

ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF MECHANICSBURG
OCTOBER 11, 2026
HARVEST HOME
20th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
HOLY COMMUNION



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

8:30 am - Sanctuary & Zoom Worship Service

9:45 am - Sunday Church School

9:45 am - Children's Sunday School

10:20 am - Youth Ensemble

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 Youth Ensemble

Denise's Cell Phone: 717-802-1064

Email: denisehirn@hotmail.com

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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OF MECHANICSBURG
OCTOBER 11, 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

In Isaiah we are given a vision of the great feast to come, when God will wipe away death forever. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. In our liturgy God spreads a table before us. Even amid anxiety and hardship we rejoice in the peace of God which surpasses all understanding. With great joy we feast at the table of the Lord, and we go forth to share the wonderful invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life of God.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

**Teresa of Ávila, teacher, renewer of the church, died 1582
Thursday, October 15, 2026**

A mystical writer and reformer of the monastic order (Carmelites) to which she belonged, Teresa may also be commemorated with John of the Cross on December 14. Latino Christians traditionally remember her on this date.

**Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, martyr, died around 115
Saturday, October 17, 2026**

Ignatius was the second bishop of Antioch in Syria, the city where the name "Christians" originated. Ignatius is known to us from his letters, which encouraged Christians to live in love, yet stand firm in true doctrine.

PRELUDE

How Firm a Foundation

Arr. R. Lau

GATHERING

PSALM 118:24

P This is the day that the LORD has made;
C let us rejoice and be glad in it.

*BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

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

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

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

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

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and,
for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained
minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore
declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name
of the Father, and of the ✙ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

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

*GATHERING HYMN

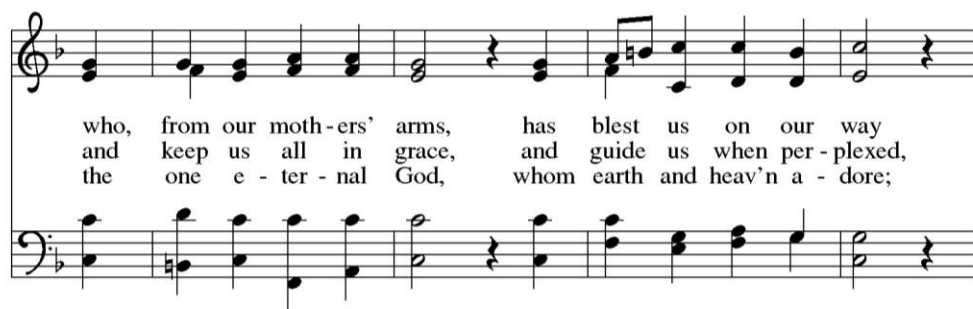
Now Thank We All Our God



1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
2 Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,



who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
the Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven,



who, from our mothers' arms, has blessed us on our way
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
the one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore;

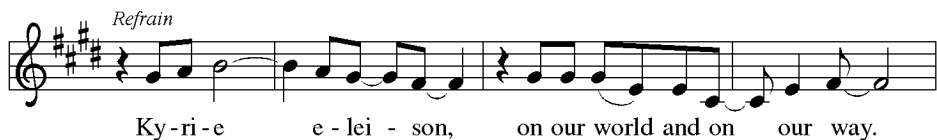


with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.
for thus it was, is now, and shall be ever more.

*GREETING

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

*KYRIE



2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the

3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for

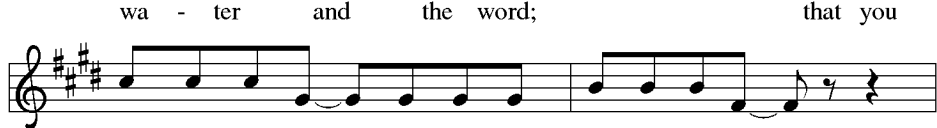
4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



hun - gry and the poor; that

friends and fam - i - ly; for

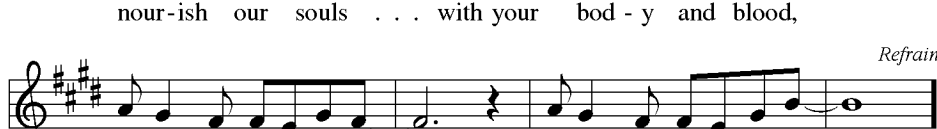
wa - ter and the word; that you



we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,

life and for love, for our work and our play,

nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



Refrain

*HYMN OF PRAISE

Listen! You Nations

Refrain



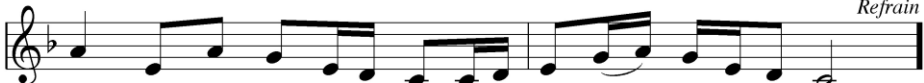
Lis - ten! you na - tions of the world: lis - ten to the Word of the Lord. An -



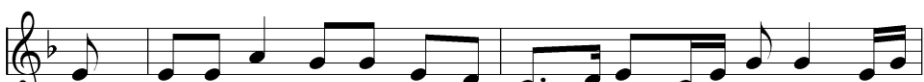
nounce it from coast to coast; de - clare it to dis - tant is - lands.



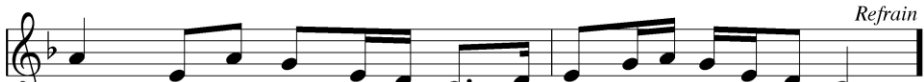
1 The Lord who scat - tered Is - ra - el will gath - er his peo - ple a - gain; and



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 Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

ANTHEM

Let There Be Peace on Earth

Arr. L. Mayfield

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 25:1-9

After a hymn of praise acknowledging God as a shelter for the poor, the prophet portrays a wonderful victory banquet at which death—which in ancient Canaan was depicted as a monster swallowing up everyone—will be swallowed up forever. The prophet urges celebration of this victory of salvation.

R A reading from Isaiah.

¹O Lord, you are my God;

I will exalt you; I will praise your name,
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

²For you have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of foreigners is a city no more;
it will never be rebuilt.

³Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.

⁴For you have been a refuge to the poor,
a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.

When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,

⁵the noise of foreigners like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
the song of the ruthless was stilled.

⁶On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

⁷ And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the covering that is spread over all nations;
⁸ he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the Lord has spoken.

⁹It will be said on that day,
“See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might
save us.

This is the Lord for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 23

(Please sing the Psalm in unison.)



**¹ The LORD ¹ is my shepherd;
I shall not ¹ be in want.**

² He makes me lie down ¹ in green pastures
and leads me be- ¹ side still waters.

³ He re- | lives my soul
and guides me along right pathways | for his name's sake.

⁴ Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall ¹ fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they ¹ comfort me.

⁵ You spread a table before me in the presence of those who |
trouble me;
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is | running
over.

⁶ Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days ¹ of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the ¹ LORD forever.

SECOND LESSON: Philippians 4:1-9

Though writing from prison and facing an uncertain future, Paul calls on the Philippians to rejoice and give thanks to God no matter what the circumstance. God's peace is with us and binds together our hearts and minds in Jesus Christ, especially when things around us do not seem peaceful.

R A reading from Philippians.

¹ My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

² I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³ Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*GOSPEL: Matthew 22:1-14

Jesus tells a parable indicating that the blessings of God's kingdom are available to all, but the invitation is not to be taken lightly

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 22nd chapter.
C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ² "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³ He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴ Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' ⁵ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶ while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷ The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸ Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹ Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' ¹⁰ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

(Continued next page)

¹¹ “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹² and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. ¹³ Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

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

A Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

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

C **Amen.**

***PEACE**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

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

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

2-part Invention #14 in B-flat Major

J.S. Bach

*THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*

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

The musical score is written on five staves in treble clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff ends with a double bar line, and the second staff begins with a repeat sign. The final staff ends with a double bar line.

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**

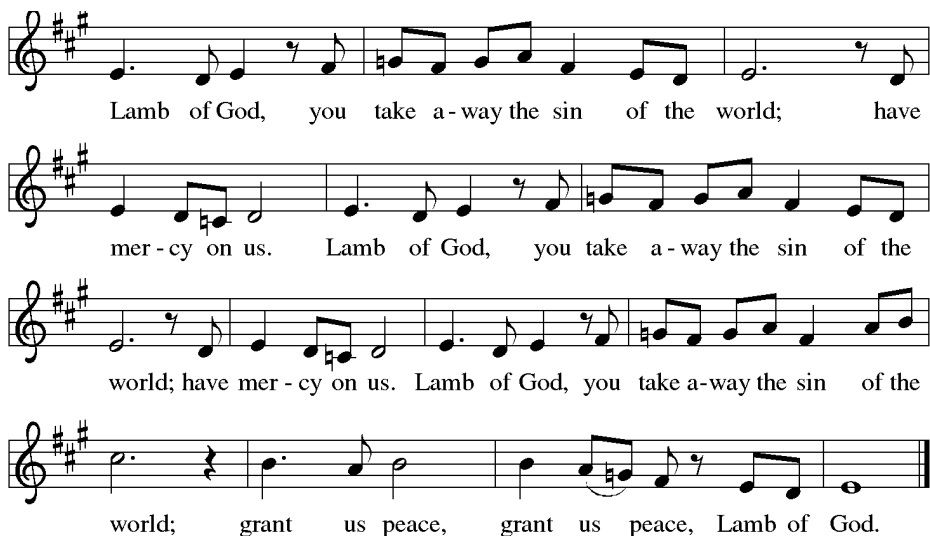
C Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

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-

At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to
2 Praise we Christ, whose love di - vine gives his
3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured death's dread
4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, pas - chal



our vic - to - rious king, who has washed us in the tide
sa - cred blood for wine, gives his bod - y for the feast—
an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri - um - phant go
vic - tim, pas - chal bread; with sin - cer - i - ty and love



flow - ing from his wound - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!
through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!
eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

5 Mighty victim from the sky,
hell's fierce pow'rs beneath you lie;
you have conquered in the fight,
you have brought us life and light.
Alleluia!

7 Easter triumph, Easter joy!
This alone can sin destroy;
from sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,
newborn souls in you to be.
Alleluia!

6 Now no more can death appall,
now no more the grave enthrall;
you have opened paradise,
and your saints in you shall rise.
Alleluia!

8 Father, who the crown shall give,
Savior, by whose death we live,
Spirit, guide through all our days:
Three in One, your name we praise.
Alleluia!

Text: Latin hymn, 17th cent.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814–1868, alt.

Music: SONNE DER GERECHTIGKEIT, Bohemian Brethren, *Kirchengeseng*, 1566

-COMMUNION MUSIC-

(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.

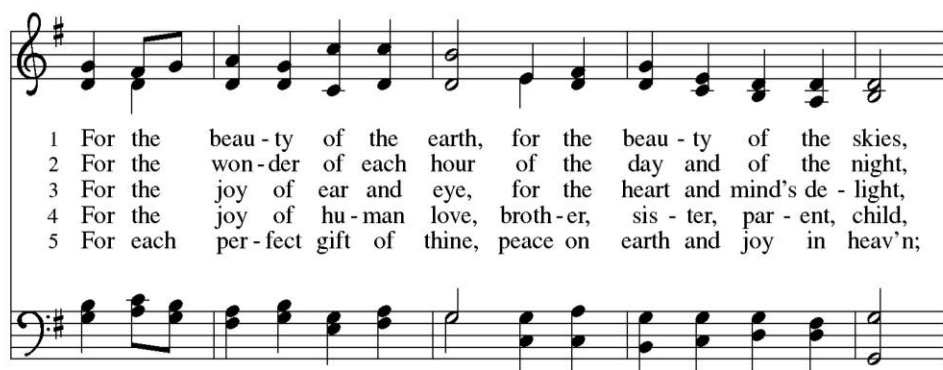
***BLESSING**

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.

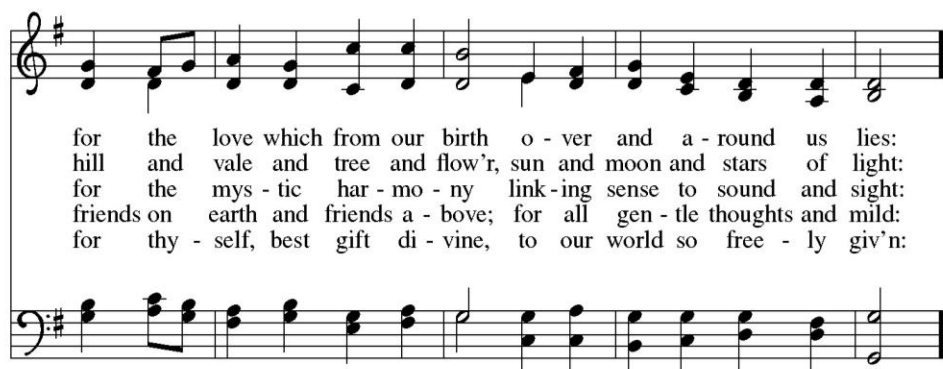
C Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

For the Beauty of the Earth



1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
5 For each per - fect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;



for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:
hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light:
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:
friends on earth and friends a - bove; for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
for thy - self, best gift di - vine, to our world so free - ly giv'n:



Refrain
Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sac - ri - fice of praise.

(Please be seated for announcements.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***DISMISSAL**

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

C Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE**

Stand Up and Bless the Lord

R. Powell



In memory of Nancy Kapp by Jack Kapp and family.

TODAY'S ASSISTANTS

Assisting Minister:

Joan Murphy

Lay Reader:

Sara Jane Miller

Acolyte:

Audrey Johnston

Ushers:

Phyllis Mihalich, Karen Heath

Altar Guild:

Terry Shaner, Muretta Yentzer,
Susan Fissel

Zoom Operator:

Katie Stull

Council Money Duty:

Marlin Brown, Karen Fisher

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK

Sunday, October 11

8:30 am

9:45 am

9:45 am

10:20 am

10:45 am

12:00 Noon

HARVEST HOME SUNDAY

Worship Service—Communion

Council Connection

Children's Sunday School

Youth Ensemble

Youth & Family Ministry

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

Monday, October 12

2:45 pm

Violin Lessons

7:00 pm

German Group

Tuesday, October 13

8:00 am

Evangelism

6:00 pm

Soup on the Sidewalk

7:00 pm

Mechanicsburg Halloween Parade

Wednesday, October 14

11:00 am

Bible Study

1:00 pm

Finance Meeting

6:00 pm

Bell Choir

7:00 pm

Vocal Choir

Thursday, October 15

2:45 pm

REMARKER DEADLINE

Violin Lessons

7:00 pm

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

Friday, October 16

2:45 pm

Violin Lessons

Saturday, October 17

Sunday, October 18

8:30 am

CROP WALK SUNDAY

9:45 am

THANKSGIVING FOOD FOR NEW HOPE

9:45 am

Worship Service—Communion

10:20 am

Church Sunday School

12:00 Noon

Children's Sunday School

1:00 pm

Youth Ensemble

1:20 pm

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

2:00 pm

Register for CROP Walk

CROP Walk Team Photos

55th Annual CROP Walk

LESSONS:

OCTOBER 18, 2026

FIRST READING

Isaiah 45:1-7

PSALM

Psalm 96:1-13

SECOND READING

1st Thessalonians 1:1-10

GOSPEL

Matthew 22:15-22

-ANNOUNCEMENTS-

COUNCIL CONNECTION—9:45 AM THIS MORNING FOLLOWING WORSHIP

MONTHLY SUNDAYS TO BENEFIT NEW HOPE MINISTRIES

Here are the items for October, November, and December:

October 18	Thanksgiving Food to Include Turkeys <i>Canned fruit, corn, peas, green beans, stuffing, gravy packs</i>
November 15	Christmas Food to include Ham/Turkeys
December 13	To be announced

YELP LOCAL GUIDE WANTED

We are still looking for Yelp Local Guides to update the comments shown in Google maps. If you know a local guide, ask them to comment on St. Mark!

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

On **Sunday, November 1, 2026**, we will remember the Saints who have died in faith since last All Saints' Sunday, November 2, 2025. **If you have a loved one whom you would like to remember this year, please contact the church office no later than Monday, October 12, 2026.**

REFORMATION BINGO

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

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

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

DONATIONS TO COMMUNITY AID

The Women in God's Service (WinGS) benefit from your donations of clothing and shoes to Community Aid. When taking your items to Community Aid, please put the number **10053** on your bags/boxes so that WinGS receives the credit. You may pick up stickers on the bulletin board at the back entrance or in the church office if needed.

St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church

Invites you to their—

FREE SOUP ON THE SIDEWALK EVENT **(and Cookies!)**

DATE: October 13, 2026

(Mechanicsburg Halloween Parade Night)



TIME: 6:00 PM

**WHERE: 117 W. Keller St.
Mechanicsburg, PA**

*(The parade starts at 7:00 PM. Bring your chair and
watch the parade from our front lawn.)*

Free-Will Offering Accepted



ANNUAL SOUP ON THE SIDEWALK—MECHANICSBURG HALLOWEEN PARADE

Stop by St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mechanicsburg on **Tuesday, October 13, 2026**, starting at **6:00 PM** for our ***Soup on the Sidewalk* event**. Would you please donate a crockpot of soup? We are also looking for individually wrapped cookies (3 to a bag). **Please bring soup and cookies to St. Mark no later than 5:45 pm the night of the parade.** Help is needed to serve the soup at this event. Sign-up sheets are posted at entrances to St. Mark. Please contact Marlin Brown, Fellowship Chair, with any questions

"Pray with your feet" and walk your values at the

Mechanicsburg/West Shore

CROP Hunger Walk

to benefit **New Hope Ministries, Mechanicsburg Area Meals on Wheels and Church World Service**



**Sun., Oct. 18,
2026, 2:00PM**

**Memorial Park, Memorial Park
Mechanicsburg, PA**

Dr

5K/1.5-mi. Fun Run/Walk *Rain or Shine*

**1:00PM Day of Registrations 1:20PM Team Pictures
2:00PM Fun Run/Walk Begins**

Strollers and leashed dogs are welcome. Live DJ. Refreshments. Use the link below to register and donate OR register in person the day of the walk. Bring cash or a check payable to **CWS/CROP**.

Here is the link to the St. Mark Lutheran Church Keller St. Walkers page—please consider SIGNING UP or SPONSORING one of our walkers:

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/team/st-mark-lutheran-church-keller-st-walkers>

WALKERS REGISTERED AS OF OCTOBER 5:

Caroline Stull
Cindy Larkin
Connie Kuntz
Donald Stull
Karen Fisher
Karen Heath

Katie Stull
Marleen Griffith-Stull
Mary Larkin
Matthew Yost
Michelle Krewson

To donate to an individual—click the “Donate” button across from their name and fill out your information.



TRUNK OR TREAT

On October 24 (rain date Oct 31) at 10:00 AM our Noah's Ark themed Trunk or Treat welcomes you to trick-or-treat at the decorated car trunks and play Halloween games in our backyard!

We will be serving hot dogs.

ITEMS NEEDED FOR TRUNK OR TREAT:

- Donations of **candy and other Trick or Treat items**—leave in the Upper Room or give to an Evangelism Committee member **no later than Sunday, October 18.**
- **Cars** for kids to visit—you can decorate it in our Noah's Ark theme, or our youth can do it for you, you can stay and hand out treats or not.
- People to "man" the trunks to help **pass out treats.**
- People to help **run games** for kids.

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board, or you can let a committee member know—

Evangelism Committee:

Jessica Johnston, Amy Gimbel, Gene Shaner, Pastor Marleen

BOOK CLUB READ

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

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

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

BE A SANTA TO UNDERPRIVILEGED ADULTS—CONTRIBUTIONS AND SHOPPERS NEEDED

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

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

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

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

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER

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

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS EXPRESS

Christmas will be here before we know it. It is hard to believe that it is the time of the year when we are starting to plan for the upcoming holiday season.

Our Christmas Blessings Express tree is located at the back entrance of St. Mark. **We are collecting unwrapped gifts through Sunday, November 29, as the unwrapped gifts need to be at New Hope no later than December 3.** Copies of the New Hope Ministries Wish List are located at each entrance of St. Mark as well. Or pick an ornament(s) from the tree. Return your UNWRAPPED gift with the ornament attached.

OCTOBER IS:



JOIN IN THE FUN!
VIDEO GAMING NIGHT

Video Gaming Night

For Youth in **Grades 9-12**



St. Mark Lutheran Church



117 West Keller Street
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055



Saturday, November 21



4-8 p.m.

« **Bring a friend** and a snack
or drink to share »



October 11	Council Connection Meeting
October 13	Soup on the Sidewalk at Mechanicsburg Halloween Parade
October 18	55 th Annual CROP Walk—Memorial Park
October 25	Reformation Bingo and Jeopardy (During Sunday School time)
October 29	Ladies & Friends Night Out
November 1	All Saints Sunday
November 8	Annual Meeting
November 10	Book Club
November 21	Video Gaming Night
November 26	Thanksgiving Dinner at St. Mark
December 24 December 24	Lighting of the Luminaries Christmas Eve Services
January 6, 2027	Epiphany, Waffle Wednesday, Chicken & Waffles
February 10	Ash Wednesday
March 25	Seder Meal
March 28	Easter

-WORD SEARCH-

I CAN TALK TO GOD

ABOUT ANYTHING	SKATEBOARDING	WITH OTHERS	BIKERIDING
EXERCISING	PLAYGROUND	UNDERWATER	BY MYSELF
ANYWHERE	CONFUSED	CRAFTING	DOUBTFUL
SHOPPING	SILENTLY	SKIPPING	STUDYING
SWIMMING	THANKFUL	THINKING	ANYTIME
COUNTRY	DANCING	NERVOUS	PLAYING
READING	RUNNING	SINGING	WALKING
WORKING	WORRIED	CHURCH	INSIDE
LONELY	SCARED	SCHOOL	ALOUD
ANGRY	BEACH	HAPPY	SPACE
SPORT	CITY	HOME	PARK
SAD			

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

LECTIONARY 28

WELCOMED IN

A crowd gathered in the church basement like they did every third Thursday of the month. They walked past the kitchen window. They grabbed their plates. They filled up cups of ice water and coffee and swung by the dessert table on their way to folding chairs situated around circular folding tables throughout the room. Conversations bubbled up as old friends greeted each other around the free meal provided, as it was every month. Everyone was welcome, no questions asked.

This image of a free meal in the church basement, attended by any and all comers, is reminiscent of the wedding feast the king gives in today's parable. When those who are invited fail to show up, the king sends his servants out into the entire surrounding countryside to bring to the meal any and all who will attend. The king doesn't check credentials; the king doesn't ask questions. The joy of the wedding feast is open to all.

The parable tells us of one guest without a wedding robe, who winds up outside the joy of the feast. This can cause us to worry or despair. Do we have a wedding robe fit for the kingdom of heaven? What happens to us if we do not? Our baptism in Jesus, however, reminds us that we have no need to fear. We have been clothed not with a robe but with the grace of Jesus, which assures us that we, who have been gathered into the feast of the reign of God, have a place and an inheritance among God's people. Gathered around that table of grace, we too are sent to share the good news and welcome others into the reality of God's reign.

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