

**ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF MECHANICSBURG
5th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JULY 13, 2025**



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

8:30 am - Sanctuary & Zoom Worship Service

9:45 am - Summer Fellowship Hour

11:00 am - Indoor Worship Service (1st Sunday of each month)

11:00 am - Outdoor Summer Worship Service (July 13 and August 10)

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

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www.stmarkmburg.com

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St Mark Lutheran Church Mechanicsburg

ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF MECHANICSBURG
5th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JULY 13, 2025



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

To love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind is to reflect God’s mercy in responding to one’s neighbor. That mercy found its most profound expression in the “gospel that has come to you”—namely the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That gospel mercy comes to us again today: at the font, at the table, and from the pulpit. It is very near to you.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

**Bartolomé de Las Casas, missionary to the Indies, died 1566
Thursday, July 17, 2025**

A native of Spain, Las Casas first came to the Western hemisphere while serving in the military. Upon arriving in the West, Las Casas was granted a large estate with Indigenous enslaved people whom he freed after he was ordained a priest. He worked in the Caribbean and Central America to improve the lives of the native peoples.

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

***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 Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

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

P Most merciful God,
C you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.

P You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of ✝ Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.
C Amen.

*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 the 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 the preach - ing, here si - lence, as in speech,
 ded - i - ca - tion, seek in wor - ship to ex - plore,
 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

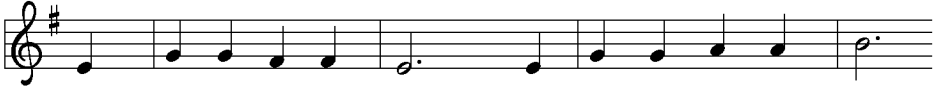
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*GREETING

- 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



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

*HYMN OF PRAISE



- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

P O Lord God, your mercy delights us, and the world longs for your loving care. Hear the cries of everyone in need and turn our hearts to love our neighbors with the love of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

The King of Love

Amy Yovanovich [Mezzo-Soprano]

J.N. Beck

FIRST LESSON: Deuteronomy 30:9-14

Moses calls the people who are about to enter the promised land to renew the covenant God made with their ancestors. Through this covenant God gives life and asks for obedience. God's commandment is neither burdensome nor too far off, but dwells in the people's hearts.

R A reading from Deuteronomy.

⁹ The Lord your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all your undertakings, in the fruit of your body, in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your soil. For the Lord will again take delight in prospering you, just as he delighted in prospering your ancestors,
¹⁰ when you obey the Lord your God by observing his commandments and decrees that are written in this book of the law, because you turn to the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

¹¹ Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. ¹² It is not in heaven, that you should say, "Who will go up to heaven for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?" ¹³ Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, "Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?" ¹⁴ No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 25:1-9

*(Please read the Psalm responsively. Lectern side the regular print; pulpit side the **bold print**.)*

¹ To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you; let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

² **Let none who look to you be put to shame; let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.**

³ Show me your ways, O Lord, and teach me your paths.

⁴ **Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.**

⁵ Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.

⁶Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

⁷Gracious and upright is the Lord; therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

⁸He guides the humble in doing right and teaches his way to the lowly.

⁹All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

SECOND LESSON: Colossians 1:1-14

The letter to the Colossians was written to warn its readers of various false teachings. The first part of the letter is an expression of thanks for the faith, hope, and love that mark this community, including a prayer for strength and courage.

R A reading from Colossians.

¹Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

²To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

³In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁴for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, ⁵because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel ⁶that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. ⁷This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, ⁸and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

⁹For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, ¹⁰so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. ¹¹May you be

made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully ¹² giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³ He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

*GOSPEL: Luke 10:25-37

Jesus is challenged to explain what is involved in obeying the greatest commandment. He tells a parable rich in surprises: those expected to show pity display hard hearts while the lowly give and receive unexpected and lavish mercy.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 10th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁵ Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" ²⁷ He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸ And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

²⁹ But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” ³⁰ Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ ³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” ³⁷ He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

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

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

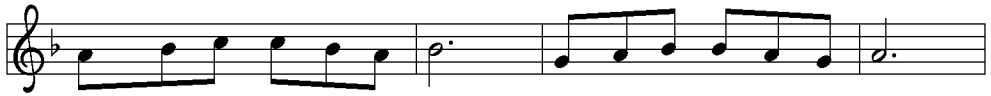
Refrain



Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show



us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.



1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their feet,

2 Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor, var - ied in col - or and race,

3 These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;

4 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash-ing their feet:



mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.

neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way.

all these are neigh-bors to us and you.

this is the way we will live with you.

Refrain

Text: Tom Colvin, 1925–2000, alt.

Music: CHEREPONI, Ghanaian folk tune, adapt. Tom Colvin

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*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.

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the
voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the
world.

A God of grace,
C hear our prayer.

P Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in
you, in the name of Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

SPECIAL MUSIC

God Of Grace

Amy Yovanovich [Mezzo-Soprano]

K. Getty and J. Rea

*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: F# and C#). The melody is primarily in the Treble staff, while the Bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the staves, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. 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

*THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

P O Holy One of wisdom, throughout human history and today among us here, you call us to walk the path of justice and peace. We praise you, O God of truth, for your precious words. Grant that sheltered under their richness as under the tree of life, we live in gratitude and faithfulness, through Jesus Christ, your Word and our Wisdom, now and forever.

C Amen.

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

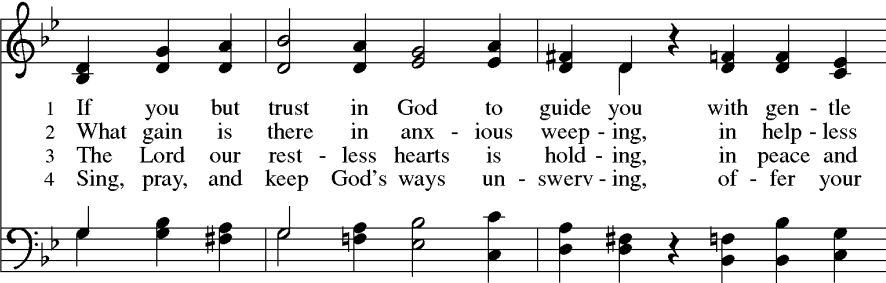
C Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

***BLESSING**

P The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus
Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit ☩ bless you and
give you peace.
C Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

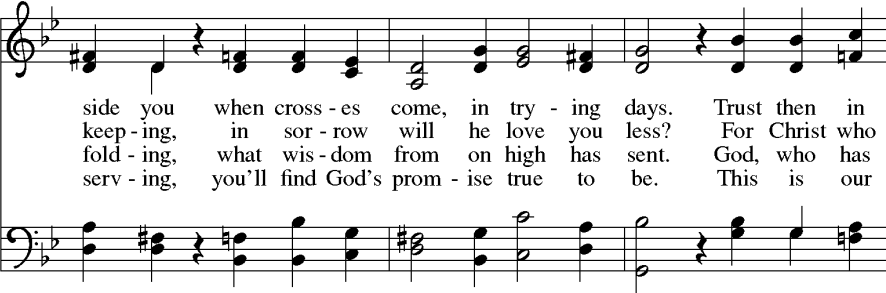
If You But Trust in God to Guide You




1 If you but trust in God to guide you with gen - tle
 2 What gain is there in anx - ious weep - ing, in help - less
 3 The Lord our rest - less hearts is hold - ing, in peace and
 4 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un - swerv - ing, of - fer your



hand through all your ways, you'll find that God is there be -
 an - ger and dis - tress? If you are in your Sav - ior's
 qui - et - ness con - tent. We rest in God's good will un -
 ser - vice faith - ful - ly. Trust heav - en's word; though un - de -



side you when cross - es come, in try - ing days. Trust then in
 keep - ing, in sor - row will he love you less? For Christ who
 fold - ing, what wis - dom from on high has sent. God, who has
 serv - ing, you'll find God's prom - ise true to be. This is our



God's un - chang - ing love; build on the rock that will not move.
 took for you a cross will bring you safe through ev - 'ry loss.
 cho - sen us by grace, knows ver - y well the fears we face.
 con - fi - dence in - deed; God nev - er fails in time of need.

Text: Georg Neumark, 1621–1681; tr. composite
 Music: WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT, Georg Neumark
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

*DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.
C Thanks be to God.

*POSTLUDE

Trumpet Voluntary

H. Heron



ALTAR FLOWERS

In memory of Nancy Kapp by Jack Kapp and family.

ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORS

We need flower sponsors for July 20 and 27 and September 21 and 28. If you would like to sponsor one or both vases, please complete one of the forms located in the newsletter, bulletins, or entrances to St. Mark or contact Connie Kuntz at 717-503-5244.

TODAY'S ASSISTANTS

Assisting Minister:	Karen Heath
Lay Reader:	Scott Kreiger
Acolyte:	Karen Heath
Ushers:	Barb Lehman, Jack Kapp
Altar Guild:	Phyllis Mihalich, Connie Kuntz
Money Duty:	Ben Yost, Karen Fisher

-THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK-

Sunday, July 13

8:30 am

9:45 am

11:00 am

12:00 pm

5th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Worship Service

Fellowship Hour

Worship Service-OUTDOOR

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

Monday, July 14

3:45 pm

7:00 pm

ReMarker Deadline

Violin Lessons

German Group

Tuesday, July 15

Wednesday, July 16

Thursday, July 17

7:00 pm

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

Friday, July 18

3:45 pm

Violin Lessons

Saturday, July 19

Pastor Marleen Vacation

Sunday, July 20

6th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Pastor Marleen Vacation—

Pastor Hal Fox, Officiating

Worship Service

Fellowship Hour

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

8:30 am

9:45 am

12:00 pm

LESSONS:

FIRST LESSON

PSALM

SECOND LESSON

GOSPEL

JULY 20, 2025

Genesis 18:1-10a

Psalms 15

Colossians 1:15--28

Luke 10:38-42

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-

This morning, our special music will be performed by Amy Yovanovich.

WELCOME AMY YOVANOVICH

Amy E. Yovanovich [Mezzo-Soprano] started singing as a child. She is a 1989 graduate of Elizabethtown Area High School, Elizabethtown, Pa. After high school, she studied voice/opera at the Pennsylvania Academy of Music in Lancaster, Pa.

She has served as lead soloist at St. James and St. Thomas Episcopal Churches in Lancaster, PA. She has performed in a number of operas, including Mozart's *Così fan tutte* as Dorabella, Bizet's *Carmen* as Carmen, and Menotti's *Amahl and the Night Visitors* as the Mother. Ms. Yovanovich has also performed many oratorios, including Verdi & Mozart *Requiem*, Handel's *Messiah* and *Judas Maccabeus*, Mendelssohn's *Elijah* and Haydn's *Lord Nelson Mass*.

In March of 1998, Ms. Yovanovich was the recipient of the prestigious Oxnard Gold Medal, First Place Award in the American Traditions Competition in Savannah, Georgia, Honorable Mention at the 1998 Metropolitan Opera District Auditions, finalist in the 1999 National Federation of Music Clubs Competition, and a winner in the 2000 Connecticut Opera Guild Competition.

Ms. Yovanovich is the Executive Director and vocal instructor for the State Street Academy of Music in Harrisburg, Pa.

SUMMER OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICES

Weather permitting, we will worship at 11:00 AM in the beautiful outdoors **TODAY, July 13, and August 10 on the Keller St. side of St. Mark**. Please bring your own chair.

PASTOR VACATION

Pastor Marleen and family will be on vacation **July 19-22**. Pastor Karen Durbin is on call for pastoral care and emergencies.

PHONE NUMBER FOR PASTORAL CARE AND EMERGENCIES:

Pastor Karen Durbin - 717-649-7832

OFFICIATING at 8:30 AM Service:

July 20 - Pastor Hal Fox

NEW PICTORIAL DIRECTORY COMING

It's been over 5 years since our last pictorial directory was published. We are planning a new pictorial directory for members and friends of St. Mark. Photos will be taken on **Tuesday, August 19, beginning at 2:00 PM. There will be opportunities to sign up in late July and early August.** Mark your calendars now and save the date. Details will follow.

MONTHLY SUNDAYS TO BENEFIT NEW HOPE MINISTRIES

Each month, Social Ministry has selected items that are needed most by New Hope Ministries for collection. Here are the items for July, August, and September:

July 20	Breakfast Cereals, Pancake Mix, Pop Tarts, Instant Oatmeal
August 17	Applesauce, Pudding, Jello
September 21	Toiletries (toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo)

BOOK CLUB

The Evangelism Committee is hosting another book club read on **Thursday, July 31, at 1:00 PM in the parlor.** The suggested book is a Pulitzer Prize winning novel by John Kennedy Toole, *A Confederacy of Dunces*. We look forward to conversation and fellowship with you. Please share and invite a friend. The book is available through the library, Thrift Books, or Amazon.

SUMMER DAY CAMP

This **FREE** CAMP IS A GREAT WAY FOR OUR YOUTH AND YOUTH IN OUR COMMUNITY TO GROW IN THEIR FAITH! If you know young people who would like to attend, invite them to join us. If you want to be part of sharing faith with the next generation, let Pastor Marleen know, and we will find ways for you to participate.

ST. MARK DAY CAMP WISH LIST:

- 12 Pool noodles
- Large cardboard pieces
- Disposal table clothes
- Paper plates, napkins, utensils
- Thin ribbon
- Large colorful paperclips (to make bookmarks)
- Snacks both for afternoons and mornings

- Your Time: We can use a few hours of help to make Day Camp happen.
- Your family and friends who have kids!

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC
SOLDIERS & SAILORS MEMORIAL PARK
 1 Memorial Park Drive
 Mechanicsburg, Pa

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10, 2025

Arrive at park: 12:30 pm
Picnic Lunch: 1:30 pm
Games: 2:30 pm



We have reserved the “Baseball Pavilion” to the right of the restrooms upon entering the park. The Fellowship Committee will provide hamburgers, hotdogs, buns, ketchup, mustard, pink lemonade, and water. **Please bring a salad, vegetable, or dessert to share.** There are some electric outlets in the pavilion if you would like to bring a hot dish that needs plugged in. Hoping to see everyone there. **Sign-up sheets are located at entrances to St. Mark. Contact Phyllis Mihalich if you have any questions.**

PURSE PROJECT

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

Large purses (preferably new or gently used)

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Full size bottle of shampoo | Mints |
| Wash cloth | Deodorant |
| Bar of soap | Comb |
| Body wash | Razor |
| Toothpaste | Scarf |
| Toothbrush | Hat |
| Any hygiene product | Gloves |
| Mak e-up | Small first aid kit |
| Hand wipes | Thermal socks |
| Bottled Water | Chapstick |
| Hand sanitizer | Facial Wipes |

Hand lotion
Beef jerky
Other appropriate items

Trail Mix
Gum
Applesauce cups

We thank you and welcome your help. Containers will be placed at the back entrance of St. Mark for your donations. Please contact Karen Fisher, Chair, Social Ministry Committee with questions.

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 will be collecting items through September 21. Gross's is again donating their truck to take our items to Maryland. We will be holding our in-gathering and blessing of school kits and quilts on Sunday, September 28. St. Mark will serve as the collection point for designated churches on Saturday, October 4.

Please place items in the containers marked "School Kits." Thank you so much for helping individuals who are in need.

- Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper approximately 8" X 10½"; no loose-leaf paper
- One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- One pencil sharpener
- One blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- Five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secured together with a rubber band
- Five black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secured together with a rubber band
- One box of 16 or 24 crayons
- One 2½" eraser

If you would like to contribute toward the purchase of backpacks, supplies, or shipping fund, please mark your contributions accordingly.



July 13	11:00 am-Summer Outdoor Worship
July 24	Ladies Night Out
July 31	Book Club
August 4-7	St. Mark Summer Day Camp
August 10	11:00 am Summer Outdoor Worship
August 10	Church Picnic—Memorial Park, Mechanicsburg
August 17	Backpack Blessing
August 19	Photo Day at St. Mark
August 31	Peaches & Ice Cream Sunday
September 7	God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday
September 28	Ingathering and Blessing of School Kits
October 14	Soup on the Sidewalk at Mechanicsburg Halloween Parade
October 19	CROP Walk at Memorial Park
December 24	Christmas Eve Services & Lighting of the Luminaries

LECTIONARY 15

WHO IS THE GOOD SAMARITAN?

The story of the good Samaritan is well known, even outside Christian communities. Some ministries are even named after it. However, showing love and care to others, especially strangers, can be complex. Like the lawyer who comes to Jesus in today's gospel, many seek to learn how to live a life of integrity. Answering the call to love God with all one's heart, mind, and soul, however, often leads to questions about what that means in the real world. This parable calls listeners to generosity in extending care beyond charity and helps expand the definition of *neighbor*. There continues to be a steady increase in homelessness and poverty in our country, and loving a neighbor as a "good Samaritan" can often feel impossible. Nevertheless, we are still called to care for the most vulnerable.

Alongside care, another dynamic emerges from this encounter between Jesus and the lawyer. This is also a story about Jesus expanding the notion of who is capable and "good." By highlighting an unlikely character who does the good thing, Jesus' answer to the lawyer's question, "And who is my neighbor?" (Luke 10:29), gives the lawyer a chance to think about the stranger as just as capable of love as he is. Loving is not exclusive to a specific type of person; we are all capable of it.

The invitation, then, is not just to love the stranger who walks through the church doors, but to see them as just as capable of bringing love with them. Loving God with one's entire being also means trusting that everything God has made, especially our neighbor, has the potential to be an extension of divine love. Seeing others as just as capable of being the good Samaritan as we are diminishes the societal hierarchies and judgments that keep us from sharing in the splendor of God's love with one another. So, like the lawyer, may we be surprised by the generous care of a stranger as we seek to do the same.

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