

**ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF MECHANICSBURG
SEPTEMBER 6, 2026
15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
HOLY COMMUNION**



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

8:30 am - Sanctuary & Zoom Worship Service

9:45 am - Summer Fellowship Time

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

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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

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Brad Hull, Director of Music

Brad's Cell Phone: 202-738-2795

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www.stmarkmburg.com

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St Mark Lutheran Church Mechanicsburg

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SEPTEMBER 6, 2026
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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

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus’ words in today’s gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

**Peter Claver, priest, missionary to Colombia, died 1654
Wednesday, September 9, 2026**

Born into Spanish nobility, Claver became a Jesuit missionary, and served in present-day Colombia. His ministry was focused on the enslaved people who arrived there. He gave them food and medicine, learned their dialects, and taught them Christianity.

PRELUDE

2-part Invention #8 in F Major

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

Earth and All Stars!



1	Earth	and	all	stars!	Loud	rush - ing	plan - ets!
2	Trum - pet	and	pipes!	Loud	clash - ing	cym - bals!	
3	En - gines	and	steel!	Loud	pound - ing	ham - mers!	
4	Class - rooms	and	labs!	Loud	boil - ing	test tubes!	
5	Knowl - edge	and	truth!	Loud	sound - ing	wis - dom!	



Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!



Hail, wind,	and	rain!	Loud	blow - ing	snow - storm!
Harp, lute,	and	lyre!	Loud	hum - ming	cel - los!
Lime - stone	and	beams!	Loud	build - ing	work - ers!
Ath - lete	and	band!	Loud	cheer - ing	peo - ple!
Daugh - ter	and	son!	Loud	pray - ing	mem - bers!



Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!



God has done mar - vel - ous things.



I too sing prais - es with a new song!

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926

Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922–1987

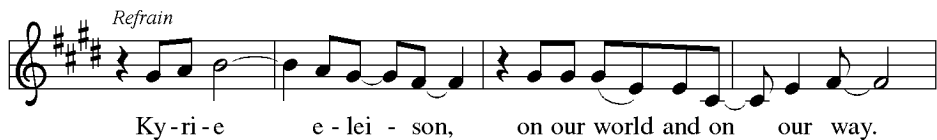
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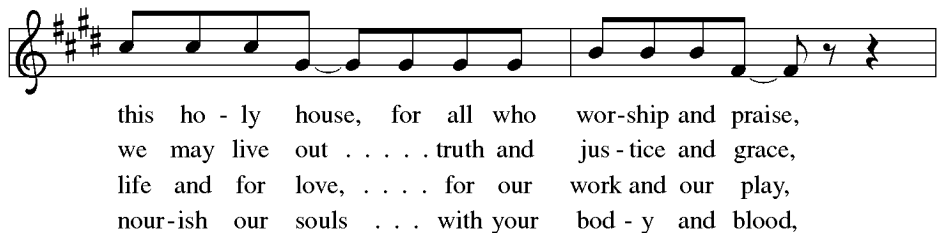
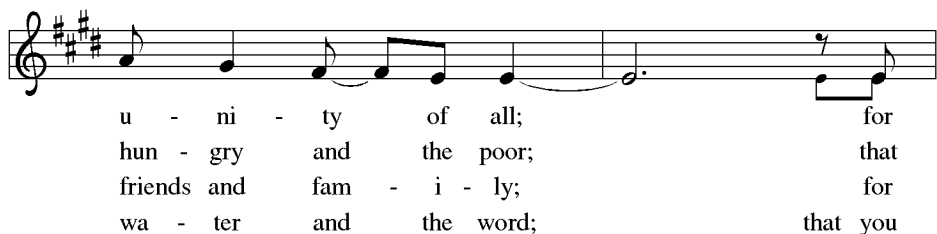
*GREETING

- 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



- 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



*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 O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Ezekiel 33:7-11

God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God's warnings to the people. Remarkably, God—who is about to attack Jerusalem—gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.

R A reading from Ezekiel.

⁷ So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. ⁸ If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. ⁹ But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

¹⁰ Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” ¹¹ Say to them: As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 119:33-40

(Please read the Psalm responsively. Lectern side the regular print; Pulpit side the bold print.)

³³ Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes, and I shall keep it to the end.

³⁴ **Give me understanding, and I shall keep your law; I shall keep it with all my heart.**

³⁵ Make me go in the path of your commandments, for that is my desire.

³⁶ **Incline my heart to your decrees and not to unjust gain.**

³⁷ Turn my eyes from watching what is worthless; give me life in your ways.

³⁸ **Fulfill your promise ¹ to your servant, which you make to those who fear you.**

³⁹ Turn away the reproach which I dread, because your judgments are good.

⁴⁰ **Behold, I long for your commandments; in your righteousness preserve my life.**

SECOND LESSON: Romans 13:8-14

The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.

R A reading from Romans.

⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near.

Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al-le - lu - ia. 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 18:15-20

Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 18th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁵ “If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on

earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

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 Proclaiming God, empower your church throughout the world to announce the words you give us. Open us to receive your word in unexpected ways. Hear us, O God.

A Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

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

Jesu, Jesu

T. Colvin

*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.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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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.

***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.

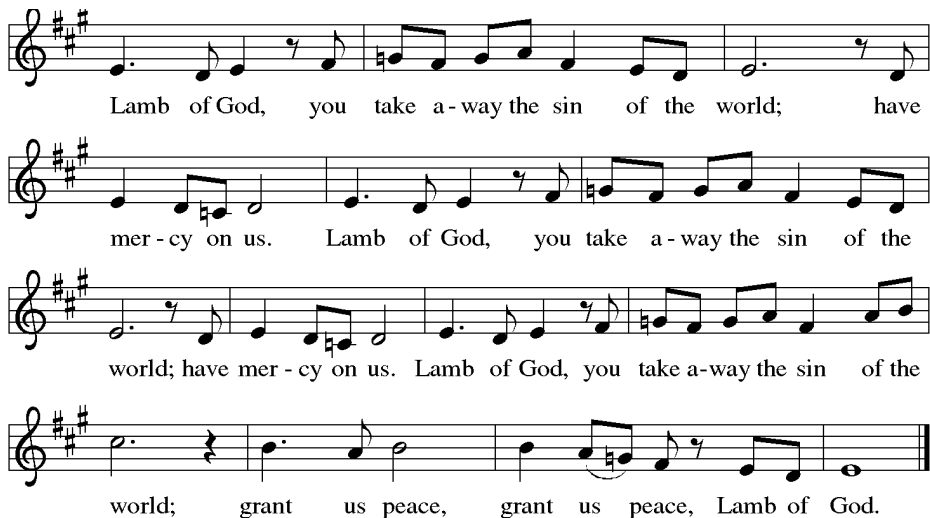
C Amen.

***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-

Seek Ye First

Descant

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

1 Seek ye first the king - dom of God and its
2 Ask and it shall be giv - en un - to you; seek and

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

righ - teous - ness, and all these things shall be
you shall find; knock and the door shall be

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

add - ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.
o - pened un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia.

-COMMUNION-

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

The musical score is written for two voices, Soprano (treble clef) and Bass (bass clef), in a 2/4 time signature. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with many chords. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with line numbers 1 through 4 indicating the start of each line of text.

1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;
2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;
3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;

the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.

Music: DENNIS, Johann G. Nägeli, 1773–1836, adapt.

(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

Go, My Children, with My Blessing



1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
 2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
 3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
 Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
 Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
 Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
 Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.

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

Text © 1983 Concordia Publishing House

Outside USA: Arr. from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906

(Please be seated for announcements.)

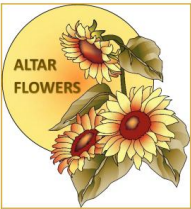
ANNOUNCEMENTS

***DISMISSAL**

A Heaven has come near. Go share the good news!
C Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE**

Marche Heroique W. Stickles



In Honor of our Daughter, Missy, and Son-In-Law
Scott's 17th Wedding Anniversary TODAY by
Gene and Terry Shaner.

TODAY'S ASSISTANTS

Assisting Minister:	Sean Gimbel
Lay Reader:	Amy Gimbel
Acolyte:	Katie Stull
Ushers:	Barb Lehman, Dave Harnish
Altar Guild:	Terry Shaner, Sandy Brown
Zoom Operator	Lori Clelan
Council Money Duty:	Ben Yost, Amy Gimbel

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK

Sunday, September 6

8:30 am

9:45 am

9:45 am

12:00 pm

15th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Worship Service—Communion

Fellowship Time

Children's SS & Choir

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

Monday, September 7

LABOR DAY HOLIDAY

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

Tuesday, September 8

8:00 am

6:00 pm

Evangelism Committee

WinGS Potluck Dinner Planning Meeting

Wednesday, September 9

11:00 am

1:00 pm

6:00 pm

7:00 pm

Bible Study

Finance Committee

Bell Choir

Vocal Choir

Thursday, September 10

9:00 am

1:00 pm

2:45 pm

7:00 pm

Property Committee

Fellowship Committee

Violin Lessons

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

Friday, September 11

2:45 pm

6:30 pm

Violin Lessons

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

Saturday, September 12

Sunday, September 13

8:30 am

9:45 am

9:45 am

2:00 pm

4:30 pm

16th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

HOLY CROSS SUNDAY

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS. SUNDAY

Worship Service—Communion

Church Sunday School

Children's SS & Choir

God's Work. Our Hands. Activities

Deliver meals

LESSONS:

FIRST READING

PSALM

SECOND READING

GOSPEL

SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

Numbers 21:4b-9

Psalm 78:1-2, 34-38

1 Corinthians 1:18-24

John 3:3-17

-ANNOUNCEMENTS- SUMMER FELLOWSHIP TIME

Treats and Talk—9:45 am-10:45 am in the Parlor (through September 6)
(Sunday School for All Ages Resumes September 13)

WinGS POTLUCK SEPTEMBER 2026 MEETING

Our first meeting is **September 8, 2026, at 6:00 pm**. It is going to be a *Garden Potluck*. Your officers are bringing chicken salad, ham salad, egg salad, and tuna salad. The following are suggested items for you to volunteer and let Sandy Brown know that you are bringing; lettuce, tomatoes, rolls, bread, chips, dip, and dessert. Plan for a dozen members. Water will be available, but you may bring your own drink if you choose. Don't forget to bring your good ideas to plan for our next year of WinGS!! Contact Sandy Brown at 717-991-1121.

VOCAL CHOIR AUTUMN STARTUP

The St. Mark Vocal Choir will start rehearsals for the 2026-2027 season on **Wednesday, September 9, at 7:00 pm**. If you are interested in being a part of this important ministry of the church in leading worship and providing music to facilitate our interaction with God, please come to the first rehearsal. We would love for you to sing with us. Questions should be directed to Brad Hull, Director of Music (Cell: 202-738-2795 or email: bradleyjhull@gmail.com). Our first singing Sunday will be, God-willing, September 13.

ALL CALL FOR BELL CHOIR

The Bell Choir enjoyed a very successful season last year and the congregation overtly shared their appreciation for its addition to St. Mark's worship. Bell choir is a unique form of music which is accessible to all levels of musical ability (including no musical ability). To select music for the bell choir, exact numbers of ringers are necessary. So if you are interested in being a part of St. Mark's bell choir, *whether a former or new member*, please email Brad (bradleyjhull@gmail.com) **before September 4**. Based on how many people express interest in being a part of a 2026-2027 bell choir, we will make a plan for the coming year's ministry. Our first rehearsal would then be **6:00 pm to 6:45 pm on Wednesday, September 9**.

“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, making crosses from beads, and putting together kits for Caitlin’s Smiles. **Volunteers from previous years should plan on wearing their “God’s Work. Our Hands” bright yellow t-shirts.**

BOOK CLUB—SEPTEMBER 17

The Evangelism Committee is hosting another book club read on **Thursday, September 17, at 1:00 pm in the parlor.** The book is *“The Mostly True Story of Tanner and Louise”* by Colleen Oakley. We look forward to conversation and fellowship with you. Please share and invite a friend. The book is available through the library, Thrift Books, or Amazon.

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.

COUNCIL AND CONGREGATION RETREAT

Your church council is hosting a Conscience and Conversation Retreat (see invitation on the following page) on **Saturday, September 26, from 8:00 am-Noon.** Refreshments will be served. Please use the sign-up sheets on the bulletin board and at entrances to the church or you may RSVP to Karen in the church office. Hoping to see you there.

MONTHLY SUNDAYS TO BENEFIT NEW HOPE MINISTRIES

Here are the items for September, October, November (November will include turkeys for Thanksgiving):

September 20
October 18
November 8

Puddings and Applesauce
Canned Vegetables
Thanksgiving Food to Include Turkeys

-WORD SEARCH-

Apostles' Creed

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

Resurrection
Communion
Almighty
Believe

Everlasting
Conceived
Creator
Spirit

Crucified
Catholic
Pontius
Judge



September 8	WinGS Potluck Planning Meeting
September 13	God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday
September 17	Community Day for CROP Walk (all day at HOSS'S)
September 17	Book Club Event
September 20	Peaches & Ice Cream following worship
September 26	Conscience and Conversation Retreat
October 4	Blessing of the Pets
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 Meal
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	Sedar Meal
March 28	Easter

CONSCIENCE AND CONVERSATION RETREAT
ELCA'S RECONSIDERATION OF THE 2009 SOCIAL STATEMENT
HUMAN SEXUALITY: GIFT AND TRUST

Your input is needed!

Council is hosting a retreat to take advantage of the opportunity to participate in this important work and invite you to join us!

Editorial Reconsideration: Update language in the text to ensure consistency with more recent social teachings and changes to civil law regarding marriage. Adopted by the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Council.

SEXUALITY AND THE CALLING OF THE CHURCH



"MARRIAGE: shelter and context for trust"

Current—Idea of marriage as a shelter and context for trust

Reconsideration – Marriage legally is now a covenant between two individuals.

"Lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships"

Current—Recognize four identified positions of bound conscience within its life.

Reconsideration—Church understanding does not change. Update wording about "publicly accountable, lifelong monogamous same-sex relationships" (considering public acceptance of marriage of same-gender and gender-non-conforming couples).

"LOVING FAMILIES: ground and source for social trust"

Reconsideration—Include references to diversity of family configurations.

September 26, 2026 08:00am – Noon

St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church

Please RSVP no later than September 6 to the church office if you plan to attend.

Additional information available at elca.org/reconsiderations or through *Learn and Discern Podcast* released by task force.

HOSS'S COMMUNITY DAY FLYER

(Copies of the flyer are available at entrances to St. Mark.)

Come, "pray with your feet" and "walk your values" at the
Mechanicsburg/West Shore CROP Hunger 5K Walk/Run



to benefit
**New Hope Ministries,
Mechanicsburg Area
Meals on Wheels** and
the global relief efforts
of **Church World
Service**

Sun., Oct. 18, 2026

**Memorial Park, 1 Memorial Park Dr.,
Mechanicsburg, PA**

1:00PM Registration 1:20PM Team Pics
1:50PM Kick-Off 2:00PM Walk/Run Starts

Register online & donate by Sept. 25th and receive a CROP Walk T-shirt.
Strollers & Leashed Dogs Welcome Live DJ Refreshments afterwards

There is no cost to walk but **generous donations to CWS/CROP are invited to help us reach the \$50,000 goal!** Since 1971, the Mechanicsburg/West Shore CROP Hunger walk has raised over **\$727,730** to feed the poor.



Use the **link** below or the **QR code** to make a donation, register or sponsor a walker/runner.

You may also register the day of the walk.

<https://crophungerwalk.org/mechanicsburgpa>

Find us on Facebook: **CROP Hunger Walk – Mechanicsburg/West Shore**

For more info, contact:

Ulli Klemm

ulliklemm@yahoo.com 724.464.8748



Join us as we **"Believe There is Good in the World."**

Hoss's Community Day to benefit the CROP

Hunger Walk: **Thurs., Sept. 17, 2026**

61 Gettysburg Pike, Mechanicsburg PA 17055



Present a copy of this flyer when ordering lunch, dinner or a take-out on Sept. 17, 2026, and Hoss's Mechanicsburg will donate up to 25% of your total check to feed the hungry. **Group # 133543.** Complete the CROP Walk Activity Page and spin to win a prize!

LECTIONARY 23

COMMUNITY IS COMPLICATED

Navigating life with other humans is not always easy. We who call ourselves the church likely know this all too well. Perhaps you've witnessed church council meetings gone awry, frustrating conversations about the budget, or intense disagreements over worship styles. Maybe your faith community has had to navigate conflicting visions for mission and outreach, welcome and hospitality, or diversity and justice. Maybe the generational or political divides in your community feel like rifts too big to cross. As the church, we are called to wrestle with difficult questions about faith and life, but at times, even with the best of intentions, we leave one another feeling hurt, overlooked, or misunderstood.

Jesus knew a thing or two about life in community. He knew what it was like to be betrayed by the ones he loved. He shared meals with people of different backgrounds, people whose identities at times put them at odds with one another. Even his disciples never quite seemed to be on the same page! Yet Jesus knew that despite the complexity of these situations, faith is best practiced in community. Accompanying one another, sharing one another's burdens, encouraging one another, forgiving one another, and holding each other accountable are vital to the Christian life.

Therefore, managing conflict is not something to be taken lightly. Disagreements are not to be just swept under the rug, ignored until the next issue emerges. We are instead called to embrace truth-telling, courage, accountability, and compassion in our dealings with one another. The work of conflict resolution is not easy or glamorous. In fact, it can be awkward and downright painful. But it is holy work. And by God's grace, it can be an invitation to build a community that more truly reflects God's love poured out for the whole world.

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