

The ReMarker

SEPTEMBER 2026

St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church
of Mechanicsburg

117 West Keller St.
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055



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Brad Hull, Director of Music
Brad's Cell Phone: 202-738-2795
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Church Office Hours: Monday through Thursday
10:00 am - 1:00 pm

www.stmarkmburg.com

Visit & like us on Facebook:

St Mark Lutheran Church Mechanicsburg

"To Know Christ and To Make Him Known"

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.



Dear Siblings in Christ,

Time is such a weird thing. When we are young, we have trouble waiting for many things, but summer always seems to go too fast. For many, the school year goes too slow.

But it seems that we want to speed up time until we reach adulthood. Many adults, especially parents, want time to hold still for a while. Kids grow so fast and we miss milestone moments. We can't figure out how our children grew while we did not age at all. (At least in our minds!) Unfortunately, many seniors feel like days drag on and on, especially if they live alone without many visitors. But some who are still active cannot seem to imagine how they ever worked because they are very busy in retirement.

When we are waiting for anything, time appears to stand still. For anyone who has been praying for something important—healing, help finding a new job, discernment about what God wants you to do with the next part of your life—it often seems that God is slow. But the Bible shares wisdom concerning our sense of time and God's promises:

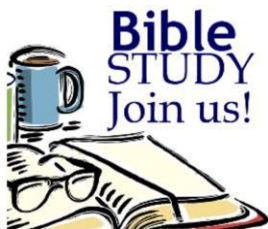
⁸ But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish but all to come to repentance.

2nd Peter 3:8-9

The next time you are struggling with a sense that time is too slow, remember that it may be slow to you because God is showing you grace. When you believe that time is too fast, God may be trying to slow you down so that you can enjoy some Sabbath time.

May you be blessed with time that is filled with God's presence in all the seasons of your life.

In Christ's Love,
Pastor Marleen
Pastor Marleen



BIBLE STUDY

Our weekly Wednesday Bible Study continues each Wednesday at 11:00 am in the parlor. Join Pastor Marleen for a study of Matthew. All are welcome to attend.

JULY 2026 ATTENDANCE



Service Date	8:30 am Sanctuary	Zoom	YouTube Service	Outdoor Service
July 5	48	3	43	0
July 12	44	3	35	
July 19	46	0	24	4
July 26	52	4	139	

EMAIL ADDRESSES

If you would like to receive the weekly bulletins, announcements, and monthly newsletter via email, please forward your current email address to Karen in the church office at: kfisher@stmarkmburg.com

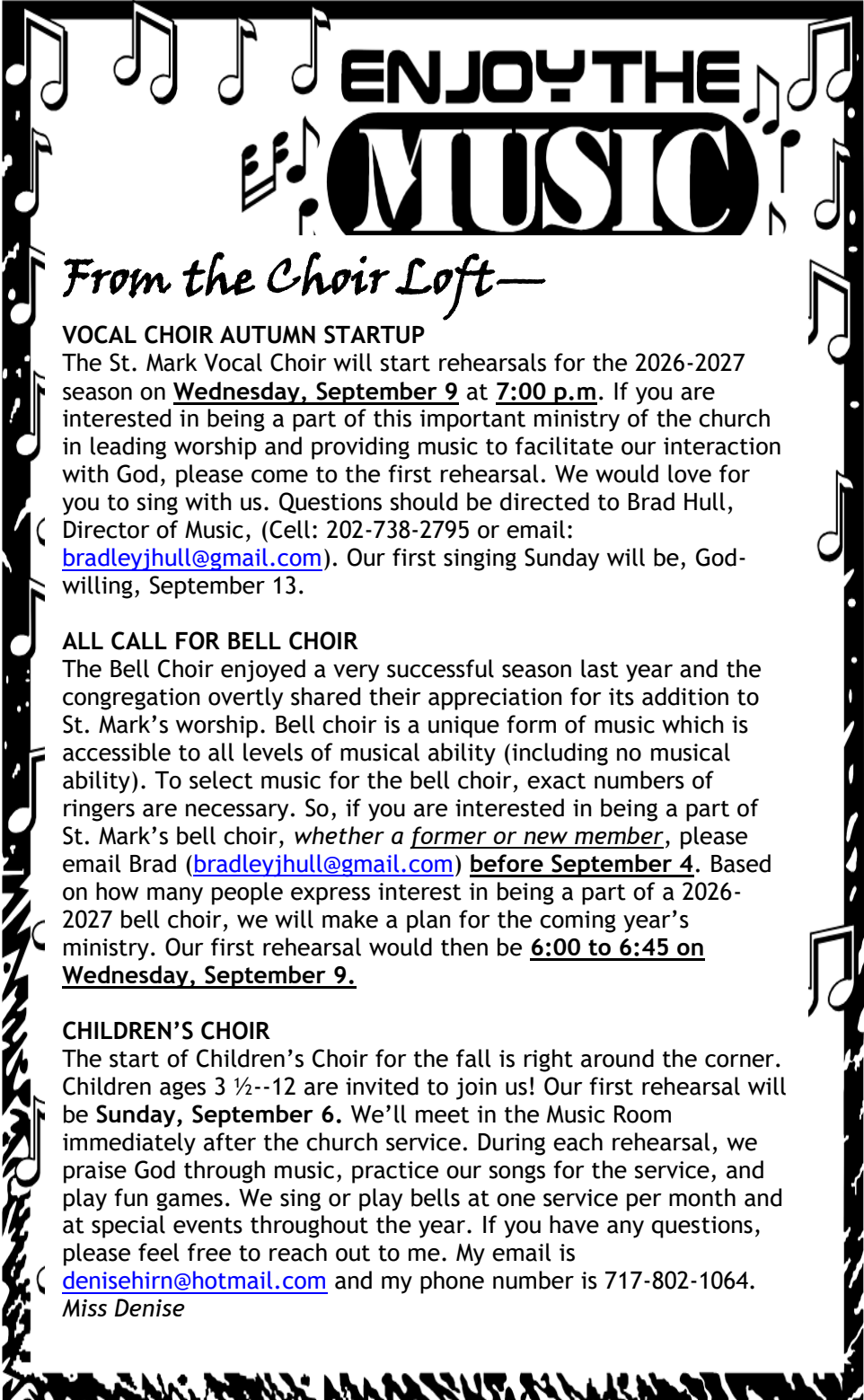


OCTOBER 2026 REMARKER DEADLINE

Please deliver or email your information and articles for the **October 2026 ReMarker** to the church office **no later than September 14, 2026**. Thank you so much.

PLANNING AHEAD FOR DECEMBER 2026/ JANUARY 2027 NEWSLETTER ITEMS

We have decided to combine the December and January newsletters. All newsletter items need to be in the church office **no later than November 15**.



ENJOY THE MUSIC

From the Choir Loft—

VOCAL CHOIR AUTUMN STARTUP

The St. Mark Vocal Choir will start rehearsals for the 2026-2027 season on **Wednesday, September 9** at **7:00 p.m.** 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 to 6:45 on Wednesday, September 9.**

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

The start of Children's Choir for the fall is right around the corner. Children ages 3 ½--12 are invited to join us! Our first rehearsal will be **Sunday, September 6**. We'll meet in the Music Room immediately after the church service. During each rehearsal, we praise God through music, practice our songs for the service, and play fun games. We sing or play bells at one service per month and at special events throughout the year. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me. My email is denisehirn@hotmail.com and my phone number is 717-802-1064.
Miss Denise

MESSAGES FROM STEWARDSHIP



For if we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's."
- Romans 14:8

This is the essence of stewardship—everything we have and everything we are is a gift from God. We aren't "owners" of anything, we are merely "stewards" of the gifts that God has given us, especially our very own lives.

Pray to God, daily, and ask Him how He is calling you to live the life that He intended for you.

Catholic Diocese of Youngstown



YELP LOCAL GUIDE WANTED

We are still looking for Yelp Local Guides to update the comments shown in Google maps. If you know a local guide, ask them to comment on St. Mark!

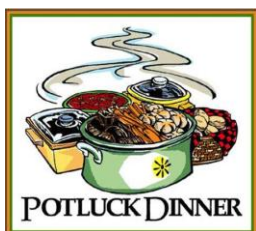
Kevin Amos, Council President and Chair, Stewardship

MONTHLY SUNDAYS TO BENEFIT NEW HOPE MINISTRIES

Social Ministry Outreach designates items collected monthly for New Hope Ministries. We collected 47 pounds of Spaghetti O's and Ravioli and miscellaneous items. Here are the items requested for September, October, and November:

September 20
October 18
November 8

Puddings and Applesauce
Canned green beans
Thanksgiving food to include turkeys



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.

MECHANICSBURG AREA MEALS ON WHEELS (MAMOW)

Our wonderful bakers made 11 cakes for MAMOW in August. Sincere thanks to all the bakers—GREAT JOB!!! Thank you, Sara Jane Miller and Donna Shur, for leading this monthly program.



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

Please plan to eat at Mechanicsburg HOSS'S (located on Old Gettysburg Pike) anytime during the day on **Thursday, September 17, 2026**.

The flyer with the coupon which must be presented at HOSS'S when you order your meals is available in the bulletins, newsletter, and at entrances to the church.

“LADIES & FRIENDS NIGHT OUT”

The churchwide Ladies & Friends Night Out will be held at Hoss's in conjunction with Hoss's Community Day on **Thursday, September 17—all day (lunch, dinner, or take-out)**. Meet your friends there or plan on eating with your family. Hoss's is donating up to 25% of your total check to feed the hungry. The flyer is located in the back of the newsletter OR at entrances to St. Mark.

Hoss's Community Day to benefit the CROP

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

61 Gettysburg Pike, Mechanicsburg PA 17055



DONATIONS TO COMMUNITY AID

The Women in God's Service (WinGS) benefit from your donations of clothing and shoes to Community Aid. When taking your items to Community Aid,

please put the number **10053**

on your bags/boxes so that WinGS receives the credit. You may pick up stickers on the bulletin board at the back entrance or in the church office if needed.



BLANKETS, HATS, SOCKS, SCARVES, AND GLOVES FOR THE HOMELESS

Fall and Winter will be here before we know it. The Blankets, Hats, Socks, Scarves, and Gloves for the Homeless Program continues year-round. New or gently used blankets, new hats, new socks, new scarves, and new gloves should be placed in the container at the back entrance. Thank you for your generosity and helping those in need.

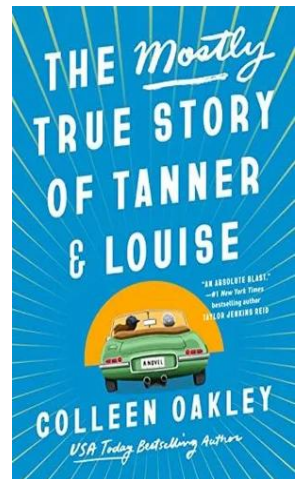


Please contact Sara Jane Miller at 717-448-4777 or Karen Fisher in the church office at 717-766-4482 if you would like to obtain a prayer shawl, blanket, or prayer square to give as a blessing to someone or if you would like to join our wonderful team of crocheters and knitters. Thanks to all our members and friends who continue to knit/crochet for the Prayer Shawl Ministry.

BOOK CLUB READ

The Evangelism Committee is hosting a book club read on **Thursday, September 17, at 1:00 pm in the parlor**. The book is *"The Mostly True Story of Tanner and Louise"* by Colleen Oakley.

The Mostly True Story of Tanner and Louise is a humorous and heartwarming adventure novel about an unlikely friendship between a young college dropout and an elderly woman on the run from the law.



Written by USA Today bestselling author Colleen Oakley, the novel follows **21-year-old Tanner Quimby**, a college dropout whose dreams of a soccer career ended after a leg injury, leaving her without a scholarship and struggling to find her place in life. Tanner reluctantly becomes a **live-in caregiver** for **84-year-old Louise Wilt**, a sharp-witted, vodka-loving woman recovering from a hip fracture. Initially, both women are resistant to the arrangement, but their lives quickly become intertwined in unexpected ways.

The book is available through the library, Thrift Books, or Amazon.

We look forward to conversation and fellowship with you. Please share and invite a friend.

SEPTEMBER 2026

8:30 AM - Worship Svc.; 9:45 AM Sunday School

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
		1
6 15th Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 am-In-Person & Zoom Worship Svc.-Communion 9:45 am-Summer Fellowship-Parlor 9:45 am-Children's SS/Choir 12:00 pm-Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros	7 LABOR DAY HOLIDAY CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 	8 6:00 pm-WinGS Potluck Planning meeting
13 HOLY CROSS SUNDAY God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday 8:30 am-In-Person & Zoom Worship Svc.-Communion 9:45 am-Adult Sunday School 9:45 am-Children's SS/Choir 2:00 pm-God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday 4:30 pm-Deliver spaghetti meals	14 REMARKER DEADLINE 2:45 pm-Violin Lessons 7:00 pm-German Club	15
20 17th Sunday after Pentecost 8:30 am-In-Person & Zoom Worship Svc.-Communion 9:45 am-Adult Sunday School 9:45 am-Children's SS/Choir 12:00 pm-Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros	21 2:45 pm-Violin Lessons 7:00 pm-German Group (K Fisher-vacation)	22 1:00 pm-Social Ministry 6:30 pm-Church Council 
27 18th Sunday after Pentecost NOISY SUNDAY 8:30 am-In-Person & Zoom Worship Svc.-Communion 9:45 am-Adult Sunday School 9:45 am-Children's SS/Choir 12:00 pm-Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros	28 2:45 pm-Violin Lessons 7:00 pm-German Group	29

SEPTEMBER 2026

8:30 AM - Worship Svc.; 9:45 AM Sunday School

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 11:00 am-Bible Study 2:00 pm-Worship & Music 3:30 pm-Worship Planning	3 2:45 pm-Violin Lessons 7:00 pm-Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros	4 2:45 pm-Violin Lessons	5
9 11:00 am-Bible Study 1:00 pm-Finance Mtg. 6:00 pm-Bell Choir 7:00 pm-Vocal Choir	10 9:00 am-Property Committee 1:00 pm-Fellowship 2:45 pm-Violin Lessons 7:00 pm-Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros	11 2:45 pm-Violin Lessons 6:30 pm-Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros	12
16 6:00 pm-Bell Choir 7:00 pm-Vocal Choir	17 HOSS'S COMMUNITY DAY--ALL DAY Ladies & Friends Night Out at HOSS'S 1:00 pm-Book Club Read 2:45 pm-Violin Lessons 7:00 pm-Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros (K. Fisher-vacation)	18 2:45 pm-Violin Lessons	19
23 11:00 am-Bible Study 6:00 pm-Bell Choir 7:00 pm-Vocal Choir	24 2:45 pm-Violin Lessons 7:00 pm-Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros	25 2:45 pm-Violin Lessons	26
30 11:00 am-Bible Study 6:00 pm-Bell Choir 7:00 pm-Vocal Choir	October 1 2:45 pm-Violin Lessons 7:00 pm-Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros 	2 2:45 pm-Violin Lessons	3



“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, putting together kits for Caitlin’s Smiles, and making bead crosses. **Volunteers from previous years should plan on wearing their “God’s Work. Our Hands” bright yellow t-shirts.**

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.



NEW HOPE SUNSHINE BAGS

The Women in God’s Service (WinGS) are collecting **TRAVEL SIZE ITEMS** for New Hope Ministries Sunshine Bags. Please fill a gallon size Ziploc bag with **travel size items**. These bags are provided to individuals when they go to New Hope to take a shower. A container has been placed at the back entrance of the church. Please contact Tina Freidhof with any questions. **THANK YOU!**

Items for women: shampoo, conditioner, razor, shaving cream, soap, deodorant, comb, toothbrush, toothpaste.

Items for men: shampoo, razor, shaving cream, soap, comb, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste.

ANNUAL SOUP ON THE SIDEWALK— MECHANICSBURG HALLOWEEN PARADE

Stop by St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church of
Mechanicsburg on **Tuesday, October 13, 2026**,
starting at **6:00 pm** for our *Soup on the*



Sidewalk event. We are asking if you would donate a
crockpot of soup. We are also looking for individually
wrapped baked goods. **Please bring soup and baked goods
to St. Mark no later than 5:45 pm the night of the
parade.** Help is needed by serving the soup at this event as
well. Sign-up sheets will be posted at entrances to St.
Mark. Please contact Marlin Brown, Fellowship Chair, with
any questions.



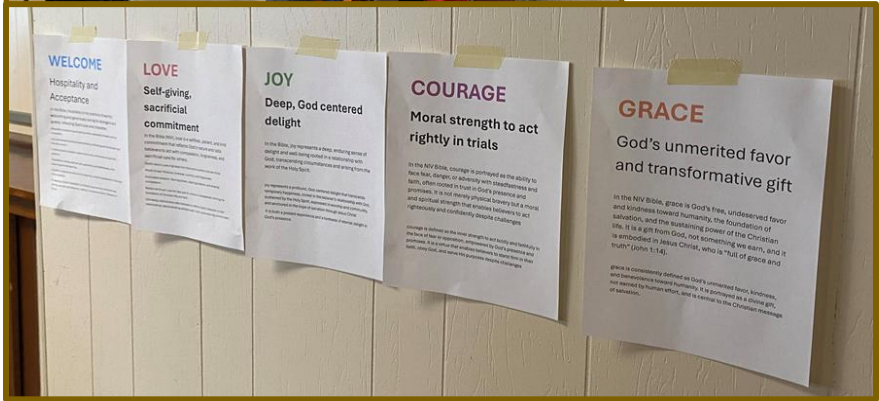
Meet Communications Intern Alma Gimbel

We are excited to share that this fall, Susquehanna University creative writing communications intern, Alma Gimbel, will be contributing stories across the Lower Susquehanna Synod. Focusing on creative nonfiction techniques, she hopes to make the efforts of these congregations come to life on the page and inspire churches to continue doing God's work. Alma is a member at St. Mark Lutheran Church in Mechanicsburg. Please keep her in your prayers!

WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU, ALMA!!!

DAY CAMP AUGUST 2026

Thank you to the many volunteers who helped the young people of our community imagine the Kingdom of God as more welcome, more love, more joy, more courage, and more grace!







BE HAPPY
WITH WHAT
THE LORD
HAS GIVEN YOU



LOVE
COURAGE
JOY
GRACE

WELCOME



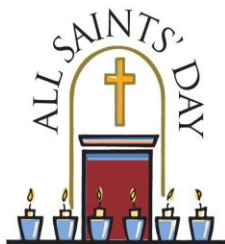
& REPEAT



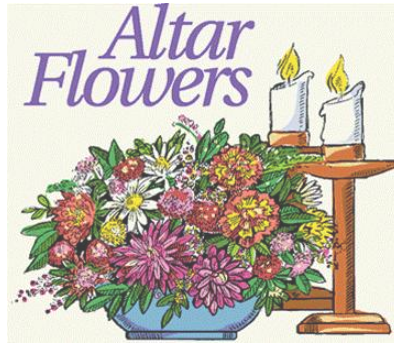


WORSHIP HELPERS

LAY READER	ASSISTING MINISTER
6 Amy Gimbel	6 Sean Gimbel
13 Dave Harnish	13 Karen Heath
20 Karen Heath	20 Tina Freidhof
27 Scott Kreiger	27 Barb Yost
ACOLYTE	USHERS
6 Katie Stull	6 Barb Lehman, Dave Harnish
13 Audrey Johnston	13 Cindy Larkin, T.J. Larkin
20 Phyllis Mihalich	20 Sara Jane Mller, Dee Bernatos
27 Caroline Stull	27 Ben Yost, Bev Weaver
ALTAR GUILD	ZOOM OPERATOR
6 Terry Shaner, Sandy Brown	6 Lori Clelan
13 Phyllis Mihalich, Joan Murphy	13 Katie Stull
20 Terry Shaner, Andi Sassaman, Michele Connor	20 Sandy Brown
27 Connie Kuntz, Cindy Larkin	27 Lori Clelan
SEPTEMBER COUNCIL MONEY DUTY	
Ben Yost, Amy Gimbel	



LOOKING AHEAD TO ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY
 On Sunday, November 1, 2026, we will remember the Saints who have died in faith since last All Saints' Sunday, November 2, 2025. If you have a loved one whom you would like to remember this year, please contact the church office no later than Monday, October 12, 2026.



- September 6 In honor of our Daughter, Missy, and Son-In-Law Scott's 17th Wedding Anniversary TODAY by Gene and Terry Shaner
- September 13 In honor of our children, Rachel and Brandon's birthdays by Marlin and Sandy Brown
- September 20 In loving memory of family by Terry and Gene Shaner
- September 27 In memory of parents by Tyson and Joan Murphy

**Happy Birthday—
to all who were born in SEPTEMBER!**

**Congratulations—
to all celebrating anniversaries in
SEPTEMBER!**



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 17	Ladies & Friends Night Out at Hoss's
September 17	Book Club Event— <i>The Mostly True Story of Tanner and Louise</i> by Colleen Oakley
September 20	Peaches & Ice Cream following worship
September 26	Conscience and Conversation Retreat
October 4	Blessing of the Pets
October 13	Soup on the Sidewalk at Mechanicsburg Halloween Parade
October 18	55 th Annual CROP Walk-Memorial Park
November (TBA)	Annual Meeting
November 1	All Saints Sunday
November 26	Thanksgiving Meal
December 24	Lighting of the Luminaries Christmas Eve Services
January 6, 2027	Epiphany, Waffle Wednesday, Chicken & Waffles
February 10	Ash Wednesday
March 25	Sedar Meal
March 28	Easter

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!

