able to record our worship services. By entering and by your presence here, you consent to be filmed and/or otherwise recorded for our congregation and on YouTube. Our cameras are generally directed at the front of the sanctuary.

## **-ANNOUNCEMENTS-**

### **MONTHLY NEW HOPE MINISTRIES FOOD COLLECTION:**

<b>September 21</b>	<b>Toiletries (toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo)</b>
<b>October 19</b>	<b>Peanut Butter and Jelly</b>
<b>November 2</b>	<b>Thanksgiving Food Items (Including Turkeys)</b>

### **GROW IN YOUR FAITH - BIBLE STUDY**

Bible Study continues **September 17** at **11:00 am**. Please join us as we study the gospel of Matthews.

### **HOSS'S CROP WALK RECRUITER'S RALLY COMMUNITY DAY FUND RAISER**

Please save the date and plan ahead to eat at the Mechanicsburg HOSS'S (located on Old Gettysburg Pike) **anytime during the day on Thursday, September 25, 2025**. The coupon which must be presented at HOSS'S when you order your meals is available in the bulletins and newsletters.

### **LADIES AND FRIENDS NIGHT OUT**

Please join us at HOSS's at **6:15 pm, September 25, for Ladies and Friends Night Out**. It's the same day as the Community Fund Raiser at HOSS'S for the CROP Walk. Please RSVP to Karen ASAP so that she can reserve a table. A reminder that it is BYOB as well.

### **HELP WANTED—LOAD TRUCK FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF**

St. Mark is the collection point for Lutheran World Relief items. Lutheran churches from the Cumberland Conference drop their items off at the back of the church on **Saturday, October 4, 2025, between 9:00 am and 10:30 am**. We need your help to load Gross's truck. Please contact Karen Fisher if you are available to help. Goodies will be provided.

### **SOUP ON THE SIDEWALK - MECHANICSBURG HALLOWEEN PARADE**

Stop by St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mechanicsburg on **Tuesday, October 14, 2025, starting at 6:00 pm** for our ***Soup on the Sidewalk event***. Please let Phyllis Mihalich know if you are willing to donate a crockpot of soup. **Bring your soup no later than 5:45 pm the night of the parade**. Help is needed serving the soup at this event. If you are available to volunteer, please let Phyllis Mihalich or Karen Fisher know.

## **MECHANICSBURG/WEST SHORE CROP HUNGER WALK**

You are invited to join the 100% all-volunteer Mechanicsburg/West Shore CROP Hunger Walk on **Sunday, October 19, 2025, at Memorial Park** (Memorial Park Drive) in Mechanicsburg, PA. The 5K or 1.5-mile Fun Run/Walk will take place rain or shine to raise critical funds to serve the most vulnerable in our local and global community. There is no cost to participate. Walkers are invited to generously **sponsor themselves and to solicit sponsors.**

**Make** checks payable to **CWS/CROP**. All proceeds benefit *New Hope Ministries, Mechanicsburg Area Meals on Wheels, and the relief efforts of Church World Service*. Walk as an individual or register as part of a team. Last year, this walk raised over \$40,000 due to generous participants.

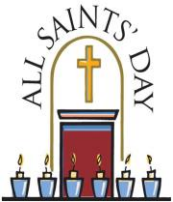
Leashed dogs welcome! Refreshments and a live DJ add joy to this event which serves the needy. **T-Shirts are guaranteed to all who register online by Friday, September 26, 2025!** Make sure to indicate your T-Shirt size when you register! If you need help registering, contact Karen Fisher.

## **St. Mark Keller Street Walkers** **Sunday, October. 19, 2025 Schedule:**

- 1:00PM - New Registrations
- 1:30PM - Team Pictures
- 1:50PM - Kick Off
- 2:00PM - Walk Begins

## **LOOKING AHEAD TO ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY**

On Sunday, November 2, 2025, we will remember the Saints who have died in faith since last All Saints' Sunday (November 3, 2024). **If you have a loved one whom you would like to remember this year, please contact the church office no later than Monday, October 21.**





## **BOOK CLUB**

The Evangelism Committee is hosting a book club read on **Thursday, November 4, at 1:00 pm in the parlor**. The suggested read is a book entitled, *A Man Called Ove*, by Fredrik Backman. The book is available through the library, Thrift Books, or Amazon. Please join us for fellowship and discussion.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

September 25	HOSS's Community Day-CROP Walk
September 25	Ladies and Friends Night Out at HOSS's
September 28	Ingathering and Blessing of School Kits
October 4	Loading Truck-Cumberland Conference
October 5	Blessing of the Pets
October 12	Rain date-Blessing of the Pets
October 14	Soup on the Sidewalk at Mechanicsburg Halloween Parade
October 19	CROP Walk at Memorial Park
November 2	All Saints Sunday
November 4	Book Study
December 24	Christmas Eve Services & Lighting of the Luminaries

**Hoss's Community Day** to benefit the  
Mechanicsburg/West Shore CROP Hunger Walk



**Thurs., Sept. 25, 2025**

**61 Gettysburg Pike, Mechanicsburg PA 17055**

Present a copy of this flyer when ordering lunch, dinner or a  
take-out on Sept. 25, 2025 and Hoss's Mechanicsburg will  
donate up to 25% of your total check to feed the hungry.

**Group #132001**. Complete the CROP Walk Activity Page and  
spin to win a prize!

.....100% Volunteer-led.



**Mechanicsburg/West Shore**

**CROP Hunger Walk**

**Sun., Oct. 19, 2025**

**5K/1.5-mi. Fun Run/Walk**

**Rain or Shine**

**Memorial Park, Memorial Park Dr, Mechanicsburg, PA**

**1:00PM Check-In & New Registrations**

**1:30PM Team Pictures 1:50PM Kick-Off 2:00PM Walk Begins**

**T-Shirts guaranteed to walkers who register online by  
Sept. 26, 2025**

**Strollers & Leashed Dogs Welcome Live DJ Refreshments**

Use the **link below** or **QR code** to register as an individual and/or  
form a team or register in person on the day of the walk.

**<https://crophungerwalk.org/mechanicsburgpa>**

Walkers are invited to generously sponsor themselves and to  
solicit sponsors. Make checks payable to **CWS/CROP**.

**Facebook: CROP Hunger Walk - Mechanicsburg/West Shore**

**100% of proceeds benefit New Hope Ministries,  
Mechanicsburg Area Meals on Wheels  
and the global relief efforts of  
Church World Service.**



For more info, contact **Ulli Klemm**, Coordinator  
**ulliklemm@yahoo.com 724.464.8748**

# 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: \_\_\_\_\_

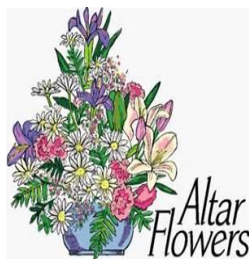
Sponsor Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

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 sponsor.
- ☐ 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 717-697-0436 with any questions.

THANK YOU!

## HOLY CROSS DAY

### SAVING PRESENCE

An internet meme circulating a few years ago chided its audience, “If God didn’t send Jesus into the world to condemn it, I doubt God sent you to.” It’s hard to refrain from judgment, especially when so many social pressures tempt us to judge ourselves as right and everyone else as wrong. John’s gospel puts such competitions to rest: God loves everyone and everything—the whole world, all of creation, every person and part of the entire cosmos, all that is.

At first take, we might be baffled that we lift up the cross as the place where God’s expansive love is so significantly shown for us. But through Christ’s crucifixion, death, and resurrection, God works to unravel all the violence that leads to things like crucifixion in the first place. In the cross, God’s presence is with us: God has taken on all of our human suffering so we can know that Christ’s loving presence is with us when we are hurting too. God accompanies us through hardships. God brings new life in the midst of death! This is the mysterious power of the cross.

Every time God gathers us for holy communion, we remember that night when Jesus faced these hardest moments. Before being lifted up on the cross, he broke bread and shared wine and promised to remain with us always. Jesus continues to be with us in the holy meal even all these centuries later: in bread and wine, for us, lifted high. Indeed, this is the presence we need. It is the presence that sustains us at work, at school, at play. It is the presence that makes grace real. It is the presence that saves us from sin and death, always.

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