

**ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF MECHANICSBURG
SEPTEMBER 13, 2026
HOLY CROSS SUNDAY
GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS. SUNDAY
HOLY COMMUNION**



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

8:30 am - Sanctuary & Zoom Worship Service

9:45 am - Sunday Church School

9:45 am - Children's SS

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 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

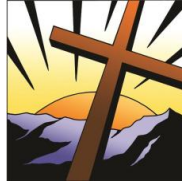
Email: bradleyjhull@gmail.com

www.stmarkmburg.com

Visit & like us on Facebook:

St Mark Lutheran Church Mechanicsburg

**ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF MECHANICSBURG
SEPTEMBER 13, 2026
HOLY CROSS SUNDAY
GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS. SUNDAY
HOLY COMMUNION**



**WELCOME BACK ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH
VOCAL CHOIR!**

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

This festival, which originated in the fourth century, celebrates the triumph of the cross. Paul reminds us that Christ crucified is the power and wisdom of God. As Moses put a serpent on a pole to be a source of healing for the Israelites, we lift high the cross as the sign of our health and salvation. Each time we make the sign of the cross we remember our baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Holy Cross Day

Monday, September 14, 2026

Helena, mother of Constantine, made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and found what may be the actual site of Jesus' crucifixion. Her son built two churches there, and the dedication of one of them gave rise to this celebration of our Lord's victory on the cross.

Monday, September 21, 2026

Matthew (or Levi) was a tax collector in Capernaum for the Roman government. Tax collectors were frequently despised for dishonesty and for assisting the occupiers. Jesus nevertheless showed love for them, and chose Matthew to be a disciple.

PRELUDE

Pastorale on "In the Cross"

I. Conkey/Arr. J. Linker

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

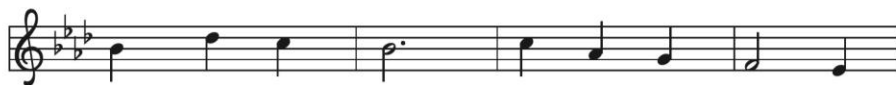
God's Work, Our Hands



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,
3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold.
run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal.
claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least.
gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.
shar - ing the good news of your gos - pel.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

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

Text © 2019 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress

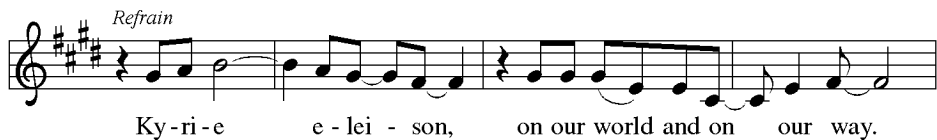
Music © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Duplication in any form prohibited without securing permission from copyright administrator or reporting usage under valid license.

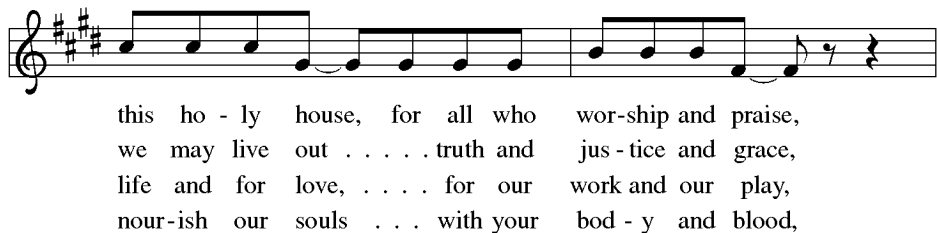
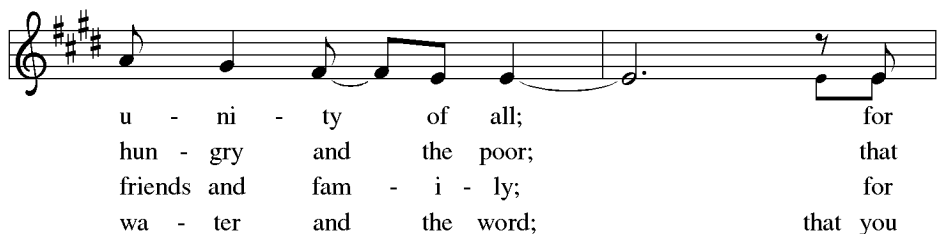
*GREETING

- 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 Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that he might draw the whole world to himself. Grant that we who glory in his death for our salvation may also glory in his call to take up our cross and follow him; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

ANTHEM

God Has No Hands

Vocal Choir

FIRST LESSON: Numbers 21:4b-9

When the people spoke against God and Moses, the Lord sent poisonous snakes against them. Moses interceded for the people, and the Lord ordered him to erect a serpent of bronze on a pole. All who looked at it after having been bitten by a serpent would live.

R A reading from Numbers.

[From Mount Hor the Israelites set out,] ^{4b} but the people became discouraged on the way. ⁵ The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶ Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷ The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸ And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹ So Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it upon a pole, and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 98:1-5

(Please read the Psalm in unison.)

¹ Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things.

² With his right hand and his holy arm has he won for himself the victory.

³ The LORD has made known his victory; his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

⁴ He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁵ Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

SECOND LESSON: 1st Corinthians 1:18-24

At the heart of the Christian message is the word of the cross. This proclamation seems foolish to many because it reveals true divine power in the absolute weakness of Christ's crucifixion. True wisdom understands how ours is a God who suffers for and with humankind in the cross.

R A reading from 1st Corinthians.

¹⁸ The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*GOSPEL: John 3:13-17

After explaining to Nicodemus that one must be born of water and Spirit, Jesus speaks of being lifted up on the cross, with reference to the bronze serpent lifted up by Moses in the desert. Here the Son of God is revealed as the source of healing.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 3rd chapter.
C Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹³ “No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

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 Gathered into God's embrace, let us lift our voices on behalf of
a weary and wounded world.

A God, we pray,
C **open our hands in love.**

P Into your wounded hands of love, O God, we place all our
prayers, trusting in your mercy through the crucified and risen
one 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

2-part Invention #9 in F Minor

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.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

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

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

*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.

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE.**

P Honor, praise, glory, and thanksgiving to you, God, our loving Creator.

In the beginning you reached your hands into the earth and formed humanity in your own image. You breathed into us your own breath of love and gave us hearts and hands and voices to live your loving purpose in the world.

Seeing the lonely creature of earth, you created a partner that we would know the joy of community. Throughout the history of your people, you never abandoned us but brought us into community with one another and with you, and guided us through your prophets. With endless patience and love, you called to us time and again to return to life with you.

In the fulfillment of all things, you came to us in Jesus, born into a human family, raised in a hometown, who gathered around himself a community formed by your love, and yearned to gather all people under the living wings of a mother hen. Sitting at dinner with friends and knowing one among them would break the bonds of love, 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.

In the same way 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 sins. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Trusting in his promise to be among us whenever we gather in his name, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P Gathered as your people, meeting in Jesus' name, and preparing ourselves to feast upon Jesus' very body and blood, we plead with all creation:

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

P Send your Spirit upon this meal, the body and blood of Jesus, that we overflow with your selfless love. Turn us to face our neighbors, that by us and through us your love may be known in the world. Again, we beg:

C **Come, Holy Spirit.**

- P All honor and praise and glory to you, God of creative, dirty hands, God of holy, wounded hands, God who strengthens and guides our hands, 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.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the

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

world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

COMMUNION

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

P The body of Christ, given for you.

C **Amen.**

A The blood of Christ, shed for you.

C **Amen.**

PLEASE SING THE FOLLOWING HYMNS DURING THE DISTRIBUTION

-HYMN OF THE DAY-

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

The image displays a musical score for the hymn "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross". It is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in G major and 4/4 time. The score is organized into three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines, with some words split across lines to match the musical phrasing. The hymn concludes with a double bar line.

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that
love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and
pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: HAMBURG, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

-COMMUNION-

Will You Come and Follow Me *The Summons*



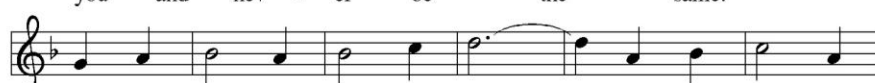
1 "Will you come and fol - low me if I but call
2 "Will you leave your - self be - hind if I but call
3 "Will you let the blind - ed see if I but call
4 "Will you love the you you hide if I but call
5 Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true when you but call



your name? Will you go where you don't
your name? Will you care for cruel and
your name? Will you set the pris - 'ners
your name? Will you quell the fear in -
my name. Let me turn and fol - low



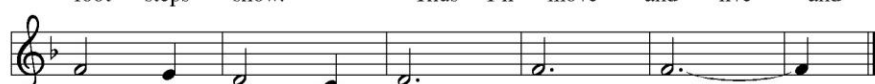
know and nev - er be the same?
kind and nev - er be the same?
free and nev - er be the same?
side and nev - er be the same?
you and nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, will you let my
Will you risk the hos - tile stare, should your life at -
Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as
Will you use the faith you've found to re - shape the
In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and



name be known, will you let my life be
tract or scare? Will you let me an - swer
this un - seen, and ad - mit to what I
world a - round, through my sight and touch and
foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and live and



grown in you and you in me?"
pray'r in you and you in me?"
mean in you and you in me?"
sound in you and you in me?"
grow in you and you in me.

Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949

Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish traditional

Text © 1987 Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent, 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.

www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

(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 Holy Jesus, in this meal you have fed and nourished us to work in your beloved world. Send us now, filled with yourself and strengthened by your Spirit to live your love for others.

C Amen.

***BLESSING**

P God who sets forth the law of love, Jesus who fulfills the law for you, and the Spirit through whom you are called to love, ✝ bless you this day, that you may be God's hands and heart and voice at work in the world.

C Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

Lift High the Cross

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
 as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

Text and music © 1974 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

(Please be seated for announcements.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***DISMISSAL**

A Go in peace. You are God’s hands at work in the world!
C Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE**

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross F. Crosby/W Doane



In honor of our children, Rachel and Brandon’s birthdays by Marlin and Sandy Brown.

TODAY’S ASSISTANTS

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Assisting Minister: | Karen Heath |
| Lay Reader: | Dave Harnish |
| Acolyte: | Audrey Johnston |
| Ushers: | Cindy Larkin, T.J. Larkin |
| Altar Guild: | Phyllis Mihalich, Joan Murphy |
| Zoom Operator | Katie Stull |
| Council Money Duty: | Ben Yost, Amy Gimbel |

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK

Sunday, September 13

**16th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
HOLY CROSS SUNDAY
GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS. SUNDAY**
Worship Service—Communion
Church Sunday School
Children's SS & Youth Ensemble
God's Work. Our Hands. Activities
Deliver meals

8:30 am

9:45 am

9:45 am

2:00 pm

4:15-4:30 pm

Monday, September 14

ReMarker Deadline

2:45 pm

Violin Lessons

7:00 pm

German Club

Tuesday, September 15

Wednesday, September 16

6:00 pm

Bell Choir

7:00 pm

Vocal Choir

Thursday, September 17

**HOSS'S COMMUNITY DAY—ALL DAY
LADIES & FRIENDS NIGHT OUT AT HOSS'S**
Book Club Read
Violin Lessons
Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

1:00 pm

2:45 pm

7:00 pm

Friday, September 18

2:45 pm

Violin Lessons

Saturday, September 19

Sunday, September 20

**17th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
PEACHES, ICE CREAM, & PEACH TREATS**
Worship Service—Communion
Church Sunday School
Children's SS
Youth Ensemble

8:30 am

9:45 am

9:45 am

10:20 am

LESSONS:

FIRST READING

PSALM

SECOND READING

GOSPEL

SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

Jonah 3:10—4:11

Psalm 145:1-8

Philippians 1:21-30

Matthew 20:1-16

-ANNOUNCEMENTS-

GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS. TODAY, SEPTEMBER 13

2:00 pm

Service Activities in Fellowship Hall

4:15-4:30 pm

Deliver Spaghetti Dinners

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM PASTOR MARLEEN

Unfortunately, someone is sending scam emails with my name on them again. So please disregard any emails asking for gift cards or money from me. If you ever have doubt that it may be from me, contact me directly at 878-295-2173 or revmarleen@stmarkmburg.com.

BOOK CLUB READ—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 plan to eat at Mechanicsburg HOSS'S (located on Old Gettysburg Pike) anytime during the day on **Thursday, September 17, 2026**. The flyer with the coupon which must be presented at HOSS'S when you order your meals is available in the bulletins, newsletter, and at entrances to the church. Thank

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.

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!

MONTHLY SUNDAYS TO BENEFIT NEW HOPE MINISTRIES

Here are the items for September, October, and November

September 20

October 18

November 15

Puddings and Applesauce

Thanksgiving Food to Include Turkeys

*Canned fruit, corn, peas, green beans,
stuffing, gravy packs*

Christmas Food to include Ham/Turkeys

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***. We are asking if you would donate a crockpot of soup. We are also looking for individually wrapped baked goods. **Please bring soup and baked goods to St. Mark no later than 5:45 pm the night of the parade.** Help is needed by serving the soup at this event as well. Sign-up sheets will be posted at entrances to St. Mark. Please contact Marlin Brown, Fellowship Chair, with any questions.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 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.**

THE CHILDREN'S CHOIR HAS A NEW NAME!

We're blessed to have a dedicated and talented group of young musicians here at St. Mark. Now that they're growing up, we're excited to introduce the **YOUTH ENSEMBLE!** Children in grades Kindergarten and above are always welcome to join us as we learn more about our faith through music and share our gifts with the congregation.

We'll rehearse almost every Sunday from September through May, from approximately 10:20-10:50 a.m. (after Sunday School) in the Choir Room. The ensemble will sing, play chimes, or instruments at one service each month, as well as several evening holiday services.

If your child enjoys singing or making music of any kind, we would love to have them join us! Please reach out with any questions or for more information.--Miss Denise



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 1	All Saints Sunday
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

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."**

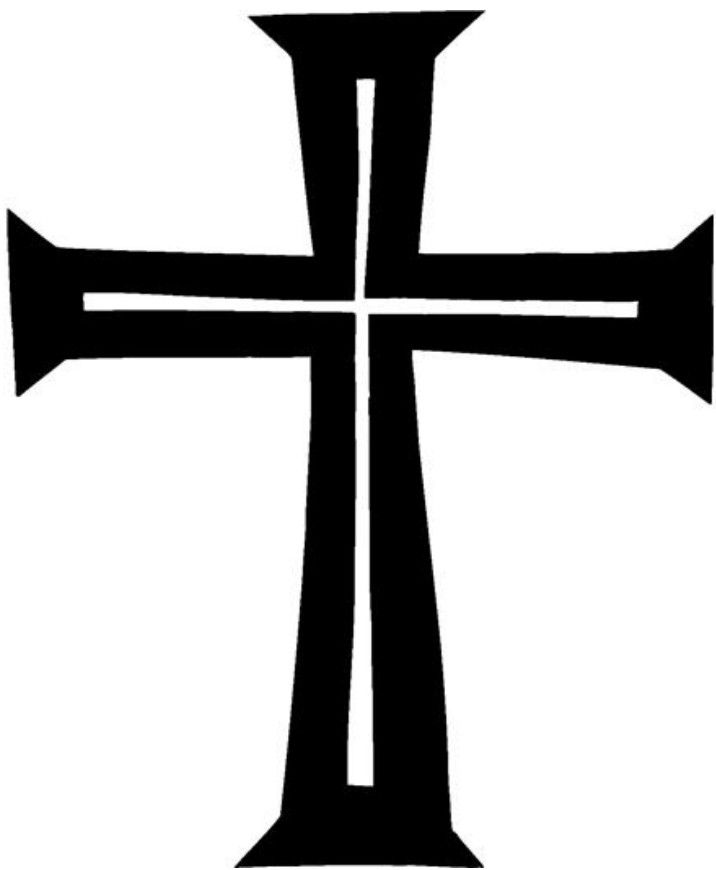
Hoss's Community Day to benefit the CROP

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!



Copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS004360.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.