

**ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF MECHANICSBURG
NOVEMBER 30, 2025
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**



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

Emil: bradleyjhull@gmail.com

www.stmarkmburg.com

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St Mark Lutheran Church Mechanicsburg

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GUESTS:

“Getting to Know You—Getting to Know All About 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 TODAY

The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today’s readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord’s coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Andrew, Apostle

Sunday, November 30, 2025

The first of the disciples to be called by Jesus, Andrew quickly began to bring others to the Savior, including Simon Peter. The Bible also shows him leading some Greeks to meet Jesus, and he brought forward the boy with five loaves and two fish, with which Jesus fed thousands.

Nicholas, Bishop of Myra, died around 342

Saturday, December 6, 2025

Little is known about Nicholas, except that he was a bishop in present-day Turkey. According to legend, he was famous for his giving to the poor, and so has become a symbol of anonymous gift-giving.

*The asterisk in the margins of the bulletin indicates please stand as able.

PRELUDE

Wait for the Lord

Taize chant

Vocal Choir

GATHERING

P We hear the voice of one crying out in the wilderness;

C Prepare the way of the Lord!

*BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit

C Amen.

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(Silence for reflection. Please kneel or be seated.)

P Most merciful God,

C we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

*GATHERING HYMN

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men
2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and all her
3 Glo - ri - a! Let heav'n a - dore you! Let saints and

on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.
heart with joy is spring - ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.
an - gels sing be - fore you, with harp and cym-bal's clear - est tone.

Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es, and at the
Her dear friend comes down, all glo - rious, the strong in
Gates of pearl, twelve por - tals gleam - ing, lead us to

thrill - ing cry re - joic - es; "Come forth, you maid - ens! Night is past.
grace, in truth vic - to - rious: her star is ris'n; her light is come.
bliss be - yond all dream - ing, with an - gel choirs a - round your throne.

(Continued next page.)

The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!"
 Now come, O Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.
 No eye has caught the light, no ear the thun - d'ring might

Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and pre - pare the feast to share;
 Sing ho - san - na! Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,
 of such glo - ry. There we will go: what joy we'll know!

go, meet the bride - groom, who draws near.
 and fol - low to the ban - quet hall.
 There sweet de - light will ev - er flow.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608; tr. composite
 Music: WACHET AUF, Philipp Nicolai
 Text © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

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*GREETING

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

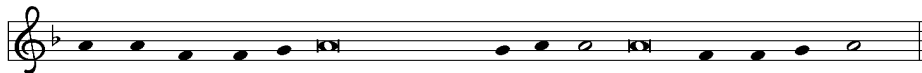
*KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



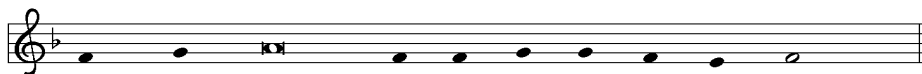
For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



A - men.

*ADVENT WREATH BLESSING

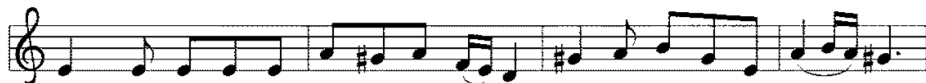
R We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near.

C Amen.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

(The first, candle is lit while the first verse is sung.)

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



1	Light one can-dle to	watch for Mes-si - ah:	let the light ban-ish	dark - ness.
2	Light two can-dles to	watch for Mes-si - ah:	let the light ban-ish	dark - ness.
3	Light three can-dles to	watch for Mes-si - ah:	let the light ban-ish	dark - ness.
4	Light four can-dles to	watch for Mes-si - ah:	let the light ban-ish	dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune

Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you,
C and also with you.

P Let us pray.
Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

ANTHEM

An Invitation to Advent

R. Schram/arr. D. Nolan

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 2:1-5

The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshipping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"

A reading from Isaiah.

¹The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²In days to come

the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

³Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

⁴He shall judge between the nations
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the Lord!

R The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 122

(Please sing the Psalm responsively; the choir, the regular print; congregation, the **bold print**.)



¹ I was glad when they [|] said to me,
“Let us go to the house [|] of the LORD.”

² **Now our [|] feet are standing**
within your gates, [|] O Jerusalem.

³ Jerusalem is built [|] as a city

that is at unity [|] with itself;

⁴ **to which the tribes go up, the tribes [|] of the LORD,**
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name [|] of the LORD.

⁵ For there are the [|] thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the [|] house of David.

⁶ **Pray for the peace [|] of Jerusalem:**
“May they pros- [|] per who love you.

⁷ Peace be with- [|] in your walls
and quietness with- [|] in your towers.

⁸ **For my brethren and com- [|] panions’ sake,**
I pray for [|] your prosperity.

⁹ **Because of the house of the [|] LORD our God,**
I will seek to [|] do you good.”

SECOND LESSON: Romans 13:11-14

Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.

R A reading from Romans.

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



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

Repeat alleluia



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.



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

***GOSPEL: Matthew 24:36-44**

Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 24th chapter.
C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the disciples, ³⁶“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

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

CHILDREN’S SERMON

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.

***NICENE CREED**

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God,
trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the
whole creation.

A God of grace,
C receive our prayer.

P Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.
C Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

From Heaven Above

D. Schack

*THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE

People Look East

4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new
life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming
with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look
east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: '4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new'. The second staff continues: 'life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming'. The third staff continues: 'with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look'. The fourth staff concludes: 'east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.' The score ends with a double bar line.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol

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***THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

P Holy God,
the Beginning and the Ending, our Hope as we wait,
we praise you for joining us to your people of old.
We bless you for your prophets who call us to righteousness
and promise a new earth with peace for all.
For the Word of your covenant, we thank you, O God.

C **We thank you, O God.**

P We praise you for the coming of Jesus our Lord,
who lifts up the lowly, heals the suffering world,
and proclaims your way of mercy and truth.
For your Word who is Christ, we magnify you, O God.

C **We magnify you, O God.**

P Send your Spirit on all who receive your Word.
Nurture our faith with your grace,
accompany us with your might,
and empower our zeal for your justice and joy.
For your Word through the church, we praise you, O God.

C **We praise you, O God.**

P All praise to you, holy God, today, tomorrow, 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 May God who comes among us, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good
news to share today and always.

C **Amen.**

*CLOSING HYMN

Soon and Very Soon



- 1 Soon and ver - y soon
2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
3 No more dy - in' there,
4 Soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,
no more dy - in' there,
soon and ver - y soon



soon and ver - y soon
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King.
no more dy - in' there,
soon and ver - y soon



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!

Coda after stanza 4



Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -



jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah.

Text: Andraé Crouch, b. 1945

Music: VERY SOON, Andraé Crouch

Text and music © 1976 Bud John Songs, Inc./Crouch Music, admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing

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***DISMISSAL**

A Go in peace. Keep awake.
C Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***POSTLUDE**

Savior of the Nation's Come

W. Wold



Altar greens sponsored to the Glory of God by
the Altar Guild.

TODAY'S ASSISTANTS

Ushers:	Scott Kreiger, Deb Kreiger
Assisting Minister:	Karen Heath
Lay Reader:	Karen Fisher
Acolyte:	Katie Stull
Altar Guild:	Connie Kuntz, Bev Reihart

Ushers are needed for the 4:00 pm and 9:30 pm
Christmas Eve services. Please contact Shannon Weaver
at 717-691-1618 if you are available. Thank you.

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK

Sunday, November 30

8:30 am

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Worship Service

RECOGNITION SUNDAY

St. Mark Members 80+

GETTING READY SUNDAY

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

9:45 am

12:00 pm

Monday, December 1

2:45 pm

Violin Lessons

Tuesday, December 2

Wednesday, December 3

11:00 am

6:00 pm

Bible Study

Holden Prayer Svc. & Dinner at St. Stephen

6:00 pm

Bell Choir

7:00 pm

Adult Vocal Choir

Thursday, December 4

Friday, December 5

6:30 pm

2:30 pm

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

Violin Lessons

Saturday, December 6

6:30 pm

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

Sunday, December 7

8:30 am

11:00 am

12:00 pm

3:00 pm

4:00 pm

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Worship Service-Communion

Worship Service-Communion

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

Neighborhood Christmas Caroling

Christmas Caroling in Fellowship Hall with cookies and cocoa

LESSONS:

FIRST LESSON

PSALM

SECOND LESSON

GOSPEL

DECEMBER 7, 2025

Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19

Romans 15:4-13

Matthew 3:1-12

-ANNOUNCEMENTS-

REMINDER—TODAY IS RECOGNITION SUNDAY

REMINDER—TODAY IS GETTING READY SUNDAY

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS EXPRESS

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

ADVENT DEVOTIONS

November 30 is the first Sunday in Advent. Pamphlets for Advent devotions are located on the table in the Narthex. Please take one and one for a friend.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING - December 7

(Please see flyer in the bulletin.)

SPECIAL MUSIC FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

As we begin planning for the season of Advent, we recognize that Christmas celebrations are fast approaching. We are seeking musicians of all kinds to add their talents for Christmas Eve. **There are two opportunities: 3:45-4:00 p.m. for the early service and 9:00 to 9:30 p.m. for the evening service.** GOOD NEWS! You can volunteer for both. A simple musical offering of 2 to 3 minutes would be wonderful. Do you feel called to explore this possibility? Or perhaps you could reach out to a friend or family member that is musically inclined? Please contact Brad at bradleyjhull@gmail.com **no later than December 7** so we can plan repertoire and schedule a rehearsal or two. Additionally, should you be interested in joining the vocal choir to sing at our Christmas Eve service, rehearsals are on **Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.** Please come and join us.

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.

CHRISTIAN YEAGER CHRISTMAS CONCERT



**Christian's Christmas
Concert**

**December 18th
Strock's Farms**

729 Williams Grove Rd.
Mechanicsburg, PA

6:00–8:00 pm

Tickets \$15

On Sale NOW!
ChristianYeagerMusic.com

**Food, Drink, and Merch
Available for purchase**



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

HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER SERVICE

Pastor Marleen Griffith-Stull and Pastor Gwenn Trout will lead Holden Evening Prayer Service on Wednesday, **December 3, 10, and 17**, with Lynne Immell accompanying on piano. The services will **begin at 6 p.m.** and will be followed by a soup supper in their Fellowship Hall at 6:30 p.m. Plan to join us for these opportunities to take the time during this busy season for fellowship and to reflect, revive, and remember the joy of our Savior's birth.

ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH, NEW KINGSTOWN
INVITES YOU TO:

Holden Evening Prayer Service & Soup Supper

ADVENT WEDNESDAYS:
DECEMBER 3, 10, 17

PLEASE RSVP BY NOVEMBER 30

717-766-2168



OFFICE@STSTEPHENLC.ORG

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 TODAY, 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.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

|              |                                                                        |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| November 30  | Deadline to order poinsettias                                          |
| November 30  | Getting Ready Sunday - Advent Crafts and Cookie Baking                 |
| December 3   | Holden Evening Prayer Svc. at St. Stephen                              |
| 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 10  | Holden Evening Prayer Svc. at St. Stephen                              |
| December 17  | Holden Evening Prayer Svc. at St. Stephen                              |
| December 18  | Christian Yeager Christmas Concert                                     |
| 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                                         |
| January 15   | Book Club                                                              |
| February 2   | Roller Skating                                                         |

The Prayer List will be cleared at the end of December. If you would like someone to remain on the list, please email Karen in the church office at [kfisher@stmarkmburg.com](mailto:kfisher@stmarkmburg.com).

# Advent Word Search

Find the words hidden in the puzzle

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

ANGELS  
CANDLES  
CHRISTMAS  
HOPE  
JOY

LOVE  
NATIVITY  
PEACE  
PRAYER  
PREPARATION

PROPHECY  
SHEPHERDS  
TRADITION  
WREATH  
WAITING

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

### ADVENT SIGNS

Few things in life are as jarring as awakening to the shriek of a fire alarm. Of course, that is by design. The safety of those gathered indoors calls for a blaring warning of impending danger so that all might be delivered from harm. Jesus offers a similar signal to his beloveds today, begging us to pay attention to the seriousness of the message he bears: *Be ready! Keep awake! Pay attention to your surroundings! Deliverance is coming soon!*

Advent is a season of preparation, directing our focus toward the incarnation, toward Christmas, when God becomes human and the weary world rejoices. Sometimes preparations take the form of monthslong laborious planning, as we might do for an international trip or the renovation of a home. Other times, preparations must happen immediately, within hours, minutes, or seconds. When a fire alarm sounds, there's no time to plan: We must act quickly, gathering what is most important to get to safety together.

This first Sunday of Advent is a chance to take stock of what is most important in life, to attune our spirits to the reign of heaven that God is birthing in our world. We may be unsettled by these gospel images of the great flood and of field workers being disappeared. Such stories indeed may spark fear, anxiety, and distrust. Yet God comes to be with us amid all the great uncertainties of life, amid the atrocities of human violence, amid the worst of our losses and fears. Jesus reminds us that God is always drawing near to the world, always extending mercy, always acting with love. Mercy and love are Advent signs worth paying attention to, worth staying awake for. Be ready, beloveds, and fear not! God's deliverance is coming soon.

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