

**ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF MECHANICSBURG
OCTOBER 25, 2026
REFORMATION SUNDAY
HOLY COMMUNION AND BAPTISM**



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

8:30 am - Sanctuary & Zoom Worship Service

9:45 am - Sunday Church School

9:45 am - Children & Youth Sunday School

10:20 am - Youth Ensemble

Rev. Marleen Griffith-Stull, Pastor

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Denise's Cell Phone: 717-802-1064

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St Mark Lutheran Church Mechanicsburg

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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

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Simon and Jude, Apostles

Wednesday, October 28, 2026

We know little about these apostles. Simon is listed as "the zealot" or Cananean in New Testament lists. Jude, also called Thaddeus, asked Jesus at the last supper why he had revealed himself to the disciples but not to the world.

Reformation Day

Saturday, October 31, 2026

By the end of the seventeenth century, many Lutheran churches celebrated a festival commemorating Martin Luther's posting of the Ninety-five Theses, a summary of abuses in the church of his time. At the heart of the reform movement was the gospel, the good news that it is by grace through faith that we are justified and set free.

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 ✠ 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 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

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

P Most merciful God,
C we confess that we are in bondage 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 Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, 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.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



1 A migh - ty for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er
 2 If we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing turns to
 3 Though all the world with dev - ils fill and threat - en to de -
 4 God's Word shall stand a - bove the pow'rs, shall end all their thanks-



fail - ing; our help - er frees us from the flood of
 los - ing; the righ - teous one fights by our side, the
 vour us, we trem - ble not, we trust God's will: they
 giv - ing. The Spir - it and the gifts are ours, for



mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For still our an - cient foe,
 one of God's own choos - ing. You ask who this may be:
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Though Sa - tan rant and rage,
 God with us is liv - ing. Let goods and kin - dred go,



for - sworn to work us woe, with guile and dread - ful might
 Christ Je - sus, it is he, the Lord of hosts by name.
 in fierc - est war en - gage, this ty - rant's doomed to fail;
 this mor - tal life al - so; though all of these be gone,



is armed to wage the fight: on earth there is no e - qual.
 No oth - er God we claim! None else can win the bat - tle.
 God's judg - ment must pre-vail! One lit - tle word shall tri - umph.
 they yet have noth - ing won. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Frederick H. Hedge, 1805–1890, alt.

Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther, 1483–1546

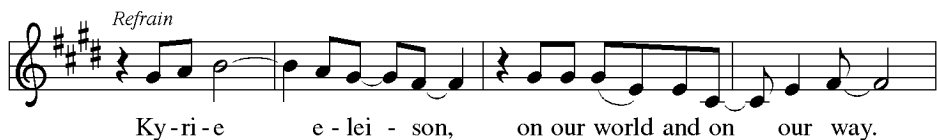
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*GREETING

- 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



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

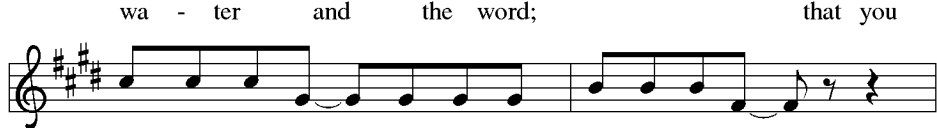
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



hun - gry and the poor; that

friends and fam - i - ly; for

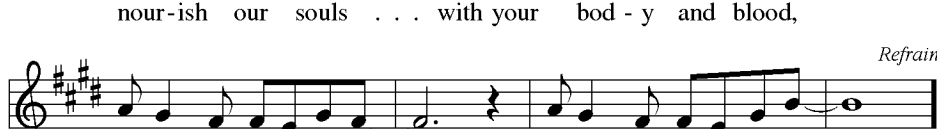
wa - ter and the word; that you



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,



Refrain

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P Let us pray.

P Gracious Father, we pray for your holy catholic church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in anything it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

ANTHEM

The Truth Will Make You Free

A.K. Organ

FIRST LESSON: Jeremiah 31:31-34

The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the LORD means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the LORD will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

R A reading from Jeremiah.

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 46

(Please sing the Psalm in unison.)



- ¹ God is our ref- | uge and strength,
a very present | help in trouble.
- ² Therefore we will not fear, though the | earth be moved,
and though the mountains be toppled into the depths | of the
sea;
- ³ though its waters | rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble | at its tumult.
- ⁴ The LORD of | hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.
- ⁵ There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- | y of God,
the holy habitation of | the Most High.
- ⁶ God is in the midst of her; she shall not be | overthrown;
God shall help her at the | break of day.
- ⁷ The nations make much ado, and the king- | doms are shaken;
God has spoken, and the earth shall | melt away.
- ⁸ The LORD of | hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.
- ⁹ Come now and look upon the works | of the LORD,
what awesome things he has | done on earth.
- ¹⁰ It is he who makes war to cease in | all the world;
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the |
shields with fire.
- ¹¹ “Be still, then, and know that | I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted | in the
earth.”
- ¹² The LORD of | hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.

SECOND LESSON: Romans 3:19-28

Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

R A reading from Romans.

¹⁹ Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

*GOSPEL: John 8:31-36

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 8th chapter.
C Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹ Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” ³³ They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

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

(Continued next page)

Al-le - lu - ia. 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. Al-le - lu - ia.

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

MESSAGE FOR YOUTH

NOISY SUNDAY COLLECTION

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY

Borning Cry



- 1 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.
2 "When you heard the won - der of the Word I was there to cheer you on;
3 "In the mid - dle a - ges of your life, not too old, no lon - ger young,



I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold.
you were raised to praise the liv - ing Lord, to whom you now be - long.
I'll be there to guide you through the night, com-plete what I've be - gun.



I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;
If you find some-one to share your time and you join your hearts as one,
When the eve - ning gent - ly clos - es in and you shut your wea - ry eyes,



in a blaze of light you wan-dered off to find where de-mons dwell."
I'll be there to make your vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun."
I'll be there as I have al - ways been, with just one more sur - prise."



- 4 "I was there to hear your born-ing cry, I'll be there when you are old.



I re - joiced the day you were bap-tized to see your life un - fold."

Text: John C. Ylvisaker, b. 1937
Music: WATERLIFE, John C. Ylvisaker
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BAPTISM OF IRIS ANGELENE MANGES

Candidate for baptism (Iris Angelene Manges), sponsors (Robert Lehmer and Julia Priar), parents (Lillian and Jason Manges), and their guests, gather with the pastor at the font.

P In baptism, our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are re-born children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

Sponsors present the candidate:

I present Iris Angelene Manges for baptism.

The presiding minister addresses the parents for baptism of children who are not able to answer for themselves:

P Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Iris baptized into Christ?

Response: I do.

P As you bring your child to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with her among God's faithful people,
bring her to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in her hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture her in faith and prayer,
so that she may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

P Do you promise to help Iris grow in the Christian faith and life?

Response: I do.

The presiding minister addresses the sponsors:

P Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Iris Angelene Manges in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to

help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Response: I do.

The presiding minister addresses the congregation:

P People of God, do you promise to support *Iris Angelene Manges* and pray for her in her new life in Christ?

C We do.

The congregation stands.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The congregation may join in the responses.

P I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

P Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Response: I renounce them.

P Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Response: I renounce them.

P Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response: I renounce them.

The presiding minister addresses the candidates and the congregation.

P Do you believe in God the Father?

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

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C 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.

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
C 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

P The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

P Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C Amen.

The congregation may be seated.

BAPTISM

P Iris Angelene Manges, I baptize you in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

C You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized.
Alleluia.

- P Let us pray.
We give thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit
you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from
sin, and raise them to eternal life,
- C Amen.
- P Sustain Iris with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom
and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of
knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your
presence, both now and forever.
- C Amen.
- P Iris Angelene Manges, child of God, you have been sealed by the
Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.
- C Amen.

WELCOME

A lighted candle may be given to the newly baptized (or to a sponsor of a young child) as a representative of the congregation says:

- A Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good
works and glorify your Father in heaven.

The ministers and the baptismal group face the congregation. A representative of the congregation leads the congregation in the welcome.

- A Let us welcome the newly baptized.
- C We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission
we share; join us in giving thanks and praise to God and
bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

Those who have gathered at the font may return to their seats.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

A Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

P Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

***PEACE**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

D. Johnson

*THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

The musical score is written on five 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 second staff continues the melody. The third staff has a repeat sign at the beginning. The fourth staff continues the melody. The fifth staff ends with a double bar line.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

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*OFFERTORY PRAYER

- A Loving God,
we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts. Help us take heart
in you and share freely of your love, so that all creation can
taste your abundance. We ask this in the name of Jesus through
the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.
- C Amen.

*PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

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.

*COMMUNION

P Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal
of mercy.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

COMMUNION

All baptized, communion Christians are welcome to partake of the Holy Sacrament. We have gluten-free bread available and white grape juice (in addition to our traditional homemade bread and red wine) for those who need or prefer those. Simply let the pastor or assisting minister know if you prefer something other than bread and wine. Remember that we are promised that Christ is truly present in, with, and under each element.

P The body of Christ, given for you.

C **Amen.**

A The blood of Christ, shed for you.

C **Amen.**

PLEASE SING THE FOLLOWING HYMN DURING THE DISTRIBUTION

Eternal Father, Strong to Save



1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, whose arm has bound the
 2 O Sav - ior, whose al - might - y word the winds and waves sub -
 3 O Ho - ly Spir - it, who didst brood up - on the cha - os
 4 O Trin - i - ty of love and pow'r, all trav - 'lers guard in

rest - less wave, who bade the might - y o - cean deep its
 mis - sive heard, who walked up - on the foam - ing deep, and
 dark and rude, and bid its an - gry tu - mult cease, and
 dan - ger's hour from rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, pro -

own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: oh, hear us when we
 calm a - mid the storm didst sleep: oh, hear us when we
 give, for wild con - fu - sion, peace: oh, hear us when we
 tect them where - so - e'er they go; thus ev - er - more shall

cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
 rise to thee glad hymns and praise from land and sea.

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

1 Lord, keep us stead-fast in your word; curb those who
 2 Lord Je-sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
 3 O Com-fort-er of price-less worth, send peace and

by de- ceit or sword would wrest the king-dom from your Son
 Lord of lords a-lone; de-fend your ho-ly church, that we
 u-ni-ty on earth; sup-port us in our fi-nal strife

and bring to naught all he has done.
 may sing your praise e-ter-nal-ly.
 and lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
 Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

(Please stand as you are able.)

***P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

A Let us pray.

A O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C Amen.

***BLESSING**

P God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Holy Spirit, our advocate and peace, ☩ bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

The Church's One Foundation



1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
 2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
 3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,
 4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,
 5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,

she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.
 her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:
 by schisms . . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
 and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.

From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
 one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"
 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,
 Oh, bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,

with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 and to one hope she press - es with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
 that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

(Please be seated for announcements.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***DISMISSAL**

A Heaven has come near. Go share the good news!

C Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE**

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation

R. Proulx



In honor of my children and grandchildren
by Bev Weaver.

In memory of our fathers by Ken and Donna
Shur.

TODAY'S ASSISTANTS

Assisting Minister: Sean Gimbel

Lay Reader: Bev Reihart

Acolyte: Katie Stull

Ushers: Ken Shur, Donna Shur

Altar Guild: Joan Murphy, Andrea Sassaman,
Sara Jane Miller

Zoom Operator: TBA

Council Money Duty: Marlin Brown, Karen Fisher

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK

Sunday, October 25

REFORMATION SUNDAY

NOISY SUNDAY

Baptism of Iris Angelene Manges

Worship Service—Communion

Reformation BINGO & Jeopardy

Youth Ensemble

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

8:30 am

9:45 am

10:20 am

12:00 Noon

Monday, October 26

Violin Lessons

German Group

2:45 pm

7:00 pm

Tuesday, October 27

Social Ministry

1:00 pm

Wednesday, October 28

Bible Study

Bell Choir

Vocal Choir

11:00 am

6:00 pm

7:00 pm

Thursday, October 29

Violin Lessons

Ladies & Friends Night Out-T.J. Rockwells

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

2:45 pm

6:15 pm

7:00 pm

Friday, October 30

Violin Lessons

2:45 pm

Saturday, October 31

Happy Halloween

Sunday, November 1

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

Worship Service—Communion

Sunday Church School

Children & Youth Sunday School

Youth Ensemble

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

8:30 am

9:45 am

9:45 am

10:20 am

12:00 Noon

LESSONS:

NOVEMBER 1, 2026

FIRST READING

Revelation 7:9-17

PSALM

Psalm 34:1-10, 22

SECOND READING

1 John 3:1-3

GOSPEL

Matthew 5:1-12

-ANNOUNCEMENTS-

REFORMATION BINGO

Join us in Fellowship Hall during Sunday School time **THIS MORNING, October 25, for Reformation BINGO and Jeopardy.** Everyone is invited. Please bring a German themed snack to share.

MONTHLY SUNDAYS TO BENEFIT NEW HOPE MINISTRIES

Here are the items for November and December:

November 15
December 13

Christmas Food to include Ham/Turkeys
To be announced

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A congregational meeting will be held on **Sunday, November 8, at 9:45 am, following worship service in the Sanctuary. Refreshments will be served in Fellowship Hall after the meeting.** The agenda includes approval of the 2027 Budget and election of council members for 2027. Evangelism will lead a discussion on the church's future.

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER

We are planning on celebrating Thanksgiving dinner at St. Mark this year on **Thursday, November 26, 2026, at 1:00 PM in Fellowship Hall.** Helpers are needed to set up, serve, clean up, and help wash dishes. We are soliciting donations of any kind of dessert. **To defray the cost of the meal, we are requesting donations of any amount.** Please make checks payable to St Mark and write *Thanksgiving dinner* on the **outside of your envelope with the amount of your donation.** Please use the **sign-up sheets at entrances to our church no later than November 16** or contact the church office at 717-766-4482 to make a reservation. For additional questions or additional information, please contact Keith Hensel at 717-319-1199.

BOOK CLUB READ

The Evangelism Committee is hosting a book club read on **Tuesday, November 10, at 1:00 pm in the parlor.** The book is entitled, *"Theo of Golden,"* by Allen Levi. It is a **"#1 New York Times Bestselling Phenomenon."**

One spring morning, a stranger named Theo arrives in the small Southern city of Golden. He doesn't explain much about where he came from or why he's there—but when he visits the local coffeehouse, where pencil portraits of the people of Golden hang on the walls, he begins purchasing them, one at a time, and giving each portrait to the person depicted. In exchange, he asks only for the person's story. And so,

portrait by portrait, person by person, secrets are revealed, regrets are shared, and ordinary lives are profoundly altered.

A story of giving and receiving, of seeing and being seen, *Theo of Golden* is an unforgettable novel about the power of generosity, the importance of connection, and the quiet miracles that happen when we choose kindness and wonder. The book is available through the library, Thrift Books, or Amazon. Share and invite a friend. As always, we look forward to conversation and fellowship with you.

BE A SANTA TO UNDERPRIVILEGED ADULTS—CONTRIBUTIONS AND SHOPPERS NEEDED

Over the past 15 years, we have purchased and delivered Christmas gifts to residents of the American House Apartments and Brethren House Apartments located in the Borough of Mechanicsburg. These facilities are designed for underprivileged individuals or individuals who are disabled. The residents are on a limited income; many with no or estranged families, and most of the residents do not own or drive a car.

The Social Ministry Outreach Committee, along with help from many of our friends, will continue to provide Christmas to these individuals as well as a luncheon on the day of their party.

We are requesting “wish lists” from each of the residents. We have been blessed with a wonderful group of shoppers and a wonderful group of individuals who donate and help with the shopping.

If you are interested in making a financial contribution to help defray the expenses, please mark it “Social Ministry” no later than Sunday, November 15. If you would like to help with the shopping, please contact Karen Fisher at 717-580-7507 or email at kfisher@stmarkmburg.com.

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS EXPRESS

Christmas will be here before we know it. It is hard to believe that it is the time of the year when we are starting to plan for the upcoming holiday season. Our Christmas Blessings Express tree is located at the back entrance of St. Mark.

We are collecting gifts (mostly for teenagers) through Sunday, November 29. Copies of the New Hope Ministries Wish List are located at each entrance of St. Mark as well. Or pick an ornament(s) from the tree. Return your UNWRAPPED gift with the ornament attached and place in the containers or area around the tree. **THANK YOU!**



October 25	Reformation Bingo and Jeopardy (During Sunday School time)
October 29	Ladies & Friends Night Out T.J. Rockwells
November 1	All Saints Sunday
November 8	Annual Meeting
November 10	Book Club
November 21	Video Gaming Night
November 26	Thanksgiving Dinner at St. Mark
December 24	Lighting of the Luminaries
December 24	Christmas Eve Services
January 6, 2027	Epiphany, Waffle Wednesday, Chicken & Waffles
February 10	Ash Wednesday
March 25	Seder Meal
March 28	Easter

OPERATION WILDCAT (OW) NEEDS

Operation Wildcat is collecting basic household tools to help families in the Mechanicsburg School District.

Operation Wildcat receives quite a few requests for simple, everyday tools. If you have extras or are looking for a reason to clean out and scale down, they would love to put them to good use. OW volunteers will be assembling tool kits for the families.

A separate collection box is located at the back entrance of St. Mark.

We are currently looking for:

- Small toolboxes
- Hammer
- Tape measure
- Screwdriver set
- Pliers
- Adjustable wrench
- Utility knife
- Level
- Allen wrenches



<https://www.operationwildcat.org/>



**MEETING THE NEEDS OF ALL
STUDENTS IN OUR DISTRICT**

Thank you for helping the families in the Mechanicsburg Area School District.

Social Ministry Committee for Operation Wildcat

REFORMATION SUNDAY

ALWAYS REFORMING

A core teaching for Martin Luther and other church reformers in the sixteenth century was that God grants us salvation not because of our good works but by God's grace through faith. Our good works flow out as our response to God's great gift.

The work begun by Luther and others has continued through the years. The church in North America may appear to be in decline today, but do not lose heart. The church is always in the process of reformation, and the Holy Spirit is always at work in the church.

The church's mission to bring good news to all also continues. Out of gratitude for God's gifts to us, we go out to proclaim the gospel, work for justice and peace, and love our neighbors in all parts of the world. For some, good news comes in the form of word and sacrament. For others, good news is food, clothing, housing, advocacy, disaster relief, caring conversations, and much more. Wherever we go, we meet people where they're at.

On this Reformation Day, take time to pray for the church, for its ongoing reformation, for the healing of divisions, for the renewal of faith and mission, and for the strength to persevere in these efforts. How might you or your congregation support or participate in this important work?

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