

**ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF MECHANICSBURG
NOVEMBER 16, 2025
23rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

**8:30 am - Sanctuary & Zoom Worship Service
9:45 am - Sunday Church School
9:45 am - Children's SS and Choir
11:00 am - First Sunday of each month**

**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

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*St Mark Lutheran Church Mechanicsburg***

**ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF MECHANICSBURG
NOVEMBER 16, 2025
23rd SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**



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

The end is near. There is no doubt about it. The warnings are dire. The tone of today’s texts is ominous. But the baptized know how to live in the meantime. The baptized are strengthened for the living of these days in word and sacrament. The baptized rally around the invitation of the apostle: “Do not be weary in doing what is right.”

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Elizabeth of Hungary, renewer of society, died 1231

Monday, November 17, 2025

Born in Hungary, Elizabeth was betrothed to the son of the Landgrave of Thuringia, and at age four was taken to be raised with him at the Wartburg Castle. Ten years later they were married. She was very generous to the poor, and after her husband's death she lived in cruel hardship until her own death at age twenty-four.

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

PRELUDE MUSIC

Concerto In A Minor

J.S. Bach/arr. Thompson

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 Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our maker, our helper,
and our keeper.
C Amen.

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

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

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

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

*GATHERING HYMN

How Firm a Foundation

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
 3 "When through fi - ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,
 4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove

is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!
 for I am your God and will still give you aid;
 my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.
 my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;

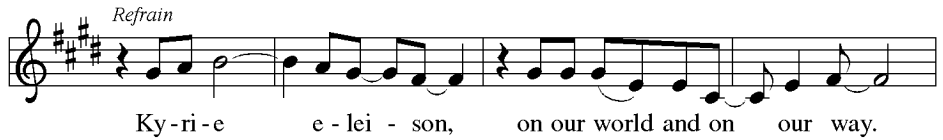
What more can he say than to you he has said
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
 The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
 and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,

who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."
 your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."
 like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

*GREETING

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

*KYRIE



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

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

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



hun - gry and the poor; that

friends and fam - i - ly; for

wa - ter and the word; that you



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

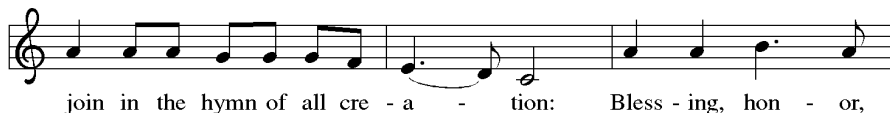
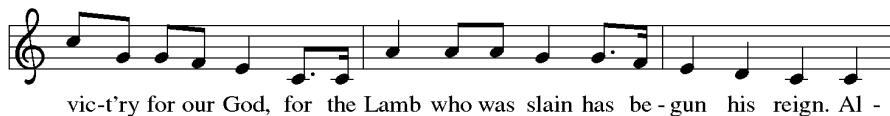
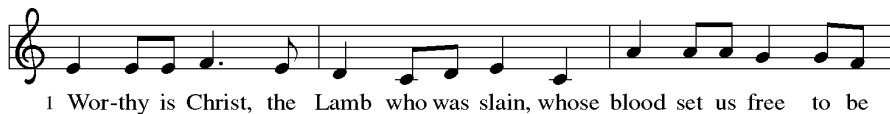
life and for love, for our work and our play,

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



*CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain



Final refrain



***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P Let us pray.

P O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without you nothing is strong, nothing is holy. Embrace us with your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may live through what is temporary without losing what is eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

CHILDREN'S ANTHEM

Praise and Thanksgiving

Edith L. Thomas

FIRST LESSON: Malachi 4:1-2a

Malachi, whose name means “my messenger,” warns that “the day is coming.” On that day, the evil will be destroyed like stubble in a fire, but the “sun of righteousness” will shine on those who honor God.

R A reading from Malachi.

¹ See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ^{2a} But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 98

(Please READ the Psalm responsively—Men, the regular print; Women, the bold print.)

¹ Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things.

² **With his right hand and his holy arm has he won for himself the victory.**

³ The LORD has made known his victory; his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight ¹ of the nations.

⁴ **He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.**

(Continued next page.)

⁵ Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

⁶ Sing to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.

⁷ With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the king, the LORD.

⁸ Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, the lands and those who dwell therein.

⁹ Let the rivers clap their hands and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, when he comes to judge the earth.

¹⁰ In righteousness shall he judge the world and the peoples with equity.

SECOND LESSON: 2nd Thessalonians 3:6-13

Some members of the Thessalonian community, because of their belief in the nearness of Christ's return, had ceased to work, living off the generosity of other members of the community. The writer of this letter warns them bluntly that if they want to eat, they need to work.

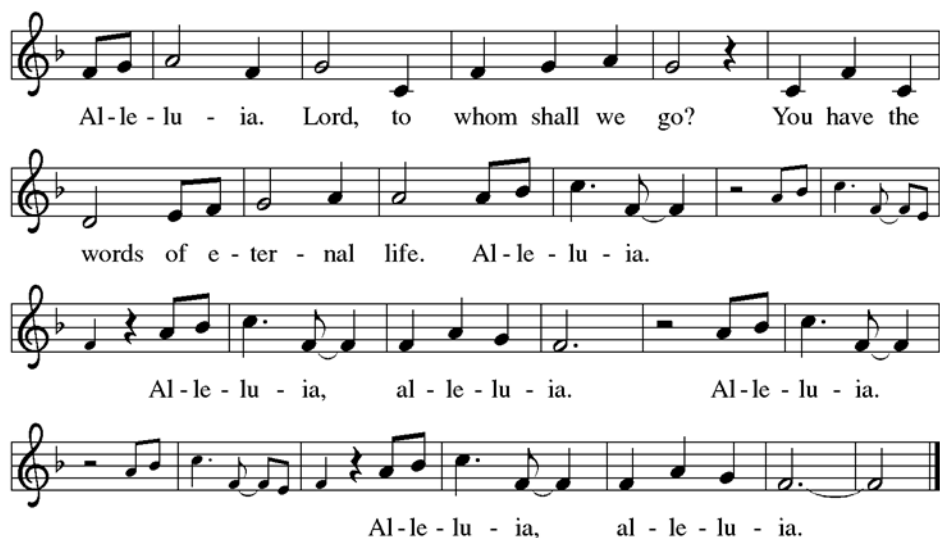
R A reading from 2nd Thessalonians.

⁶ Now we command you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from every brother or sister living irresponsibly and not according to the tradition that they received from us. ⁷ For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not irresponsible when we were with you, ⁸ and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day so that we might not burden any of you. ⁹ This was not because we do not have that right but in order to give you an example to imitate. ¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: anyone unwilling to work should not eat. ¹¹ For we hear that some of you are living irresponsibly, mere busybodies, not doing any work. ¹² Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*GOSPEL: Luke 21:5-19

As history moves toward God's fulfillment there will be frightening signs and events. Before the end, believers will draw strength from their relationship to God and will be given the words they need to testify and to endure without fear.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 21st chapter.
C Glory to you, O Lord.

⁵ When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, [Jesus] said, ⁶ "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down."

⁷ They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" ⁸ And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray, for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them.

⁹ "When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified, for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately." ¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; ¹¹ there will be great earthquakes and in various places famines and plagues, and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

¹² “But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. ¹³ This will give you an opportunity to testify. ¹⁴ So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance, ¹⁵ for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶ You will be betrayed even by parents and siblings, by relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷ You will be hated by all because of my name. ¹⁸ But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹ By your endurance you will gain your souls.”

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

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You



1 O Lord, how shall I meet you, how wel - come you a - right?
 2 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; you came to set me free.
 3 Love caused your in - car - na - tion; love brought you down to me.
 4 Re - joice, then, you sad - heart - ed, who sit in deep - est gloom,

Your peo - ple long to greet you, my hope, my heart's de - light!
 I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; you came to hon - or me.
 Your thirst for my sal - va - tion pro - cured my lib - er - ty.
 who mourn your joys de - part - ed and trem - ble at your doom.

Oh, kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, your lamp with - in my breast
 A glo - rious crown you give me, a trea - sure safe on high
 Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, that led you to em - brace
 All hail the Lord's ap - pear - ing! O glo - rious Sun, now come,

to do in spir - it low - ly all that may please you best.
 that will not fail or leave me as earth - ly rich - es fly.
 in love, all love ex - cel - ling, our lost and fall - en race.
 send forth your beams so cheer - ing and guide us safe - ly home.

***APOSTLES CREED**

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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 Gathered with one voice, we offer our prayers for the church,
the world, and all who are in need.

A Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P We offer these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your
grace and unyielding love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
C Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Am I a Soldier of the Cross

T. Arne

RECOGNITION OF CHURCH MEMBERS 80+ YEARS OF AGE

Shannon Weaver

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Musical notation for the first line of the Offertory Response. The melody is written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be-low;"

Musical notation for the second line of the Offertory Response. The melody continues on the treble clef staff. The lyrics are: "praise him a-bove, ye heav'n-ly host; praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost."

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711

Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510-1561

***THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

- P Holy God,
mighty Fortress, loving Redeemer, steadfast Comforter,
as vegetation matures in forests and fields, your living Word
undergirds all that lives. We praise your eternal Word.
- C **We praise your eternal Word.**
- P In the words of the scriptures you offer us Christ:
our refuge, our savior, our friend, accompanying us throughout
our years and renewing us in love. We praise Jesus, your Word.
- C **We praise Jesus, your Word.**
- P We pray for power from your abiding Spirit.
Strengthen us to stand firm in faith, in devotion to your Word,
and in service to others. We pray for the Spirit of your Word.
- C **We pray for the Spirit of your Word.**
- P To you be honor and praise and glory, today 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 God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, ✚
bless you now and forever.
- C **Amen.**

*CLOSING HYMN

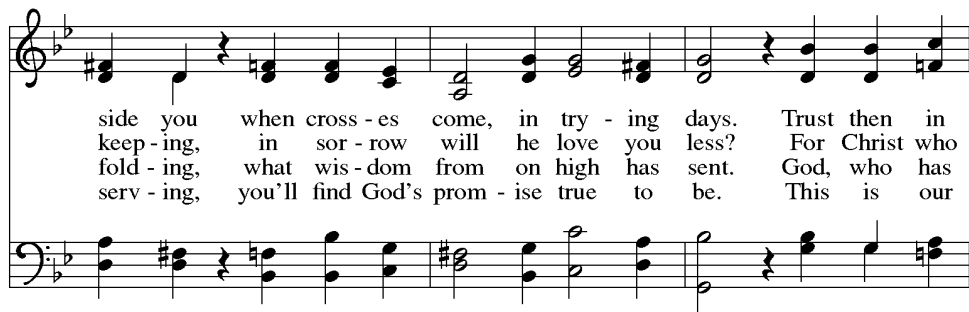
If You But Trust in God to Guide You



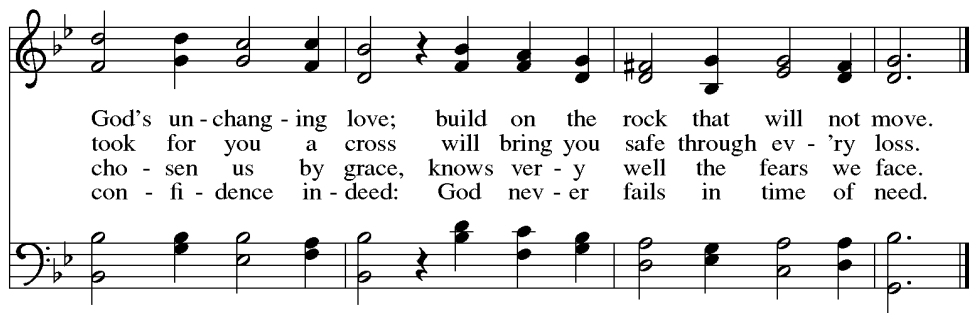
1 If you but trust in God to guide you with gen - tle
 2 What gain is there in anx - ious weep - ing, in help - less
 3 The Lord our rest - less hearts is hold - ing, in peace and
 4 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un - swerv - ing, of - fer your



hand through all your ways, you'll find that God is there be -
 an - ger and dis - tress? If you are in your Sav - ior's
 qui - et - ness con - tent. We rest in God's good will un -
 ser - vice faith - ful - ly. Trust heav - en's word; though un - de -



side you when cross - es come, in try - ing days. Trust then in
 keep - ing, in sor - row will he love you less? For Christ who
 fold - ing, what wis - dom from on high has sent. God, who has
 serv - ing, you'll find God's prom - ise true to be. This is our



God's un - chang - ing love; build on the rock that will not move.
 took for you a cross will bring you safe through ev - 'ry loss.
 cho - sen us by grace, knows ver - y well the fears we face.
 con - fi - dence in - deed: God nev - er fails in time of need.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

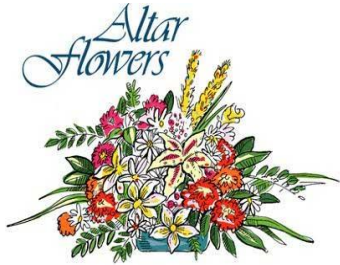
*DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Do not lose heart.
C Thanks be to God.

*POSTLUDE

Onward Christian Soldiers

S. Baring-Gould



In memory of Donald Adams by John and
Connie Kuntz.

In memory of my husband, Ernie Kreiser, by
Darlene Kreiser.

TODAY'S ASSISTANTS

Assisting Minister:	Barb Yost
Lay Reader:	Beverly Reihart
Acolyte:	Audrey Johnston
Ushers:	Tyson Murphy, Joan Murphy
Altar Guild:	Connie Kuntz, Terry Shaner
Money Duty:	Ben Yost, Karen Fisher

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.

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK

Sunday, November 16

8:30 am
9:45 am
9:45 am
12:00 pm

23RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
CHURCH MEMBER RECOGNITION
Worship Service
Sunday Church School
Children's SS and Choir
Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

Monday, November 17

2:45 pm

Violin Lessons

Tuesday, November 18

Wednesday, November 19

11:00 am
6:10 pm
7:00 pm

Bible Study
Bell Choir
Adult Vocal Choir

Thursday, November 20

2:00 pm
7:00 pm
7:00 pm

Violin Lessons
Church Council
Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

Friday, November 21

2:30 pm

Violin Lessons

Saturday, November 22

5:00 pm
7:00 pm

Parents Night Out
Youth Movie Night

Sunday, November 23

8:30 am
9:45 am
9:45 am
12:00 pm
6:00 pm

CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY
Rev. George Scott, Officiating
Worship Service-Communion
Sunday Church School
Children's SS and Choir
Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros
Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

LESSONS:

FIRST LESSON

PSALM

SECOND LESSON

GOSPEL

NOVEMBER 23, 2025

Jeremiah 23:1-6

Psalms 46

Colossians 1:11-20

Luke 23:33-43

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 22	Parent's Night Out (5:00 pm-7:00 pm)
November 22	Youth Movie Night (7:00 pm-9:00 pm)
November 23	Interfaith Thanksgiving Service-6:00 pm, Trindle Spring
November 30	Deadline to order poinsettias
November 30	Getting Ready Sunday - Advent Crafts and Cookie Baking
December 7	Christmas Caroling for Neighbors-3:00 pm
December 7	Christmas Carol Sing with cookies and cocoa in Fellowship Hall-4:00 pm
December 13	Decorate the church for Christmas
December 24	Christmas Eve Services & Lighting of the Luminaries
January 2026	Soup-er Bowl Begins
January 6	Epiphany Day Taco Tues - 6:00 pm
January 6	Epiphany Day Service - 7:00 pm
February 2	Roller Skating

The Mechanicsburg Area Lutheran Church (MALC) Thanksgiving Service originally scheduled for November 23, 6:30 pm at Trinity on Main St. **HAS BEEN CANCELLED.**

INTERFAITH SERVICE

We encourage everyone to attend the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service on **November 23, 6:00 pm, at Trindle Spring Lutheran Church.** Refreshments follow the service.

-ANNOUNCEMENTS-

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT & YOUTH MOVIE NIGHT

Mark your calendars for Saturday, **November 22, 2025**—it's going to be a fun-filled evening at St. Mark Lutheran Church!

Parents' Night Out (5:00-7:00 p.m.)

Need a break? We've got you covered! Parents of potty trained preschoolers through 5th grade children are invited to enjoy a night out while your kids enjoy a safe and fun evening right here at church. From 5:00-7:00 p.m., our Older Youth and Adult volunteers will provide babysitting, dinner, and engaging activities for the children. Please let us know how many children and their ages will be attending **NO LATER THAN Wednesday, November 19** by emailing: revmarleen@stmarkmburg.com

Youth Movie Night (7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.)

The fun doesn't stop there! At 7:00 p.m., our Older Youth will stay for a special Movie Night. Popcorn will be provided, and each youth is asked to bring along a favorite snack to share with friends.

This evening is a wonderful opportunity for fellowship, fun, and a little break for parents—while our young people build community together. Don't miss it!

UPDATE—GETTING READY SUNDAY

Please join us on **Sunday, November 30, at 9:45 a.m.** for Getting Ready Sunday. We will bake a batch or two of cookies together, make beaded wreath crafts, and decorate the gift bags used to package the cookies. The decorated bags and cookies will be donated to the Carlisle Truck Stop Ministries. We would greatly appreciate donations of pre-made cookies (homemade or store-bought) to help us fill as many gift bags as possible. If you would like to pre-bag your cookies, please place five cookies per bag in zip-lock style bags. Donations of Christmas stickers and old holiday cards are also welcome to help decorate the cookie gift bags. Thank you for helping us share Christ's love and the joy of the season with others.

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS EXPRESS

Our Christmas Blessings Express tree is located at the back entrance of St. Mark. **We are collecting unwrapped gifts through Sunday, November 30.** Copies of the New Hope Ministries Wish List are available at entrances to the church as well.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING - December 7

(Please see flyer on next page.)

DECK THE HALLS

Come join in the fellowship as we hang the wreaths and decorate the trees for Christmas on **Saturday, December 13, at 9:00 am**. Hoping to see you there!

LIGHTING OF THE LUMINARIES

The lighting of the luminaries will begin at **3:15 pm on Christmas Eve, December 24**. The sponsorship form is located in the back of the bulletin.

DECEMBER 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES:

4:00 PM CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

There will be an early Christmas Eve service inside at **4:00 pm** following the lighting of the luminaries with **special music at 3:45 pm**. This service will include candle lighting but will be a shorter service for children and others who may not be able to attend a longer worship service.

9:30 PM CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

There will be a Christmas Eve candlelight service starting at **9:30 pm** with **special music beginning at 9:00 pm**.

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

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.

2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2026 Offering Envelopes have arrived. You may pick up your envelopes in the Narthex.



St Mark Lutheran Church

Christmas Carol Singalong

Celebrate the spirit of Christmas with our Christmas Carol Singalong. Sing your way through the neighborhood with us and then gather with family and friends to enjoy the timeless melodies that echo the joy, warmth, and love of the season.

Cookies and cocoa will be served.

AT 03:00 PM

7

DECEMBER

117 West Keller Street, Mechanicsburg, PA
parking and entry in rear alley

www.stmarkmburg.com

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

If you would like to sponsor a poinsettia(s) to be placed in the chancel for Christmas or donate money to Mechanicsburg Area Meals on Wheels, please complete the form below. The cost of each poinsettia is **\$13.00** for a red poinsettia in a 6" pot that will have at least four blooms. **The deadline for ordering is Sunday, November 30. Separate checks** should be made to St. Mark Lutheran Church and be sure to put **Altar Guild on the memo line**. Please place your check with your order in the offering plate.



PLEASE BE SURE TO CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX

☐ POINSETTIA ☐ MEALS ON WHEELS

☐ In honor of _____

☐ In memory of _____

☐ To the Glory of God

~~~~~

Presented by \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Deliver to Shut-in

☐ Will pick up after worship service on Christmas.

\_\_\_\_\_ Total number of Poinsettias ordered

Amount of Check \_\_\_\_\_

**SPONSOR A LUMINARY FOR CHRISTMAS EVE  
DECEMBER 24, 2025**



We are offering you the opportunity to **sponsor a luminary for \$5.00**. Every dollar collected will be donated to Mechanicsburg Area Meals on Wheels.

We will place your name on the luminary bag(s) along with the information you provide below.

**We will begin the lighting of the luminaries at 3:15 pm on Christmas Eve.** You are welcome to join us and light the luminaries that you sponsor, or we will light them for you. Worship services will be held at 4:00 pm (special music starting at 3:45 pm) and 9:30 pm (special music starting at 9:00 pm).

**PLEASE BE SURE TO CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOXES**

Total number of luminaries sponsored \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ I will come and help light luminaries at 3:15 pm.
- ☐ In honor of \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ In memory of \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ To the Glory of God

Sponsored by \_\_\_\_\_

Check amount \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to *St. Mark Lutheran Church* and note "*luminary sponsor*" on the memo line no later than December 14.

# -ONWARD CHRISTIAN SOLDIERS WORD SEARCH-

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
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## LECTIONARY 33

### HONORING CREATORS OF JUSTICE

This week's gospel reading is a part of an apocalyptic speech Jesus gives in the temple. Jesus' talk of war can be alarming to our ears. We want to hear him speak about peace and love and mercy. However, there is much in this world that is scary and violent. Jesus would not be doing his pastoral due diligence if he did not talk about these things. Jesus reminds us that, yes, things are going to get bad. But he calls us to cling to our faith and respond to God's charge that we love and serve our neighbor. And by this, he assures us, we bring about the kingdom.

November 11 is honored as Veterans Day in the United States and Remembrance Day in Canada. Originally it was called Armistice Day to commemorate the ending of World War I and the signing of a ceasefire. It signaled the end of the violence.

An "armistice" is an agreement to stop fighting, to bring about peace. But as Martin Luther King Jr. famously observed, "Peace is not the absence of conflict but the presence of justice." Jesus tells us that violence will happen, but our calling as baptized Christians is to live in the promise of his grace and to go out into the world to be creators of justice and peace.

This week, as we honor and remember those who have served and experienced the violence Jesus speaks of, we must heed Jesus' pastoral words of hope: "Do not be afraid." In the midst of chaos and fear, Jesus gives us his strength and the wisdom to follow him. Blessed are all who work toward armistice in service of peace and justice.

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