The ReMarker

JANUARY 2026 St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mechanicsburg

117 West Keller St. Mechanicsburg, PA 17055



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

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

> 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"



Merry Christmas! A Message From Our Pastor

Merry Christmas!!

I pray that you have known God's presence and love from the First Day of Christmas and continue to experience Christ with you!

During Advent, I was writing reflections on hymns of Advent for St. Stephen's midweek service. This forced me to look closely at the words in those hymns and also inspired me to read the lyrics to many of my favorite Christmas carols. I found myself returning to one carol that I really did not like when I was younger: *Lo*, *How a Rose E'er Blooming*.

It was a hymn that I only remember singing at a hymn sing when I was younger—maybe it was a Christmas caroling time at church? But one of the members of the church and her family apparently loved this hymn so it was requested. But it is not a peppy, fun or festive carol that we hear carolers sing out or find on our radios. It just seemed stupid to me. Yet, as an adult, I really appreciate this carol.

I appreciate that it is more somber and reflective. But also appreciate the image of Jesus being a rose blooming eternally. Though I never realized it until reading more about this hymn, the rose was used as a symbol for centuries for Jesus and sometimes for Mary. The lyrics tie the messages of hope from Isaiah, especially the image of new life from the stump of Jesse and the promise of the everlasting covenant, directly to Jesus. But in the LBW (the green hymnal) there is also a beautiful verse about the shepherd's experience on the first Christmas which

helps me ponder how the shepherds felt during and after their angelic visit. The final verse is a soulful prayer to Jesus as son of Mary to bring us to the courts of heaven and into endless joy.

I know that many of you love to sing Christmas carols, and I encourage you to pay attention this Christmas season to what you are singing. You may just discover that you love a hymn that you were never a fan of before!

May your Christmas be filled with the endless joy of knowing that God is with you!

Merry Christmas!

Parter Marken
Pastor Marleen



BIBLE STUDY

Start your New Year off by learning a bit more about your faith! Join us for Bible Study. We gather in person beginning January 7, 11:00 AM, in the Church Parlor. We are studying the gospel of Matthew. All are welcome.

BREAD AND BROTH - MARK YOUR CALENDARS Come share a soup meal at St. Mark every Wednesday evening at 5:30 pm evening during Lent (February 25 through March 25).





LENT AND ASH WEDNESDAY Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18, 2026. Worship services will be held at noon and 7:00 pm.

ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING AND LUNCHEON

The Annual Congregation Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 22, immediately after worship service in the Sanctuary.



CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS FOR 2026

President: Kevin Amos
Vice President: Marlin Brown
Secretary: Amy Gimbel
Treasurer: Barb Yost

Church Council will meet the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm. Church Council officers and members will be installed during worship service on Sunday, January 4, 2026. Please plan to attend.

2026 Committee Chairpersons:

Evangelism: Jo Ann Novinger Marlin Brown Fellowship: Finance: **Barb Yost** Property: Ben Yost Social Ministry: Karen Fisher Stewardship: **Kevin Amos** Worship & Music: Terry Shaner Youth & Family Ministry: **Amy Gimbel**



If you are interested in serving on one of our committees, please contact the committee chairperson or Pastor Marleen.

NOVEMBER 2025 ATTENDANCE



	8:30 am		11:00 am	
Service	In-	8:30 am	In-	YouTube
Date	Person	Zoom	Person	Service
November 2	62	4	5	19
November 9	55	6		13
November 16	61	6		21
November 23	51	8		22
November 30	53	9		26

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



FEBRUARY 2026 REMARKER DEADLINE

Please deliver or email your information and articles for the February 2026 ReMarker to the church office no later than Thursday, January 15.



CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCES AS OF NOVEMBER 30, 2025

•	General Operating Fund Capital Expenditures Fund Designated Gifts	\$ \$	12,192.39 7.92
	Memorial Fund Undesignated	\$	16,284.12
	Fellowship	\$	342.70
	Social Ministry	\$	7,118.54
	Quilting Connection	\$	116.23
	Youth Fund	\$	796.51
	Music Memorial	\$	893.00
	Columbarium		2,669.01
	Noisy Sunday	\$ \$	1,276.74
•	Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$	2,193.29
•	Investment Account	\$	350,358.90
•	WinGS Account	\$	220.92
•	Altar Guild Account	Ś	2,323.19

In reference to any financial questions, congregation members should contact Barb Yost, Finance Chairperson and Treasurer, or send an email to: byost@stmarkmburg.com.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Finance Committee will meet on January 14 at 1:00 PM in the Finance Office.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION	
November 2025	
NOTCHIBE! 2020	
GENERAL FUND INFORMATION	
GENERAL FORD INFORMATION	
YTD 2025 Income	\$ 246,334.36
YTD 2025 Expenses	\$ 223,619.86
Difference	\$ 22,714.50
	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,
2025 vs 2024 COMPARISON (All Accounts *)	
YTD Deposits through 11/30/25	\$ 246,334.36
YTD Deposits through 11/30/24	\$ 291,516.02
Difference	\$ (45,181.66)
YTD Expenses through 11/30/25	\$ 223,619.86
YTD Expenses through 11/30/24	\$ 284,616.33
Difference	
* Includes General, Pastor's, Designated Gifts and Capital Apprecia	ation Funds

NOISY SUNDAY REPORT

Our youth thank the congregation of St Mark for their generosity with the Noisy Sunday collections from January to November 2025. The total collected is \$1,390.50. As they have in the past, the Youth chose the ELCA Good Gifts program as the recipient of these funds. Coming up during a worship service in January 2026, watch for the Youth's presentation of the individual areas within the Good Gifts program that they have designated to receive the funds. The first collection for 2026 will be December 28, 2025. We thank you again for your continued generous contributions to the Noisy Sunday collections! St. Mark's Sunday School Youth

NOISY SUNDAY—MAKE SOME NOISE!

Noisy Sundays occur on the last Sunday of each month. The January Noisy Sunday offering will be held on **January 25**.

OFFERING ENVELOPES FOR 2026

As we begin the new year, we have a new look to our offering envelopes.



The "General" line on our old envelopes has been replaced with "Offerings For My Church". We will use these offerings to support all aspects of our church's operation (i.e., utilities, salaries, maintenance, fellowship events, youth activities, worship supplies, etc.).

The "Special" lines should only be used for the following items:

Synod Support
Lutheran Camping*
New Hope
Disaster Relief-Domestic
Social Ministry
Music (Designated Gifts)

Meals on Wheels World Hunger Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Disaster Relief-International Memorials/Honorariums Youth (Designated Gifts)

*If your offering is for Camp Nawakwa or Camp Kirchenwald, please include the camp's name. Otherwise, the offering will go to Lutheran Camping Corp.

If any other designation is made on your envelope, it will be deposited into "Offerings For My Church."

Also, to make things easier for our Money Counting group, if you are making contributions for several weeks at a time, please complete information on just <u>ONE</u> offering envelope. They do not record information based on Sundays; they use the date it will be deposited into the bank. They meet every other Monday to do their work. The first deposit date in 2026 will be January 12.

If you have any questions about this change or any other financial matter, please see Barb Yost at church or email her at byost@verizon.net.

A MESSAGE FROM STEWARDSHIP

RESOLVE TO EMBRACE GOD'S COMPASSION IN THE NEW YEAR.

January is traditionally the time for new beginnings, fresh starts. For the Christian steward, the grace of being given another day, or God willing, a whole new year, stirs our deep gratitude. But it also calls us to ask what a "resolution" should really be. Our first resolve should always be to involve ourselves more intimately in the life of Christ, and how better to do that than by embracing Christ's call to be compassionate?

After all, Jesus himself instructed us, "Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate" (Luke 6:36). Clearly, we strive now to live and give compassionately, as we generally understand the term. We try to be kind, considerate and understanding individuals. We share with others. But Jesus' words challenge us to embrace a compassion that is much deeper, much more radical than our general understanding. The word compassion, at its root, means "to suffer with." This goes beyond merely writing a check, offering a prayer or sending a note. Suffering is not a popular notion in our society, and we strive to avoid it. But now we hear Christ instructing us to "suffer with" the poor, the vulnerable, the powerless, the neglected and the weak.

How can we possibly choose such a journey, this challenge to be truly present to those who suffer? All things are possible with God, and it is through a commitment to a life of discipline, discipline in action and discipline in prayer, that we move towards the goal of true compassion.

The Christian steward is committed to the Eucharistic life [a life of giving thanks], and it is through this life which Christ offers us that we gain the courage and the will and even the need to follow him in his own example of compassion. Compassion is the doorway to a more responsive stewardship and a committed discipleship. Through our deepening sense of compassion, may we resolve to be the kind of Christian stewards who bring Christ's presence more profoundly to a suffering world.

Reprinted from the January 2025 edition of International Catholic Stewardship Council CATHOLIC STEWARDSHIP

UN-DECK THE HALLS

Join us on Saturday, January 10, 2026, at 9:00 AM as we take down the Christmas decorations.

NEW HOPE MINISTRIES—HELPING THOSE IN NEED

The Social Ministry Committee designates one Sunday per month to bring items in support of New Hope Ministries food drive. During January and through February 13 we will be collecting soup. The battle continues again in 2026 between



Karen's Team CHICNS (Creating Hope in Chicken Noodle Soup) and Shannon's Super Duper Tomato Soup-ers. Please bring soup in each week and place in the containers or on the football field outside Fellowship Hall.



WOMEN IN GOD'S SERVICE - WinGS
The WinGS group will meet on Tuesday,
January 13, at 6:30 PM in the parlor for a night
of fun and games. All women are invited to attend.

BLANKETS, HATS, NEW SOCKS, GLOVES, AND NEW SWEATSHIRTS FOR THE HOMELESS

Bethesda staff advised us that the most needed items, in addition to warm blankets, are **NEW SOCKS and SWEATSHIRTS.** Thank you!



LADIES AND FRIENDS NIGHT OUT

The Ladies and Friends Night Out resumes on January 22, 2026 at 6:15 PM. If you have a restaurant suggestion, please contact Karen Fisher at 717-580-7507.

HELP WANTED-MECHANICSBURG AREA MEALS ON WHEELS (MAMOW)

Our local MAMOW is in desperate need of volunteers to help prepare meals for their clients. Meals are prepared on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

You will need to be there at 7:30 am. You do not need to make a commitment to go weekly, monthly, etc. They are just looking for additional help. If this is something you feel able to do, please reach out to MAMOW directly. The phone number is 717-697-5011. Thank you!

WOMEN IN GOD'S SERVICE (WINGS)—HANDWRITING PROJECT

If you or someone you know needs assistance with writing a

If you or someone you know needs assistance with writing a handwritten letter or cards, the women of WINGS are here to help. We know how important handwritten letters and cards can be for anyone receiving them or writing them. To make arrangements, please contact Debra Kreiger at debkreiger@hotmail.com or call 717-919-4676.



BOOK CLUB EVENT

The Evangelism Committee is hosting a book club read on Thursday, January 15, at 1:00 PM in the parlor. The Tortilla Curtain is a 1995 novel by American author T.C. Boyle. It is about middle-class values, illegal immigration, xenophobia, poverty, and environmental destruction. In 1997, it was awarded the French Prix Médicis Étranger prize for best foreign novel. It is available through the library, e-bay, Amazon, etc.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Please contact Sara Jane Miller at 717-448-4777 or Karen 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.



JANUARY 2026

8:30 AM - Worship Svc.; 11:00 AM- Worship 1st Sunday of the Month 9:45 AM Sunday Church School and Children's Choir

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
4 LESSONS & CAROLS SUNDAY 2026 Council Installation 8:30 am-In-Person & Zoom Worship SvcCommunion 9:45 am-Sunday Church School 9:45 am-Children's Choir 11:00 am-Simple SvcComm. 12:00 pm-Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros	5 2:00 pm-Violin Lessons 7:00 pm-German Club 2:00 pm-Violin Lessons	6 EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD 6:00 pm-Taco Tuesday 7:00 pm-Epiphany Service
11 BAPTISM OF OUR LORD 8:30 am-In-Person & Zoom Worship SvcCommunion 9:45 am-Sunday Church School 9:45 am-Children's Choir 10:45 pm-Y&FM Committee 12:00 pm-Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros	12 7:00 pm-German Club 2:00 pm-Violin Lessons	13 6:30 pm-WinGS
18 2 ND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 8:30 am-In-Person & Zoom Worship SvcCommunion 9:45 am-Sunday Church School 9:45 am-Children's Choir 12:00 pm-Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros	19 8:00 am-Garden Club 2:00 pm-Violin Lessons 7:00 pm-German Group	20
25 3 RD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY NOISY SUNDAY 8:30 am-In-Person & Zoom Worship SvcCommunion 9:45 am-Sunday Church School 9:45 am-Children's Choir 12:00 pm-Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros	2:00 pm-Violin Lessons 7:00 pm-German Group	27 1:00 pm-Social Ministry

JANUARY 2026

8:30 AM - Worship Svc.; 11:00 AM- Worship 1st Sunday of the Month 9:45 AM Sunday Church School and Children's Choir

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 HAPPY NEW YEAR 2026	2 2:30 pm-Violin Lessons 6:30 pm-Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros	3 6:30 pm-Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros
7 11:00 am-Bible Study 12:30 pm-Evangelism 2:00 pm-Worship & Music 3:30 pm-Worship Planning 6:00 pm-Bell Choir 7:00 pm Adult Choir	9:00 am-Property Committee 2:30 pm-Violin Lessons 7:00 pm-Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros	9 2:30 pm-Violin Lessons	9:00 am-Take down Christmas decorations 6:30 pm-Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros
14 11:00 am-Bible Study 1:00 pm-Finance 6:00 pm-Bell Choir 7:00 pm Adult Choir	1:00 pm-Book Study 2:30 pm-Violin Lessons 6:30 pm-Church Council 7:00 pm-Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros	16 2:30 pm-Violin Lessons	17 Private Event- Fellowship Hall 6:30 pm-Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros
21 11:00 am-Bible Study 6:00 pm-Bell Choir 7:00 pm Adult Choir	22 6:15 pm-Ladies & Friends Night Out 7:00 pm-Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros	23 2:30 pm-Violin Lessons	24 6:30 pm-Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros
28 11:00 am-Bible Study 6:00 pm-Bell Choir 7:00 pm Adult Choir	29 7:00 pm-Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros	30 2:30 pm-Violin Lessons	31

IS GOD CALLING YOU TO SERVE?

Our synod celebrates the diverse gifts of its members and asks that members consider sharing those gifts in leadership roles in this church The synod Nominating Committee, comprised of one member of each conference and two members of the Synod Council, is seeking volunteers who are willing to be nominated for election to the Synod Council and to the Susquehanna University Board. We need your help to identify possible nominees. Share this information with members of your congregation! Visit our nominations webpage, or contact Pastor Susan Scott, chair of the Nominating Committee, by email at pastorsusanscott2022@gmail.com. To seek nomination, please complete the nomination form and return it by January 12, 2026, to dclark@lss-elca.org or mail to 1959 Market Street, Camp Hill, PA 17011.



TACO TUESDAY EVENT AND EPIPHANY SERVICE

Come and enjoy Taco
Tuesday night on January 6,
2026, in Fellowship Hall.
Please RSVP for dinner no
later than December 31. Call
the church office at 717766-4482, or email Karen at
kfisher@stmarkmburg.com.
Then, please join everyone

as we welcome Rev. Stephen R. Herr, Bishop, Lower Susquehanna Synod, who will deliver the message at the Epiphany Service beginning at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary.

UPDATE-YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY MEETINGS-2026

The Youth and Family Ministry Committee will meet on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 10:45 am.

THANKS TO OUR YOUNG-AT-HEART MEMBERS

On November 30, Shannon Weaver publicly thanked all of our 80 plus year old members for all the many ways he contributed and continues to contribute to our ministry at St. Mark Lutheran Church.



Russel Klick

Russel has been a member of St. Mark since 1950. He was confirmed as a child at St. Mark. Russel and his wife, Lydia, have 4 children and 7 grandchildren. Russ has been active throughout the years as an Acolyte, and he sang in the Youth Choir and the Adult Choir. Russell was elected by the Council/congregation to represent Mechanicsburg and Carlisle churches at the Gettysburg Seminary. He also played for the St. Mark basketball team. He was active for some time on the Property Committee. And, Russell walked for several years in the CROP Walk.

Thank you Russell Klick. You are a valuable member of our congregation.





Dear WinGS I would like to thank WinGs for the many items in the beautiful Christmas bag. I appreciate it very much. Sincerely, Pearl Lehmer

To my brothers and sisters in Christ, Thank you for the prayers and cards as Don heals from surgery. And thank you for all the Christmas greetings. May you experience Emmanuel. Pastor Marleen and Family

St. Mark Lutheran Church Friends, Thank you for your generosity during our Christmas Blessings Express Christmas program. I am certain that you brought smiles to the faces of many clients of New Hope Ministries. Karen Fisher, Social Ministry Outreach

To everyone who participated in the Christmas Program for Adults living at the American and Brethren House Apartments, we appreciate your generosity, kindness, and your prayers. To those who donated funds, donated gifts, shopped, made items, baked pumpkin rolls, wrapped gifts, transported gifts, or helped in any way, The residents were so thankful for their gifts, the gift cards, and the luncheon that was held for them. They are a wonderful group of individuals



If you would like your birthday and/or anniversary to be printed in the ReMarker, please contact Karen at 717-580-7507 or email the office at kfisher@stmarkmburg.com with your name and birthday/anniversary Thank you.

BIRTHDAYS

5	Barbara Weaver	18	Connie Stoner
9	Joshua Foulds	19	Addyson Tennis
11	Linda Dennis	21	Ezra Sassaman
11	Quinn Hirn	21	Nicole Tennis
12	Bob Curll	22	Parker Thumma
15	Charlene Albert	23	Jared Warner
15	Don Stull	28	Matt Barley
		28	Caroline Stull

ANNIVERSARIES

- 12 Bob & Betty Curll
- 15 John & Connie Stoner

CARD SHOWER



If you would like to request a card shower for an individual, please provide the information to Karen in the Church Office, and we will be happy to accommodate your request. It's just a simple way of reaching out and sharing God's love. Thanks so much.

ST. MARK'S PRAYER LIST

DURING WORSHIP SERVICES, due to security issues, we pray out loud the <u>first names only</u> of individuals who have been placed on the prayer list. <u>The full name of the individual is printed in our newsletter, The ReMarker, (see below) and in our security is the security of the prayer list.</u>



weekly bulletins. If you would like to add OR remove a name on the prayer list, please contact Karen in the church office at 717-766-4482 or e-mail at kfisher@stmarkmburg.com. Thank you.

PRAYER CIRCLE

The names are not automatically placed on the prayer circle and the prayer list. To add a name to the *Prayer Circle*, please contact Beverly Reihart at *717-432-3148*.

JANUARY 2026

JANUART 2020			
LAY READER	ASSISTING MINISTER		
4 Lessons & Carols Readers	4 Denise Hirn		
6 Terri Hopkins	6 Sean Gimbel		
11 Sara Jane Miller	11 Barb Yost		
18 Karen Heath	18 Tina Freidhof		
25 Matt Yost	25 Kevin Amos		
ACOLYTE	USHERS		
4 Katie Stull	4 Cindy Larkin, T.J. Larkin		
6 Caroline Stull	6 2 Ushers Needed		
11 Joan Murphy	11 Susan Fissel, Dave Harnish		
18 Audrey Johnston	18 Sara Jane Miller, Dee Bernatos		
25 Phyllis Mihalich	25 Ben Yost, Bev Weaver		
ALTAR GUILD			
4 Sandy Brown, Connie Kuntz,	Church Volunteers		
Barb Lehman			
6 Phyllis Mihalich, Connie Kuntz			
11 Michele Connor, Joan Murphy,			
Muretta Yentzer			
18 Andrea Sassaman, Bev Reihart			
25 Michele Connor, Cindy Larkin,			
Sara Jane Miller			
COUNCIL MONEY DUTY			
TBA			



HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The church office will be closed through January 5, 2026. Pastor Marleen will be available for pastoral care/emergencies. You may reach her at (878) 295-2173.



January 4 In memory of Naomi Kuntz by John and

Connie Kuntz

January 11 To the Glory of God by Bev Weaver

January 18 In loving memory of Dan Reihart by Denise

Bernatos (1)

January 25 TBA

Altar flower sponsors are needed for January 18 (1 vase) and January 25 (2 vases).

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 25 thru January 5	Church Office Closed
January 2026	Soup-er Bowl Begins
January 6 January 6	Epiphany Day Taco Tues - 6:00 pm Epiphany Day Service - 7:00 pm
January 15	Book Club Event - The Tortilla Curtain
February 2	Roller Skating at Olympic Skating Center
February 13	Dinner and Bandit Bingo
February 18	Ash Wednesday Service
February 25 February 25	Bread and Broth Begins Lenten Services Begin

Join Us for an Epiphany Service

St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mechanicsburg

117 West Keller Street Mechanicsburg, PA 17055



Tuesday, January 6, 2026 Service with Holy Communion beginning at 7:00 p.m.



ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH

ROLLER SKATING PARTY



Monday, February 2, 2026 6:00-8:00 p.m. Olympic Skating Center 60 E Shady Ln, Enola, PA 17025 Bring your friends!

Admission covered by St. Mark Youth & Family Ministry Committee

Snack bar available. Roller skates and in-line skates for rent

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 Gl	ory of God			
Sponso	r Name: _				
Sponso	r Phone #	:			
Sponso	r Email: _				
Date R	equested:				
	Willing to	Share			
		Circle Payment Enclosed:			
		\$25.00 One Vase of Flowers			
S	Na Carlo	\$50.00 Both Vases of Flowers			
	Altar 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			
సాసాసా	<i>సాసాసాసి</i>	>అంకులు అంతు అంతు అంతు అంతు అంతు Please check any that apply!			
□ Flowers will be picked up by sponsor.					
□ Deliver one vase of flowers to shut-in or hospital					
	Deliver both vases of flowers to shut-in or hospital				
Please contact Connie Kuntz at 717-697-0436 with any questions					