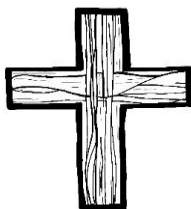


ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF MECHANICSBURG
AUGUST 30, 2026
14TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
HOLY COMMUNION



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

8:30 am - Sanctuary & Zoom Worship Service

9:45 am - Summer Fellowship Time

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

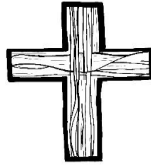
Email: bradleyjhull@gmail.com

www.stmarkmburg.com

Visit & like us on Facebook:

St Mark Lutheran Church Mechanicsburg

**ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF MECHANICSBURG
AUGUST 30, 2026
14TH 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!

SPECIAL MUSIC THANK YOU

We sincerely thank the St. Mark Women's Ensemble for providing the Special Music and the Benediction during this morning's worship service.

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Nikolai Frederik Severin Grundtvig, bishop, renewer of the church, died 1872

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Grundtvig was, with Søren Kierkegaard, one of the two great Danish theologians of the nineteenth century. As a pastor, he battled the prevalent idea that Christianity was more a philosophy than divine revelation. He wrote over a thousand hymns.

PRELUDE

Toccata in E Minor

J. Pachelbel

GATHERING

PSALM 118:24

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

*BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

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

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

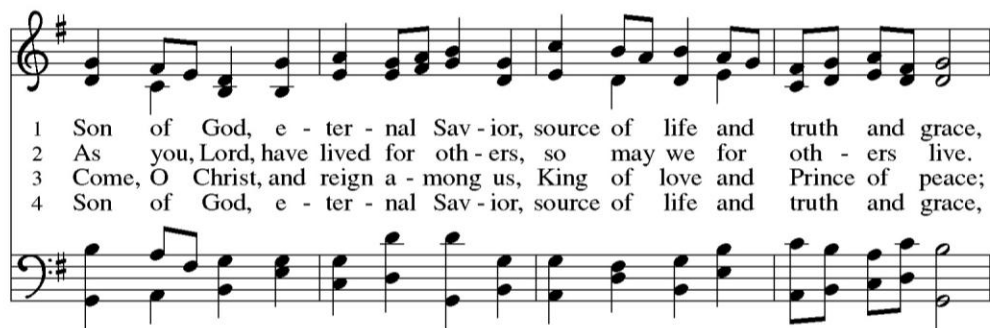
P Merciful and loving God,
C we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen.

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

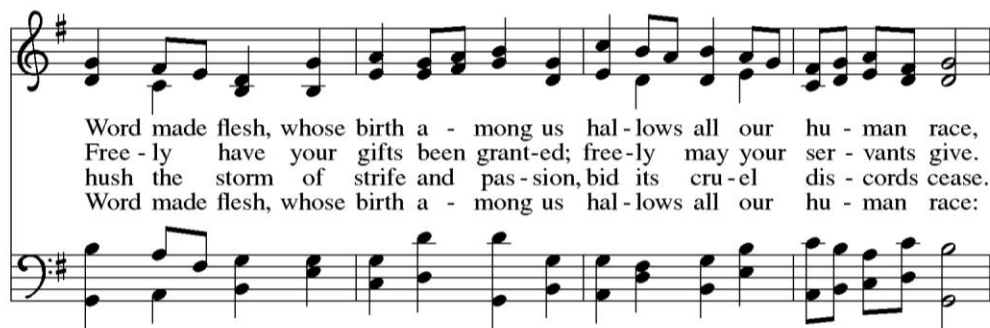
Asterisk (*) in the margin of this bulletin indicates to please stand as you are able.

*GATHERING HYMN

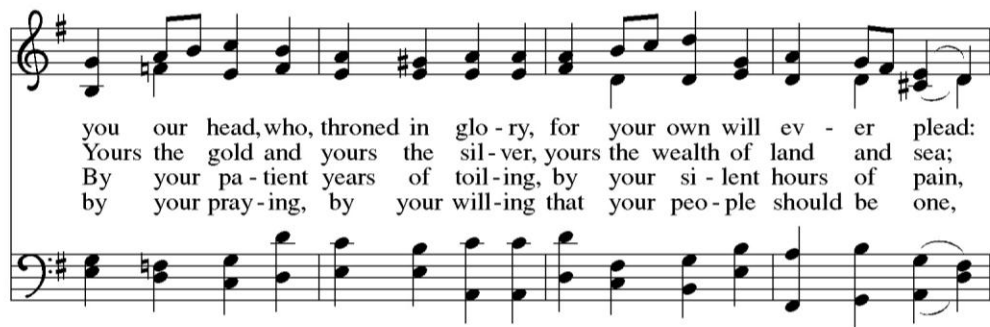
Son of God, Eternal Savior



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,
 2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for oth - ers live.
 3 Come, O Christ, and reign a - mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;
 4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and truth and grace,



Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race,
 Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give.
 hush the storm of strife and pas - sion, bid its cru - el dis - cords cease.
 Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:



you our head, who, throned in glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead:
 Yours the gold and yours the sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea;
 By your pa - tient years of toil - ing, by your si - lent hours of pain,
 by your pray - ing, by your will - ing that your peo - ple should be one,

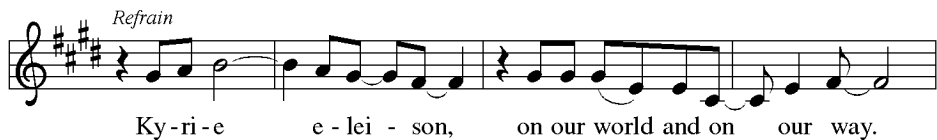


fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need.
 we but stew - ards of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.
 quench our fe - vered thirst of plea - sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain.
 grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

*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



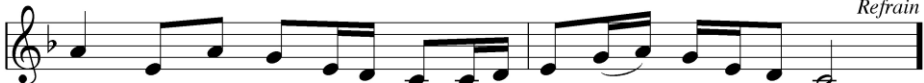
Lis - ten! you na-tions of the world: lis-ten to the Word of the Lord. An -



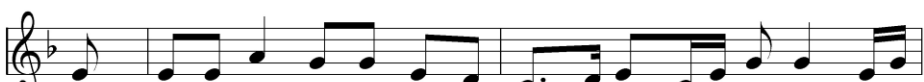
nounce it from coast to coast; de-clare it to dis - tant is - lands.



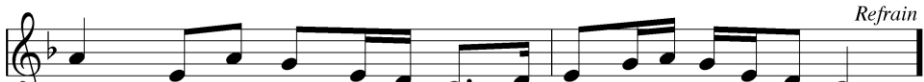
1 The Lord who scat-tered Is - ra - el will gath - er his peo - ple a - gain; and



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 O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Like a Lighthouse

Pepper Choplin

St. Mark Women's Ensemble

FIRST LESSON: Jeremiah 15:15-21

Jeremiah's delight in the word of the LORD is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, "I am with you."

R A reading from Jeremiah.

¹⁵ O Lord, you know;
remember me and visit me,
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away;
know that on your account I suffer insult.

¹⁶ Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart,

for I am called by your name,
O Lord, God of hosts.

¹⁷ I did not sit in the company of merrymakers,
nor did I rejoice;
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,
for you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸ Why is my pain unceasing,
my wound incurable,
refusing to be healed?

Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,
like waters that fail.

¹⁹ Therefore thus says the Lord:
If you turn back, I will take you back,

and you shall stand before me.
If you utter what is precious and not what is worthless,
you shall serve as my mouth.
It is they who will turn to you,
not you who will turn to them.
²⁰ And I will make you to this people
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you,
but they shall not prevail over you,
for I am with you
to save you and deliver you,
says the Lord.
²¹ I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

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

PSALM: Psalm 26:1-8

(Please read the Psalm in unison.)

¹ Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived with integrity; I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered.

² Test me, O LORD, and try me; examine my heart and my mind.

³ For your love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you.

⁴ I have not sat with the worthless, nor do I consort with the deceitful.

⁵ I have hated the company of evildoers; I will not sit down with the wicked.

⁶ I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD, that I may go in procession round your altar,

⁷ singing aloud a song of thanksgiving and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

⁸ LORD, I love the house in which you dwell and the place where your glory abides.

SECOND LESSON: Romans 12:9-21

Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

R A reading from Romans.

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor.

¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰ Instead, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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 16:21-28

After Peter confesses that Jesus is “the Messiah, the Son of the living God” (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a “rock.”

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 16th chapter.
C Glory to you, O Lord.

²¹ From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me, for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

²⁴ Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

²⁷ “For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done.

²⁸ Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

NOISY SUNDAY

SERMON

*APOSTLES CREED

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

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

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

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

He descended into hell.*

On the third day he rose again.

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

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

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

*Or, He descended to the dead.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A Merciful God,
C **receive our prayer.**

P Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised.
All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
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 #7 in E Minor

J.S. Bach

*THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass, in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps). The melody is primarily in the Treble staff, while the bass line provides harmonic support in the Bass staff. The lyrics are written below the staves, aligned with the notes. The first system of music covers the first line of lyrics, and the second system covers the second line. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

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.

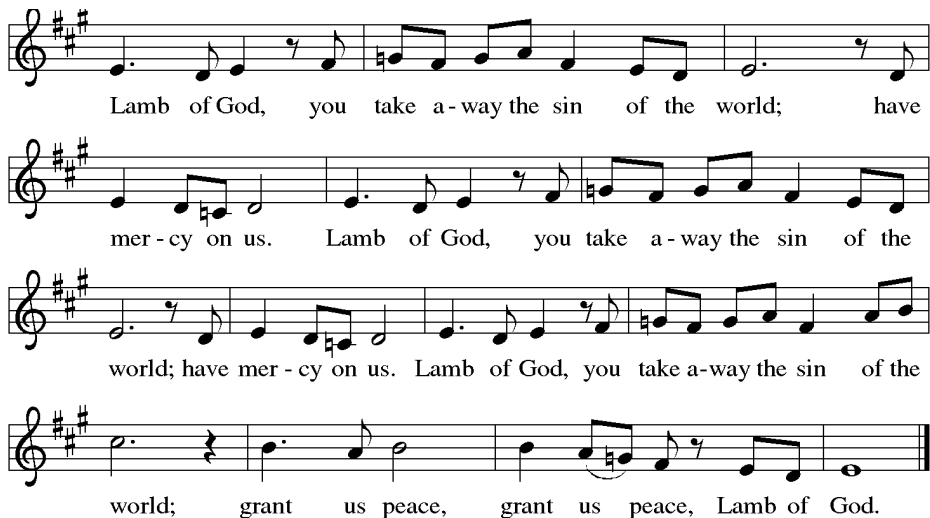
C Amen.

***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.

PLEASE SING THE FOLLOWING HYMNS DURING THE DISTRIBUTION

-HYMN OF THE DAY-

Restore in Us, O God



- 1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen-dor of your love; re -
2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your pow'r; from
3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy; bap -
4 Three-per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your grace, that



new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.
fruit-less fear un - furl our lives like spring-time bud and flow'r.
tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy.
we, when all our search-ing ends, may see you face to face.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: BAYLOR, Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933

Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company.

Music © 1985 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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

-COMMUNION-

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

Text © 1987 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.
www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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

Bind Us Together

The musical score is written for a piano and voice. It features a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature (C). The score is divided into five systems, each with a treble and bass staff. Chord symbols (F, Dm, Gm, C7, F, C) are placed above the treble staff. The lyrics are written below the staves. The first system contains the first line of the hymn. The second system contains the second line. The third system contains the third line. The fourth system contains the fourth line, which includes two verses. The fifth system contains the fifth line, which includes the refrain. The score ends with a double bar line.

Bind us to - geth - er, Lord, bind us to - geth - er with cords that
can - not be bro - ken. Bind us to - geth - er, Lord,
bind us to - geth - er, Lord; bind us to - geth - er in love.
1 There is on - ly one God. There is on - ly one King.
2 You are the fam - ly of God. You are the prom - ise di - vine.
Refrain
There is on - ly one Bod - y; that is why we can sing.
You are God's cho - sen de - sire, . . . you are the glo - rious new wine.

Text: Bob Gillman, b. 1946

Music: BIND US TOGETHER, Bob Gillman, b. 1946

© 1977 Kingsway Thankyou Music, admin. Integrity's Resurrex! Music in N., S., and C. America

BENEDICTION

A Blessing of Music

St. Mark Women's Ensemble

J. Martin

(Please be seated for announcements.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*DISMISSAL

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

C Thanks be to God.

*POSTLUDE

Take My Life and Let It Be

F. Havergal



In honor of Charles Albert's 70th birthday.
Happy Birthday, Charlie, by Charlene Albert.

In honor of our Mothers by Ken and Donna Shur.

TODAY'S ASSISTANTS

Assisting Minister:

Kevin Amos

Lay Reader:

Terri Hopkins

Acolyte:

Caroline Stull

Ushers:

Charles Rusnak, Karen Rusnak

Altar Guild:

Sara Jane Miller, Bev Reihart,
Barb Lehman

Zoom Operator

Katie Stull

Council Money Duty:

Terry Shaner, Karen Fisher

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK

Sunday, August 30

8:30 am

9:45 am

12:00 pm

**14th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
NOISY SUNDAY**

Worship Service—Communion

Treats and Talk Summer Fellowship

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

Monday, August 31

2:45 pm

7:00 pm

Violin Lessons

German Club

Tuesday, September 1

Wednesday, September 2

11:00 am

2:00 pm

3:30 pm

Bible Study

Worship & Music

Worship Planning

Thursday, September 3

2:45

7:00 pm

Violin Lessons

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

Friday, September 4

2:45 pm

Violin Lessons

Saturday, September 5

Sunday, September 6

8:30 am

9:45 am

12:00 pm

15th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Worship Service—Communion

Treats and Talk Summer Fellowship

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

LESSONS:

FIRST READING

PSALM

SECOND READING

GOSPEL

SEPTEMBER 6, 2026

Ezekiel 33:7-11

Psalms 119:33-40

Romans 13:8-4

Matthew 18:15-20

**-ANNOUNCEMENTS-
SUMMER FELLOWSHIP TIME**

Treats and Talk—9:45 am-10:45 am in the Parlor (through September 6)
(Sunday School for All Ages Resumes September 13)

WinGS POTLUCK SEPTEMBER 2026 MEETING

Our first meeting is **September 8, 2026, at 6:00 pm**. It is going to be a *Garden Potluck*. Your officers are bringing chicken salad, ham salad, egg salad, and tuna salad. The following are suggested items for you to volunteer and let Sandy Brown know that you are bringing; lettuce, tomatoes, rolls, bread, chips, dip, and dessert. Plan for a dozen members. Water will be available, but you may bring your own drink if you choose. Don't forget to bring your good ideas to plan for our next year of WinGS!! Contact Sandy Brown at 717-991-1121.

VOCAL CHOIR AUTUMN STARTUP

The St. Mark Vocal Choir will start rehearsals for the 2026-2027 season on **Wednesday, September 9, at 7:00 pm**. If you are interested in being a part of this important ministry of the church in leading worship and providing music to facilitate our interaction with God, please come to the first rehearsal. We would love for you to sing with us. Questions should be directed to Brad Hull, Director of Music (Cell: 202-738-2795 or email: bradleyjhull@gmail.com). Our first singing Sunday will be, God-willing, September 13.

ALL CALL FOR BELL CHOIR

The Bell Choir enjoyed a very successful season last year and the congregation overtly shared their appreciation for its addition to St. Mark's worship. Bell choir is a unique form of music which is accessible to all levels of musical ability (including no musical ability). To select music for the bell choir, exact numbers of ringers are necessary. So if you are interested in being a part of St. Mark's bell choir, *whether a former or new member*, please email Brad (bradleyjhull@gmail.com) before **September 4**. Based on how many people express interest in being a part of a 2026-2027 bell choir, we will make a plan for the coming year's ministry. Our first rehearsal would then be **6:00 pm to 6:45 pm on Wednesday, September 9.**

MONTHLY SUNDAYS TO BENEFIT NEW HOPE MINISTRIES

Here are the items for September, October, November (November will include turkeys for Thanksgiving):

September 20
October 18
November ??

Puddings and Applesauce
Canned Vegetables
Thanksgiving Food

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF—SCHOOL KITS

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

Please place items in the containers marked “School Kits.” Thank you to those who have already purchased items for those 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.

“GOD’S WORK. OUR HANDS.” SUNDAY

On **Sunday, September 13**, the approximately 8,400 congregations of the ELCA will gather to serve communities in ways that share the love of God with all of God’s people. The Social Ministry Committee is repeating the project of preparing a spaghetti dinner, salad, bread, and dessert to take to our shut-ins and residents of group homes in the Mechanicsburg area. **We are requesting donations of spaghetti, desserts, as well as monetary donations to help defray the cost of the meatballs, salad, and bread. In addition, we will need volunteers to deliver the meals.** Please use the sign-up sheets at entrances to the church to volunteer.

In addition to the spaghetti dinner, we will be assembling school kits, making greeting cards, and putting together kits for Caitlin’s Smiles. Read more about this wonderful organization here: <https://www.caitlins-smiles.org/>. Additional service projects will be added when identified. **Volunteers from previous years should plan on wearing their “God’s Work. Our Hands” bright yellow t-shirts.**

COUNCIL AND CONGREGATION RETREAT

Your church council is hosting a Conscience and Conversation Retreat (see invitation on the following page) on **Saturday, September 26 from 8:00 am-Noon**. Refreshments will be served. Please use the sign-up sheets on the bulletin board and at entrances to the church or you may RSVP to Karen in the church office. Hoping to see you there.

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 17, 2026**. Coupons, which must be presented at HOSS’S when you order your meals, will be available at all entrances of our church as soon as they are received.

PEACHES AND (ICE) CREAM

On **September 20**, please join us following the **8:30 am service (about 9:45 am)** for our annual peaches and ice cream event. We will meet in Fellowship Hall to enjoy peach treats.

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 8	WinGS Potluck Planning Meeting
September 13	God’s Work. Our Hands. Sunday
September 17	Community Day for CROP Walk (all day at HOSS’S)
September 20	Peaches & Ice Cream following worship
September 26	Conscience and Conversation Retreat
October 4	Blessing of the Pets
October 13	Soup on the Sidewalk at Mechanicsburg Halloween Parade
October 18	55 th Annual CROP Walk-Memorial Park
November (TBD)	Annual Meeting
November 26	Thanksgiving Dinner
December 24	Lighting of the Luminaries Christmas Eve Services

CONSCIENCE AND CONVERSATION RETREAT
ELCA'S RECONSIDERATION OF THE 2009 SOCIAL STATEMENT
HUMAN SEXUALITY: GIFT AND TRUST

Your input is needed!

Council is hosting a retreat to take advantage of the opportunity to participate in this important work and invite you to join us!

Editorial Reconsideration: Update language in the text to ensure consistency with more recent social teachings and changes to civil law regarding marriage. Adopted by the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Council.

SEXUALITY AND THE CALLING OF THE CHURCH



"MARRIAGE: shelter and context for trust"

Current—Idea of marriage as a shelter and context for trust

Reconsideration – Marriage legally is now a covenant between two individuals.

"Lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships"

Current—Recognize four identified positions of bound conscience within its life.

Reconsideration—Church understanding does not change. Update wording about "publicly accountable, lifelong monogamous same-sex relationships" (considering public acceptance of marriage of same-gender and gender-non-conforming couples).

"LOVING FAMILIES: ground and source for social trust"

Reconsideration—Include references to diversity of family configurations.

September 26, 2026 08:00am – Noon

St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church

Please RSVP no later than September 6 to the church office if you plan to attend.

Additional information available at elca.org/reconsiderations or through *Learn and Discern Podcast* released by task force.

HOSS'S COMMUNITY DAY FLYER

(Copies of the flyer are available at entrances to St. Mark.)

Come, "pray with your feet" and "walk your values" at the
Mechanicsburg/West Shore CROP Hunger 5K Walk/Run



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

Sun., Oct. 18, 2026

**Memorial Park, 1 Memorial Park Dr.,
Mechanicsburg, PA**

1:00PM Registration 1:20PM Team Pics
1:50PM Kick-Off 2:00PM Walk/Run Starts

Register online & donate by Sept. 25th and receive a CROP Walk T-shirt.
Strollers & Leashed Dogs Welcome Live DJ Refreshments afterwards

There is no cost to walk but **generous donations to CWS/CROP are invited to help us reach the \$50,000 goal!** Since 1971, the Mechanicsburg/West Shore CROP Hunger walk has raised over **\$727,730** to feed the poor.



Use the **link** below or the **QR code** to make a donation, register or sponsor a walker/runner.

You may also register the day of the walk.

<https://crophungerwalk.org/mechanicsburgpa>

Find us on Facebook: **CROP Hunger Walk – Mechanicsburg/West Shore**

For more info, contact:

Ulli Klemm

ulliklemm@yahoo.com 724.464.8748



Join us as we **"Believe There is Good in the World."**

Hoss's Community Day to benefit the CROP

Hunger Walk: **Thurs., Sept. 17, 2026**

61 Gettysburg Pike, Mechanicsburg PA 17055



Present a copy of this flyer when ordering lunch, dinner or a take-out on Sept. 17, 2026, and Hoss's Mechanicsburg will donate up to 25% of your total check to feed the hungry. **Group # 133543.** Complete the CROP Walk Activity Page and spin to win a prize!

LECTIONARY 22

TAKE UP YOUR CROSS

Jesus issues a difficult invitation to his disciples: “Take up [your] cross and follow me” (Matthew 16:24). While the disciples may have hoped for a Messiah who would set the world right through satisfying displays of force and strength, Jesus offers them a different vision. His new kingdom or reign will not be built on traditional concepts of power and glory. It is instead a kingdom centered on the cross.

Today we, too, may long for a mighty Messiah to put the world back in order, throw down corrupt rulers from their thrones, and take away suffering once and for all. And like Peter, we may find ourselves crying out in disbelief, “God forbid it, Lord!” (v. 22) when Jesus redirects our gaze to the cross.

The cross reminds us that following Jesus requires nothing less than our whole lives. To follow Jesus is to love our neighbors with a self-sacrificing love, to sit in the discomfort of another’s struggle, and to be willing to lay down our own power and privilege to see the world from our neighbor’s point of view. Following Jesus requires practicing courage as we show up for one another in the least glamorous moments of life: in the hospital room, at the gravesite, in the living rooms of the brokenhearted, in the streets marching for justice. To follow Jesus is to open our hearts to the world’s pain and to practice loving others with God’s generous love, trusting that there is always more than enough.

Putting love of God and neighbor above power, prestige, and comfort is countercultural. It might even get us into trouble. But through Jesus’ own life, death, and resurrection, we are freed to enter into the world’s suffering, trusting that God’s love always gets the last word and that we will indeed be brought to new life through God’s resurrection power.

Copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS004360.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.