

**ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF MECHANICSBURG
OCTOBER 18, 2026
21st SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
HOLY COMMUNION**



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

8:30 am - Sanctuary & Zoom Worship Service
9:45 am - Sunday Church School
9:45 am - Children and Youth Sunday School
10:20 am - Youth Ensemble

Rev. Marleen Griffith-Stull, Pastor
Pastor's Cell Phone: 878-295-2173
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Karen Fisher, Office Manager
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Office Hours: 10:00 AM-1:00 PM - Monday through Thursday

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Denise's Cell Phone: 717-802-1064
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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

In today’s first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of the world.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Luke, Evangelist

Sunday, October 18, 2026

Identified as the author of both Luke and Acts, Luke was careful to place the events of Jesus’ life in their social and religious contexts. His gospel gives us some of the most beloved parables, as well as the songs of Zechariah, Mary, the angels, and Simeon.

James of Jerusalem, martyr, died around 62

Friday, October 23, 2026

One of three early-church leaders named James, this man is identified in the New Testament and by a historian of the time as a brother of Jesus. Scholars are uncertain whether this means a blood brother. He was a leader of the church in Jerusalem.

Please bring Thanksgiving food to the Altar during the singing of the first hymn. THANK YOU.

PRELUDE

The Lord is My Rock

S. Otis

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 Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom
no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the
inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you
and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our
Lord.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is
not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just
will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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

P Most merciful God,

C we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free
ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and
deed, by what we have done and by what we have left
undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we
have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of
your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew
us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk
in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and,
for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained
minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore
declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name
of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

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

***GATHERING
HYMN**

God Is Here!

1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer
 2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long
 3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's
 4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of

praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure
 need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;
 flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,
 change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;

what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the
 here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -
 Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here in ser - vants
 help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's

world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
 ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,
 of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore,
 ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;

wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
 here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
 what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
 we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: ABBOTS LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991

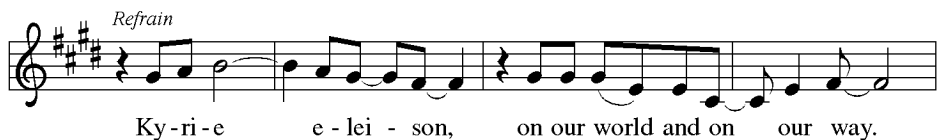
Text © 1979 Hope Publishing Company.

Music © 1942, ren. 1970 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

*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

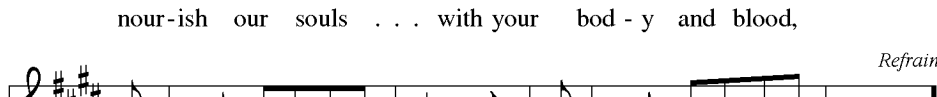
wa - ter and the word; that you



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,



let us pray to the Lord.

Refrain



*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

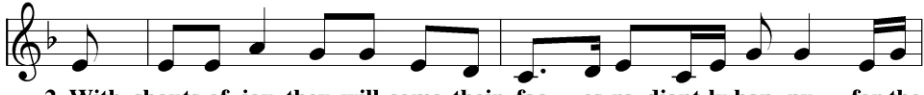


Refrain

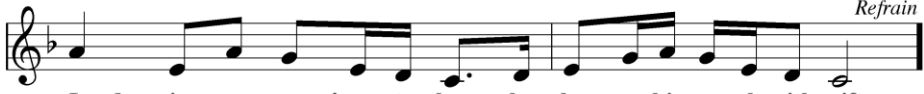


he will keep watch o - ver them as a shep - herd watch - es his flock.

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



Refrain



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

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 Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

ANTHEM

Come Ye Thankful People Come

Youth Ensemble Ringers

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 45:1-7

The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the Lord has anointed to end Israel's exile. The Lord makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this Lord as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god of darkness; the Lord claims sovereignty over both light and darkness.

R A reading from Isaiah.

¹Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped
to subdue nations before him
and to strip kings of their robes,
to open doors before him—
and the gates shall not be closed:

²I will go before you
and level the mountains;
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron;

³I will give you the treasures of darkness
and riches hidden in secret places,
so that you may know that it is I, the Lord,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.

⁴For the sake of my servant Jacob
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name;
I give you a title, though you do not know me.

⁵I am the Lord, and there is no other;
besides me there is no god.

I arm you, though you do not know me,
⁶so that they may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;

I am the Lord, and there is no other.
⁷ I form light and create darkness,
I make weal and create woe;
I the Lord do all these things.

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 96:1-13

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

¹ Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.

² **Sing to the LORD and bless his name; proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.**

³ Declare his glory among the nations and his wonders among all peoples.

⁴ **For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; he is more to be feared than all gods.**

⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but it is the LORD who made the heavens.

⁶ **Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!**

⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

⁸ **Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his name; bring offerings and come into his courts.**

⁹ Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth tremble before him.

¹⁰ **Tell it out among the nations: “The LORD is king! He has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity.”**

¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

¹² Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the LORD when he comes, when he comes to judge the earth.

¹³ He will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with his truth.

SECOND LESSON: 1ST THESSALONIANS 1:1-10

Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.

R A reading from 1st Thessalonians.

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

²We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

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 22:15-22

After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 22nd chapter.
C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁵ The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" ²¹ They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." ²² When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

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

MESSAGE FOR YOUTH

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 Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for
the church and the world.

A Hear us, O God.
C Your mercy is great.

P Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken
prayers and those in our hearts; through 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 #15 In B Minor

J.S. Bach

*THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

Offering Song

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

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***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.

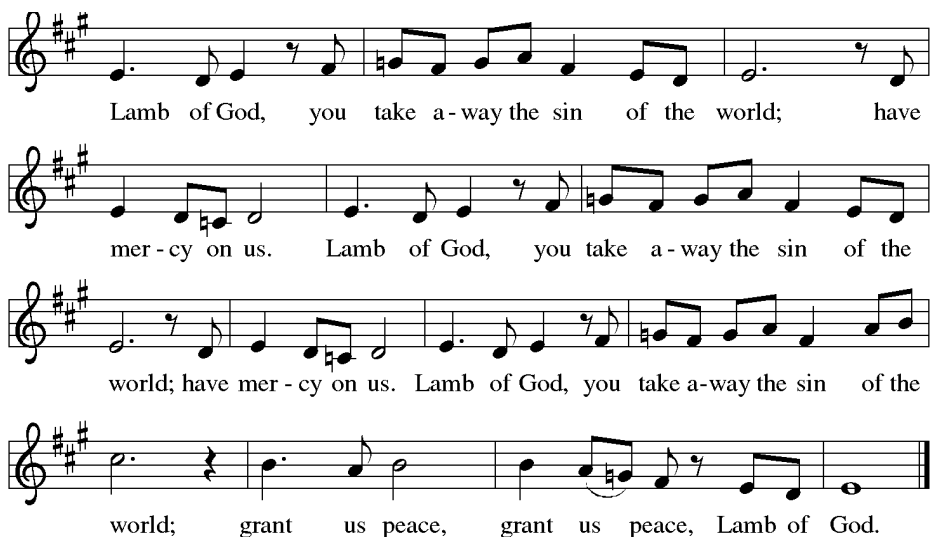
C Amen.

*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.**

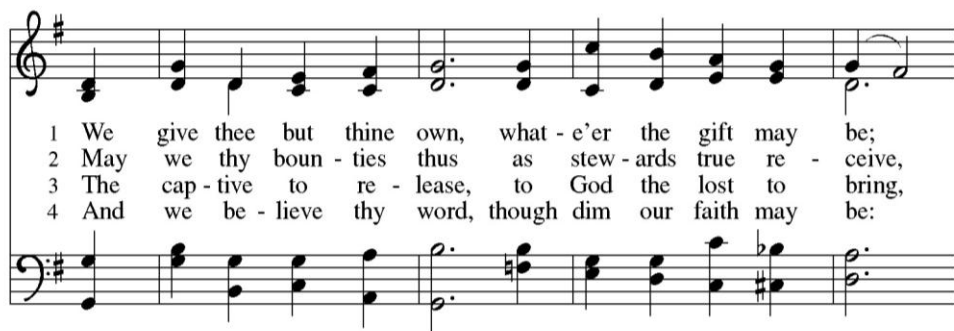
A The blood of Christ, shed for you.

C **Amen.**

PLEASE SING THE FOLLOWING HYMNS DURING THE DISTRIBUTION

-HYMN OF THE DAY-

We Give Thee but Thine Own



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,
3 The cap - tive to re - lease, to God the lost to bring,
4 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be:



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.
to teach the way of life and peace—it is a Christ-like thing.
what - e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

Text: William W. How, 1823–1897, alt.

Music: HEATH, L. Mason and G. Webb, *Cantica Lauda*, 1850

-COMMUNION HYMN-

Take My Life, That I May Be

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems. The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn, and the second system contains the next four lines. Each line of text is aligned with its corresponding musical notation. The melody is primarily in the Soprano and Alto parts, with the Tenor and Bass parts providing harmonic support. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4.

1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;

take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.

Music: PATMOS, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

(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

O God of Every Nation

1 O God of ev - 'ry na - tion, of ev - 'ry race and land,
 2 From search for wealth and pow - er and scorn of truth and right,
 3 Lord, strength-en all who la - bor that all may find re - lease
 4 Keep bright in us the vi - sion of days when war shall cease,

re - deem your whole cre - a - tion with your al - might - y hand;
 from trust in bombs that show - er de - struc-tion through the night,
 from fear of rat - tling sa - ber, from dread of war's in - crease;
 when ha - tred and di - vi - sion give way to love and peace,

where hate and fear di - vide us and bit - ter threats are hurled,
 from pride of race and sta - tion and blind-ness to your way,
 when hope and cour-age fal - ter, Lord, let your voice be heard;
 till dawns the morn-ing glo - rious when truth and love shall reign,

in love and mer-cy guide us and heal our strife - torn world.
 de - liv - er ev - 'ry na - tion, e - ter - nal God, we pray.
 with faith that none can al - ter, your ser-vants un - der - gird.
 and Christ shall rule vic - to - rious o'er all the world's do - main.

Text: William W. Reid Jr., b. 1923

Music: LLANGLOFFAN, Welsh tune, 19th cent.

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(Please be seated for announcements.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***DISMISSAL**

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

C Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE**

I Love to Tell the Story

E.L. Deimler



In honor of the October wedding anniversaries of my daughter and son-in-law (Kelley and Tom Weist); son and daughter-in-law (Tim and Natalie Thomas); grandson (Cody Thomas and his wife, Tessa); grandson (Timothy Thomas and his wife, Megan); and granddaughter (Shania Moyer and her hubby, Cody) by Karen Fisher.

TODAY'S ASSISTANTS

Assisting Minister:

Denise Hirn

Lay Reader:

Connie Kuntz

Acolyte:

Brett Hirn

Ushers:

Gene Shaner, Terry Shaner

Altar Guild:

Phyllis Mihalich, Connie Kuntz

Zoom Operator:

TBA

Council Money Duty:

Marlin Brown, Karen Fisher

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK

Sunday, October 18

8:30 am
9:45 am
9:45 am
10:20 am
12:00 Noon
1:00 pm
1:20 pm
2:00 pm

CROP WALK SUNDAY
THANKSGIVING FOOD FOR NEW HOPE
Worship Service—Communion
Church Sunday School
Children & Youth Sunday School
Youth Ensemble
Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros
Register for CROP Walk
CROP Walk Team Photos
55th Annual CROP Walk

Monday, October 19

8:00 am
2:45 pm
7:00 pm

Garden Club
Violin Lessons
German Group

Tuesday, October 20

6:30 pm

Church Council

Wednesday, October 21

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

Bible Study
Bell Choir
Vocal Choir

Thursday, October 22

2:45 pm
7:00 pm

Violin Lessons
Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

Friday, October 23

2:45 pm

Violin Lessons

Saturday, October 24

10:00 am

TRUNK OR TREAT

Sunday, October 25

8:30 am
9:45 am
10:20 am
12:00 Noon

REFORMATION SUNDAY
NOISY SUNDAY
BAPTISM
Worship Service—Communion
Reformation BINGO & Jeopardy
Youth Ensemble
Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

LESSONS:

FIRST READING

PSALM

SECOND READING

GOSPEL

OCTOBER 25, 2026
Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 46
Romans 3:19-28
John 8:31-36

-ANNOUNCEMENTS-

MONTHLY SUNDAYS TO BENEFIT NEW HOPE MINISTRIES

Here are the items for October, November, and December:

October 18	Thanksgiving Food to Include Turkeys <i>Canned fruit, corn, peas, green beans, stuffing, gravy packs</i>
November 15	Christmas Food to include Ham/Turkeys
December 13	To be announced

REFORMATION BINGO

Join us in Fellowship Hall during Sunday School time on Reformation Sunday, October 25, for Reformation BINGO and Jeopardy. Everyone is invited. Please bring a German themed snack to share.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, November 8, at 9:45 am following worship service in the Sanctuary. Refreshments will be served in Fellowship Hall after the meeting. The agenda includes approval of the 2027 Budget and election of council members for 2027. Evangelism will lead a discussion on the church's future.

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER

We are planning on celebrating Thanksgiving dinner at St. Mark this year on Thursday, November 26, 2026, at 1:00 PM in Fellowship Hall. Helpers are needed to set up, serve, clean up, and help wash dishes. We are soliciting donations of any kind of dessert. To defray the cost of the meal, we are requesting donations of any amount. Please make checks payable to St Mark and write *Thanksgiving dinner* on the outside of your envelope with the amount of your donation. Please use the sign-up sheets at entrances to our church no later than November 16 or contact the church office at 717-766-4482 to make a reservation. For additional questions or additional information, please contact Keith Hensel at 717-319-1199.

"Pray with your feet" and walk your values at the

Mechanicsburg/West Shore

CROP Hunger Walk

to benefit **New Hope Ministries, Mechanicsburg Area Meals on Wheels and Church World Service**



**Sun., Oct. 18,
2026, 2:00PM**

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

Dr

5K/1.5-mi. Fun Run/Walk *Rain or Shine*

**1:00PM Day of Registrations 1:20PM Team Pictures
2:00PM Fun Run/Walk Begins**

Strollers and leashed dogs are welcome. Live DJ. Refreshments. Use the link below to register and donate OR register in person the day of the walk. Bring cash or a check payable to **CWS/CROP**.

Here is the link to the St. Mark Lutheran Church Keller St. Walkers page—please consider SIGNING UP or SPONSORING one of our walkers:

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/team/st-mark-lutheran-church-keller-st-walkers>

WALKERS SIGNED UP AS OF OCTOBER 18

Caroline Stull
Cindy Larkin
Connie Kuntz
Donald Stull
Karen Fisher
Karen Heath

Katie Stull
Marleen Griffith-Stull
Mary Larkin
Matthew Yost
Michelle Krewson

To donate to an individual—click the “Donate” button across from their name ON the website and fill out your information.



TRUNK OR TREAT

On **October 24 (rain date Oct 31) at 10:00 AM** our Noah's Ark themed Trunk or Treat welcomes you to trick-or-treat at the decorated car trunks and play Halloween games in our backyard!

We will be serving hot dogs.

ITEMS NEEDED FOR TRUNK OR TREAT:

- Donations of **candy and other Trick or Treat items**—leave in the Upper Room or give to an Evangelism Committee member **no later than Sunday, TODAY, October 18.**
- **Cars** for kids to visit—you can decorate it in our Noah's Ark theme, or our youth can do it for you, you can stay and hand out treats or not.
- People to "man" the trunks to help **pass out treats.**
- People to help **run games** for kids.

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board, or you can let a committee member know—

Evangelism Committee:

Jessica Johnston, Amy Gimbel, Gene Shaner, Pastor Marleen

BOOK CLUB READ

The Evangelism Committee is hosting a book club read on **Tuesday, November 10, at 1:00 pm in the parlor**. The book is entitled, "*Theo of Golden*," by Allen Levi. It is a "#1 New York Times Bestselling Phenomenon."

One spring morning, a stranger named Theo arrives in the small Southern city of Golden. He doesn't explain much about where he came from or why he's there—but when he visits the local coffeehouse, where pencil portraits of the people of Golden hang on the walls, he begins purchasing them, one at a time, and giving each portrait to the person depicted. In exchange, he asks only for the person's story. And so, portrait by portrait, person by person, secrets are revealed, regrets are shared, and ordinary lives are profoundly altered.

A story of giving and receiving, of seeing and being seen, *Theo of Golden* is an unforgettable novel about the power of generosity, the importance of connection, and the quiet miracles that happen when we choose kindness and wonder. The book is available through the library, Thrift Books, or Amazon. Share and invite a friend. As always, we look forward to conversation and fellowship with you.

BE A SANTA TO UNDERPRIVILEGED ADULTS—CONTRIBUTIONS AND SHOPPERS NEEDED

Over the past 15 years, we have purchased and delivered Christmas gifts to residents of the American House Apartments and Brethren House Apartments located in the Borough of Mechanicsburg. These facilities are designed for underprivileged individuals or individuals who are disabled. The residents are on a limited income; many with no or estranged families, and most of the residents do not own or drive a car.

The Social Ministry Outreach Committee, along with help from many of our friends, will continue to provide Christmas to these individuals as well as a luncheon on the day of their party.

We are requesting "wish lists" from each of the residents. We have been blessed with a wonderful group of shoppers and a wonderful group of individuals who donate and help with the shopping.

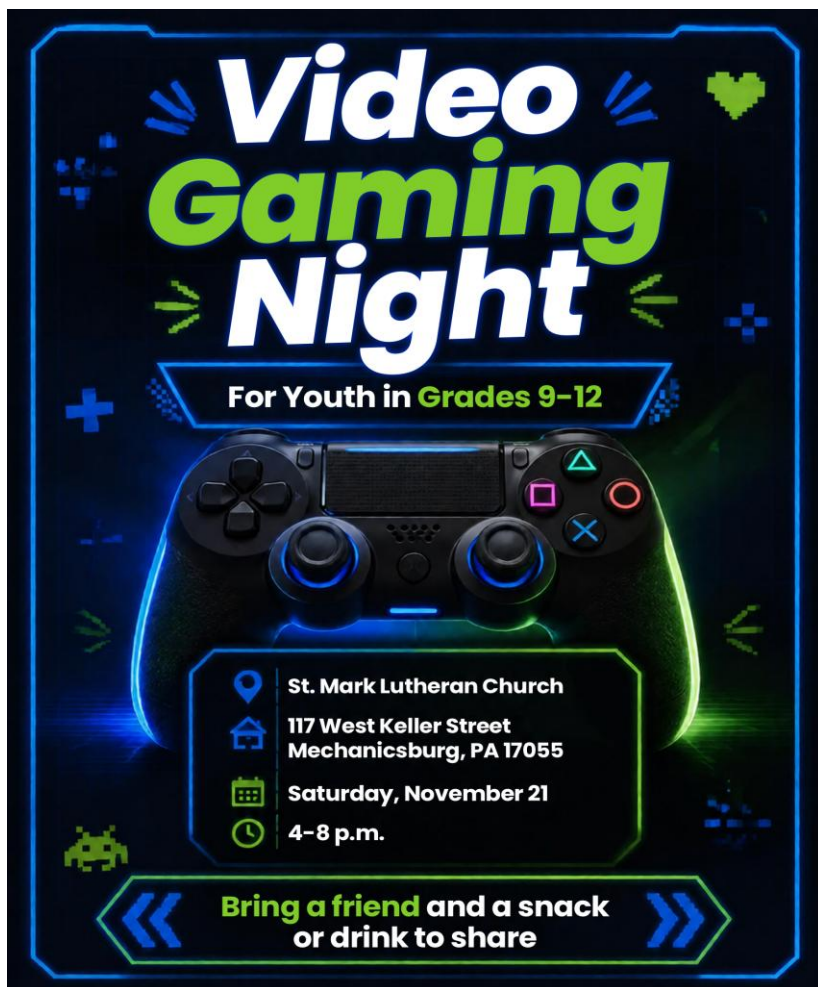
If you are interested in making a financial contribution to help defray the expenses, please mark it "**Social Ministry**" **no later than Sunday, November 15**. If you would like to help with the shopping, please contact Karen Fisher at 717-580-7507 or email at kfisher@stmarkmburg.com.

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS EXPRESS

Christmas will be here before we know it. It is hard to believe that it is the time of the year when we are starting to plan for the upcoming holiday season. Our Christmas Blessings Express tree is located at the back entrance of St. Mark.

We are collecting gifts (mostly for teens) through Sunday, November 29, as the unwrapped gifts need to be at New Hope no later than December 3. Copies of the New Hope Ministries Wish List are located at each entrance of St. Mark as well. Or pick an ornament(s) from the tree. Return your UNWRAPPED gift with the ornament attached and place in the containers or area around the tree. THANK YOU!

JOIN IN THE FUN!!!!

A vibrant poster for a 'Video Gaming Night' event. The background is dark blue with a glowing blue border. The title 'Video Gaming Night' is prominently displayed in the center, with 'Video' in white, 'Gaming' in bright green, and 'Night' in white. Below the title, a banner reads 'For Youth in Grades 9-12'. In the center of the poster is a detailed image of a black PlayStation 4 DualShock 4 controller with glowing blue and green light bars. To the right of the controller, a green heart icon is visible. At the bottom, a green-bordered box contains event details: 'St. Mark Lutheran Church', '117 West Keller Street', 'Mechanicsburg, PA 17055', 'Saturday, November 21', and '4-8 p.m.'. Below this box, a green banner with blue arrows on either side says 'Bring a friend and a snack or drink to share'. The poster is decorated with various pixelated game icons, including a plus sign, a heart, a cross, and a small alien character in the bottom left corner.



October 18	CROP WALK
October 25	Reformation Bingo and Jeopardy (During Sunday School time)
October 29	Ladies & Friends Night Out
November 1	All Saints Sunday
November 8	Annual Meeting
November 10	Book Club
November 21	Video Gaming Night
November 26	Thanksgiving Dinner at St. Mark
December 24	Lighting of the Luminaries
December 24	Christmas Eve Services
January 6, 2027	Epiphany, Waffle Wednesday, Chicken & Waffles
February 10	Ash Wednesday
March 25	Seder Meal
March 28	Easter

OPERATION WILDCAT (OW) NEEDS

Operation Wildcat is collecting basic household tools to help families in the Mechanicsburg School District.

Operation Wildcat receives quite a few requests for simple, everyday tools. If you have extras or are looking for a reason to clean out and scale down, they would love to put them to good use. OW volunteers will be assembling tool kits for the families.

A separate collection box is located at the back entrance of St. Mark.

We are currently looking for:

- Small toolboxes
- Hammer
- Tape measure
- Screwdriver set
- Pliers
- Adjustable wrench
- Utility knife
- Level
- Allen wrenches



<https://www.operationwildcat.org/>



**MEETING THE NEEDS OF ALL
STUDENTS IN OUR DISTRICT**

Thank you for helping the families in the Mechanicsburg Area School District.

Social Ministry Committee for Operation Wildcat

Thank You

...AND HE GAVE

some, apostles; and some, prophets;

and some, evangelists; and some,

PASTORS *and teachers...*

EPHESIANS 4:11



LECTIONARY 29

UNDIVIDED LOYALTY

When Jesus holds up a coin in the marketplace and asks the Pharisees and Herodians, “Whose head is this and whose title?” (Matthew 22:20), he is asking a question not about money, taxes, or the Roman Empire—at least not directly. It is likely that the emperor’s title, printed on that coin, proclaimed the emperor’s divinity: an implicit question of loyalty. And when Jesus asks his hearers to give “to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s” (v. 21), he invites his hearers to decide where they will place their loyalty. What will they give to God? What belongs to the emperor?

We might ask ourselves the same question: Where do we place our loyalty? Where do we place our trust? In Jesus, we see an example: Jesus is loyal to us. Jesus is loyal to us when he teaches. Jesus is loyal to us when he bends down to wash his disciples’ feet. Jesus is loyal to us when he goes to the cross, dies, and rises again for us and for our salvation. Jesus is always loyal to us. Jesus is generous with us in pouring out grace upon grace for us. And we respond to Jesus’ loyalty and generosity with loyalty and generosity of our own.

Throughout our lives, we are empowered by the loyalty and generosity of Jesus to give to God the things that are God’s. We offer our resources for the good of our neighbors. We offer our time, investing in the work of the gospel in our communities and beyond. And we offer our very selves, pledging our undivided loyalty to Jesus, who is loyal to us first.

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