

**ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OF MECHANICSBURG  
MAY 25, 2025  
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**



**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES**

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

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

**11:00 am - Simple Worship Service**

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

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

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

**Karen Fisher, Office Manager**

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

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

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

**Office Hours: 10:00 AM-1:00 PM - Monday through Thursday**

**Denise Hirn, Director of Children's Choir**

**Denise's Cell Phone: 717-802-1064**

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

**Brad Hull, Director of Music**

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

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

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

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***St Mark Lutheran Church Mechanicsburg***

ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OF MECHANICSBURG  
MAY 25, 2025  
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

**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!*

**11:00 AM WORSHIP SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT**

*Recently, attendance has been very low and, at times, nonexistent at the 11:00 AM service, even after music has been added. In hopes that all 11:00 attendees can worship together, starting in June 2025, the 11:00 service will be offered only the first Sunday each month in the sanctuary. This new schedule provides the opportunity to those who cannot make the 8:30 service time to commune together. It also relieves Pastor, Altar Guild, and offering duty persons from the extra time commitments when no one attends.*

*For this summer, outdoor services will be held at 11:00 on the second Sundays in the front yard but will be discontinued after June if no one attends. Your church council hopes this new schedule will lead to greater attendance at 11:00 so more of the church family can worship and commune together.*

**INTRODUCTION TO TODAY:**

*Visions abound in the readings for the sixth Sunday of Easter. Paul has a vision about what to do. John has a vision of what will be. Jesus provides visions of peace that surpasses human understanding and power beyond human imagination.*

**Visit of Mary to Elizabeth**

**Saturday, May 31, 2025**

*This festival marks the occasion when Mary, pregnant with Jesus, visited her cousin Elizabeth who was herself pregnant with John. Elizabeth pronounced Mary "blessed among women," and Mary responded with the song called the Magnificat.*

**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.*

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

## PRELUDE

### **\*GATHERING**

**P** CHRIST IS RISEN.

**C** HE IS RISEN INDEED. ALLELUIA!

### **\*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** God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** Amen.

**P** 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** Most merciful God,

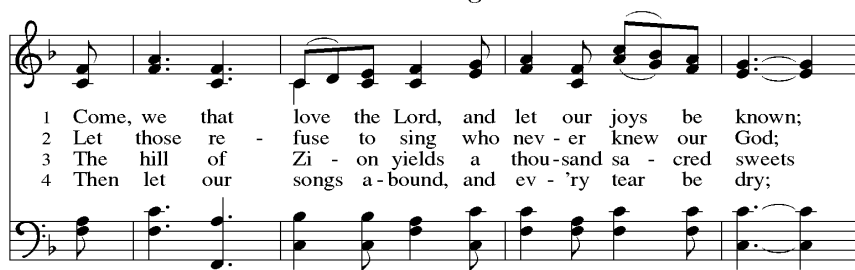
**C** we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus 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** In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God 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.

# \*OPENING HYMN

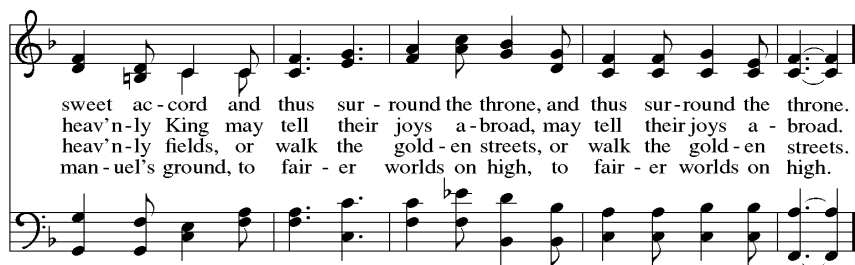
## Come, We That Love the Lord We're Marching to Zion



1 Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known;  
2 Let those re - fuse to sing who nev - er knew our God;  
3 The hill of Zi - on yields a thou-sand sa - cred sweets  
4 Then let our songs a - bound, and ev - 'ry tear be dry;



join in a song with sweet ac - cord, join in a song with  
but chil - dren of the heav'n - ly King, but chil - dren of the  
be - fore we reach the heav'n - ly fields, be - fore we reach the  
we're march - ing through Im - man - uel's ground, we're march - ing through Im -



sweet ac - cord and thus sur - round the throne, and thus sur-round the throne.  
heav'n-ly King may tell their joys a-broad, may tell their joys a - broad.  
heav'n-ly fields, or walk the gold - en streets, or walk the gold - en streets.  
man-uel's ground, to fair - er worlds on high, to fair - er worlds on high.

*Refrain*



We're march - ing to Zi - on, beau - ti - ful, beau - ti - ful Zi - on:



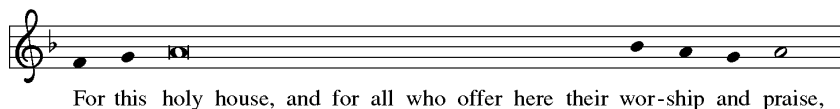
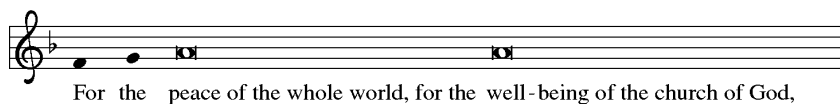
we're march - ing up - ward to Zi - on, the beau - ti - ful cit - y of God.

## \*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



## \*CANTICLE OF PRAISE



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of



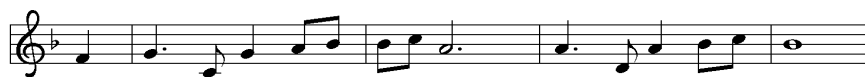
God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us; you are



seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly



Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

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

**P** Let us pray.

**P** Bountiful God, you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life. Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit, we may love one another and the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## **BLESSING OF THE LECTOR**

**P** Let us pray.

Bless O Lord, your servant Sean as he reads to us the Holy Word. May our hearts burn within us as you open to us the scriptures, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** Amen.

## **FIRST READING: Acts 16:9-15**

*A vision compels Paul to move his ministry into Greece. There he meets Lydia, an important person in the business community, whose heart has been opened by God to receive the gospel. Her conversion and baptism provide the impetus for the founding of the church at Philippi*

**R** A reading from Acts.

<sup>9</sup> During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."

<sup>10</sup> When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

<sup>11</sup> We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, <sup>12</sup> and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. <sup>13</sup> On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. <sup>14</sup> A certain woman named Lydia, a worshiper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by

Paul. <sup>15</sup> When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.” And she prevailed upon us.

R Word of God, word of life,  
C Thanks be to God.

### **PSALM: Psalm 67**

*(Please READ the Psalm in unison.)*

<sup>1</sup> May God be merciful to us and bless us, show us the light of his countenance, and come to us.

<sup>2</sup> Let your ways be known upon earth, your saving health among all nations.

<sup>3</sup> Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

<sup>4</sup> Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the nations upon earth.

<sup>5</sup> Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

<sup>6</sup> The earth has brought forth her increase; may God, our own God, give us his blessing.

<sup>7</sup> May God give us his blessing and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.

### **SECOND LESSON: Revelation 21:10, 22–22:5**

*John’s vision of a new Jerusalem coming out of heaven provides continuity with God’s past actions. Yet in this new city, God’s presence replaces the temple, and the glory of God and the Lamb supplants sun and moon.*

R A reading from Revelation.

And in the spirit [one of the angels] carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

<sup>22</sup> I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. <sup>23</sup> And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb.

<sup>24</sup>The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. <sup>25</sup>Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. <sup>26</sup>People will bring into it the glory and the honor of the nations. <sup>27</sup>But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practices abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

<sup>22:1</sup> Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb <sup>2</sup>through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. <sup>3</sup>Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; <sup>4</sup>they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. <sup>5</sup>And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

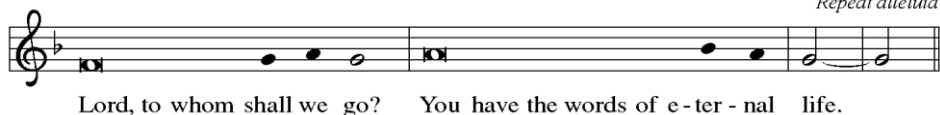
R Word of God, word of life.

C Thanks be to God.

### \*ALLELUIA VERSE



*Repeat alleluia*



**\*GOSPEL: John 5:1-9**

*Jesus performs a healing miracle on the sabbath. In doing so he both reveals divine creative power and teaches a richer, deeper meaning for the sabbath as a healing and creative time.*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup>Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. <sup>3</sup>In these lay many invalids — blind, lame, and paralyzed. <sup>5</sup>One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. <sup>6</sup>When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" <sup>7</sup>The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me." <sup>8</sup>Jesus said to him, "Stand up, take your mat and walk." <sup>9</sup>At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk.

Now that day was a sabbath.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**NOISY SUNDAY OFFERING**

**SERMON**

\*HYMN OF THE DAY

# Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;  
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;  
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;  
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove  
 we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,  
 all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!  
 thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
 and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.  
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

## **\*NICENE CREED**

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

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

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

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

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

## **\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

P We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

C **Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

## **OFFERTORY**

## **\*THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

### **Now The Green Blade Rises**

*To the tune of: Sing We Now Of Christmas*

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,  
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;  
love lives again, that with the dead has been;  
love is come again like wheat arising green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872-1958

Text from *Oxford Book of Carols* © Oxford University Press 1928. All rights reserved

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## **\*THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

**P** Glory and praise to you, O God, for your words of promise. With Abraham and Sarah, Moses and Miriam, Deborah and Elijah, Mary and Mary Magdalene, Peter and Paul, we receive your gospel of challenge and comfort. By your Spirit, equip us to serve those in need, faithfully following your Word, Jesus Christ, our Companion and Savior, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

**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 God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ✝ bless you now and always.

**C** Amen.

\*CLOSING HYMN

## I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to  
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to  
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to

The first system of the hymn features a treble and bass staff in G major (one sharp). The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, with three verses of text aligned with the notes.

fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give  
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous - ness,  
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, with three verses of text aligned with the notes.

light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.  
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.  
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

The third system concludes the hymn. The melody and accompaniment end with a final cadence. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, with three verses of text aligned with the notes.

(Continued next page)

*Refrain*

In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the

This block contains the first line of the musical score. It features a treble and bass staff in G major (one sharp). The melody is in the treble staff, and the accompaniment is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the notes.

day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the

This block contains the second line of the musical score. It continues the melody and accompaniment from the first line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

This block contains the third line of the musical score, ending with a double bar line. It continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934  
Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson  
Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \*DISMISSAL

A Alleluia! Christ is risen.  
C Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

A Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.  
C Thanks be to God.

### \*POSTLUDE



In memory of Tom and Jean Yost by Ben and Barb Yost.

In memory of Ruth and Raymond Elicker by Ben and Barb Yost.

## TODAY'S ASSISTANTS

Assisting Minister:	Karen Heath
Acolyte:	Audrey Johnston
Lay Reader:	Sean Gimbel
Ushers:	Shannon Weaver
Altar Guild	Connie Kuntz Andrea Sassaman
Money Duty:	Denise Hirn Jo Ann Novinger

## **-THIS WEEK AT ST MARK-**

**Sunday, May 25**

**8:30 am  
9:45 am  
11:00 am  
12:00 pm**

**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
NOISY SUNDAY  
Blended Worship Service  
Church Sunday School  
Simple Worship Svc.  
Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros**

**Monday, May 26**

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

**MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY  
CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED  
Violin Lessons  
German Group**

**Tuesday, May 27**

**1:00 pm**

**Social Ministry Outreach**

**Wednesday, May 28**

**11:00 am**

**Bible Study**

**Thursday, May 29**

**7:00 pm**

**Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros**

**Friday, May 30**

**3:45 pm**

**Violin Lessons**

**Saturday, May 31**

**Sunday, June 1**

**8:30 am  
11:00 am  
11:00 am  
12:00 pm**

**SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
Blended Worship Service-Communion  
Worship Svc.-Communion  
Simple Worship Svc.-Communion  
Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros**

**LESSONS:**

**FIRST READING**

**PSALM**

**SECOND READING**

**GOSPEL**

**June 1, 2025**

**Acts 16:16-34**

**Psalm 97**

**Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21**

**John 17:20-26**

## **-ANNOUNCEMENTS-**

### **THANK YOU**

Our sincere thanks to Denise Hirn who is filling in for Brad Hull during worship service this morning while he is on vacation.

### **SUMMER SPECIAL MUSIC**

As our choir takes its well-deserved annual summer break, we are seeking musicians of all shapes, sizes, and ages to add their talents to our 8:30 a.m. service. Your contribution in helping us connect with God during the service would involve two to three minutes of music during the Prelude or Offertory. Do you feel called to explore this possibility? Or perhaps you could reach out to a friend or family member that is musically inclined? If you know someone or would like to provide music yourself, please contact Brad at [bradleyjhull@gmail.com](mailto:bradleyjhull@gmail.com) by **June 15** so we can appropriately plan ahead.

Also, if you would like to provide an additional gift to the church that would enable honorariums for outside musicians to provide music for our worship services, please mark "Music Memorial" on your offering envelope. Brad will use this money to bring in special musicians as funding allows.

### **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 May, June, and July:

<b>June 8</b>	<i>(Wear red for Pentecost, bring red)</i> <b>Ketchup and/or Mustard</b>
<b>July 20</b>	<b>Breakfast Cereals, Pancake Mix, Pop Tarts, Instant Oatmeal</b>
<b>August 17</b>	<b>Applesauce, pudding, jello</b>

### **SUMMER OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICES**

Weather permitting, we will worship in the beautiful outdoors at 11:00 am on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of June, July, and August (June 8, July 13, and August 10) on the Keller St. side of St. Mark. Please bring your own chair.

### **PLANT GERANIUMS**

Please join us on **Monday, June 9, at 6:30 pm** as we plant the beautiful geraniums at the church. Please bring your own tools.



## AN AFTERNOON OF STRAWBERRIES & ICE CREAM

When: June 21, 2025  
Time: 1:00 PM-3:00 PM  
Where: Fellowship Hall

Join the Fellowship Committee on June 21 in Fellowship Hall as they serve fresh strawberries and ice cream to everyone. If you plan on attending, please sign up at entrances to St. Mark.

## SUMMER DAY CAMP

Mark your calendars! Summer Day Camp at St. Mark will return this summer **August 4 through August 7** from 8:30 am-3:30 p.m. We will learn about what God has done and continues to do for the hungry in our world. 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.

## ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flower sponsors are needed for Sundays in July and August. If you would like to sponsor one or both vases, please complete a form located at the back of the bulletin, at entrances to St. Mark, or in the newsletter and submit to the church office. For questions, please contact Connie Kuntz at 717-503-5244.



<b>June 9</b>	<b>Plant geraniums at church</b>
<b>June 19</b>	<b>Ladies Night Out (TBA)</b>
<b>June 21</b>	<b>Strawberries and Ice Cream Day</b>
<b>July 13</b>	<b>11:00 am Summer Outdoor Worship</b>
<b>August 4-7</b>	<b>St. Mark Summer Day Camp</b>
<b>August 10</b>	<b>11:00 am Summer Outdoor Worship</b>
<b>August 10</b>	<b>Annual Church Picnic</b>
<b>August 31</b>	<b>Peaches &amp; Ice Cream Day</b>
<b>September 8</b>	<b>God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday</b>
<b>October 14</b>	<b>Soup on the Sidewalk-Mechanicsburg Halloween Parade</b>
<b>October 19</b>	<b>CROP Walk at Memorial Park</b>
<b>December 24</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Services &amp; Lighting of the Luminaries</b>

- WORD SEARCH-



# MEMORIAL DAY

## *Word Search*



AMERICA	FLAGS	MILITARY	SALUTE
ANTHEM	FLOWERS	MONDAY	SERVICE
ARLINGTON	GRAVES	OBSERVANCE	SOLDIERS
CEMETERY	HALF MAST	PARADE	TRIBUTE
CEREMONY	HEROES	PATRIOTIC	VETERANS
FALLEN	HONOR	SAILORS	WREATH

# Altar Flower Sponsorship Form

Please check the one that applies to your sponsorship and complete the following statements:

- ☐ In memory of \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ In honor of \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ To the Glory of God

Sponsor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Sponsor Email: \_\_\_\_\_

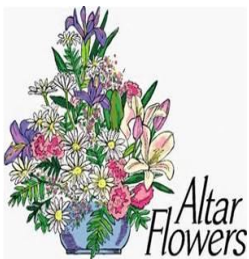
Date Requested: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Willing to Share

Circle Payment Enclosed:

\$25.00 One Vase of Flowers

\$50.00 Both Vases of Flowers



***Checks should be made payable to St. Mark Lutheran Church and note "Altar Guild" in the memo line. Place in the offering plate or mail directly to the church office***



Please check any that apply!

- ☐ Flowers will be picked up by sponsor.
- ☐ Deliver one vase of flowers to shut-in or hospital
- ☐ Deliver both vases of flowers to shut-in or hospital

Please contact Connie Kuntz at 717-697-0436 with any questions.

THANK YOU!

## SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

### GRADUATING IN FAITH

This is a season of celebration—in the church, to be sure, but also in the lives of families who eagerly anticipate graduation ceremonies. Graduations can happen at any time of life, either in the formal sense or in the many informal ways humans commemorate transitions into new phases of life. For many of us, however, May and June are Graduation Central, with all the excited hoopla that implies.

When a child graduates from a school or program, parents face the bittersweet transition of letting go. The high school senior may leave home for college, the military, or independent employment; the college graduate may head off toward the myriad adventures of adulthood. Even the newly minted preschool alum eagerly anticipates the broader fields of big-kid school and greater independence.

Amid the excitement, pride, fear, and uncertainty, those who have cared for these loved ones—parents, mentors, teachers, and others—hope their voices will travel with the grads. Remember, child, what we have taught you. Remember who you are. Remember *whose* you are.

How fitting, then, that at this time of year the church reminds itself that God feels the same way about us. God wants the voice of the Spirit to travel with us. God sends us the Advocate—one who will stay with us even when Jesus physically returns to his Parent. In baptism, we have graduated into lives in Christ that may take us to unpredictable places. In this world of uncertainty, however, we trust that, as Jesus assures us, we need not be troubled or afraid. The One who reminds us who we are, and *whose* we are, is always with us.