

**ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF MECHANICSBURG
AUGUST 9, 2026
11TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
HOLY COMMUNION**



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

8:30 am - Sanctuary & Zoom Worship Service

9:45 am - Summer Fellowship Time

10:00 am - Last Outdoor Service for the Summer - August 16

Rev. Marleen Griffith-Stull, Pastor

Pastor's Cell Phone: 878-295-2173

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Karen Fisher, Office Manager

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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

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Brad's Cell Phone: 202-738-2795

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St Mark Lutheran Church Mechanicsburg

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OF MECHANICSBURG
AUGUST 9, 2026
11TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
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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

Elijah finds the presence of God not in earthquake, wind, or fire, but in the sound of sheer silence. When the disciples face a great storm on the sea, they cry out with fear. Jesus says: “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.” Amid the storms of life, we gather to seek the calm presence of Christ that soothes our fears. In comforting words of scripture and in the refreshing bread and cup of the eucharist, God grants us peace and sends us forth to be a sign of God’s presence to others.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Florence Nightingale, died 1910; Clara Maass, died 1901; renewers of society

Thursday, August 13, 2026

Nightingale was born in England and horrified her wealthy family by deciding to become a nurse. She led a group of nurses in ministering in the midst of the Crimean War and worked for hospital reform. Maass, a native of New Jersey, was also a war nurse, and volunteered as a subject for research on yellow fever. She died of the disease.

Mary, Mother of Our Lord

Saturday, August 15, 2026

The church (including Martin Luther) honored Mary with the title theotokos, meaning “God-bearer,” for her role in giving birth to the Son of God. Her song, the Magnificat, speaks eloquently of God’s lifting the lowly and feeding the hungry.

PRELUDE MUSIC

2-part Invention #4 in D Minor

J.S. Bach

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 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**

My Life Flows On in Endless Song

1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion,
2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu-sic ring - ing.
3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv - eth.
4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun-tain ev - er spring-ing!

I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain

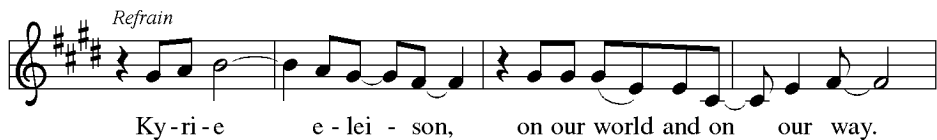
No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.

Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

*GREETING

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

*KYRIE



- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
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



u - ni - ty of all; for
hun - gry and the poor; that
friends and fam - i - ly; for
wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
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,



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

*HYMN OF PRAISE

Listen! You Nations

Refrain



Lis - ten! you na - tions of the world: lis - ten to the Word of the Lord. An -



nounce it from coast to coast; de - clare it to dis - tant is - lands.

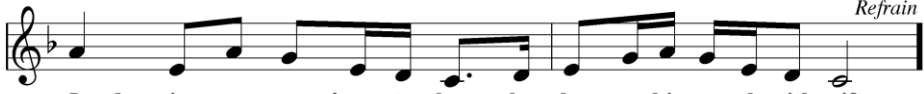
1 The Lord who scat - tered Is - ra - el will gath - er his peo - ple a - gain; and



Refrain

he will keep watch o - ver them as a shep - herd watch - es his flock.

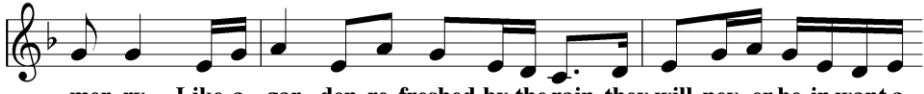
2 With shouts of joy they will come, their fac - es ra - diant - ly hap - py, for the



Refrain

Lord is so gen - 'rous to them; he show - ers his peo - ple with gifts.

3 Young wom - en will dance for joy, and men young and old will make



mer - ry. Like a gar - den re - freshed by the rain, they will nev - er be in want a -



gain. Break in - to shouts of great joy; Ja - cob is free a - gain! Teach



na - tions to sing the song: "The Lord has saved his peo - ple!"

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

P O God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Blest Be the Tie that Binds/God Be With You
Dee Bernatos

Arr. M. Hayes

FIRST LESSON: 1st Kings 19:9-18

On Mount Horeb, where God had appeared to Moses with typical signs of God's presence—earthquake, wind, and fire—Elijah now experienced God in "sheer silence." God assured Elijah that he is not the only faithful believer. Seven thousand Israelites are still loyal. God instructed Elijah to anoint two men as kings and to anoint Elisha as his own successor.

R A reading from 1st Kings.

⁹ At [Horeb, the mount of God,] [Elijah] came to a cave and spent the night there.

Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁰ He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away."

¹¹ He said, "Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind, and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake, ¹² and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire, and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

¹⁴ He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and

they are seeking my life, to take it away.” ¹⁵ Then the LORD said to him, “Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶ Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel, and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. ¹⁷ Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill, and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. ¹⁸ Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.”

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 85:8-13

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

⁸ I will listen to what the LORD God is saying, for he is speaking peace to his faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to him.

⁹ **Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.**

¹⁰ Mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

¹¹ **Truth shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

¹² The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.

¹³ **Righteousness shall go before him, and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.**

SECOND LESSON: Romans 10:5-15

A right relationship with God is not something we achieve by heroic efforts. It is a gift received in the proclamation whose content is Jesus Christ. This proclaimed word creates our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Hence Christian proclamation is an indispensable component of God's saving actions.

R A reading from Romans.

⁵ Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that "the person who does these things will live by them." ⁶ But the righteousness that comes from faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' " (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷ "or 'Who will descend into the abyss?' " (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say?

"The word is near you,
in your mouth and in your heart"
(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim), ⁹ because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart, leading to righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, leading to salvation. ¹¹ The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

¹⁴ But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵ And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

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: Matthew 14:22-33

Matthew's gospel typically portrays Jesus' disciples as people of "little faith," who fail despite their best intentions. In this story, Matthew shows how Jesus comes to the disciples when they are in trouble and sustains them in their time of fear and doubt.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 14th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

²² [Jesus] made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee,] while he dismissed the crowds.²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone,²⁴ but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them.²⁵ And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea.²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear.²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid."

²⁸ Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."²⁹ He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus.³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "You of little faith, why did you

doubt?" ³²When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

*APOSTLES CREED

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

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

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

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

He descended into hell.*

On the third day he rose again.

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

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

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

*Or, He descended to the dead.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

A Merciful God,
C **receive our prayer.**

P Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised.
All this we ask in the name of your Son, 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

Give Me Jesus
Dee Bernatos

Arr. M. Hayes

*THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass, in the key of D major (indicated by two sharps). The melody is primarily in the Treble staff, while the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the staves, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The first system of music covers the lyrics 'Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be-low;'. The second system covers 'praise him a-bove, ye heav'n-ly host; praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost.' The piece concludes with a double bar line.

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

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

*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.

***EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

P Holy, mighty and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C Amen.

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

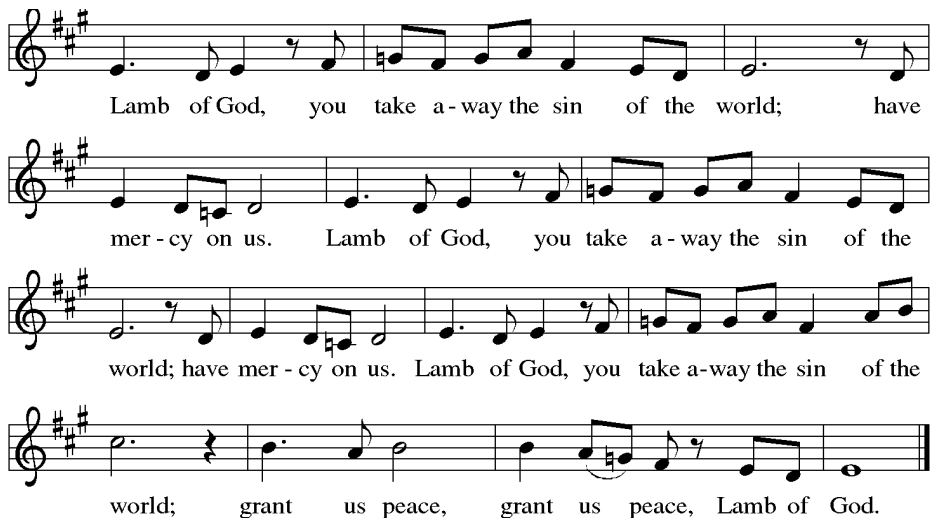
C Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

*COMMUNION

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



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.

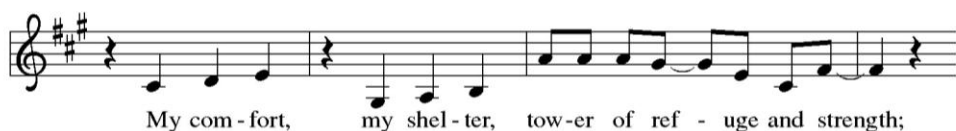
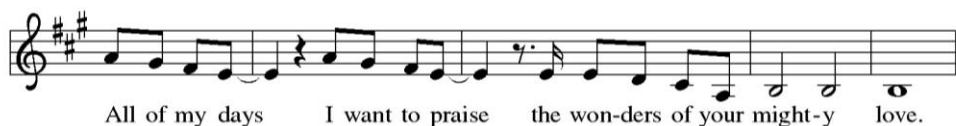
A The blood of Christ, shed for you.

C Amen.

PLEASE SING THE FOLLOWING HYMNS DURING THE DISTRIBUTION

-HYMN OF THE DAY-

Shout to the Lord



Text: Darlene Zschech, b. 1965

Music: SHOUT TO THE LORD, Darlene Zschech

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-COMMUNION-

Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me

1 Je - sus, Sav - ior, pi - lot me o - ver
 2 As a moth - er stills her child, thou canst
 3 When at last I near the shore, and the

life's tem - pes - tuous sea; un - known waves be - fore me
 hush the o - cean wild; bois - t'rous waves o - bey thy
 fear - ful break - ers roar twixt me and the peace - ful

roll, hid - ing rock and treach - 'rous shoal; chart and
 will when thou say'st to them: "Be still." Won - drous
 rest, then, while lean - ing on thy breast, may I

com - pass come from thee. Je - sus, Sav - ior, pi - lot me.
 sov - 'reign of the sea, Je - sus, Sav - ior, pi - lot me.
 hear thee say to me: "Fear not, I will pi - lot thee."

(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

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*



- 1 What a fel - low-ship, what a joy di - vine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;
- 2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;
- 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms?



what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.
oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.
I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.



Refrain



Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se-cure from all a - larms;



Lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,



lean - ing, lean - ing, lean-ing on the ev - er - last-ing arms.



lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,

(Please be seated for announcements.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***DISMISSAL**

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

C Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE**

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

E. Perronet



In memory of James Dobbs by Frankie Hensel.

In memory of Jimmy Dobbs by Frankie Hensel.

ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORS NEEDED FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2026

August 23 - both vases

August 30 - both vases

September 6 - both vases

October 25 - both vases

If you have any questions, please contact Connie Kuntz at 717-503-5244.

TODAY'S ASSISTANTS

Assisting Minister: Alma Gimbel

Lay Reader: Bev Reihart

Acolyte: Phyllis Mihalich

Ushers: Tina Freidhof, Michele Connor

Altar Guild: Michele Connor, Cindy Larkin, Bev Reihart

Zoom Operator Katie Stull

Council Money Duty: Terry Shaner, Karen Fisher

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK

Sunday, August 9	11th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
8:30 am	Worship Service—Communion
9:45 am	Summer Fellowship
10:45 am	Youth & Family Ministry Committee
12:00 pm	Annual Church Picnic at Mechanicsburg Memorial Park
12:00 pm	Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

Monday, August 10	
2:45 pm	Violin Lessons
7:00 pm	German Club

Tuesday, August 11

Wednesday, August 12	
1:00 pm	Finance Committee

Thursday, August 13	
9:00 am	Property Committee
2:45	Violin Lessons
7:00 pm	Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

Friday, August 14	SEPTEMBER REMARKER DEADLINE
2:45 pm	Violin Lessons

Saturday, August 15	
6:30 pm	Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

Sunday, August 16	12th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
	Canned Spaghetti-O's & Ravioli for New Hope
	Backpack Blessing
8:30 am	Worship Service—Communion
9:45 am	Summer Fellowship
10:00 am	Outdoor Service
12:00 pm	Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

LESSONS:	AUGUST 16, 2026
FIRST READING	Isaiah 56:1, 6-8
PSALM	Psalms 67
SECOND READING	Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
GOSPEL	Matthew 15: 10-28

-ANNOUNCEMENTS-

THANK YOU

Thank you, Dee Bernatos, for providing beautiful music during our worship service this morning.

SUMMER FELLOWSHIP TIME

Treats and Talk—9:45 am-10:45 am in the Parlor (Through August)
(Sunday School for All Ages Resumes in the Fall)

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC SOLDIERS & SAILORS MEMORIAL PARK

1 Memorial Park Drive
Mechanicsburg, Pa 17055

TODAY, AUGUST 9, 2026

Arrive at park:	12:00 pm
Picnic Lunch:	1:00 pm
Games & Bingo:	2:00 pm

We have reserved the “Baseball Pavilion” to the right of the restrooms upon entering the park. The Fellowship Committee will provide hamburgers, hotdogs, buns, ketchup, mustard, lemonade/tea, and water. **Please bring a salad, casserole, vegetable, or dessert to share.** There are some electric outlets in the pavilion if you would like to bring a hot dish that needs plugged in. Hoping to see everyone there.

Contact Marlin Brown, Chair, Fellowship, if you have any questions.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF—SCHOOL KITS

Education is one of the strongest tools a community has for breaking the cycle of poverty. Ensuring that girls attend school, especially in places where their access is deprioritized, has even stronger results. Lutheran World Relief School Kits contain essential supplies to help children—and in some cases—adults continue learning in the face of serious obstacles. Learning leads to a better life for them, their families, and their communities.

The Social Ministry Outreach Committee is collecting items listed below for Lutheran World Relief to fulfill their urgent need of School Kit requests. We will be collecting items through **Sunday, September 6.**

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

- Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper approximately 8” X 10½”; no loose-leaf paper
- One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- One pencil sharpener
- One blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- Five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secured together with a rubber band
- Five black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secured together with a rubber band
- One box of 16 or 24 crayons
- One 2½” eraser

If you would like to contribute toward the purchase of backpacks, supplies, or shipping fund, please mark your contributions accordingly.

BACKPACK BLESSING

Start the school year off by joining us for the blessing of backpacks. During the service on **Sunday, August 16**, Pastor Marleen will bless the backpacks/bookbags of students and teachers for a spirit-filled sendoff into the new academic year.

NEW HOPE SUNSHINE BAGS

The Women in God’s Service (WinGS) are collecting **TRAVEL SIZE ITEMS** for New Hope Ministries Sunshine Bags. Please fill a gallon size Ziploc bag with **travel size items**. These bags are provided to individuals when they go to New Hope to take a shower. A container has been placed at the back entrance of the church. Please contact Tina Freidhof with any questions. THANK YOU!

Items for women: shampoo, conditioner, razor, shaving cream, soap, deodorant, comb, toothbrush, toothpaste.

Items for men: shampoo, razor, shaving cream, soap, comb, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste.

MONTHLY SUNDAYS TO BENEFIT NEW HOPE MINISTRIES

Here are the items for August, September, and October:

August 16

September 20

October 18

Canned Spaghetti-O's and Ravioli

Puddings and Applesauce

Canned Vegetables

WinGS POTLUCK SEPTEMBER 2026 MEETING

The Women in God's Service (WinGS) will be having a Potluck Planning Meeting for their 2026-2027 season at **6:00 pm on Tuesday, September 8**, in Fellowship Hall. Please bring a dish to share. Future meetings will be held in the church parlor. All are welcome. Please consider bringing a friend.

"GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS." SUNDAY

On **Sunday, September 13**, the approximately 8,400 congregations of the ELCA will gather to serve communities in ways that share the love of God with all of God's people. The Social Ministry Committee is repeating the project of preparing a spaghetti dinner, salad, bread, and dessert to take to our shut-ins and residents of group homes in the Mechanicsburg area. **We are requesting donations of spaghetti, desserts, as well as monetary donations to help defray the cost of the meatballs, salad, and bread. In addition, we will need volunteers to deliver the meals.** Please use the sign-up sheets at entrances to the church to volunteer.

In addition to the spaghetti dinner, we will be assembling school kits, making greeting cards, and putting together kits for Caitlin's Smiles. Read more about this wonderful organization here:

<https://www.caitlins-smiles.org/>. Additional service projects will be added when identified. **Volunteers from previous years should plan on wearing their "God's Work. Our Hands" bright yellow t-shirts.**

SAVE THE DATE—HOSS'S CROP WALK RECRUITER'S RALLY COMMUNITY DAY FUND RAISER

Please save the date and plan ahead to eat at the Mechanicsburg HOSS'S (located on Old Gettysburg Pike) anytime during the day on **Thursday, September 17, 2026**. Coupons, which must be presented at HOSS'S when you order your meals, will be available at all entrances of our church as soon as they are received.

PEACHES AND (ICE) CREAM

On September 20, please join us following the 8:30 am service (about 9:45 am) for our annual peaches and ice cream event. We will meet in Fellowship Hall to enjoy peach treats.



August 9	Annual Church Picnic-Memorial Park
August 16	Outdoor Worship—10:00 am
August 16	Blessing of the Backpacks
September 8	WinGS Potluck Planning Meeting
September 13	God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday
September 17	HOSS'S Community Day Fund Raiser for the CROP Walk)
September 20	Peaches & Ice Cream following worship
October (TBA)	In-Gathering for LWR
October 13	Soup on the Sidewalk at Mechanicsburg Halloween Parade
October 18	55 th Annual CROP Walk-Memorial Park
November (TBA)	Annual Meeting
November 26	Thanksgiving Dinner
December 24	Lighting of the Luminaries Christmas Eve Services

Altar Flower Sponsorship Form

Please check the one that applies to your sponsorship and complete the following statements:

- ☐ In memory of _____
- ☐ In honor of _____
- ☐ To the Glory of God

Sponsor Name: _____

Sponsor Phone #: _____

Sponsor Email: _____

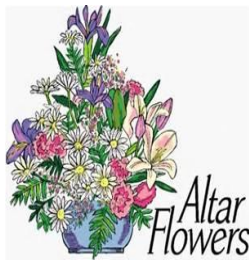
Date Requested: _____

- ☐ Willing to Share

Circle Payment Enclosed:

\$25.00 One Vase of Flowers

\$50.00 Both Vases of Flowers



Checks should be made payable to St. Mark Lutheran Church and note "Altar Guild" in the memo line. Place in the offering plate or mail directly to the church office



Please check any that apply!

- ☐ Flowers will be picked up by sponsors.
- ☐ Deliver one vase of flowers to shut-in or hospital
- ☐ Deliver both vases of flowers to shut-in or hospital

Please contact Connie Kuntz at 717-503-5244 with any questions.

THANK YOU!

LECTIONARY 19

TAKE HEART

Can you recall a time in your life when something happened that was so strange or out of place that your initial reaction was fear? Maybe you doubted what you were experiencing or seeing and even thought, *This is not possible. This can't be.*

The disciples must have been terrified when they saw something so strange that it should have been impossible—someone walking on water, toward their boat, during a storm. They thought they were seeing a ghost until Jesus said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid” (Matthew 14:27).

Some say seeing is believing, but sometimes belief comes through experiencing. So, with Jesus’ encouragement, Peter stepped out of the boat and began to walk on the water. But when he realized how hard the wind was blowing, Peter started sinking and shouted, “Lord, save me!” Jesus reached out, steadied Peter, and said, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” (vv. 30-31). Then the storm ended.

We may be more like Peter than we realize. Maybe there are times when it’s relatively easy to trust in God—until we face something unexpected, frightening, or out of our control. Then doubts immediately overwhelm us.

The good news is that Jesus hears our cries and saves us. He is with us in our weakest moments, holding us even as our spirits sink. Take heart—Jesus is always with you, bringing peace amid the storms, faith amid your doubts, and new life out of death.