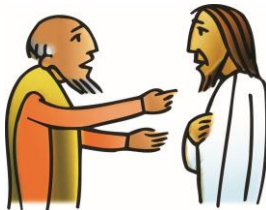


ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF MECHANICSBURG
AUGUST 23, 2026
13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
HOLY COMMUNION



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

8:30 am - Sanctuary & Zoom Worship Service

9:45 am - Summer Fellowship Time

Rev. Marleen Griffith-Stull, Pastor

Pastor's Cell Phone: 878-295-2173

Pastor's Email: revmarleen@stmarkmburg.com

Karen Fisher, Office Manager

Karen's Cell Phone: 717-580-7507

Church Office: 717-766-4482

Office Email: kfisher@stmarkmburg.com

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

Denise Hirn, Director of Children's Choir

Denise's Cell Phone: 717-802-1064

Email: denisehirn@hotmail.com

Brad Hull, Director of Music

Brad's Cell Phone: 202-738-2795

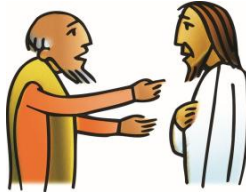
Email: bradleyjhull@gmail.com

www.stmarkmburg.com

Visit & like us on Facebook:

St Mark Lutheran Church Mechanicsburg

**ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF MECHANICSBURG
AUGUST 23, 2026
13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
HOLY COMMUNION**



GUESTS:

We would like to get to know you! Please complete a “Welcome to St. Mark Church” card found in the pew and place it in the offering plate at the time of the offering. Thank you!

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

In Isaiah the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter’s bold confession of faith. God’s word of reconciliation and God’s mercy are keys to the church’s mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Bartholomew, Apostle

Monday, August 24, 2026

Mentioned as one of Jesus’ disciples in Matthew, Mark, and Luke, Bartholomew’s name is replaced in John’s gospel by Nathanael, leading many to believe that the two are different names for the same person. Little is known about his work, though some traditions place him later in India or Armenia.

Moses the Black, monk, martyr, died around 400

Friday, August 28, 2026

Converted from life as a thief and a robber to Christianity, Moses was an Ethiopian who became a desert monk at Skete. The change in his heart and life had a profound impact on his native country. He was murdered when Berber bandits attacked his monastery.

PRELUDE

Allegro Maestoso

J. West

GATHERING

PSALM 118:24

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

*BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

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

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

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

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

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

*GATHERING HYMN

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head and
 2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, come, O Lord of
 3 Here be - stow on all your ser - vants what they seek from
 4 Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, praise and hon - or

cor - ner - stone, cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
 hosts, and stay; come with all your lov - ing - kind - ness,
 you to gain; what they gain from you, for - ev - er
 to the Son, praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,

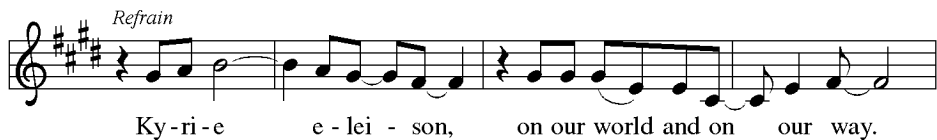
bind - ing all the church in one; ho - ly Zi - on's
 hear your peo - ple as they pray; and your full - est
 with the bless - ed to re - tain; and here - af - ter
 ev - er three and ev - er one: one in might and

help for - ev - er and our con - fi - dence a - lone.
 ben - e - dic - tion shed with - in these walls to - day.
 in your glo - ry ev - er - more with you to reign.
 one in glo - ry while un - end - ing a - ges run!

*GREETING

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C And also with you.

*KYRIE



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

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

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



hun - gry and the poor; that

friends and fam - i - ly; for

wa - ter and the word; that you



we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,

life and for love, for our work and our play,

nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



*HYMN OF PRAISE

Listen! You Nations

Refrain



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



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



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



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



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



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



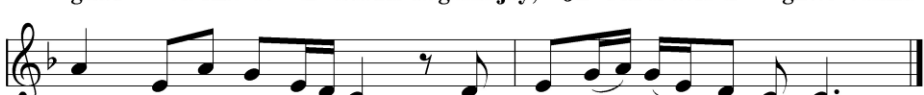
3 Young wom - en will dance for joy, and men young and old will make



mer-ry. Like a gar - den re-freshed by the rain, they will nev-er be in want a -



gain. Break in - to shouts of great joy; Ja - cob is free a - gain! Teach



na - tions to sing the song: "The Lord has saved his peo - ple!"

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P Let us pray.

P O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 51:1-6

Just as God had called Abraham and Sarah and given them many descendants, so now God offers comfort to Zion. God's deliverance will come soon and will never end.

R A reading from Isaiah.

¹ Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
you who seek the LORD.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

² Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah, who bore you,
for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.

³ For the LORD will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the LORD;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴ Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation,
for a teaching will go out from me
and my justice for a light to the peoples.

⁵ I will bring near my deliverance swiftly;
my salvation has gone out,
and my arms will rule the peoples;
the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.

⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens
and look at the earth beneath,
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats,
but my salvation will be forever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 138

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

¹ I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart; before the gods
I will sing your praise.

² **I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name,
because of your love and faithfulness;**

³ for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.

⁴ **When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within
me.**

⁵ All the kings of the earth will praise you, O LORD, when they have
heard the words of your mouth.

⁶ **They will sing of the ways of the LORD, that great is the glory of the
LORD.**

⁷ Though the LORD be high, he cares for the lowly; he perceives the
haughty from afar.

⁸ **Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; you
stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right
hand shall save me.**

The LORD will make good his purpose for me; O LORD, your love endures
forever; do not abandon the works of your hands.

SECOND LESSON: Romans 12:1-8

In response to God's merciful activity, we are to worship by living holistic, God-pleasing lives. Our values and viewpoints are not molded by the time in which we live but are transformed by the Spirit's renewing work. God's grace empowers different forms of service among Christians, but all forms of ministry function to build up the body of Christ.

R A reading from Romans.

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

R The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13-20

At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.

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

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

*APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.*
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Or, He descended to the dead.

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

A Merciful God,
C receive our prayer.

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

***PEACE**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C And also with you.

P Let us greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

2-part-Invention #6 in E Major

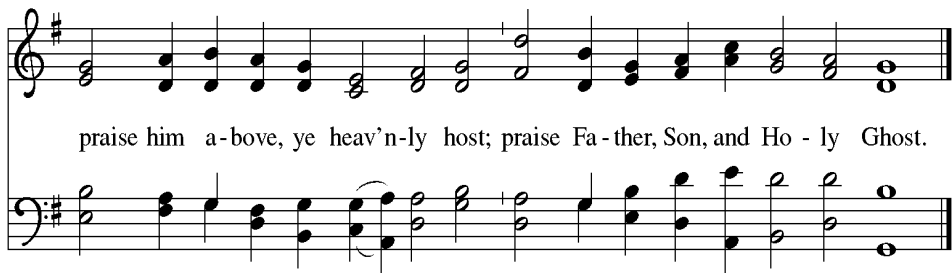
J.S. Bach

***THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow



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



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

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711
Music: OLD HUNDREDDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

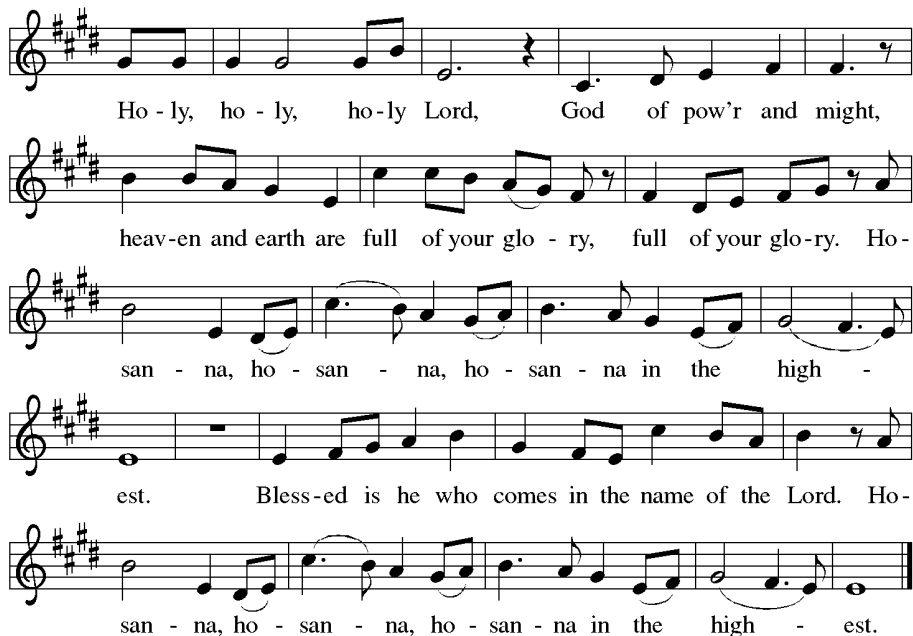
***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

- A Loving God,
we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart
in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can
taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus through
the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

***PREFACE**

- P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**
- P Lift up your hearts.
C **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**
- P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all
times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty
and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this
day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious
resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so,
with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the
hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending
hymn:

*SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Holy, mighty and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of

Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

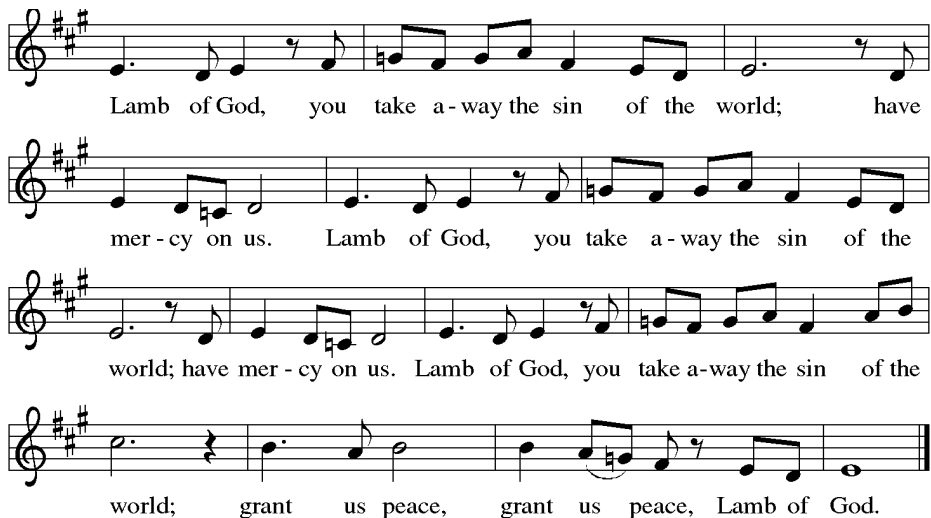
C Amen.

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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

*COMMUNION

P Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.



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.

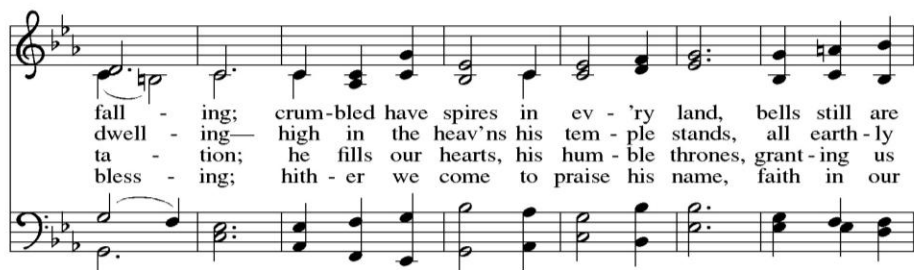
C Amen.

PLEASE SING THE FOLLOWING HYMNS DURING THE DISTRIBUTION
-HYMN OF THE DAY-

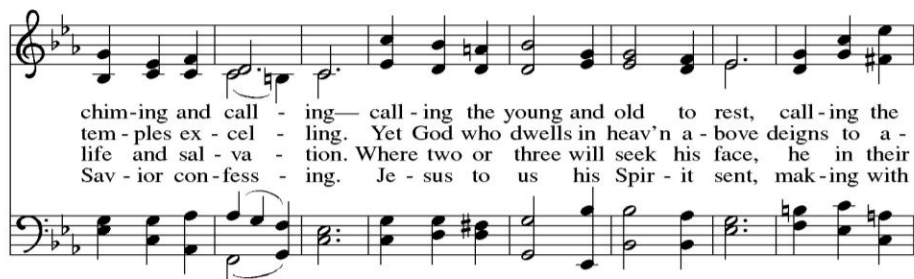
Built on a Rock



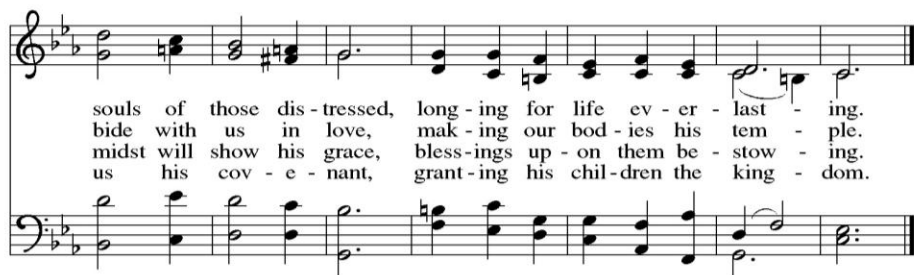
1 Built on a rock the church shall stand, e - ven when stee - ples are
2 Sure - ly, in tem - ples made with hands God the Most High is not
3 Christ builds a house of liv - ing stones: we are his own hab - i -
4 Yet in this house, an earth - ly frame, Je - sus the chil - dren is



fall - ing; crum - bled have spires in ev - 'ry land, bells still are
dwell - ing— high in the heav'n's his tem - ple stands, all earth - ly
ta - tion; he fills our hearts, his hum - ble thrones, grant - ing us
bless - ing; hith - er we come to praise his name, faith in our



chim - ing and call - ing— call - ing the young and old to rest, call - ing the
tem - ples ex - cel - ling. Yet God who dwells in heav'n a - bove deigns to a -
life and sal - va - tion. Where two or three will seek his face, he in their
Sav - ior con - fess - ing. Je - sus to us his Spir - it sent, mak - ing with



souls of those dis - tressed, long - ing for life ev - er - last - ing.
bide with us in love, mak - ing our bod - ies his tem - ple.
midst will show his grace, bless - ings up - on them be - stow - ing.
us his cov - e - nant, grant - ing his chil - dren the king - dom.

- 5 Through all the passing years, O Lord,
grant that, when church bells are ringing,
many may come to hear your Word,
who here this promise is bringing:
"I know my own, my own know me;
you, not the world, my face shall see;
my peace I leave with you. Amen."

-COMMUNION-

The Church's One Foundation



1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
 2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,
 4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,
 5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,

she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word,
 her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:
 by schisms . . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
 and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.

From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
 one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
 Oh, bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,

with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
 that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

(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.

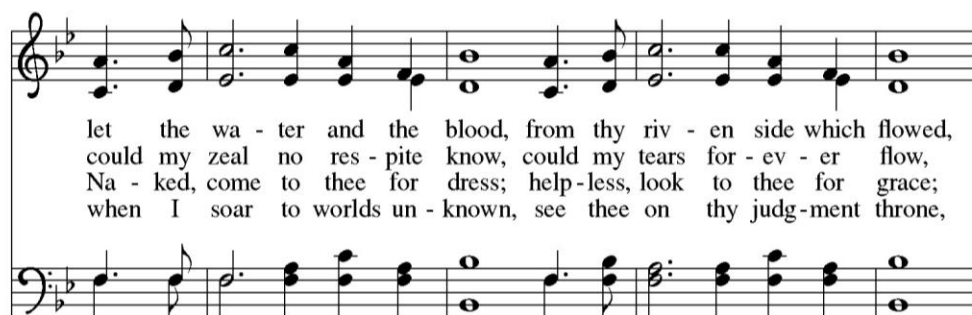
C Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

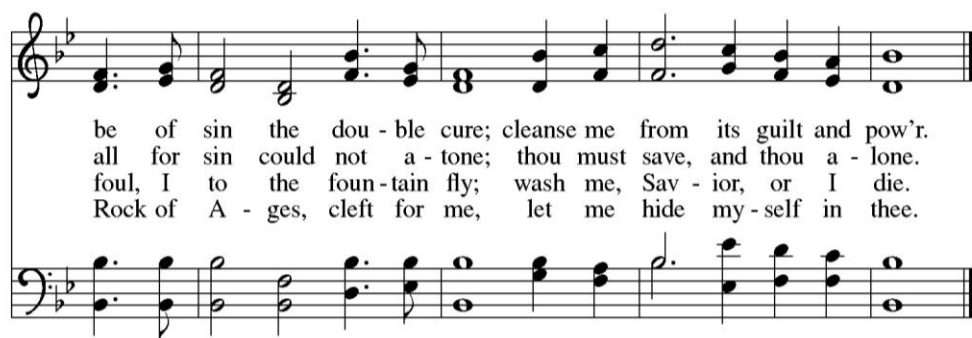
Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;
2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling.
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,



let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,
could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,
Na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less, look to thee for grace;
when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,



be of sin the dou - ble cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.
foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740–1778

Music: TOPLADY, Thomas Hastings, 1784–1872

(Please be seated for announcements.)

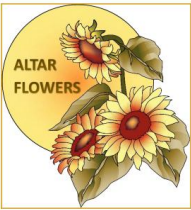
ANNOUNCEMENTS

***DISMISSAL**

- A Heaven has come near. Go share the good news!
- C Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE**

Jesus, Name Above All Names N. Hearn



To the Glory of God by the Altar Guild.

TODAY’S ASSISTANTS

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Assisting Minister: | Karen Heath |
| Lay Reader: | Alma Gimbel |
| Acolyte: | Joan Murphy |
| Ushers: | Connie Kuntz, Kevin Amos |
| Altar Guild: | Connie Kuntz, Susan Fissel |
| Zoom Operator | Sandy Brown |
| Council Money Duty: | Terry Shaner, Karen Fisher |

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK

Sunday, August 23 8:30 am 9:45 am 12:00 pm	13th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST Worship Service—Communion Summer Fellowship Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros
Monday, August 24 2:45 pm 7:00 pm	Violin Lessons German Club
Tuesday, August 25 1:00 pm	Social Ministry
Wednesday, August 26 11:00 am	Bible Study
Thursday, August 27 2:45 pm 6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Violin Lessons Ladies & Friends Night Out Caddy Shack Restaurant 800 Orrs Bridge Rd., Mechanicsburg, PA Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros
Friday, August 28 2:45 pm	Violin Lessons
Saturday, August 29 12:00 Noon	Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros
Sunday, August 30 8:30 am 9:45 am 12:00 pm	14th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST NOISY SUNDAY Worship Service—Communion Summer Fellowship Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros
LESSONS: FIRST READING PSALM SECOND READING GOSPEL	AUGUST 30, 2026 Jeremiah 15:15-21 Psalm 26:1-8 Romans 12:9-21 Matthew 16:21-28

-ANNOUNCEMENTS-

SUMMER FELLOWSHIP TIME

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

LADIES AND FRIENDS NIGHT OUT

Reservations have been made for **6:30 pm, August 27**, at the Caddy Shack Restaurant, 800 Orrs Bridge Rd., Mechanicsburg, PA. If you are planning on attending, please RSVP to Karen in the church office.

WinGS POTLUCK SEPTEMBER 2026 MEETING

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

VOCAL CHOIR AUTUMN STARTUP

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

ALL CALL FOR BELL CHOIR

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

MONTHLY SUNDAYS TO BENEFIT NEW HOPE MINISTRIES

Here are the items for September, October, November:

September 20	Puddings and Applesauce
October 18	Canned Vegetables
November	Thanksgiving Food

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF—SCHOOL KITS

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

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

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

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

“GOD’S WORK. OUR HANDS.” SUNDAY

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

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

COUNCIL AND CONGREGATION RETREAT

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

HOSS’S CROP WALK RECRUITER’S RALLY COMMUNITY DAY FUND RAISER

Please save the date and plan ahead to eat at the Mechanicsburg HOSS’S (located on Old Gettysburg Pike) anytime during the day on **Thursday, September 17, 2026**. Coupons, which must be presented at HOSS’S when you order your meals, will be available at all entrances of our church as soon as they are received.

PEACHES AND (ICE) CREAM

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 27	Ladies Night Out - Caddy Shack Restaurant 800 Orrs Bridge Rd., Mechanicsburg 17050
September 8	WinGS Potluck Planning Meeting
September 13	God’s Work. Our Hands. Sunday
September 17	Community Day for CROP Walk (all day at HOSS’S)
September 20	Peaches & Ice Cream following worship
September 26	Conscience and Conversation Retreat
October 13	Soup on the Sidewalk at Mechanicsburg Halloween Parade
October 18	55 th Annual CROP Walk-Memorial Park
November (TBD)	Annual Meeting
November 26	Thanksgiving Dinner
December 24	Lighting of the Luminaries Christmas Eve Services

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

Your input is needed!

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

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

SEXUALITY AND THE CALLING OF THE CHURCH



"MARRIAGE: shelter and context for trust"

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

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

"Lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships"

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

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

"LOVING FAMILIES: ground and source for social trust"

Reconsideration—Include references to diversity of family configurations.

September 26, 2026 08:00am – Noon

St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

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

HOSS'S COMMUNITY DAY FLYER

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

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



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

Sun., Oct. 18, 2026

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

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

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

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



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

You may also register the day of the walk.

<https://crophungerwalk.org/mechanicsburgpa>

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

For more info, contact:

Ulli Klemm

ulliklemm@yahoo.com 724.464.8748



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

Hoss's Community Day to benefit the CROP

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

61 Gettysburg Pike, Mechanicsburg PA 17055



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

LECTIONARY 21

REVEALING GOD

Jesus came to earth as God *incarnate*, meaning “in or having bodily form.” This was no accident. The prophets of the past had used their bodies and their words so people could understand God. In Christ, God was revealed in flesh and blood, allowing us to know who God is and what God’s priorities are for creation.

Peter points this out to us, saying that Christ is “the Son of the living God” (Matthew 16:16). As a *living* God, moving among us as Jesus Christ, God reveals Godself directly. God reveals the divine nature and priorities through Jesus’ earthly life. Jesus lives without possessions, sharing in the suffering of people who are poor and oppressed. On the Galilean coast he feeds thousands of people before teaching them. He befriends outcasts like Zacchaeus the tax collector and the Canaanite woman. He calls out the greed and misplaced priorities of the wealthy by flipping tables. Instead of merely telling us, Christ incarnate shows us that God has a serious concern for all people on the margins of society.

As the church is formed into the body of Christ, we too now reveal to the world who God is and what God’s priorities are. How does our ministry show God’s concern for those who are poor and marginalized today? Do we seek out and walk alongside people cast out by dominant society? Do we not only preach the word but make sure people are fed as well?

By accompanying our neighbors in their struggles for dignity, justice, and the right to flourish, we do the good work of followers of Jesus, striving with God for the end of all oppression and death, for a world made whole.

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