

ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF MECHANICSBURG
JULY 12, 2026
7th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
ABBREVIATED SERVICE—NO COMMUNION



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

8:30 am - Sanctuary & Zoom Worship Service

9:45 am - Summer Fellowship Time

10:00 am - Outdoor Service (1st & 3rd Sundays—July and August)

Rev. Marleen Griffith-Stull, Pastor

Pastor's Cell Phone: 878-295-2173

Pastor's Email: revmarleen@stmarkmburg.com

Karen Fisher, Office Manager

Karen's Cell Phone: 717-580-7507

Church Office: 717-766-4482

Office Email: kfisher@stmarkmburg.com

Office Hours: 10:00 AM-1:00 PM - Monday through Thursday

Denise Hirn, Director of Children's Choir

Denise's Cell Phone: 717-802-1064

Email: denisehirn@hotmail.com

Brad Hull, Director of Music

Brad's Cell Phone: 202-738-2795

Email: bradleyjhull@gmail.com

www.stmarkmburg.com

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St Mark Lutheran Church Mechanicsburg

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JULY 12, 2026
7th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
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SPECIAL MESSAGE

Please keep Pastor Mike Tamorria, who was scheduled to preside at this morning's service, in your thoughts and prayers as he recovers from pneumonia. Karen Heath will lead this morning's worship service. Amy Gimbel will present the message, and Scott Kreiger will be reading the lessons.

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

God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

**Nathan Söderblom, Bishop of Uppsala, died 1931
Sunday, July 12, 2026**

A winner of the Nobel Prize for peace for his efforts to unite peoples after the First World War, Söderblom also called attention to the revival of early church worship principles and helped to lay the groundwork for the World Council of Churches.

PRELUDE MUSIC

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.

Asterisk (*) in the margin of this bulletin indicates to please stand as you are able.

*GATHERING HYMN

God of the Fertile Fields

1 God of the fer - tile fields, sha - per of
 2 We would be stew - ards true, hold - ing in
 3 As grows the hid - den seed to fruit that
 4 God of the coun - try - side, dear to the

earth that yields our dai - ly bread: forth from your
 trust from you all that you give; help us in
 serves our need, so your reign grows. Let all our
 Christ who died to make us one: we pledge our

boun - teous hand come gifts your love has planned,
 love to share, teach us like you to care
 toil be used, no gift of yours a - bused,
 lives a - new in faith - ful love to you.

that all in ev - 'ry land be clothed and fed.
 for peo - ple ev - 'ry - where, that all may live.
 no hum - ble task re - fused your love be - stows.
 Guide all we say and do. Your will be done.

Text: Georgia Harkness, 1891–1974, alt.

Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716–1796

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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

Refrain



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



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.

Refrain

*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



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



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



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



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 Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 55:10-13

God's word to Israel's exiles is as sure and effective as never-failing precipitation. Their return to the Holy Land in a new exodus is cheered on by singing mountains and by trees that clap their hands.

R A reading from Isaiah.

¹⁰ For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,

giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,

but it shall accomplish that which I purpose
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹² For you shall go out in joy
and be led back in peace;

the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,

and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

¹³ Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle,

and it shall be to the Lord for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 65:1-14

(Please read the Psalm responsively—Lectern side, the regular print; pulpit side, the bold print.)

¹ You are to be praised, O God, in Zion; to you shall vows be performed in Jerusalem.

² **To you that hear prayer shall all flesh come, because of their transgressions.**

³ Our sins are stronger than we are, but you will blot them out.

⁴ **Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your courts to dwell there! They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness of your temple.**

⁵ Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of our salvation, O Hope of all the ends of the earth and of the seas that are far away.

⁶ **You make fast the mountains by your power; they are girded about with might.**

⁷ You still the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, and the clamor of the peoples.

⁸ **Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your marvelous signs; you make the dawn and the dusk to sing for joy.**

⁹ You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God is full of water.

¹⁰ **You prepare the grain so you provide for the earth.**

¹¹ You drench the furrows and smooth out the ridges; with heavy rain you soften the ground and bless its increase.

¹² **You crown the year with your goodness, and your paths over flow with plenty.**

(Continued next page)

¹³ May the fields of the wilderness be rich for grazing, and the hills be clothed with joy.

¹⁴ May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak themselves with grain; let them shout for joy and sing.

SECOND LESSON: Romans 8:1-11

There is no condemnation for those who live in Christ. God sent Christ to accomplish what the law was unable to do: condemn sin and free us from its death-dealing ways. The Spirit now empowers proper actions and values in our lives and gives us the promise of resurrected life.

R A reading from Romans.

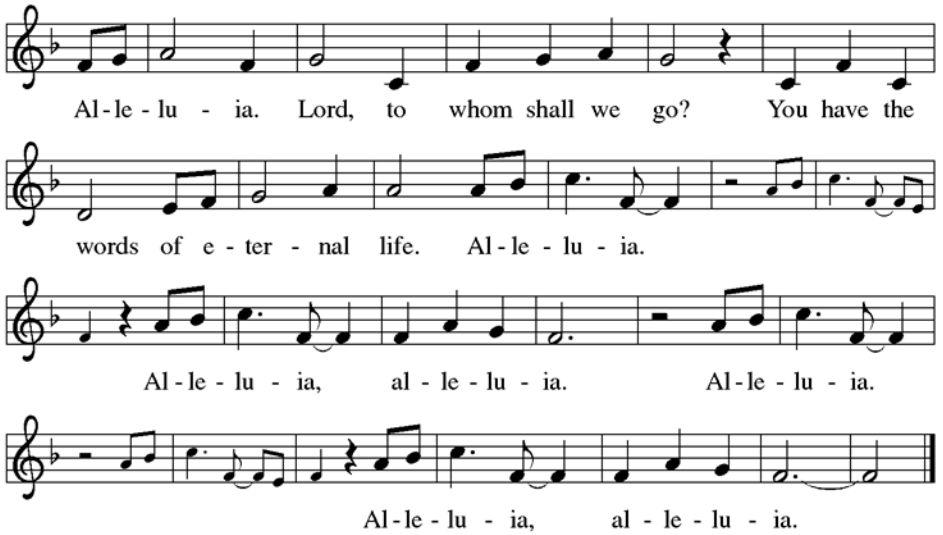
¹ Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

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 13:1-9, 18-23

In Matthew's gospel, both Jesus and his disciples "sow the seed" of God's word by proclaiming the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near." Now, in a memorable parable, Jesus explains why this good news produces different results in those who hear.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 13th chapter.
C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea.
²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹If you have ears, hear!"

¹⁸"Hear, then, the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears

the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³ But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

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 Trusting in God’s steadfast love for all God has made, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A God of grace,
C hear our prayer.

NOTE: Please read the BOLDED FIRST NAMES ONLY out loud down Each column when prompted by the Assisting Minister.

Charlene Albert	Ed Fencil	Bartok Lewczuk	Tim Roteman	Noah V.
Jackson Avery	Diann Foltz	Dorota Lewczuk	Dolores Ruth	Connor Valchine
Eleanor Beam	Rosie Guarino	Mitzi	Tom Ryan	Gary Webber
Randy Brown	Doug Hopkins	Amanda Mulkey	Ez Sassaman	Lorrie Webber
Billy Butos	Rick Hopkins	Kriss Mulkey	Angela Schlessman	Dwayne Webster
Lori Clelan	Duryea Hummer	Ryan Musser	Edie Sheibley	June Wolf
Tim Devine	Doug Irvin	Steve Nelson	Cole Smith	Garry Zeigler
Alice Dunbar	Clairene Jones	Alice Park	Dolores Stevens	
Derwood Dunbar	Kathy Kauffman	Jenni Reasner	Carol Stolz	
Bob Faust	Lori Krammes	Bill Reynolds	Barbara Talarico	
Carol Fencil	John Kuntz	Sandy Rife	Ronetta Trimmer	

P Grateful for your abundant provision and trusting in your goodness, we cast all our cares upon you, through the abundant grace of Christ Jesus.

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

*THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;

praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711
Music: OLD HUNDREDDTH, 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.

***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 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

For the Fruit of All Creation

1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.

For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.

For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,

fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: AR HYDY NOS, Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

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(Please be seated for announcements)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***DISMISSAL**

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

C Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE**



In memory of my father, Milton, (birthday July 12) and in honor of my son, Fred, (birthday July 9) by Charlene Albert.

In honor of our great-grandchildren Braden, Brooklyn, Joseph, Mia, Isabelle, Madeline, Lane, and Levi by Ez and Andi Sassaman

ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORS NEEDED

Altar flowers are needed for August 2 and 23 (both vases); August 30 (one vase). We need all of September (both vases) except September 27. We need one vase for October 4 and both vases for October 18 and 25. In November, we need one vase for November 22. Sponsor sheets are located at entrances to the church, in bulletins, and newsletters, or you may contact Connie Kuntz at 717-503-5244.

TODAY'S ASSISTANTS

Leader & Assisting Minister: Karen Heath

Message: Amy Gimbel

Lay Reader: Scott Kreiger

Acolyte: Phyllis Mihalich

Ushers: Keith Hensel, Frankie Hensel

Altar Guild: Phyllis Mihalich, Sandy Brown

Zoom Operator: Sandy Brown

Money Duty: Kevin Amos, Marlin Brown

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK

Sunday, July 12	7th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST PASTOR VACATION Worship Service—Communion Summer Fellowship Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros
Monday, July 13	PASTOR VACATION Violin Lessons German Club
Tuesday, July 14	PASTOR VACATION
Wednesday, July 15	PASTOR VACATION AUGUST REMARKER DEADLINE
Thursday, July 16	PASTOR VACATION Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros
Friday, July 17	Violin Lessons
Saturday, July 18	Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros
Sunday, July 19	8th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST BROWNIE, CAKE MIXES, & ICING SUNDAY Worship Service—Communion Summer Fellowship Outdoor Worship Service Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros
LESSONS:	JULY 19, 2026
FIRST READING	Isaiah 44:6-8
PSALM	Psalms 86-11-17
SECOND READING	Romans 8:12-25
GOSPEL	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

-ANNOUNCEMENTS-

PASTOR VACATION

PHONE NUMBER FOR PASTORAL CARE AND EMERGENCIES:

Pastor Marleen and family are on vacation through **July 16**. **Pastor Mike Faust (Newville Parish)** is on call for pastoral care and emergencies. He can be reached at **717-965-3854**. If Pastor Faust is unavailable, please contact **Pastor Gwenn Trout** at **717-602-9913**.

HEARTFELT THANKS

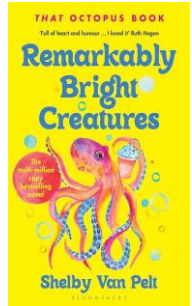
We sincerely thank Denise Hirn, Director of Children's Choir, who is filling in for Brad Hull, Director of Music, while he is on vacation through July 12.

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)

BOOK CLUB

The Evangelism Committee is hosting a book club read on **Thursday, July 23, at 1:00 pm in the parlor**. The suggested book is **Remarkably Bright Creatures** by Shelby Van Pelt. A gentle reminder that sometimes taking a hard look at the past can help uncover a future that once felt impossible. We look forward to conversation and fellowship.



MONTHLY SUNDAYS TO BENEFIT NEW HOPE MINISTRIES

The Social Ministry Outreach Committee designates one Sunday a month to collect items for New Hope Ministries. Here are the items for June, July, and August:

July 19

August 16

September 20

Brownie, Cake Mixes, and Icing

Canned Spaghetti-O's and Ravioli

Puddings and Applesauce

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.



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. That 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.

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.

TRINDLE SPRING LUTHERAN CHURCH VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

The congregation of Trindle Spring Lutheran Church would like to extend an invitation to our community to join us for Vacation Bible School 2026! Our theme this year is "Tropical Trek" and we will be learning about how Jesus seeks us out no matter where we go. We will do this through bible stories, songs, crafts, games, and even service projects. TSLC VBS will take place from Sunday, **July 26 - Thursday, July 30, 2026**. A kid-friendly dinner is served for the whole family at 5:00 pm, followed by VBS from 5:45-8:00 pm. To register, go to the TSLC website at www.trindlespringlutheran.org. We hope you will join us!



JOIN US FOR TSLC VBS 2026!

Dates: Sunday, July 26 - Thursday, July 30, 2026

Time: Kid-Friendly served for *the whole family* at 5pm
VBS runs from 5:45-8:00pm

Location: Trindle Spring Lutheran Church
14 State Road, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

Ages: Ages 3-Grade 5, as well as an adult class offering

Register at: www.trindlespringlutheran.org



SUMMER DAY CAMP FOR KIDS

Day Camp at St. Mark returns this summer for kids from K- 5th grade. Those who are older are encouraged to come and help during camp this summer. On **August 3 through August 7 from 8:30 am–3:30 pm**. This year we use the ELCA's National Youth Gathering's theme: *Imagine More, Courage, Joy, Love, Welcome, and Grace*. We will learn how the Kingdom of God is a place of **more**. This **FREE** camp is a great way for our youth and youth in our community to grow in their faith! If you know young people who would like to attend, invite them to join us. If you want to be part of sharing faith with the next generation, let Pastor Marleen know, and we will find ways for you to participate.

**ST. MARK LUTHERAN
CHURCH
DAY CAMP**

Lunch & Snacks Provided

**BIBLE STORIES, SPORTS, ACTIVITIES,
AND MUCH MORE**

**August 3-7
2026**

8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES K-5 (2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR)

Registration by phone (717) 766-4482
Registration by email revmarleen@stmarkmburg.com

Address 117 West Keller Street
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

DAY CAMP WISH LIST

Pastor Marleen has developed a Wish List for this year's Day Camp which will be held **August 3-7**. Please look over the following list and select something that you might be willing to donate. Keep checking, as well, because the list is sure to be updated as we get closer to August.

Toilet paper rolls
Paper towel rolls
Large metal cans
Scrap paper—especially colored paper

Cardboard boxes
Masking tape
Colored cardstock
Ping pong balls

** children, grandchildren, neighbors!

** loving adults and older youth (Even 2 hours of your time that week helps!)

Church Picnic



ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC
SOLDIERS & SAILORS MEMORIAL PARK
1 Memorial Park Drive
Mechanicsburg, Pa 17055

SUNDAY, 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.

Please sign up at entrances to St. Mark. Contact Marlin Brown, Chair, Fellowship, if you have any questions.

HELP WANTED—USHER

We are in need of one usher. You will be asked to usher 2-3 times per year. Please consider volunteering. Contact Shannon Weaver to volunteer at 717-691-1618. Thank you!

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

ELECTRONIC GIVING

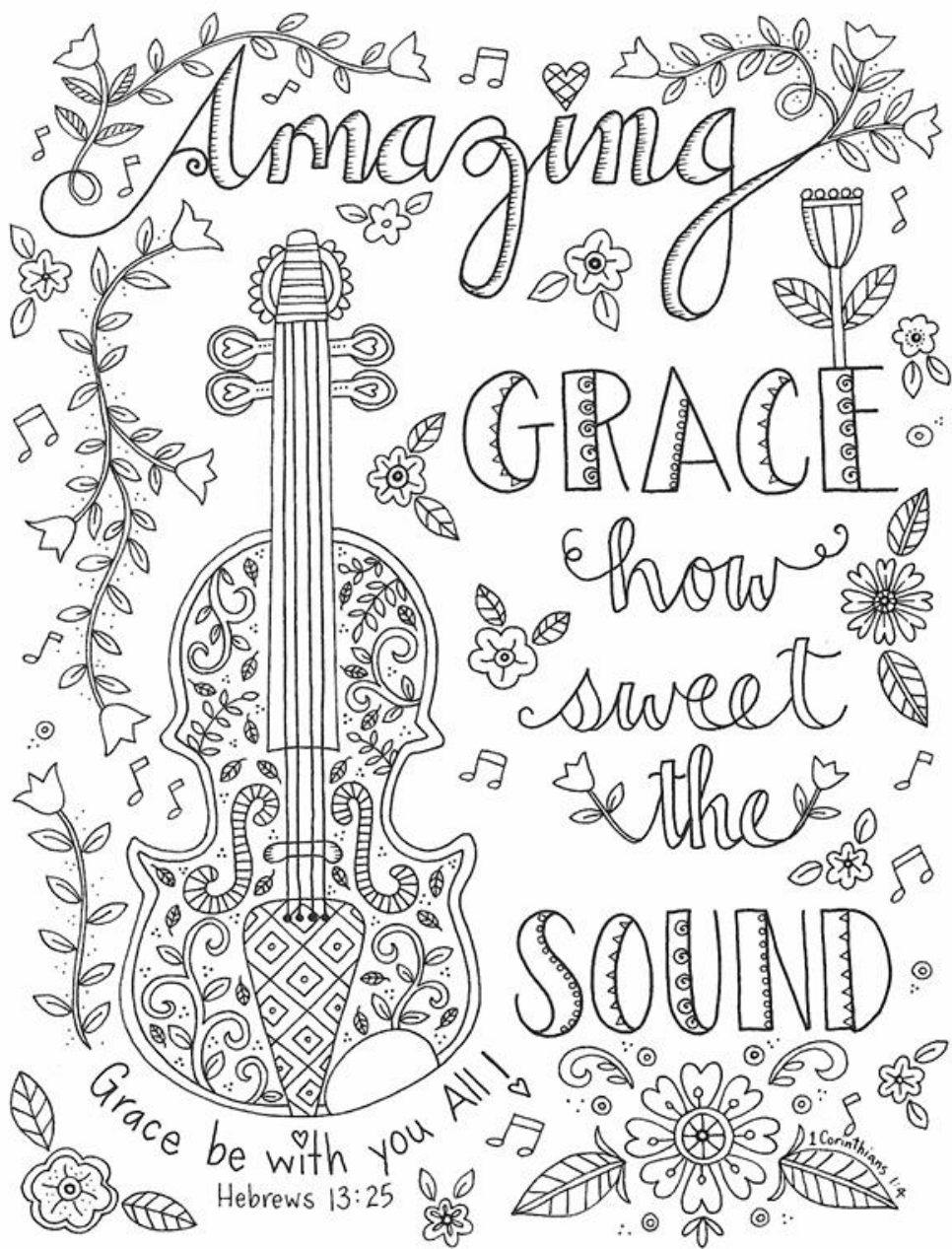
St Mark has successfully established a non-profit Venmo account which enables electronic giving. Venmo has some fees, a 1.9% processing fee and a 10 cents per transaction fee. When you give, St Mark will pay these fees. Your donation record will reflect your full donation.

To give this way, you must have an active Venmo account. You can give using the charity name, St Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mechanicsburg, @StMark-117 or by using the following QR code.



If you have any questions, please contact Kevin Amos or Barb Yost.

-COLORING PAGE-





July 19	Outdoor Worship—10:00 am
July 23	Book Club
July 26-July 30	Vacation Bible School at Trindle Spring
August 2 & 16	Outdoor Worship—10:00 am
August 3-7	St. Mark Day Camp
August 9	Annual Church Picnic-Memorial Park
August 16	Blessing of the Backpacks
September 13	God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday
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	55th Annual CROP Walk-Memorial Park
November (TBA)	Annual Meeting
November 26	Tentative Thanksgiving Meal
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 15

THE GENEROUS GARDENER

In this parable, Jesus tells the disciples a story of a gardener. While many people carefully plan where to plant seeds (with some modern farmers using technology to map out, down to the millimeter, where each seed will grow best), the gardener in Jesus' story scatters seed generously, almost carelessly.

As the disciples, familiar with farming and fishing, would have known deep within themselves, things don't come easy in this life. Faith is the same. Like seeds that take their time, when the conditions are right to grow and bear fruit, faith isn't always a steady path. There are seasons of cold isolation—times when prayer and devotions don't warm the heart as they once did. There are seasons of scorching busyness—times when endless distractions overwork the head enough to overheat. Faith might look different at these times, but no matter the season, faith is never gone.

Ultimately, faith isn't measured down to the millimeter. Instead, this haphazardly generous gardener extends faith into the impossible places. And when rocks, sun, or thorns from this world and within choke this faith that God has given us, the impossible becomes possible. In every season, God comes again and again to sprinkle more and more seed and to reach out to us before we can even try to grow on our own. And with time and divine Presence, that seed of faith starts to sprout.

Because of this never-ending abundance, every season is an opportunity to engage with God the generous gardener, whose nearness is always available and who gives the gift of faith, no matter the conditions. Today, let the summer breeze remind you of how close God's Spirit is, always nurturing and providing the abundance that is the essence of faith.

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