

The ReMarker

DECEMBER 2023

St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church
117 West Keller Street
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055



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Pastor's Email: revmarleen@stmarkmburg.com

Karen Fisher, Office Manager
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Brad Hull, Director of Music
Brad's Cell Phone: 202-738-2795
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Church Office Hours: Monday through Thursday
10:00 am - 1:00 pm

www.stmarkmburg.com

Visit & like us on Facebook:

St Mark Lutheran Church Mechanicsburg

"To Know Christ and To Make Him Known"



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Sometimes I feel like celebrating Advent is a long-lost art. Advent is a time of waiting, a time of patience, a time for reflection... for most Americans this translates into a “waste of time!” When we do have a time of waiting, we tend to fill it with something else because we are not comfortable waiting. We have been conditioned to believe that if we are sitting still and just thinking about things, we are doing nothing. Sometimes the message we hear loud and clear is that the greatest sin of all is wasting time. In a culture that appears to be growing less patient every year, this whole Advent season seems to be senseless and even crazy.

However, Paul reminds us in Romans 12:2 that we are not to conform to this world but to be transformed by the grace of God through Christ our Lord. Christianity has always been counter-cultural, so this year I encourage you to be transformed by waiting for Christmas. I challenge you to experience Advent instead of celebrating Christmas all of December and forgetting it before Epiphany even comes.

Know that if you take up this challenge, waiting is hard. But it is never a waste of time. Advent ideally is a time to worship and praise God without singing Christmas Carols. We still do this as a congregation, but I am sure that not every church worships with Advent hymns. It means pondering the fact that Christ will come again. Though we do see this as gospel—good news—it also calls us to reevaluate our priorities, repent of sinful ways, and seek a closer relationship with God. Experiencing Advent also means that we spend some extra time in the presence of God—through prayer, special devotionals, serving others, or simply quiet times of reflection. The trick is remembering that these things are even more important than shopping, wrapping gifts, baking, or going to parties. Our culture will always tell us that we have limited time and getting the decorating just right and the food planned perfectly is central, but the Holy Spirit is telling us that

preparing our hearts and minds to have room for Christ in our lives is much more important. Waiting for our Lord, also means acknowledging that there are times and situations where we feel God's absence. When we only celebrate Christmas all month long, we hide the fact that we are longing for things that God does not always seem to be providing. Waiting is uncomfortable because the presence, the peace, and the comfort of God is not always obvious to us and if we stop and acknowledge the darkness of God's absence, we are accused of not having "Christmas Spirit." But without waiting and seeing the darkness, we also miss truly seeing the real light of Christ.

May your Advent not be filled with constant activity but with waiting. If we never wait on the Lord, we also never rejoice in the coming of the Lord.

WAIT this Advent and then celebrate Christ coming not only centuries ago but to you today.

Have a Blessed Advent,

Pastor Marleen
Pastor Marleen

Youth Christmas



CHRISTMAS FOR YOUTH

I know that our primary worship service on Christmas Eve this year is not great for families with young children. While I encourage children to come and experience our traditional Christmas Eve service at 9:30 pm, I want to make sure that parents and grandparents are aware of the other youth-oriented Christmas events that will be coming up.

First, we invite all ages to join us in baking cookies for the Truck Stop ministry on **December 3**. The details are in the article about that day. This helps our youth remember that giving to others is central in our Christian lives.

The Sunday before Christmas Eve, **December 17**, we will have an Intergenerational Telling of the Christmas Story and a cookie exchange. All children who come will be involved in the impromptu story of Jesus' birth and parents and grandparents are encouraged to come and watch. After the presentation, we will have a cookie exchange as well.

On Christmas Eve, we will be gathering to light luminaries at 4:00 pm. This is a great hands-on event for our kids. While the youngest will not be lighting, they can help set the luminaires and delight in the beauty of the God's light reflected through them. After the lighting, we will have a brief, child friendly service in the sanctuary.

Join us for one or many of the ways to share the Christmas story with young children this year!



ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

Advent devotionals are available on the table in the Narthex. Please take one for yourself and one to share with a family member or friend.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

We will start lighting the luminaries at 4:00 pm on Christmas Eve. You are welcome to join us and light the luminaries that you sponsor, or we will light them for you. **After the lighting, we will have a brief, child friendly service in the sanctuary.** The traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (with communion) begins at **9:30 pm** with a half hour of music prior to the service at **9:00 pm**.



St. Mark will not hold services on Christmas Day. Please watch the bulletins for a list of churches that will conduct worship on Christmas Day.

Holiday Hours...



HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The church office will be closed from December 25, 2023, through January 1, 2024. Pastor Marleen will be available for pastoral care/emergencies. You may reach her at (878) 295-2173.

MERRY CHRISTMAS and a **BLESSED NEW YEAR**



BIBLE STUDY

Bible Study continues Wednesday mornings at 11:00 am in the Parlor.



ALTAR FLOWERS FOR DECEMBER 2023

December 3	Altar Greens to the Glory of God by the Altar Guild
December 10	Altar Greens to the Glory of God by the Altar Guild
December 17	Altar Greens to the Glory of God by the Altar Guild
December 24	Altar Greens to the Glory of God by the Altar Guild
December 31	In memory of Naomi Kuntz by John and Connie Kuntz

ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORSHIP

If you would like to sponsor flowers for 2024, please complete an Altar Flower Sponsorship Form located in the back of the monthly newsletters and in weekly bulletins. *Sincere thanks to everyone who sponsored flowers this year. Connie Kuntz*



JANUARY 2024 REMARKER DEADLINE

Please deliver or email your information and articles for the **January 2024 ReMarker** to the church office **no later than Monday, December 15, 2023**. Thank you so much.

OCTOBER 2023 ATTENDANCE



Service Date	8:30 am In-Person	8:30 am Zoom	11:00 am-Quiet	2:00 pm Special Svc.	YouTube Service
October 1	58	8	6	4	22
October 8	53	7	8		20
October 15	51	5	4		21
October 22	40	11	4		35
October 29	61	4	8		51

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS EXPRESS

Our Christmas Blessings Express tree for New Hope Ministries is located at the back entrance of the church. **Please select an ornament from the tree and return your unwrapped gifts no later than Sunday, December 3**. The Social Ministry Committee would like to sincerely thank you for your generosity in helping all of those in need.



**CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCES
AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2023**

• General Operating Fund	\$	657.71
• Capital Expenditures Fund	\$	660.00
• Designated Gifts		
Memorial Fund Undesignated	\$	1,742.30
Fellowship	\$	100.00
Altar Guild	\$	1,168.30
Social Ministry	\$	130.00
Quilting Connection	\$	130.00
Music Memorial	\$	1,128.00
Youth Fund	\$	1,181.63
• Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$	3,472.48
• Prudential investments	\$	315,011.81

In reference to any financial questions, congregation members should contact Barb Yost, Finance Chairperson and Treasurer, or send an email to: byost@stmarkmburg.com.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Finance Committee will meet on **December 13 at 1:00 pm.**

NOISY SUNDAY—MAKE SOME NOISE!

The total received year to date is \$767.74 The next Noisy Sunday will be held on **December 24. THANK YOU!**

**The final date to receive credit for contributions
in 2023 will be Sunday, December 24.**



INCOME AND EXPENSE REPORT OCTOBER 31, 2023

INCOME		
40000 - Income		\$ 12,408.95
40165 - Misc. Income		\$ 0.20
40600 - Building & Property Income		\$ 75.00
40601 - Each Child Matters Utility Reimbursement		\$ -
40700 - Capital Expenditure Account (Line of Credit)		\$ 1,965.00
40999 - Designated Gifts/Memorial Fund		\$ 0.24
Total Income		\$ 14,449.39
EXPENSES		
50200 - Our Ministry to Others		\$ 788.97
50400 - Work Within our Congregation		\$ 7,141.66
50492 - Fellowship Activities		\$ 300.68
50500 - Worship & Music		\$ 2,158.50
50600 - Education & YFM		\$ 258.00
50700 - Memorial Fund		\$ 206.40
51000 - Administration		\$ 5,221.90
60100 - Building & Property		\$ 2,330.34
Total Expense		\$ 18,406.45
NET INCOME		\$ (3,957.06)
2023 vs 2022 COMPARISON:		
YTD Deposits through 10/31/23 *		\$ 218,929.35
YTD Deposits through 10/31/22		\$ 192,093.74
	<i>Difference</i>	\$ 26,835.61
YTD Expenses through 10/31/23		\$ 237,944.20
YTD Expenses through 10/31/22		\$ 205,582.25
	<i>Difference</i>	\$ 32,361.95
Line of Credit Payment:		
	Balance	\$ 8,467.01
	Principal Paid	\$ 1,857.41
	Interest Paid	\$ 67.59
	NEW BALANCE	\$ 6,609.60
* Includes \$15,000 deposits to Line of Credit Account for HVAC Project		



ENJOY THE MUSIC

From the Choir Loft—

VOCAL AND BELL CHOIR

The bell choir continues rehearsals at 6:00 pm on Wednesdays in the Parlor. The adult choir rehearses at 7:00 pm on the same evening. Questions should be directed to Brad Hull, Director of Music, (Cell Phone: 202-738-2795) or Email: bradleyjhull@gmail.com.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Welcome Advent! The children will be singing and ringing at the service on December 10th and at the Christmas Eve service. It's not too late to join the Children's Choir for the Advent and Christmas season. Please contact Denise Hirn if you have any questions! denisehirn@hotmail.com or 717-802-1064.

Sincerely, *Miss Denise*

WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE

The next Worship and Music Committee will be held in January 2024—*date to be announced*.

CHRISTMAS MUSIC

Click here--

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g_CEifuFfrs

A MESSAGE FROM STEWARDSHIP



GIVING THAT IS BLESSED, INDEED!

“In all this I [Paul] have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” -Acts 20:35

At the Episcopal church my family attended when I was growing up, Father Walter Hurley always commenced the weekly collection by saying, “Remember words of Our Lord, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”

It still strikes me as a great way to announce the passing of the offering plates, but when you look at the Scripture Father Hurley was referencing, you see Paul’s meaning is quite nuanced.

And Paul’s purpose can teach us a lot, we who are inundated every December with ads and entreaties to spend, spend, spend our money buying gifts.

Paul quoted Jesus in the context of supporting the weak, not simply giving in general. Paul does not specify the type of weak person we are to support in our giving, but the New Testament repeatedly defines our Christian obligation toward the weak in health, spirit, power, status, and money.

It is true that there is something noble and sacrificial in every act of giving, but the principle is especially true when we give to the weak because they are not in a position to offer anything in return.

Is it blessed when we give an iPod to our teenage daughter, an X-Box system to our son or a new cordless drill to our Uncle Ed? Perhaps. But we usually give to our loved ones to fulfill their wants, not their needs. And they are usually in a position to give us something in return—a gift, or “payment” in gratitude, love, affection, or companionship.

Given Paul’s insight, how much more blessed would we be to spend the same money and give a \$100 supermarket gift card to a hungry family, to drop a dozen new toys in the local “Toys for Tots” bin, or to arrange with Heifer International to buy a pig for a family in the developing world?

This Christmas, instead of spending a lot of money on gifts for people who are already relatively well housed, well fed, and well clothed, why not look for gifts for the weakest of God’s people. You may learn what Paul, Father Hurley and Jesus all agree upon: *It is more blessed to give than to receive.*

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“THE QUILTING CONNECTION”

WANTED: Anyone who can sew. We need you to sew quilt squares together.

WANTED: Clean cotton fabric - please place in receptacles at rear entrance of the church.

WANTED: Clean flat sheets (any size).

Please place in receptacles at rear entrance of the church.

WANTED: Contributions toward the purchase of cotton fabric, thread, etc.



Please contact Nancy Kapp at 717-796-1862 with any questions or if you are interested in helping.

BLANKETS, HATS, SOCKS, AND GLOVES FOR THE HOMELESS

Bethesda folks advised us that the most needed items, in addition to warm blankets, are **NEW SOCKS** and **SWEATSHIRTS**. So, watch for the sales, and fill the bin at the rear entrance of the church with lots of new socks and sweatshirts.

Love Thy Neighbor
Helping the Homeless



Brunch

BRUNCH AND A MOVIE IS BACK!

Come to Fellowship Hall after church for some "edu-tainment" once a month this winter. Bring a brunch dish to share and get cozy for a movie that will get discussion flowing on current topics of interest.

January 14-"*Bowling for Columbine*" with a discussion of the ELCA draft statement on Gun Violence and Trauma; **February 11-**"*Sound of Freedom*" with a discussion about human trafficking; and **March 10-**"*The Mission*" by *National Geographic*" with a discussion on missionary work and cultural sensitivity. Brunch will start at about 9:45 a.m. and movies at about 10:00 a.m.

There will be a concurrent child-friendly movie each time in another room.

Movies are subject to change based on availability.



GETTING READY SUNDAY AND COOKIE BAKING FOR CARLISLE TRUCK STOP MINISTRIES

Something for everyone!! The Youth & Family Ministry Committee is holding their annual cookie baking day on **Sunday, December 3** for the Carlisle Truck Stop Ministries—an organization that ministers to the physical and spiritual needs of truckers and travelers who visit the truck stops along the Miracle Mile of Route 11 near Carlisle.



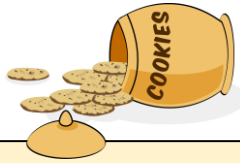
We will start right after the Getting Ready Sunday activities with a light lunch at **11:00 am** and will start baking at **11:30 am**.

We can use your help in several ways:

- bake cookies at home and bring them to church that day on **December 3**
- bring cookie dough for us to bake
- join us to bake from scratch after lunch
- donate for the purchase of ready-to-bake cookies
- help to decorate bags and pack and seal the cookies
- make ornaments for church neighbors and for the Wise Men to deliver on December 17

There are plenty of sitting down jobs, and you can join us for as little or as long as you wish.

Please sign up on the bulletin board so we know how you plan to be involved.



If you love order and cleanliness, we invite you to give us a hand cleaning up the kitchen and Fellowship Hall after we bake. If you are not a baker, but a cleaner, come at 3:00 pm and give us a hand! Thank you.




DECK THE HALLS

Come join in the fellowship as we hang the wreaths and decorate the trees for Christmas on **Saturday, December 9, at 9:30 am**. Hoping to see you there!



DECEMBER 2023

**8:30 AM - Blended Worship Svc., 11:00 AM- Quiet Service,
9:45 AM Sunday Church School and Children's Choir**

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
		
<p>3 1ST SUNDAY IN ADVENT 8:30 am-Blended In-Person & Zoom Worship Svc.-Comm. 9:45 am-Sunday Church School 9:45 am-Children's Choir 11:00 am-Quiet Svc.-Comm. 11:00-Light Lunch 11:30 am-Cookie Baking 2:00 pm-Special Service</p>	<p>4 2:00 pm-8:00 pm-Violin Lessons 7:00 pm-German Group</p>	<p>5 2:00 pm-Evaluation Subcommittee</p>
<p>10 2ND SUNDAY IN ADVENT 8:30 am-Blended In-Person & Zoom Worship Svc. 9:45 am-Sunday Church School 9:45 am-Children's Choir 11:00 am-Quiet Svc.</p>	<p>11 1:00 pm-Evangelism 2:00 pm-8:00 pm-Violin Lessons 7:00 pm-German Group</p>	<p>12 6:30 pm-WinGS</p>
<p>17 3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT 8:30 am-Blended In-Person & Zoom Worship Svc. 9:45 am-Intergenerational Sunday and Cookie Exchange 11:00 am-Quiet Svc.</p>	<p>18 2:00 pm-8:00 pm-Violin Lessons 7:00 pm-German Group</p>	<p>19 1:00 pm-Social Ministry</p>
<p>24 4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT CHRISTMAS EVE 8:30 am-Blended In-Person & Zoom Worship Svc. 9:45 am-Sunday Church School 9:45 am-Children's Choir 11:00 am-Quiet Svc. 4:00-Lighting of Luminaries 4:45-Quiet Service 9:00 pm-Special Music 9:30 pm-Candlelight Service</p>	<p>25 MERRY CHRISTMAS</p> 	<p>26 Church Office Closed</p>
<p>31 1ST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS 8:30 am-Blended In-Person & Zoom Worship Svc. 9:45 am-Sunday Church School 9:45 am-Children's Choir 11:00 am-Quiet Svc.</p>	<p>JANUARY 1, 2024</p> 	

DECEMBER 2023

**8:30 AM - Blended Worship Svc., 11:00 AM- Quiet Service,
9:45 AM Sunday Church School and Children's Choir**

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 3:30-7:00 pm-Violin Lessons	2
6 11:00 am-Bible Study 6:00 pm-Bell Choir 7:00 pm-Adult Choir	7	8 3:30-7:00 pm-Violin Lessons	9 9:30 am-Decorate trees
13 11:00 am-Bible Study 1:00 pm-Finance 6:00 pm-Bell Choir 7:00 pm-Adult Choir	14 REMARKER DEADLINE 6:30 pm-Ladies Night Out 7:00 pm-Property Committee	15 3:30-7:00 pm-Violin Lessons	16
20 11:00 am-Bible Study 1:00 pm-Worship & Music 6:00 pm-Bell Choir 7:00 pm-Adult Choir	21 6:45 pm-Church Council	22 3:30 pm-7:00 pm-Violin Lessons	23
27 Church Office Closed 6:00 pm-Bell Choir 7:00 pm-Adult Choir	28 Church Office Closed	29 Church Office Closed	30

NEW HOPE MINISTRIES—HELPING THOSE IN NEED

The Social Ministry Committee designates one Sunday per month to bring items in support of New Hope Ministries. drive. We collected 285 pounds of food (including 2 turkeys) during the November Thanksgiving food drive.



Below are the items for December and January:

December 3 - Christmas Food Items

Turkey or Ham, Potatoes, Stuffing, Canned Yams, Canned Corn, Canned Green Beans, Cranberry Sauce, Gravy, Aluminum Roaster pan, Pumpkin Pie Mix, Boxed Potatoes, Canned Fruit Cocktail, Boxed Stuffing, Dry Beans, or anything you would like to give.

January through February (Soup-er Bowl Sunday)

The battle continues between Karen's Team CHICNS (Creating Hope in Chicken Noodle Soup and Shannon's Super Duper Tomato Soup-ers. Please bring soup in each week and place in the containers or on the football field outside Fellowship Hall.



WOMEN IN GOD'S SERVICE - WinGS

The WinGS group will meet on **Tuesday, December 12, at 6:30 pm**. The agenda will include filling Christmas bags for the homebound and shut-ins. All women are invited to attend.

CHRISTIAN'S CHRISTMAS CONCERT

December 22nd
at Strock's Farms

729 Williams Grove Rd.
Mechanicsburg, PA

Doors open at 5pm
Show from 6-8pm

Tickets \$15

Buy online at
www.ChristianYeagerMusic.com

Food and Drink
Available for purchase



LIGHTING OF THE LUMINARIES

We will start lighting the luminaries at 4:00 pm on Christmas Eve.



QUIET SERVICE

There will be a quiet service inside at St. Mark Lutheran Church immediately following the lighting of the luminaries.

9:30 PM CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

There will be a Christmas Eve candlelight service starting at 9:30 pm with special music beginning at 9:00 pm.

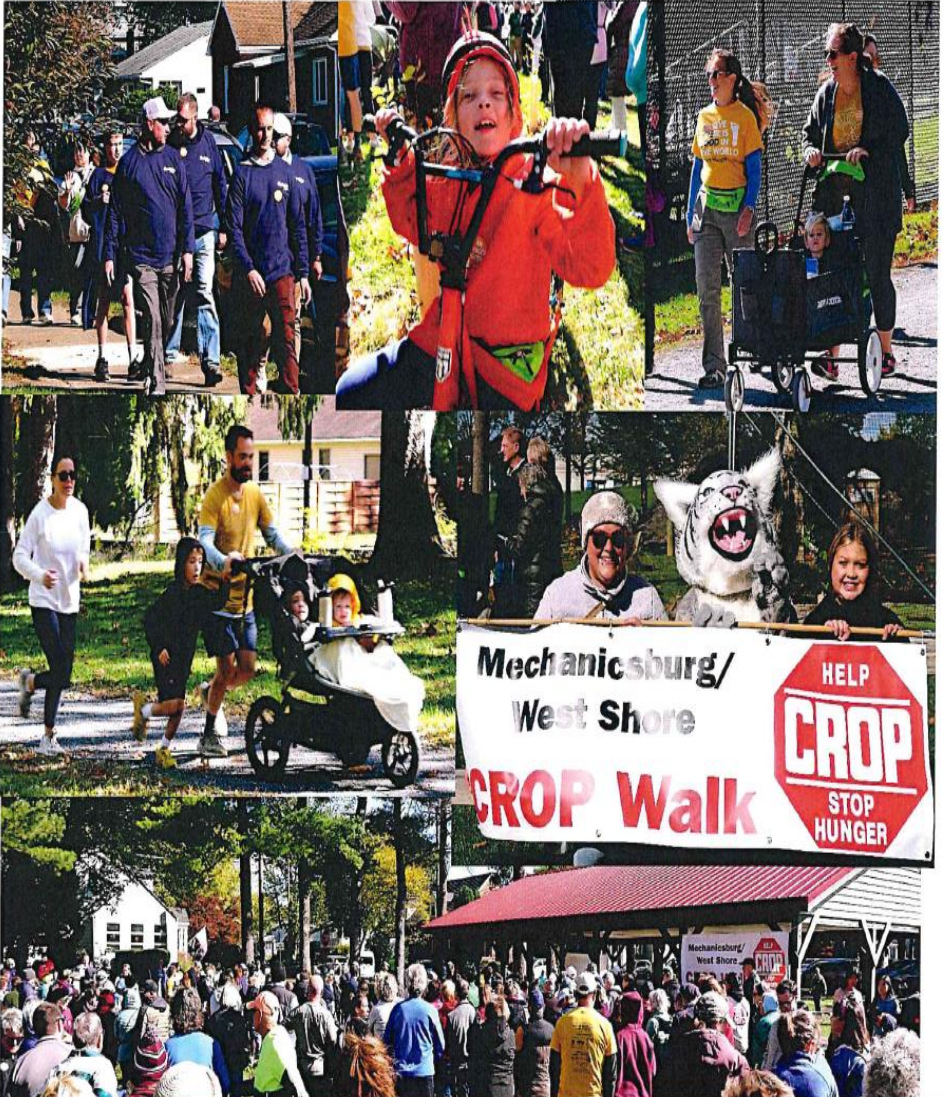
UN-DECK THE HALLS

What goes up must come down. Join us on January 6 at 9:30 am as we take down the Christmas decorations.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT—2023 CROP WALK

2023 Mechanicsburg/West Shore CROP Hunger Walk Recap

Over 370 neighbors let their feet witness to their compassion for the needy by participating in the Mechanicsburg/West Shore CROP Hunger Walk, held October 22, 2023 at Memorial Park in Mechanicsburg, PA. Together, they raised a record-setting \$35,000 to serve the vulnerable locally through **New Hope Ministries** and **Mechanicsburg Area Meals on Wheels** as well as through the local and global work of **Church World Service**.



A HUGE THANK YOU AND SHOUT OUT TO ST. MARK KELLER ST. WALKERS

2023 CROP Walk TEAMS

Camp Hill United Methodist
Cup Scout Pack 190
Cumberland Vista & Friends, Dillsburg
Grace United Methodist, Mech.
Grantham Brethren in Christ, Mech.
Harrisburg Korean Prsbytrn, Camp Hill
Hope United Methodist, Mech.
Joseph T. Simpson Library, Mech.
Landisville Mennonite
Mechanicsburg Area Meals on Wheels
Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren
Mechanicsburg Presbyterian
Monaghan Presbyterian, Dillsburg
Mt. Olivet United Methodist, Mech
Mt. Zion United Methodist, Enola
Muddy Waters Anabaptist Community
New Hope Ministries
PA Bible Teaching Fellowship, Lemoyne
Shepherdstown United Methodist, Mech.
Shiremanstown United Methodist
Silver Spring Presbyterian, Mech.
Slate Hill Mennonite, Camp Hill
St. John's Lutheran, Shiremanstown



St. Luke's Episcopal, Mech.
St. Mark Lutheran, Mech.
St. Peter Lutheran, Mech.
St. Timothy Lutheran, Camp Hill
Team BOB (LA Fitness Friends)
Team Dept of Corrections
The Marketplace at John Gross
Trindle Spring Lutheran, Mech.
VFW Post 7530, Lower Allen

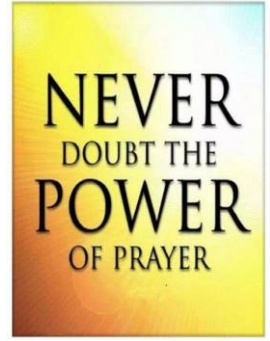


Mark your calendars for the **2024 Mechanicsburg/West Shore CROP Hunger Walk:**
Sunday, October 20, 2024

For more information, contact: **Ulli Klemm**, Coordinator
ulliklemm@yahoo.com (724) 464-8748

ST. MARK'S PRAYER LIST

DURING WORSHIP SERVICES, due to security issues, we will pray out loud the first names only of individuals who have been placed on the prayer list. The full name of the individual will be printed in our newsletter, The ReMarker, (see below) and in the Announcements section of the weekly bulletin. If you would like to add a name to the prayer list, please contact Karen in the church office at **717-766-4482** or email at kfisher@stmarkmburg.com. Thank you.



Charlene Albert, Gabriel Albert, Ed Aldridge, Alissa Atticks, Jim Atticks, Eleanora Beam, Doris Berger, Pat Berkheimer, Fred Bottini, Sue, Jere Brandt, Bob Curll, Jeff Dimemmo, Susan Ditmer, James Dobbs, Carol Fencil, Ed Fencil, Diann Foltz, George Fromm, Steve Gardner, Rosie Guarino, June Harding, Brett Hirn, Jen Homoki, Doug Hopkins, Rick Hopkins, Duryea Hummer, Chris Jonas, Jones Family, Micki Kautz, Georgia Kirkpatrick, Jim Lake, Pearl Lehmer, Bartok Lewczuk, Mae, Mandi, Marta, Nina McElwain, Charlotte Miller, Mary Mumma, Steve Nelson, Alice Park, Angel Poboy, Mollie Randolph, Nancy Rambo, Misty Rice, Dolores Ruth, Ez Sassaman, Edie Sheibley, Brian Smee, Al Smeriglio, Peggy Smeriglio, Marian Smith, Carol Stolz, Lisa Tavernia, Donald Thomas, Jim Thurber, Sheri Thurber, Cheryl Ward, Michael Ward, Courtney Welk, Bryan Williams, Garry Zeigler, Kelly Zimmerman, Brayleigh, Calvin Kern, Larry Balthaser, Elam Herr, Sue Bottini, Fran Hoffman, Karen Fisher

The Prayer List is cleared quarterly; therefore, will be cleared at the end of December 2023. If you would like an individual to remain on the list, please contact Karen either by email: kfisher@stmarkmburg.com or by phone at 717-766-4482. Thank you.

PRAYER CIRCLE

The names are not automatically placed on the prayer circle and the prayer list. To add a name to the *Prayer Circle*, please contact Bev Reihart at **717-432-3148**.



Tyson and I would like to thank you for your kind words of support and sympathy regarding the recent passing of my father. We were blessed to have him in our lives and have wonderful memories to support us in our loss.

Thank you, Joan and Tyson Murphy

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your recent gift of \$125.00 to Lutheran World Relief through the Lower Susquehanna Synod, ELCA. When you love your neighbors it transforms their lives. Thank you for your generosity.

Warm Regards, Ambassador Daniel V. Speckhart, President & CEO - Lutheran World Relief

St. Mark Lutheran Church

I wish to thank all so much for the beautiful flowers and the delicious Thanksgiving meal that was delivered to me. You always make my day brighter.

Many thanks, Diann Foltz



**...from all the Staff at
St. Mark Lutheran Church
of Mechanicsburg**

A huge thank you to Werner Jonas and the Thanksgiving Meal Team—including cooks, kitchen helpers, pie makers, drivers, clean up crew, those who contributed money, those who contributed food and those who helped in any way. An extra special thanks to Christian and Tim Yeager for their gift of music during the meal. From all of us who enjoyed the meal and the music—THANK YOU!! THANKSGIVING DAY WAS WONDERFUL!! WE HAVE SO MUCH TO BE THANKFUL FOR!!





YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS A THING

December 3	Getting Ready Sunday and Cookie Baking for Truck Stop Ministries
December 9	Deck the Halls-Decorate the Trees for Christmas
December 17	Cookie Swap/Christmas Program
December 24	Lighting of the Luminaries Christmas Eve Services
January 2024	Souper Bowl Collection Begins
January 6	Take Down Christmas Decorations
January 14	Brunch and a Movie <i>Bowling for Columbine</i>
February 11	Brunch and a Movie <i>Sound of Freedom</i>
March 10	Brunch and a Movie <i>The Mission by National Geographic</i>



If you would like your birthday and/or anniversary to be printed in the ReMarker, please call the church office (717-766-4482) or email the church office at kfisher@stmarkmburg.com with your name and birthday/anniversary. Thank you.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

9	Susan Ditmer	23	Carol Fencil
11	Deb Murray	25	Arnold Watkins
14	Jim Atticks	26	Barry Miller
17	Carol Stoltz	28	Suzanne Wright
20	Brystol Brudowsky		



DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

24 Ed and Amanda Brudowsky

PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY

Our thoughts and prayers go with Theresa Shumberger and JoAnn Novinger on the death of Theresa's husband and JoAnn's brother, John Shumberger, who passed away on November 21.

Please keep the family of Mike Hatz in your thoughts and prayers. Mike (affectionately known as Big Mike) who worked for Each Child Matters Childcare passed away on November 22.



WORSHIP SERVICE HELPERS

USHERS	
3 Susan Fissel, Dave Harnish	
10 T.J. Larkin, Cindy Larkin	
17 Ben Yost, Bev Weaver	
24 Ken Shur, Donna Shur	
24 TBD	
31 Sara Jane Miller, Dee Bernatos	
LAY READER	ASSISTING MINISTER
3 Terri Hopkins	3 Phyllis Mihalich
10 Sean Gimbel	10 Tina Freidhof
17 Sara Jane Miller	17 Karen Heath
24 Karen Fisher	24 Denise Hirn
24 9:30 pm-Tina Freidhof	24 9:30 pm-Sean Gimbel
31 Matt Yost	31 Barb Yost
ACOLYTE	ALTAR GUILD
3 Alma Gimbel	3 Phyllis Mihalich, Joan Murphy
10 Caroline Stull	10 Andrea Sassaman, Cindy Larkin
17 Karen Heath	17 Sandy Brown, Connie Kuntz
24 Brett Hirn	24 TBD
24 9:30 pm-Joan and Tyson Murphy	24 TBD
31 Katie Stull	31 Michele Connor, Sara Jane Miller

IMPORTANT - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Ushers are needed for the 9:30 pm Christmas Eve Service. Please contact Shannon Weaver at 717-691-1618 or Karen Fisher in the church office at 717-766-4482. THANK YOU!

SPONSOR A LUMINARY FOR CHRISTMAS EVE



We are offering you the opportunity to sponsor a luminary for \$5.00. Every dollar collected will be donated to Mechanicsburg Area Meals on Wheels.

We will write your name on the luminary bag(s) along with the information you provide below.

We will start lighting the luminaries at 4:00 pm on Christmas Eve. You are welcome to join us and light the luminaries that you sponsor, or we will light them for you. **There will be a quiet service inside of St. Mark Lutheran Church immediately following the lighting of the luminaries.**

PLEASE BE SURE TO CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOXES

Total number of luminaries sponsored _____

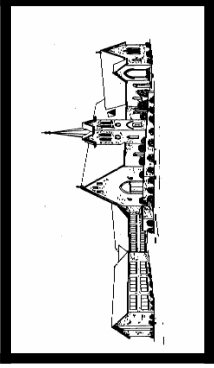
- I will come and help light luminaries at 4:00 pm.
- In honor of _____
- In memory of _____
- To the Glory of God

Sponsored by _____

Check amount _____

Please make check payable to *St. Mark Lutheran Church* and note "*luminary sponsor*" on the memo line no later than December 10.

St. Mark Lutheran Church
117 W. Keller St.
Mechanicsburg, Pa 17055-6340



**Non-Profit
Organization
U. S. POSTAGE
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Permit No. 85**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

