

ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF MECHANICSBURG
MAY 3, 2026
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
HOLY COMMUNION



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

8:30 am - Sanctuary & Zoom Blended Worship Service

9:45 am - Sunday Church School

9:45 am - Children's SS and Choir

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
MAY 3, 2026
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
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!

WELCOME AND THANK YOU

We sincerely welcome and thank Rev. Eric Anderson who will be officiating at this morning’s worship service while Pastor Marleen is away enjoying time with her family.

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY:

As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today’s gospel includes Jesus’ promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father’s house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus’ mission in the world. As 1 Peter reminds us, we are a holy people, called to proclaim the one who called us out of darkness into light. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS:

Monica, mother of Augustine, died 387

Monday, May 4, 2026

Monica was married to a pagan husband who was ill-tempered and unfaithful, but whom she helped bring into the Christian faith. She repeated the influence on her son Augustine, who went on to become one of the greatest church teachers.

Julian of Norwich, renewer of the church, died around 1416

Friday, May 8, 2026

When she was about thirty years old, Julian (or Juliana) reported visions that she later compiled into a book, *Sixteen Revelations of Divine Love*, now a classic of medieval mysticism. The visions declared that love was the meaning of religious experience, provided by Christ who is love, for the purpose of love.

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

PRELUDE

I Danced in the Morning

arr. J.W. Kerr

GATHERING

P CHRIST IS RISEN.

C HE IS RISEN INDEED. ALLELUIA!

(Please Stand)

*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.

*GATHERING SONG

Welcome, Happy Morning!



1 "Wel - come, hap - py morn - ing!" age to age shall say;
2 Mak - er and re - deem - er, life and health of all,
3 Source of all things liv - ing, you came down to die,
4 Free the souls long pris - oned, bound with Sa - tan's chain;



"Hell to - day is van - quished, heav'n is won to - day!"
God from heav'n be - hold - ing hu - man na - ture's fall,
plumbed the depths of hell to raise us up on high.
all that once had fall - en raise to life a - gain;



Christ, once dead, is liv - ing, God for - ev - er - more!
you, the true and on - ly Son of God a - bove,
Come then, true and faith - ful; come, ful - fill your word;
show your face in bright - ness, shine in ev - 'ry land



Him, their true cre - a - tor, all his works a - dore.
died as mor - tal man to save us by your love.
this is your third morn - ing: rise, O bur - ied Lord!
as in E - den's gar - den when the world be - gan.



"Wel - come, hap - py morn - ing!" age to age shall say.

*GREETING

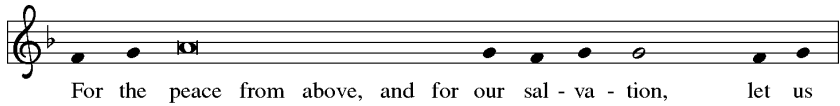
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

*KYRIE



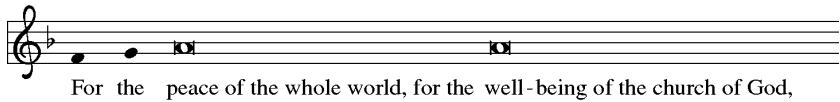
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer-cy.**



For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, let us



pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



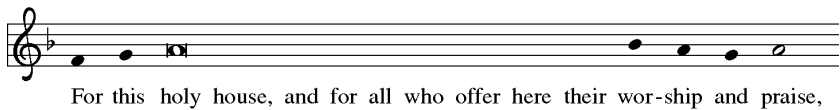
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

*HYMN OF PRAISE



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le -



lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and join in the



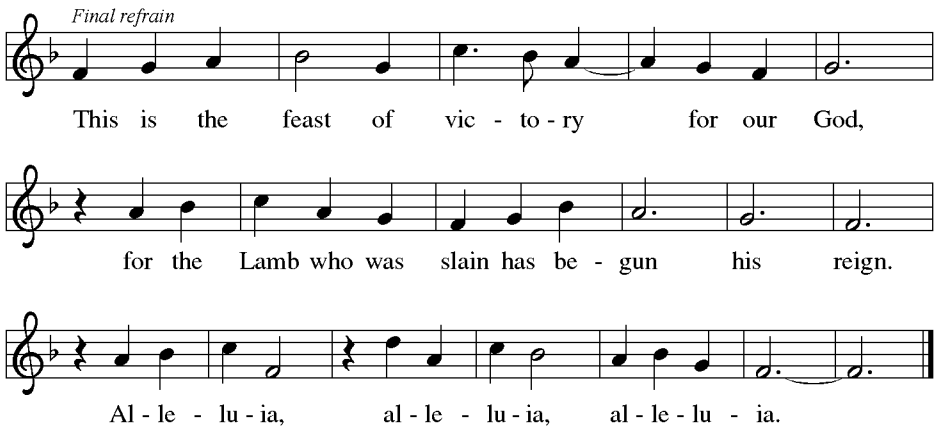
hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

(Continued next page.)

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,
 for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P Let us pray.
 Almighty God, your Son, Jesus Christ, is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

ANTHEM

The Tomb is Empty Words by J.P. Williams/Music by J. Paige

BLESSING OF THE LECTOR

P Let us pray.
 Bless O Lord, your servant, Terri, as she 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 7:55-60

Stephen was one of the seven men chosen by the apostles to serve tables so that the apostles could be free to serve the word (Acts 6:1-6). Stephen does more than distribute food, however. For his preaching of God's word, he becomes the first martyr of the faith.

R A reading from Acts.

⁵⁵ Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" ⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all

rushed together against him. ⁵⁸ Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16

(Please sing the Psalm responsively. Choir the regular print; congregation the bold print.)



- ¹ In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; let me never be | put to shame;
deliver me | in your righteousness.
- ² **Incline your | ear to me;**
make haste to de- | liver me.
- ³ Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag |
and my stronghold;
for the sake of your name, lead | me and guide me.
- ⁴ **Take me out of the net that they have secretly | set for me,**
for you are my tow- | er of strength.
- ⁵ Into your hands I com- | mend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O LORD, O | God of truth.
- ¹⁵ **My times are | in your hand;**
rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who |
persecute me.
- ¹⁶ **Make your face to shine up- | on your servant,**
and in your loving- | kindness save me.

SECOND LESSON: 1st Peter 2:2-10

Christ is the cornerstone of God's saving work and the foundation of our lives. We are God's chosen, holy people who continuously celebrate and declare the mercy of God we experience through Jesus Christ.

R A reading from 1st Peter.

² Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation ³ if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

⁴ Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and ⁵ like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious,
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

⁷ This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner,”

⁸ and

“A stone that makes them stumble
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

⁹ But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

¹⁰ Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy

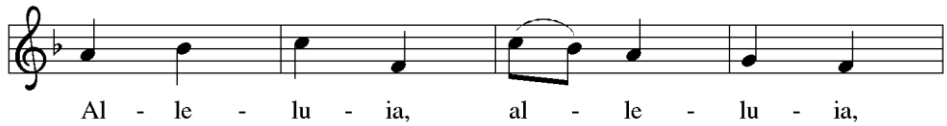
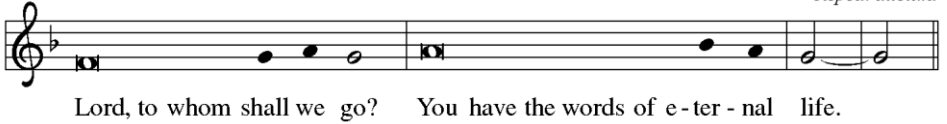
R The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

*ALLELUIA VERSE



Repeat alleluia



GOSPEL: John 14:1-14

On the night that he is to be arrested, Jesus shares final words with his disciples. As the one through whom God is known, he promises to go before them and act on their behalf.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 14th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

***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 Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

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

P God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

C **Amen.**

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

God So Loved the World

J. Stainer/arr. A Whitworth

*THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE

NOW ALL THE VAULT OF HEAVEN RESOUNDS

Adoring praises now we bring
and with the heav'nly blessed sing:
"Christ has triumphed! Alleluia!"
Be to the Father, and our Lord,
to Spirit blest, most Holy God,
all the glory, never ending!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Text: Paul z. Strodach, 1876-1947, alt.

Text © 1958 *service book and hymnal*, admin. Augsburg fortress.

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

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

A Let us pray.

A Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus,

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 him 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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,



heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the



high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.
Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.
Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C **Christ has died.**
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

P O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

C **Come, Holy Spirit.**

P Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
 Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
 Breathe new life into us.
 Send us forth,
 burning with justice, peace, and love.

C **Come, Holy Spirit.**

P With your holy ones of all times and places,
 with the earth and all its creatures,
 with sun and moon and stars,
 we praise you, O God,
 blessed and holy Trinity,
 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 Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

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.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Now the Green Blade Rises



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain,
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872–1958

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

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

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

***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 Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus,

C 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


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!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*DISMISSAL

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

A Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!
C Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

*POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune on “This Joyful Eastertide”

D. Lasky



Altar Flowers

To the *GLORY OF GOD* by the Altar Guild.

TODAY'S ASSISTANTS

Assisting Minister:	Sean Gimbel
Lay Reader:	Terri Hopkins
Acolyte:	Audrey Johnston
Ushers:	Susan Fissel, Dave Harnish
Altar Guild:	Sandy Brown, Sara Jane Miller

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK

Sunday, May 3

8:30 am

9:45 am

9:45 am

12:00 pm

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Worship Service

Church Sunday School

Children's SS & Choir

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

Monday, May 4

2:45 pm

7:00 pm

Violin Lessons

German Group

Tuesday, May 5

Wednesday, May 6

11:00 am

2:00 pm

6:30 pm

Bible Study

Worship & Music

Vocal Choir

Thursday, May 7

9:00 am

2:30 pm

7:00 pm

Property Committee

Violin Lessons

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

Friday, May 8

3:45 pm

Violin Lessons

Saturday, May 9

7:00 am

9:00 am

6:30 pm

COMMUNITY YARD SALE

Set up for yard sale

Yard Sale begins

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

Sunday, May 10

8:30 am

9:45 am

9:45 am

12:00 pm

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MOTHER'S DAY (Men leading worship)

Worship Service

Church Sunday School

Children's SS & Choir

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

LESSONS:

FIRST READING

PSALM

SECOND READING

GOSPEL

MAY 10, 2026

Acts 17:22-31

Psalms 66:8-20

1st Peter 3:13-22

John 14:15-21

-ANNOUNCEMENTS-

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT—11:00 AM WORSHIP SERVICE

The attendance at our 11:00 AM service has been dwindling. So much so that in June of 2025, Council revised the service from every Sunday to the first Sunday of every month. Our hopes were that this would allow people to be able to attend a later service and receive Holy Communion.

Worship & Music has completed a review of the continued declining attendance since September of 2025. In the first four months of 2026, we had zero attendance of our members at the 11:00 AM service. Upon this review, the Worship & Music Committee made a recommendation to Council that we discontinue the 11:00 am service effective with **Sunday, May 3. At Council's April 17 meeting, Council agreed and voted to discontinue the 11:00 AM service.**

We will continue to look at opportunities to allow our congregation to get together for worship.

GERANIUMS FOR PENTECOST

If you would like to sponsor a geranium to be placed in the Chancel for Pentecost, please complete the form located in the back of the newsletter or in the bulletins. **The deadline to order geraniums is TODAY, MAY 3.**



GERANIUM PLANTING DATE SET—HELP NEEDED

Join us on **Tuesday, May 26, at 6:00 pm, to plant the geraniums at our church.** Please bring your own tools.

MOTHER'S DAY WORSHIP SERVICE

Please join us on **Sunday, May 10, (Mother's Day)** as several men from St. Mark will be leading the worship service.

MONTHLY SUNDAYS TO BENEFIT NEW HOPE MINISTRIES

The Social Ministry Outreach Committee designates one Sunday a month to collect items for New Hope Ministries. Here are the items for May, June, and July:

May 24 (Pentecost)

Ketchup and Mustard

(Wear red and bring red)

June 14

Cleaning Products

July 19

Brownie and Cake Mixes and Icing

ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORS NEEDED

Altar flower sponsors are needed for **ALL OF JUNE AND JULY**. Please use the form located in the bulletins or at entrances to the church. Please contact Connie Kuntz at 717-503-5244 with questions.

COMMUNITY YARD SALE

Sell your stuff or come to shop! Join us on **Saturday, May 9, from 9:00 AM--?** for a yard sale on our back lawn. Everyone is welcome to set up starting at 7:00 AM. Mechanicsburg Borough does not permit sales before 9:00 AM. If you would like to use one of our tables, we are requesting a donation of \$10.00 which will go towards the purchase of a new sign. You must carry the table out and return. Refreshments will be available for a free will offering.

BOOK CLUB

The next book club meeting is **May 12 at 1:00 PM**. The book is "*The Red Tent*," by Anita Diamont. *The Red Tent* (1997) is a compelling retelling of the biblical story from the perspective of Dinah, daughter of Jacob and Leah. The book explores Dinah's experiences as a woman in the biblical era, her time in the red tent, and her ill-fated love affair with Prince Shalem. The novel highlights family dynamics, female empowerment, and the lives of strong, distinct women within Jacob's household. Readers follow Dinah from childhood through her adulthood, including her work as a midwife in Egypt and her struggle to find independence from her family. Anita Diamant's narrative transforms a brief biblical account into a rich, intimate story of love, loss, and resilience.

We look forward to conversation and fellowship with you. We encourage you to share and invite a friend. The book is available through the library, Amazon, or Thrift books.

SPREAD TAN BARK—WE NEED YOU!!!

We will be spreading tan bark on **Saturday, May 16, beginning at 8:00 AM, rain or shine**. Shovels, pitchforks, rakes and/or wheelbarrows are helpful to bring, but are not required. Please let Ben Yost know if you plan to be there. The more, the merrier, and the quicker it gets done!

SPAGHETTI DINNER AND HYMN SING

Join your church family on **May 17 at 5:00 PM for a Spaghetti Dinner followed by an Old-Fashioned Hymn Sing!** The dinner will include Spaghetti (both regular and gluten free); sauce (plain and meat); salad; bread, and dessert! This is your opportunity to come and sing all the classic hymns that you love! There is no charge for the meal but a free-

will offering will be accepted. To ensure we have enough food prepared, please use the sign-up sheets located on the bulletin board by the parking lot door, on the table in the Narthex, or contact the church office to sign up.

SAVE THE DATES—SUMMER DAY CAMP FOR KIDS

Mark your calendars! Day Camp at St. Mark will return this summer for kids from K- 5th grade. Those who are older are encouraged to come and help during camp this summer. On **August 3 through August 7 from 8:30 am—3:30 pm**. This year we use the ELCA's National Youth

Gathering's theme: *Imagine More, Courage, Joy, Love, Welcome, and Grace*. We will learn how the Kingdom of God is a place of **more**. 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.

SUMMER OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICES

Come and enjoy our worship service outside this summer on the **first and third Sundays of June, July, and August at 10:00 AM**. This will be a service of the word and will not include communion. The service will be held in the front yard of St. Mark. Please bring your own chair. Our regular worship service with communion will be held at 8:30 AM in the sanctuary.



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: _____

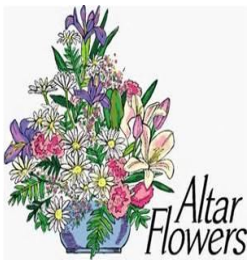
Date Requested: _____

- 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 sponsors.
- 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 717-503-5244 with any questions.

THANK YOU!



Date: Saturday, May 9, 2026

Place: St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church
Back Yard

Set Up: Starts at 7:00 AM

Sell: 9:00 AM
Trinkets and Treasures

Tables: Available from church to use. You must carry outside and return. *(We are requesting a \$10.00 donation towards the purchase of a new sign for our back yard.)*

Refreshments:
Free-will donation.



Geraniums for

Geraniums for Pentecost

If you would like to sponsor a geranium for Pentecost on **May 24**, please complete the form below.

The cost is \$8.00 per plant. Please place the form with your payment in the offering plate or mail to the church office.

The deadline for ordering is TODAY, MAY 3.

Please make checks payable to **St. Mark Lutheran Church** and put **“Altar Guild”** on the memo line.

The geraniums will be planted in the flower beds of the church on **May 26**.

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

To the Glory of God

Presented by _____

_____ Total number of geraniums ordered

Amount of Check: \$ _____



May 9	Community Yard Sale
May 12	Book Club
May 16	Spreading of tan bark
May 17	Spaghetti Dinner & Hymn Sing—5:00 pm
June 7	Strawberry Festival
June 7 & 21	Outdoor Worship-10:00-am
July 5 & 19	Outdoor Worship—10:00 am
August 2 & 16	Outdoor Worship—10:00 am
August 3-7	St. Mark Day Camp
August 9	Annual Church Picnic-Memorial Park
September 13	God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday
September 20	Peaches & Ice Cream following worship
October ??	In-Gathering for LWR
October (TBA)	Soup on the Sidewalk at Mechanicsburg Halloween Parade
October 18	55 th Annual CROP Walk-Memorial Park
November ??	Annual Meeting
December 24	Lighting of the Luminaries Christmas Eve Services

-WORD SEARCH-

The Seven Last Words of Jesus from the Cross

X U Q T X U J C O M M I T S Z F I
M C M H Y P C K G K U E O S A N F
G F H I E E C R O S S P Z Z L T O
C X W R K T B W D C Z R E H B R R
W B O S O U A G Z N Q D S F E U S
N B C T N F A T H E R C B U Q L A
F I N I S H E D N U M Q Q V I Y K
Z V T I B H L A J E S U S Z A F E
K A C J H A G I N Z O G O D Q E N
E E M V Q N B C P U E O W M J U F
K K D J E D Y C A B F S X Y J G Q
N H X A N S V W R F O R G I V E T
O F W V G O H H A P Q G W T P M V
W P Z E Y B W Y D J I S P I R I T
B E H O L D W V I Z C S Y K E C O
L Y S W O M A N S G D O J M Z I X
O S T N P W H W E Q H N V O R O N

finished	paradise	forsaken	forgive	spirit
commit	thirst	behold	Father	cross
Jesus	hands	woman	truly	know
why	son	God		

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

LOVE, LOVE, LOVE

That's what it's all about! **JESUS LOVES.**

Jesus' love is a constant in scripture. From his humble birth to his teachings, parables, healing miracles, feeding of the multitudes, power over creation, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension, Jesus loves.

Some people wanted the Messiah to take a much different approach. They thought their savior would come as a strong military leader, but Jesus did not start a violent overthrow of the Roman Empire. He just could not and would not do anything in conflict with love. He gave himself up and loved until the very end. In his last breath on the cross, he forgave everyone involved in crucifying him. This is the depth of the amazing love of God shown to us in Christ Jesus.

Stephen, “a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit” (Acts 6:5), strove to live as Jesus lived and to love as Jesus loved. As he was being stoned to death, Stephen shouted, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them” (7:60).

Following Jesus was not easy for Stephen and other early Christians. It is not easy today. But in today's gospel reading, Jesus assures his followers—then and now—of three things. First, the great doors to a place with God will be open to us, in a house with many rooms. Second, he is the way, truth, and life, and by knowing him, we come to know God the Father. Third, we can ask him for anything. These are promises of Jesus' continuing care for us, for people of every time and place, and for all creation.

JESUS LOVES!

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

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