

# The ReMarker

DECEMBER 2024

St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church  
of Mechanicsburg

117 West Keller St.  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055



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Church Office Hours: Monday through Thursday  
10:00 am - 1:00 pm

[www.stmarkmburg.com](http://www.stmarkmburg.com)

Visit & like us on Facebook:

*St Mark Lutheran Church Mechanicsburg*

*"To Know Christ and To Make Him Known"*



Dear Siblings in Christ,

Every so often, someone will come to church at the beginning of Advent and will be completely confused and sometimes upset that our lessons are not about Christmas or even predictions of Jesus' birth but about the end times. For most, Advent (if it is not just the beginning of Christmas celebrations) is only about getting ready for Jesus to be born. But in fact, we do not simply celebrate Jesus' birth, but we also look forward to Christ coming again every Advent.

But when we read the lessons about Christ coming again, many do not find them hopeful. They can scare us because they talk about some of the terrible things that happen before Christ returns—wars and famines along with false prophets. They challenge us to be alert and watchful—which often implies danger and fear. Yet, the season of Advent is about HOPE, not FEAR. When we read the lessons closer, it is clear that Jesus is trying to warn us that bad things will happen but that these things are not the end. In fact, the end is a victory for Christians. It is the final victory of good overcoming evil.

The gospel message for Advent is when we experience evil in this world, we should not lose hope because there will be bad things happening until Christ comes again. But in fact, Jesus is coming back! In the meantime, the Holy Spirit is with us through those terrible times.

Come and join us for all the weeks of Advent. Do not be discouraged that the focus is on the end times. The end times are good. When you face any adversity, the beginning of the Church year reminds you that there is hope for the future. We—the people of faith—do not lose hope no matter what is happening in the world around us. We know the end of the story and rejoice every year because we peek ahead and see that God triumphs over all that is wrong in our lives and our world.

May your season of Advent be filled with Hope and Joy because it focuses you not only the first coming of Christ but also the final coming!

Hope and Peace this Advent,

*Pastor Marleen*

Pastor Marleen

Join Us at  
Advent Worship



**ADVENT MIDWEEK WITH ST. STEPHEN**

Each year, St. Stephen Lutheran Church, New Kingstown, prepares for Christmas by gathering on Wednesday evenings for Advent services. This year, you are invited to join them for the Holden Evening Prayer at 6:00 pm and a simple soup meal at 6:30 pm on Wednesdays—December 4, 11, and 18.

**ADVENT DEVOTIONALS**

Advent devotionals are available at entrances to St. Mark.



**JANUARY 2025 REMARKER DEADLINE**

Please deliver or email your information and articles for the January 2025 ReMarker to the church office no later than December 13, 2024. Thank you so much.

**OCTOBER 2024 ATTENDANCE**



Service Date	8:30 am In-Person	8:30 am Zoom	11:00 am In-Person	YouTube Service
October 6	51	6	16	27
October 13	43	6	4	36
October 20	46	7	6	28
October 27	50	7	7	34

# THE TREASURER'S REPORT



## CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCES AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2024

• General Operating Fund	\$	6,781.45
• Capital Expenditures Fund (Organ Fund)	\$	5,558.63
• Designated Gifts		
Memorial Fund Undesignated	\$	4,295.08
Fellowship	\$	100.00
Altar Guild	\$	778.30
Social Ministry	\$	330.00
Quilting Connection	\$	116.23
Youth Fund	\$	1,088.51
Music Memorial	\$	1,128.00
Columbarium	\$	860.34
• Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$	2,618.48
• Prudential investments	\$	344,176.26

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

## FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

The Finance Committee will meet **December 11, at 1:00 pm**.

## NOISY SUNDAY—MAKE SOME NOISE!

The October Noisy Sunday Collection was \$103.93. The next Noisy Sunday will be held on **December 22, 2024**. THANK YOU!



*noisy  
offerings*

The last date that contributions made to the church for 2024 should be received is **no later than Sunday, December 29**. Any monies received after that date will be credited to 2025.



## OCTOBER 2024 INCOME & EXPENSE REPORT

40001 - Contributions (Offering Envelopes)	\$ 10,968.00
40003 - Benevolence	\$ 365.00
40004 - Social Ministry	\$ 600.00
40008 - Property	\$ 1,140.56
40009 - Investments	\$ 2,500.00
40010 - Misc. Income (General Account Interest)	\$ 0.42
40011 - Pastor's Discretionary Account	\$ 0.11
40012 - Designated Gifts	\$ 1,120.35
40013 - Capital Expenditure Account	\$ 5,079.19
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 21,773.63</b>

50002 - Our Ministry to Others	\$ 626.00
50004 - Work Within our Congregation	\$ 7,296.74
50005 - Worship & Music	\$ 2,186.18
50006 - Youth & Family Ministry	\$ 268.00
50007 - Administration	\$ 2,848.80
50009 - Property	\$ 2,273.34
50010 - Investment Deposits	\$ 3,090.00
50012 - Pastors Discretionary	\$ 11.49
50013 - Designated Gifts	\$ 328.80
50014 - Capital Expenditures	\$ 2,446.25
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 21,375.60</b>
<b>Net Difference</b>	<b>\$ 398.03</b>

### 2024 vs 2023 COMPARISON (All 4 Bank Accounts):

YTD Deposits through 10/31/24	\$266,585.04
YTD Deposits through 10/31/23	\$218,929.35
<i><b>Difference</b></i>	<b>\$ 47,655.69</b>
YTD Expenses through 10/31/24	\$ 259,995.60
YTD Expenses through 10/31/23	\$ 237,944.20
<i><b>Difference</b></i>	<b>\$ 22,051.40</b>
Repayment to Investment Account	\$ 8,800.00
Amount Repaid through 10/31/24	\$ 3,090.00
<b>NEW BALANCE</b>	<b>\$ 5,710.00</b>



# ENJOY THE MUSIC

## *From the Choir Loft—*

### **SPECIAL MUSIC FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON**

As we continue planning for the season of Advent, we also recognize that Christmas celebrations are fast approaching. We are seeking musicians of all shapes, sizes, and ages to add their talents for Christmas Eve, either pre-service or during the service. A simple musical offering of 2 to 3 minutes would be wonderful. Do you feel called to explore this possibility? Or perhaps you could reach out to a friend or family member that is musically inclined? Please contact Brad Hull at [bradleyjhull@gmail.com](mailto:bradleyjhull@gmail.com) by **December 1** so we can plan repertoire and schedule a rehearsal or two.

### **CHILDREN'S CHOIR**

Advent is here and our Children's Choir is working on special music for the season! We will be singing during the services on the 15<sup>th</sup> and singing and ringing at the 4:00 pm service on Christmas Eve. Please note, we will not have rehearsal on December 29. All children ages 3 ½ through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to sing with us. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me! [denisehirm@hotmail.com](mailto:denisehirm@hotmail.com) or by phone at 717-802-1064. Sincerely, *Miss Denise*

### **WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE**

The next Worship and Music Committee will be held on Wednesday, January 15, 2025.



## A MESSAGE FROM STEWARDSHIP

### Advent & Exercising Good Stewardship of Our Spiritual Lives

When you say the word “Advent,” what immediately pops into mind? A feast of color, a traditional manger scene bathed in soft candlelight, glistening snowflakes falling on festive trees, a yearning for the One who is to come. But sometimes, the season brings other images: crowded stores, treats that tempt us to too many calories, limitless to-do and to-buy lists. Yet in the back of our minds, we hear the call to conversion. Christ is calling us to be good stewards of all that we have and all that we are.

How can we keep Advent in such a way that it is a time to focus on the fundamentals of stewardship; of spiritual growth and preparation for the coming of Jesus Christ? Here are a few suggestions, not meant to be another to-do list, but rather a way to remind ourselves daily of our call to prepare a way for the Lord in our lives.

- Begin the season with a list to prioritize what you really want spiritually, and in relation to friends and family, from Advent. Discard all the “extras” and the fantasy of the perfect Hallmark Christmas. List clear goals that bring growth and peace and quality time.
- Take time to read the daily readings each day of Advent in your devotionals.
- Do you send Christmas cards? Even if they are the standard signature only or newsletter variety, try to personalize one a day, writing a nice note to an elderly relative or a friend you haven’t seen in a long time.
- Pray for patience. As you drive over icy streets or navigate through a crowded store, take time to pray for those around you and for those who struggle with much less. Become aware of people around you and lift them in prayer rather than see them as obstacles to your goals.
- In the midst of a season of abundance, do not forget the poor in your community.

*Reprinted with permission from Tim’s Topics Blog, St. Ann Catholic Church, Cincinnati, Ohio.*

## GETTING READY SUNDAY

Please mark **Sunday, December 1**, on your calendars for *Getting Ready Sunday*. All activities will be held during the Sunday School hour in Fellowship Hall. We will be making Christmas ornaments. We will be packaging the cookie bags with cookies you donate for the Truck Stop Ministry. Donations of baked cookies are appreciated.



## NEW HOPE MINISTRIES—HELPING THOSE IN NEED

We delivered harvest fruits, vegetables, and remaining donated food totaling 123 pounds to New Hope Ministries at the end of October and 93 pounds of canned goods were delivered at the beginning of November. Here are the items for December, January, and February:

### December 1 - 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 & February 2025 - SOUP-ER BOWL

Chicken Noodle Soup and Tomato Soup



## CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS EXPRESS

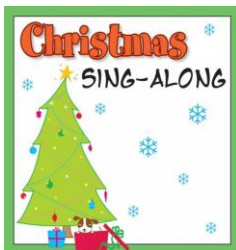
Our Christmas Blessings Express tree is located at the back entrance of St. Mark. We are collecting unwrapped gifts through **Sunday, December 1**. Please take an ornament or 2 or 3 from the tree. Return your unwrapped gifts and place them in the boxes provided.

## DECK THE HALLS

Come join in the fellowship as we hang the wreaths and decorate the trees for Christmas on **Saturday, December 7**, at 9:00 am. Hoping to see you there!







## CHRISTMAS CAROL SINGALONG

Gather with family and friends for a Christmas Carol Singalong on **Sunday, December 8, at 2:00 pm** in Fellowship Hall.

and...

## SILENT AUCTION - BASKETS & ITEMS

The Silent Auction will be held on **December 8, during the Christmas Carol Singalong** to benefit the Organ Fund. The bidding will close at 3:30 pm.



The baskets and items will be on display in Fellowship Hall at our Community Thanksgiving Dinner on November 28. You will have an opportunity to look them over and read descriptions of each item. All proceeds from the Silent Auction will be directed to the Organ Fund. Refreshments will be served.



## MORE CHRISTMAS CAROLING

After the Silent Auction, individuals who would like to go Christmas caroling throughout downtown Mechanicsburg should accompany choir members who are attending.

## WOMEN IN GOD'S SERVICE - WinGS

The next meeting of WinGS will be held **Tuesday, December 10, at 6:30 pm** In Fellowship Hall. We will be assembling Christmas bags for our shut-ins and homebound. All women are invited to attend.



## LADIES AND FRIENDS NIGHT OUT

The next Ladies and Friends Night Out will be held on Thursday, **December 12, at a restaurant and time to be announced.** Please RSVP to Karen Fisher at [kfisher@stmarkmburg.com](mailto:kfisher@stmarkmburg.com) or 717-580-7507.

## BIBLE STUDY

The Bible Study Class will not meet on December 18, 25, and January 1. The Bible Study Class will resume regular Wednesday meetings on **January 8, 2025, at 11:00 am in the Parlor.**



## COMMUNITY AID DONATIONS TO BENEFIT WinGS

The Women in God's Service continue to benefit from your donations of clothing, shoes, etc. to Community Aid. Just a reminder that when you **take your items directly to Community Aid**, please remember to use our partnership number:

**10053** when making your donations. Please do not bring items to St. Mark. Thank you.

## EMAIL ADDRESSES

If you would like to receive the weekly bulletins, announcements, and monthly newsletter via email, please forward your current email address to Karen in the church office at: [kfisher@stmarkmburg.com](mailto:kfisher@stmarkmburg.com)



## THANKS TO ALL OUR YOUNG-AT-HEART MEMBERS

During October and November, Shannon Weaver has publicly thanked many of our 85 plus year old members for all the many ways they have contributed and continue to contribute to our ministry at St. Mark Lutheran Church. Some did not wish to be recognized officially but we do want to thank all of our Young-at-Heart members. You are each an important part of the Body of Christ and a vital member of our congregation. Thank you!



If you have not been recognized yet during our Sunday gatherings and would like to be, please contact Shannon Weaver by December 15.

**SUNDAY OCTOBER 20, 2024**

**Dolores & Ed Ruth** - worshipped via zoom (photo not available)

**Dolores Ruth** - started worshipping at St. Mark in 1959, ushered and enjoyed baking for the Thanksgiving Dinner.

**Ed Ruth** - Ushered and played Softball & Basketball for St. Mark Church Teams. They had 1 child, 2 grandchildren, and 2 great grandchildren confirmed at St. Mark.

**Jacqueline Deck** - Started worshipping at St. Mark in 1954. Jacque was the Church Council Chair, ushered, taught Sunday School & Bible School, Altar Guild, and was a Money Counter. She had 3 children & 2 grandchildren confirmed at St. Mark.

**Werner Jonas** - Started worshipping at St Mark in 1971. Werner was a three-time Council Chair, participated in Property, Social Ministry, and Fellowship Committees, Assistant Minister, Sunday School Teacher, Lay Reader, Adult Choir, Bell Choir, helped in the Kitchen, Money Counter, and Scoutmaster of Pack 283 when it was here at St. Mark.

He had 8 children, and 1 grandchild confirmed at St. Mark.



## SUNDAY NOVEMBER 10, 2024

**Betty Curll** - Started worshipping at St. Mark in 1971. She was a Council Chair, taught Sunday School & Bible School, Ushered, and helped with the Markettes.

**Bob Curll** - Started worshipping at St. Mark in 1971. He was a 3-time Council Chair, Property Committee member, ushered, Assistant Minister, Lay Reader, helped in the Kitchen, and was the reader for the special programs the Choir performed. They had three children and three grandchildren confirmed at St. Mark.

**Thelma Fissel** - Started worshipping in 1978. Thelma served on the Fellowship Committee. She ushers, helps in the kitchen, is a member of the Bell Choir, WinGS, and she still maintains some of the church records. She had 2 children confirmed at St. Mark.

**Jack Kapp** - Started worshipping at St. Mark in 1943. He ushers, mowed grass, took care of the outside of the church, and was a money counter. But what Jack is really known for is his wood working around the Church. He had two children confirmed at St. Mark.



SUNDAY NOVEMBER 17, 2024

**Shirley Vogelsong** - Started worshipping at St. Mark in 1947. Shirley taught Sunday School, helped with Alar Guild, sang in the Adult Choir, participated with Helping Hands, and was a member in the Markettes. She had one child confirmed at St. Mark.

**Phyllis Mihalich** - Started worshipping at St. Mark in 1974. Phyllis taught Sunday School, served on the Church Council, and was chairperson of Fellowship Committee where she also managed the kitchen. She is an assistant minister, acolyte, and oversees the Altar Guild. Phyllis is on the Visitation Team and goes out with Pastor Marleen visiting the shut-ins. Phyllis had two children confirmed at St. Mark.



Dedicated to our 85+ members.



<https://youtu.be/TMcsRT891rA?si=U2PRhiR51I9RwlWt>





## **LIGHTING OF THE LUMINARIES**

The lighting of the luminaries will begin at 3:15 pm on Christmas Eve, December 24. The sponsorship form is located near the back of the newsletter. The deadline to submit names is December 13.

## **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES: 4:00 PM CANDLELIGHT SERVICE**

There will be an early Christmas Eve service inside at 4:00 pm following the lighting of the luminaries (special music at 3:45 pm). This service will include candle lighting but will be a shorter service for children and others who may not be able to attend a longer worship service.



## **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.

*St. Mark will not hold services on Christmas Day.*

*Please check your local newspapers for a listing of Christmas Day Services.*

Dear Friends,  
Thank you for the beautiful cards I received for my birthday. I appreciate them very much. It made my day special.  
*Pearl Lehmer*



Dear People of St. Mark Lutheran,  
Anne, Sue, and I send our heartfelt thanks for being such a welcoming and caring spiritual home for our mother, Anna Yenchko, and also for your outpouring of sympathy to us upon her passing this summer. Your prayers and concern have meant a lot to us, and we pray that God continues to bless your congregation and its ministry for years to come.  
*With thanks, Beth Yenchko*

Special thanks to Muretta Yentzer for the beautiful new white paraments in memory of her parents, Victor and Juanita Reda, and her husband, Robert Yentzer.  
*St. Mark Congregation*

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
Thank you for the prayers, cards, and gifts during Pastor's Appreciation month. I am honored to be called to serve you as your pastor and thank you for your encouragement and ongoing prayers. May God bless us with many more years of mutual ministry.  
*Pastor Marleen*

Dear Friends,  
Thank you for your recent gift of \$45.00 given through the Lower Susquehanna Synod ELCA, to Lutheran World Relief's Quilt and Kit Shipping Fund. Every quilt and every kit has a story. Thank you for ensuring these items get where they need to go. Your kindness brings comfort and hope to people, just when they need it most. Thank you.  
*Ambassador Daniel V. Speckhart, President & CEO—Lutheran World Relief*

Dear Siblings in Christ at St. Mark,  
Thank you for your recent gift of \$100.00 given via Synod Benevolence on September 30, 2024, designated for Unrestricted use. May the peace that transcends time and place be with you.  
*Yours in Christ, Michael Youse, Executive Director*

**DECEMBER 2024****8:30 AM - Blended Worship Svc.; 11:00 AM- Quiet Service****9:45 AM Sunday Church School and Children's Choir**

<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>
<b>1 1<sup>st</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 8:30 am-Blended In-Person & Zoom Worship Svc.-Comm. 9:30 am-Getting Ready Sunday 11:00 am-Quiet Svc.-Comm.	<b>2</b> 2:00 pm-8:00 pm- Violin Lessons 7:00 pm-German Group	<b>3</b>
<b>8 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 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. 2:00 pm-Christmas Carol Sing Along and Silent Auction	<b>9</b> 2:00 pm-8:00 pm- Violin Lessons 7:00 pm-German Group	<b>10</b> 6:30 pm-WinGS
<b>15 3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 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. 1:00 pm-FUSE meeting at St. Stephen for youth	<b>16</b> 2:00 pm-8:00 pm- Violin Lessons  7:00 pm-German Group	<b>17</b> 1:00 pm-Social Ministry Christmas Luncheon at Pizza Grille
<b>22 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b> 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.	<b>23</b> 2:00 pm-8:00 pm- Violin Lessons 6:30 pm-Youth & Family Ministry 7:00 pm-German Group	<b>24 CHRISTMAS EVE</b> 3:15 pm-Lighting of the Luminaries 3:45 pm-Special Music 4:00 pm-Christmas Eve Candlelight 9:00 pm-Special Music 9:30 pm-Candlelight & Communion
<b>29 LESSONS &amp; CAROLS SUNDAY</b> 8:30 am-Blended In-Person & Zoom Worship Svc. 11:00 am-Quiet Svc.	<b>30</b> Church Office Closed 2:00 pm-8:00 pm- Violin Lessons 7:00 pm-German Group	<b>31 NEW YEAR'S EVE</b>  Church Office Closed



**DECEMBER 2024**

**8:30 AM - Blended Worship Svc; 11:00 AM- Quiet Service**

**9:45 AM Sunday Church School and Children's Choir**

<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>
<b>4</b> 11:00 am-Bible Study 12:30 pm-Evangelism 6:00 pm-Bell Choir 7:00 pm-Adult Choir	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 2:30-8:00 pm- Violin Lessons	<b>7</b> 9:00 am-Deck the halls, trim the trees, hang the wreaths
<b>11</b> 11:00 am-Bible Study 1:00 pm-Finance 6:00 pm-Bell Choir 7:00 pm-Adult Choir	<b>12</b> 6:30 pm-Ladies & Friends Night Out 6:45 pm- Property	<b>13</b> 2:30-8:00 pm- Violin Lessons	<b>14</b>
<b>18</b> 6:00 pm-Bell Choir 7:00 pm-Adult Choir	<b>19</b> 6:45 pm-Church Council	<b>20</b> 2:30-8:00 pm- Violin Lessons  6:00 pm- Christian Yeager Christmas Concert	<b>21</b>
<b>25 CHRISTMAS DAY</b> 	<b>26</b> Church Office Closed	<b>27</b> Church Office Closed  2:30-8:00 pm- Violin Lessons	<b>28</b>
<b>JANUARY 1, 2025</b>  <b>HAPPY NEW YEAR</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 2:30-8:00 pm- Violin Lessons	<b>4</b>

# IN CASE YOU MISSED IT!

## 2024 MECHANICSBURG/WEST SHORE CROP WALK







## MECHANICSBURG/WEST SHORE CROP WALK

Click on this link to watch the inspirational one-minute video of the start of the 2024 Mechanicsburg/West Shore CROP Hunger Walk:



<https://youtu.be/67-TmtPtQBs>

Over 335 neighbors, including 11 participants (**Matt Yost, Cindy Larkin, Karen Heath, Katie Stull, Caroline Stull, Don Stull, Pastor Marleen Griffith-Stull, Amy Gimbel, Jonas Gimbel, Karen Fisher, and Jenny Batcheler [St. Stephen ]**) who formed St. Mark Keller Street Walkers joined forces to raise over **\$40,000** at the 2024 Mechanicsburg/West Shore CROP Hunger Walk held at Memorial Park on October 20, 2024. 100% of the funds will feed the most vulnerable locally through New Hope Ministries and Mechanicsburg Area Meals on Wheels and globally through Church World Service. Our team of walkers was one of 20 churches, 7 non-profit agencies, 3 Family/Friend groups and 2 businesses to "let their feet do the talking" to raise funds for the needy and help those in developing countries who walk an average of 3.7 miles daily to access water. Those who completed the 3-mile course were invited to enthusiastically ring a bell at the conclusion of the walk.

To see additional pictures, click on the following link:

[Mechanicsburg/West Shore CROP Hunger Walk](#)



Heartfelt thanks to all who sponsored and contributed funds to raise over \$40,000.00.

And Team St. Mark Keller St. Walkers—THANKS AGAIN from the bottom of my heart for your participation and your partnership in making a difference in the lives of the needy!  
YOU ROCK, ST. MARK WALKERS!

*Gratefully, Karen Fisher  
Team Captain*





## **BROAD STREET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - COMMUNITY DINNER**

Broad Street Elementary School recently hosted its annual Community Dinner. An idea that first launched in 2017, it has grown into an evening for families to come together, enjoy a good meal, talk, and get to know each other. The 2024 gathering was the largest yet!

Thanks to our community partners: First United Methodist Church, Mechanicsburg Brethren in Christ Church, St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church, and St. Paul's United Church of Christ for helping to provide the food, in addition to our Broad Street Girls on the Run Team who "chalked the walk" with welcoming messages, assisted with setup, and developed conversation starter questions, centerpieces from recycled materials, and games for families to play.

Also, a special #WildcatShoutout to our volunteers from Broad Street, from other MASD schools and the administrative offices, and throughout the community, our school social workers, and our very own Wildcat, who all helped to make the evening a success. We couldn't do what we do without our amazing community partners and volunteers.

St Mark participated in the dinner by donating 38 dozen rolls, 14 dozen cookies, 62 lbs. of apples, 8 bunches of bananas, and 5 bags of Clementine Oranges. There were approximately 300 people at the dinner.

# December



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](mailto: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

HAPPY  
ANNIVERSARY



If you would like to request a card shower for someone, please provide the information to Karen in the Church Office, and we will be happy to accommodate your request. It's just a simple way of reaching out and sharing God's love. Thanks so much

## 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**.

The Prayer List is cleared quarterly; therefore, will be cleared at the end of December 2024. If you would like an individual to remain on the list, please contact Karen either by email: [kfisher@stmarksburg.com](mailto:kfisher@stmarksburg.com) or by phone at 717-766-4482. Thank you.



## PRAYERS AND SYMPATHY

Our thoughts and prayers go with Tim and Natalie Thomas and Kelley and Tom Weist and their families on the death of Tim and Kelley's dad, Donald Lee (Duck) Thomas on November 13. Tim and Kelley are Karen Fisher's children.

## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Please contact Sara Jane Miller at 717-448-4777 or Karen in the church office at 717-766-4482 or if you would like to obtain a prayer shawl, blanket, or prayer square to give as a blessing to someone or if you would like to join our wonderful team of crocheters, knitters, seamstresses, or crafters.




## GIANT GIFT CARDS

If you would like to purchase Giant Gift Cards (\$25, \$50, \$100, or \$250 denominations) please give your order and money to Barb Yost. The 5% that we receive from Giant will be used to pay off the organ. Contact Barb Yost at [byost@verizon.net](mailto:byost@verizon.net) for details.



# WORSHIP SERVICE HELPERS

<b>USHERS</b>	
1 Sean Gimbel, Jonas Gimbel	
8 Phyllis Mihalich, Karen Heath	
15 Greg Hoover, Cindy Hoover	
22 Gene Shaner, Terry Shaner	
24 (4:00 pm) TBA	
24 (9:30 pm) TBA	
29 Tyson Murphy, Joan Murphy	
<b>LAY READER</b>	<b>ASSISTING MINISTER</b>
1 Amy Gimbel	1 Denise Hirn
8 Sara Jane Miller	8 Karen Heath
15 Matt Yost	15 Alma Gimbel
22 Connie Kuntz	22 Sean Gimbel
24 (4:00 pm) Karen Heath	24 (4:00 pm) Joan Murphy
24 (9:30 pm) Barb Yost	24 (9:30 pm) Karen Heath
29 Sundays & Seasons Readers	29 Tina Freidhof
<b>ACOLYTE</b>	<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>
1 Brett Hirn	1 Connie Kuntz, Cindy Larkin
8 Caroline Stull	8 Sara Jane Miller, Joan Murphy
15 Phyllis Mihalich	15 JoAnn Novinger, Bev Reihart
22 Katie Stull	22 Sandy Brown, Connie Kunta
24 (4:00 pm) Karen Heath & Joan Murphy	23 & 24 *See Altar Guild Work Schedule on following page
24 (9:30 pm) Sean Gimbel & Jonas Gimbel	
29 Tina Freidhof	29 Phyllis Mihalich, Michele Connor

## IMPORTANT - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Ushers are needed for the 4:00 pm and 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!



**\*ALTAR GUILD WORK SCHEDULE FOR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**

Help to set up for Christmas Eve on December 23 at 1:00 pm.

1. Sara Jane Miller
2. Joan Murphy
3. Sandy Brown
4. Andi Sassaman

Help after December 24, 4:00 pm, Christmas Eve Service:

1. Joan Murphy
2. Sara Jane Miller
3. Connie Kuntz
4. Terry Shaner

Help after December 24, 9:30 pm, Christmas service:

1. Jo Ann Novinger
2. Sandy Brown
3. Terry Shaner
4. Cindy Larkin

Thanks to all the volunteers!!

*Connie Kuntz*

**YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS A THING**

<b>December 1</b>	<b>Getting Ready Sunday &amp; Cookie Baking</b>
<b>December 7</b>	<b>Hang Wreaths and Decorate Trees</b>
<b>December 8</b>	<b>Christmas Carol Singalong</b>
<b>December 8</b>	<b>Silent Auction of Gift Baskets</b>
<b>December 24</b>	<b>Christmas Eve Luminaries Christmas Eve Services</b>
<b>January 2025</b>	<b>Soup-er Bowl</b>
<b>January 11</b>	<b>Un-Deck the Halls</b>
<b>January 12</b>	<b>Brunch and a Movie</b>
<b>February 10</b>	<b>Roller Skating Party</b>
<b>March 5</b>	<b>Ash Wednesday</b>
<b>March 12-April 19</b>	<b>Bread and Broth Wednesdays</b>

# Holiday Hours...



## HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

The church office will be closed from December 25, 2024, through January 1, 2025. Pastor Marleen will be available for pastoral care/emergencies. You may reach her at (878) 295-2173.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS** and a **BLESSED NEW YEAR**



<b>December 1</b>	Altar Greens to the Glory of God by the Altar Guild
<b>December 8</b>	Altar Greens to the Glory of God by the Altar Guild
<b>December 15</b>	Altar Greens to the Glory of God by the Altar Guild
<b>December 22</b>	Altar Greens to the Glory of God by the Altar Guild
<b>December 24</b>	Poinsettias by Sponsors
<b>December 29</b>	In memory of Naomi Kuntz by John and Connie Kuntz

## UN-DECK THE HALLS

What goes up must come down. Join us on **January 11, at 9:30 am** as we take down the Christmas decorations.

# SPONSOR A LUMINARY FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24, 2024



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

We will begin lighting the luminaries at 3:15 pm on Christmas Eve. You are welcome to join us and light the luminaries that you sponsor, or we will light them for you. Worship services will be held at 4:00 pm (special music starting at 3:45 pm) and 9:30 pm (special music starting at 9:00 pm).

**PLEASE BE SURE TO CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOXES**

Total number of luminaries sponsored \_\_\_\_\_

- I will come and help light luminaries at 3:15 pm.
- In honor of \_\_\_\_\_
- In memory of \_\_\_\_\_
- To the Glory of God

Sponsored by \_\_\_\_\_

Check amount \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to *St. Mark Lutheran Church* and note "*luminary sponsor*" on the memo line no later than December 13.

## CHRISTIAN YEAGER CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Our friend, Christian Yeager, is having a Christmas Concert on **December 20**. Tickets can be purchased at <https://www.christianyeagermusic.com/> or by calling 717-448-1595.

Spend a fun-filled relaxing evening enjoying Christian's music.

# Christian's Christmas Concert

**December 20th**  
**Strock's Farms**

729 Williams Grove Rd.  
Mechanicsburg, PA

**6:00–8:00 pm**

**Tickets \$15**

Available for purchase  
November 8th

**Food, Drink, and Merch**  
**Available for purchase**



## POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

If you would like to sponsor a poinsettia(s) to be placed in the chancel for Christmas or donate money to Mechanicsburg Area Meals on Wheels, please complete the form below. The cost of each poinsettia is **\$12.00** for a red poinsettia in a 6" pot that will have at least four blooms. **The deadline for ordering is Sunday, December 1.** Checks should be made to St. Mark Lutheran Church and be sure to put Altar Guild on the memo line." Please place your check with your order in the offering plate.



**PLEASE BE SURE TO CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOX**

**POINSETTIA**  **MEALS ON WHEELS**

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

To the Glory of God

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Presented by \_\_\_\_\_

Deliver to Shut-in

Will pick up after worship service on Christmas.

\_\_\_\_\_ Total number of Poinsettias ordered

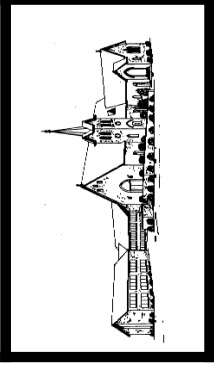
Amount of Check \_\_\_\_\_



From all the Staff at  
St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church  
of Mechanicsburg,

**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

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



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

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

