

ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OF MECHANICSBURG  
7<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
JULY 27, 2025



**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES**

8:30 am - Sanctuary & Zoom Worship Service

9:45 am - Summer Fellowship Hour

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

11:00 am - Outdoor Summer Worship Service - Sunday, August 10

Rev. Marleen Griffith-Stull, Pastor

Pastor's Cell Phone: 878-295-2173

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

Karen Fisher, Office Manager

Karen's Cell Phone: 717-580-7507

Church Office: 717-766-4482

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

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

Denise Hirn, Director of Children's Choir

Denise's Cell Phone: 717-802-1064

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

Brad Hull, Director of Music

Brad's Cell Phone: 202-738-2795

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*St Mark Lutheran Church Mechanicsburg*

ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OF MECHANICSBURG  
7<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
JULY 27, 2025



**GUESTS:**

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

**INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY**

*Persistence in prayer is encouraged by Jesus and wins the attention of God when Abraham intercedes for Sodom. The life of the baptized—to be rooted and built up in Christ Jesus—is to be nurtured with prayer. God hears and answers prayer and so strengthens God's own. "When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me."*

**UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS**

**Johann Sebastian Bach, died 1750; Heinrich Schütz, died 1672;  
George Frederick Handel, died 1759; musicians  
Monday, July 28, 2025**

These three German-born musicians have done much to enrich the life of the church. Schütz was an early master who focused on settings of biblical texts. Bach wrote over 300 cantatas along with works for organ and instrumental pieces and has been called the "fifth evangelist" for the way he proclaimed the gospel in music. Handel's great work, *Messiah*, is a setting of scriptural texts.

**Mary, Martha, and Lazarus of Bethany  
Tuesday, July 29, 2025**

Friends of Jesus, Mary and Martha are remembered for the hospitality of their home that they offered him—Martha focused on serving their guest, and Mary on listening to him. Their brother Lazarus was raised from the dead as a sign of the greater resurrection to come.

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

## **PRELUDE MUSIC**

*Voluntary in C*

W. Boyce

### **\*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  $\text{✝}$  Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

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

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

**P** Most merciful God,

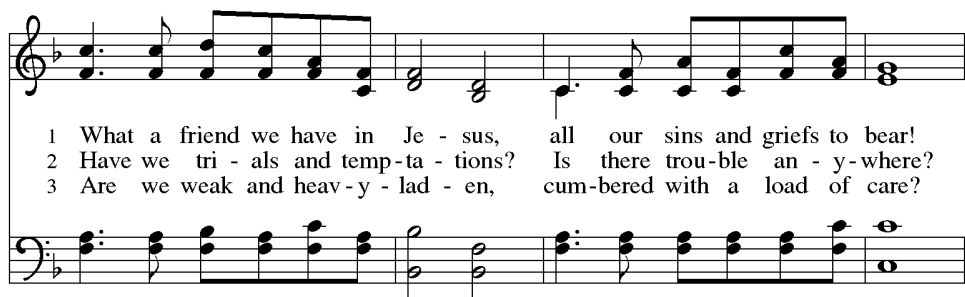
**C** you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive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

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

**C** Amen.

\*GATHERING HYMN

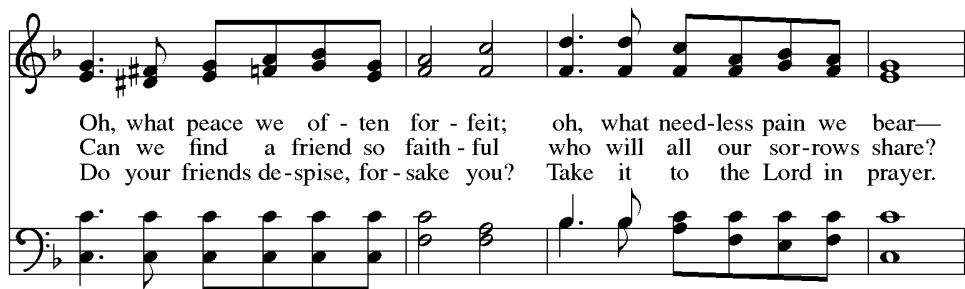
# What a Friend We Have in Jesus



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!  
 2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?  
 3 Are we weak and heav - y - lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!  
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged— take it to the Lord in prayer.  
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need-less pain we bear—  
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor - rows share?  
 Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.

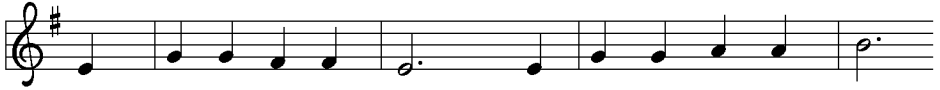


all be - cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!  
 Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness— take it to the Lord in prayer.  
 In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so - lace there.

## \*GREETING

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

## \*KYRIE



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



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

## \*HYMN OF PRAISE



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



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



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



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

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray.

**P** Almighty and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** Amen.

## SPECIAL MUSIC

*It is Well with My Soul*

arr. M. Hayes

Werner Jonas

Amy Gimbel, Alma Gimbel

Becky Steele, Sam Steele

## FIRST LESSON: Genesis 18:20-32

*In today's reading, Abraham undertakes the role of a mediator between God and sinful humanity. Appealing to God's justice, Abraham boldly asks for mercy for the city of Sodom for the sake of the few righteous people there, including Abraham's nephew, Lot.*

R        A reading from Genesis.

<sup>20</sup> Then the LORD said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! <sup>21</sup> I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me, and if not, I will know."

<sup>22</sup> So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the LORD. <sup>23</sup> Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? <sup>24</sup> Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? <sup>25</sup> Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" <sup>26</sup> And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake." <sup>27</sup> Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord, I who am but dust and ashes.

<sup>28</sup> Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." <sup>29</sup> Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." <sup>30</sup> Then he said, "Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." <sup>31</sup> He said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." <sup>32</sup> Then he said, "Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

R        The word of the Lord.

C        Thanks be to God.

## **PSALM: Psalm 138**

*(Please read the Psalm responsively. men the regular print; women the bold print.)*

<sup>1</sup> I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I will sing your praise.

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

<sup>3</sup> for you have glorified your name and your word above all things.

<sup>4</sup> **When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me.**

<sup>5</sup> All the kings of the earth will praise you, O Lord, when they have heard the words of your mouth.

<sup>6</sup> **They will sing of the ways of the Lord, that great is the glory of the Lord.**

<sup>7</sup> Though the Lord be high, he cares for the lowly; he perceives the haughty from afar.

<sup>8</sup> **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.**

<sup>9</sup> 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: Colossians 2:6-19**

*The writer of this letter warns the congregation in Colossae about “the empty lure” of philosophies and traditions that compromise faith. Through the gift of faith, the church is mystically connected with Christ in his death and resurrection which is enacted in baptism.*

R      A reading from Colossians.

<sup>6</sup>As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to walk in him, <sup>7</sup>rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

(Continued next page.)



<sup>8</sup> Watch out that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental principles of the world, and not according to Christ. <sup>9</sup> For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, <sup>10</sup> and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. <sup>11</sup> In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by the removal of the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; <sup>12</sup> when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. <sup>13</sup> And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, <sup>14</sup> erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup> He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it. <sup>16</sup> Therefore, do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food or drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or Sabbaths. <sup>17</sup> These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the body belongs to Christ. <sup>18</sup> Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, initiatory visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, <sup>19</sup> and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and tendons, grows with a growth that is from God.

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

### \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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



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



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

**\*GOSPEL: Luke 11:1-13**

*In teaching his disciples this prayer, Jesus also reminds them to focus on God's coming reign, God's mercy, and the strengthening of the community. Jesus encourages his disciples to childlike trust and persistence in prayer.*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C** Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup> Jesus was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."<sup>2</sup> So he said to them, "When you pray, say:

Father, may your name be revered as holy.

May your kingdom come.

<sup>3</sup> Give us each day our daily bread.

<sup>4</sup> And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial."

<sup>5</sup> And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, <sup>6</sup> for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' <sup>7</sup> And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' <sup>8</sup> I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything out of friendship, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

<sup>9</sup> "So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. <sup>10</sup> For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. <sup>11</sup> Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for a fish, would give a snake instead of a fish? <sup>12</sup> Or if the child asked for an egg, would give a scorpion? <sup>13</sup> If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to you, O Christ.

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**  
**NOISY SUNDAY**

**SERMON**

\*HYMN OF THE DAY

# Sweet Hour of Prayer



- 1 Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, that calls me from a world of care,
- 2 Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, thy wings shall my pe - ti - tion bear,
- 3 Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, may I thy con - so - la - tion share,



and bids me at my Fa - ther's throne make all my wants and wish-es known.  
to him whose truth and faith-ful - ness en - gage the wait - ing soul to bless;  
till from Mount Pis - gah's loft - y height I view my home and take my flight.



In sea - sons of dis - tress and grief my soul has of - ten found re - lief.  
and since he bids me seek his face, be - lieve his word and trust his grace,  
With joy I'll has - ten to the place where God my Sav - ior shows his face,



and oft es-caped the tempt - er's snare by thy re - turn, sweet hour of prayer.  
I'll cast on him my ev - 'ry care, and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer.  
and glad - ly take my sta - tion there, thy prom - ise gained, sweet hour of prayer.



## **\*APOSTLES CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

## **\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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

A God of grace,  
C hear our prayer.

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

C Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

SPECIAL MUSIC

*Great is Thy Faithfulness*

arr. T. Fettke

Werner Jonas

Amy Gimbel, Alma Gimbel

Becky Steele, Sam Steele

\*THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be-low;

The first line of musical notation is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The treble clef staff contains a melody of eighth and quarter notes. The bass clef staff provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

praise him a-bove, ye heav'n-ly host; praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost.

The second line of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment from the first line. It concludes with a double bar line. The treble clef staff shows the melody ending on a whole note, while the bass clef staff provides a final harmonic support.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711  
Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510-1561

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

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

## **\*THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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

## **\*BLESSING**

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

\*CLOSING HYMN

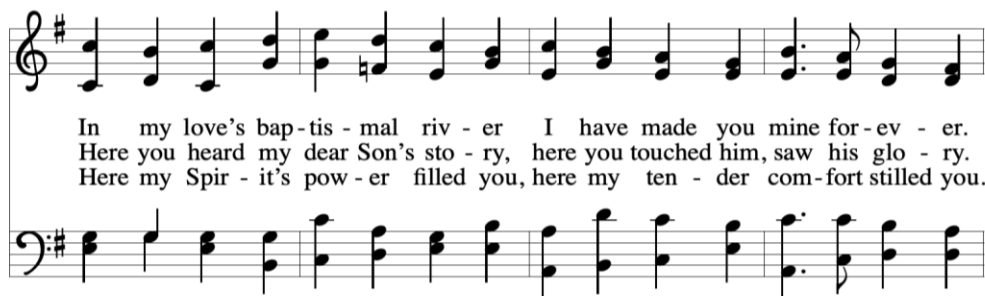
# Go, My Children, with My Blessing



1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless-ing, nev - er a - lone.  
 2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.  
 3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.  
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.  
 Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap-tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for-ev - er.  
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.  
 Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com-fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."  
 Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace my pure."  
 Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour-ished, joy - ful and free."

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.

Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

Outside USA: Arr. from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \*DISMISSAL

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

### \*POSTLUDE

*My Hope is Built*

E. Mote

## ALTAR FLOWERS



In honor of Delaney Rose Murphy's High School graduation and Best Wishes as she continues her education at Penn State University.  
Love, Grammie and Poppa

In honor of Jack Kapp's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

The rose on the altar is in honor of the birth of Everly Grace Thomas born July 16, 2025. Everly is the daughter of Cody and Tessa Thomas, the granddaughter of Tim and Natalie Thomas, and the great-granddaughter of Karen Fisher.

## ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORS

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

## TODAY'S ASSISTANTS

Assisting Minister:	Phyllis Mihalich
Lay Reader:	Amy Gimbel
Acolyte:	Phyllis Mihalich
Ushers:	Tyson Murphy, Joan Murphy
Altar Guild:	JoAnn Novinger, Joan Murphy
Money Duty:	Ben Yost, Karen Fisher



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

**Sunday, July 27**

**7<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**NOISY SUNDAY**  
Worship Service  
Fellowship Hour  
Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

**8:30 am**

**9:45 am**

**12:00 pm**

**Monday, July 28**

**3:45 pm**

**7:00 pm**

Violin Lessons

German Group

**Tuesday, July 29**

**Wednesday, July 30**

**Thursday, July 31**

**1:00 pm**

Book Club Event

**7:00 pm**

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

**Friday, August 1**

**3:45 pm**

Violin Lessons

**Saturday, August 2**

**Sunday, August 3**

**8<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
Worship Service  
Fellowship Hour  
Worship Service  
Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

**8:30 am**

**9:45 am**

**11:00 am**

**12:00 pm**

**LESSONS:**

**FIRST LESSON**

**PSALM**

**SECOND LESSON**

**GOSPEL**

**AUGUST 3, 2025**

**Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23**

**Psalms 49:1-12**

**Colossians 3:1-11**

**Luke 12:13-21**

### **DISCLAIMER FOR RECORDING SERVICES**

We are blessed to be able to record our worship services. By entering and by your presence here, you consent to be filmed and/or otherwise recorded for our congregation and on YouTube. Our cameras are generally directed at the front of the sanctuary.

## -ANNOUNCEMENTS-

### SUMMER DAY CAMP - IT'S ALMOST HERE!!!!

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



### ST. MARK DAY CAMP WISH LIST:

- Large cardboard pieces
- Disposal table clothes
- Paper plates, napkins, utensils
- Snacks both for afternoons and mornings
- Your Time: We can use a few hours of help to make Day Camp happen.
- Your family and friends who have kids!

### BOOK CLUB

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

## SUMMER OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICES

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

## ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC

### SOLDIERS & SAILORS MEMORIAL PARK

1 Memorial Park Drive  
Mechanicsburg, Pa

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 10, 2025

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

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



## MONTHLY SUNDAYS TO BENEFIT NEW HOPE MINISTRIES

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

<b>August 17</b>	<b>Applesauce, Pudding, Jello</b>
<b>September 21</b>	<b>Toiletries (toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo)</b>
<b>October 19</b>	<b>Peanut Butter and Jelly</b>

## LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF—SCHOOL KITS

The Social Ministry Outreach Committee is collecting items listed below for Lutheran World Relief to fulfill their urgent need of School Kit requests. We will be collecting items **through September 21**. Gross's is again donating their truck to take our items to Maryland. We will be holding our in-gathering and blessing of school kits and quilts on **Sunday, September 28**. **St. Mark will serve as the collection point for designated churches on Saturday, October 4.**

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

### **ITEMS ON SALE AT WALMART AND STAPLES NOW:**

- 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.

### **PURSE PROJECT**

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

#### **Large purses (preferably new or gently used)**

Full size bottle of shampoo

Wash cloth

Bar of soap

Body wash

Toothpaste

Toothbrush

Any hygiene product

Mak e-up

Hand wipes

Bottled Water

Hand sanitizer

Hand lotion

Beef jerky

Other appropriate items

Mints

Deodorant

Comb

Razor

Scarf

Hat

Gloves

Small first aid kit

Thermal socks

Chapstick

Facial Wipes

Trail Mix

Gum

Applesauce cups

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

### **\*CHURCH DIRECTORY IN-PERSON SIGN-UP**

Karen Fisher will be available this morning after worship to register you for the upcoming photo day event taking place August 19.

### **\*CHURCH DIRECTORY ON-LINE SIGN-UP**

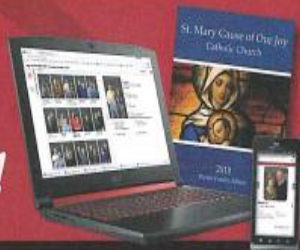
Go to the Universal website: [www.ucdircom](http://www.ucdircom)

Our Church Code is: **pa1197**

Church Password: **photos**

*Instructions are located at bottom of poster on the following page.*

# Dear Church family, It's time for a New Directory!



*Celebrating faith.  
Connecting families.  
Sharing hope.*

When people enter the doors of our church they are looking for a place to belong. Our directory brings us together to develop new relationships, connect with our own families, and reconnect with those we haven't seen in a while. Join us for this "Connections Event" and be part of what God is doing right here at our church!

*Directory Committee*

## Connections Event

*Our church directory will not be complete without you. Join us to celebrate faith and family with our new church family album.*

- Schedule your professional photography session when you stop by the sign-up table at the church or simply go online and follow the instructions below. If we don't see your name on our list of appointments, you will receive a phone call inviting you to participate.
- Everyone who is photographed by Universal will receive a complimentary 8 x 10 portrait and a directory!
- Universal provides a complete professional portrait studio right here at our church! You'll enjoy a variety of poses, backgrounds, portrait sizes, finish and framing options AND have the opportunity to purchase portraits to give to family and friends.

**Set your appointment with Universal today!**

*Gathering families,  
Connecting generations.*



Photographs will be taken at St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church on  
**Tuesday, August 19, from 1:00 PM-7:30 PM** in Fellowship Hall.

**Online Scheduling Available!**

To schedule your photography appointment online, simply go to [www.ucdir.com](http://www.ucdir.com), click on photography appointment scheduling login on the right side, enter **pa1197** in the Church Code field and enter **photos** in the Church Password field. Follow the prompts to schedule your family's appointment time. If you have 6 or more in your family please use 2 consecutive time slots. The online scheduling option is available Monday through Friday. **Appointments fill up quickly, so schedule as soon as possible to secure your preferred date and time.**

## LECTIONARY 17

### OUR PRAYER

The disciples' request that Jesus teach them to pray reveals a touching vulnerability. Jesus responds with an invitation into a prayer brimming with gratitude and expectation for the care and intimacy of the divine Parent. While the Lord's Prayer may be familiar, each time we pray it, it still possesses the grace to speak a new word to us and draw forth a desire we were not aware of. Martin Luther felt that Christians who prayed the Lord's Prayer each day, or even portions of it, could be certain their prayer would be more than adequate.

The Lord's Prayer is not the prayer of an individual but of a collective. The prayer begins with "Our Father," not "My Father," and petitions God to address *our* hunger, *our* sins, and *our* practice of forgiveness. Prayer of all kinds, including the Lord's Prayer, is not simply a private conversation between God and an individual, but a unique harmony in the immense choir of those set free in Jesus. Every time we turn our hearts to God in prayer, we do so with and alongside the entire body of Christ.

It's easy in our culture today to dismiss prayer or to trivialize it as empty wishes. And when prayer is offered as a cynical gesture in response to real pain and suffering, such dismissal seems understandable. But the truly countercultural nature of our prayer is our trust that God receives and responds to our praise, petition, and lament, that our persistence and perseverance in prayer are not in vain. The God who gives us our daily bread, forgives us our sins, and saves us from the time of trial hears our prayers animated by the trust that God will be faithful and will keep God's promises. This prayer then becomes for us a spark of hope that guides our daily action and our faith that God is making all things new and inviting us into this redemptive work.

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