

**ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OF MECHANICSBURG  
FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT  
MARCH 30, 2025**



**SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES**

**8:30 am - Sanctuary & Zoom Blended Worship Service**

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

**11:00 am - Quiet Service**

**Rev. Marleen Griffith-Stull, Pastor**

**Pastor's Cell Phone: 878-295-2173**

**Pastor's Email: [revmarleen@stmarkmburg.com](mailto:revmarleen@stmarkmburg.com)**

**Karen Fisher, Office Manager**

**Karen's Cell Phone: 717-580-7507**

**Church Office: 717-766-4482**

**Office Email: [kfisher@stmarkmburg.com](mailto: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](mailto:denisehirn@hotmail.com)**

**Brad Hull, Director of Music**

**Brad's Cell Phone: 202-738-2795**

**Emil: [bradleyjhull@gmail.com](mailto:bradleyjhull@gmail.com)**

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

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***St Mark Lutheran Church Mechanicsburg***

ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OF MECHANICSBURG  
FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT  
MARCH 30, 2025



**GUESTS/VISITORS:**

*“Getting to Know You—Getting to Know All About 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 TODAY**

*The psalm sets the tone this day: “Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!” Happy are those who have “become the righteousness of God” in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has “rolled away . . . the disgrace” of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus’ sake. Rejoice!*

**UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS**

**John Donne, poet, died 1631**

**Monday, March 31, 2025**

After finishing his education at Oxford University, Donne seemed headed for a career in the English public service. But a series of circumstances led him into the ordained ministry. He is well known as a writer of both secular and sacred poetry.

**Benedict the African, confessor, died 1589**

**Friday, April 4, 2025**

Born into slavery on the island of Sicily, Benedict lived as a hermit until the pope ordered all hermits to attach themselves to a monastery, at which time Benedict joined the Franciscans. Though illiterate, he was highly respected as a confessor and later superior of his community

\*The asterisk in the margins of the bulletin indicates please stand as able.

## PRELUDE

*Psalm 51*

Anglican Chant

## INTROIT

*Jesus Wept Over Jerusalem*

E. Hazelle

## GATHERING: Psalm 51:10

P Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
C and renew a right spirit within me.

## \*BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

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

C Amen.

P 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 Gracious God,

C have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C Amen.

## \*GATHERING SONG

### Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that  
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his  
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me  
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and  
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.  
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5

Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851–1921, alt.

## 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.

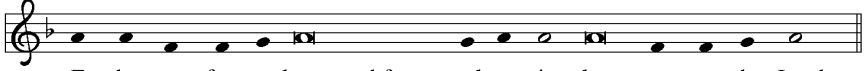
# \*KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

# \*CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Assisting minister



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav'n-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa - ther, we wor -



ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, O Lord God,



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



mer-cy on us; you are seat - ed at the right hand of the



Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer. For you a - lone are the



Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone



are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you,  
C and also with you.

P Let us pray.  
God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.  
C Amen.

## ANTHEM

*Grace Greater Than Our Sin*

Words by J. Johnston/  
Music by D. Towner

## FIRST LESSON: Joshua 5:9-12

*By celebrating the Passover and eating the produce of the promised land instead of the miraculous manna that had sustained them in the desert, the Israelites symbolically bring their forty years of wilderness wandering to an end at Gilgal.*

R A Reading from Joshua.

<sup>9</sup>The Lord said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.” And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

<sup>10</sup>While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the Passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. <sup>11</sup>On the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. <sup>12</sup>The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

R The word of the Lord.  
C Thanks be to God.

## PSALM: 32

*(Please read the Psalm responsively. Men the regular print; Woman, the bold print.)*

<sup>1</sup> Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

<sup>2</sup> **Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit, there is no guile!**

<sup>3</sup> While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.

<sup>4</sup> **For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

<sup>5</sup> Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.

<sup>6</sup> **I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.**

<sup>7</sup> Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

<sup>8</sup> **You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.**

<sup>9</sup> "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.

<sup>10</sup> **Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."**

<sup>11</sup> Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.

<sup>12</sup> **Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.**



## SECOND LESSON: 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 5:16-21

*One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ everything is transformed into newness. All mistakes, all deliberate sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ's resurrection. This is Paul's strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth.*

R A reading from 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians.

<sup>16</sup>From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. <sup>17</sup>So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup>that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. <sup>20</sup>So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

### \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Glo - ry and praise to you, O Lord Je - sus Christ.



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.



Glo - ry and praise to you, O Lord Je - sus Christ.

**\*GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-21**

*Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believes it is his obedience that has earned his place in the father's home.*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] <sup>2</sup> And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." <sup>3</sup> So he told them this parable:

<sup>11b</sup> "There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup> The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup> A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. <sup>14</sup> When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup> So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup> He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup> But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! <sup>18</sup> I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; <sup>19</sup> I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" <sup>20</sup> So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him.

<sup>21</sup> Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' <sup>22</sup> But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup> And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; <sup>24</sup> for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

<sup>25</sup> "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup> He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. <sup>27</sup> He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' <sup>28</sup> Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. <sup>29</sup> But he answered his

father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup> But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' <sup>31</sup> Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup> But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.' "

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to you, O Christ.

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

## **SERMON**

\*HYMN OF THE DAY

# Our Father, We Have Wandered

1 Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;  
2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,  
3 O Lord of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,

in fool - ish - ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.  
be - hold us, Lord, re - turn - ing with hope and trust to you.  
com - pas - sion - ate, for - giv - ing, and ev - er - car - ing Lord,

But now, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we rise with fear and shame,  
In haste you come to meet us and home re - joic - ing bring,  
grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.

as, dis - tant but com - pel - ling, we hear you call our name.  
in glad - ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.  
Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

Text: Kevin Nichols, 1929–2006

Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750

Text from *Resource Collection of Hymns and Service Music for the Liturgy*, © 1981 International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc.

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## **\*APOSTLES' CREED**

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\*

On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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.

## **\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the  
world, and all those in need.

A God, in your mercy,  
C receive our prayer.

## **OFFERING**

### **OFFERTORY**

*God So Loved the World*

J. Stainer/arr. A. Whitworth

## **PRAYER SHAWL BLESSING**

# \*THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Please sing Verse 5 only.

## Just As I Am, without One Plea

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was  
2 Just as I am, and wait - ing not to rid my soul of  
3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y\_a con - flict,  
4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; sight, rich - es, heal - ing

shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
one dark blot, to thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,  
man - y\_a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,  
of the mind, yea, all I need in thee to find,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5 Just as I am, thou wilt receive,  
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
because thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am; thy love unknown  
has broken ev'ry barrier down;  
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

## \*THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

P Holy God,  
our living Water, our faithful Companion, our true Guide, by your  
Word you created a world with rivers and seas, wells and springs,  
and in mercy you provided water for your people in the  
wilderness.

C For your Word with the water of baptism, we thank you, O God.  
**We thank you, O God.**

P We praise you for Christ, who joined us in our desert, calling us  
to righteousness, granting forgiveness, and walking with us into  
newness of life.

C For Jesus, your gracious Word, we glorify you, O God.  
**We glorify you, O God.**

P Through these days of Lent we plead for your Spirit, that  
strengthened by your Word, we may care for others and for the  
world you made, and work for justice and peace for all.

C For your Word in our hearts and minds, we praise you, O God.  
**We praise you, O God.**

P Receive our thanksgiving, and grant us your blessing,  
Holy God, 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.

## \*BLESSING

P God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the  
reconciling Spirit, ✠ bless you now and forever.

C **Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN

# My Life Flows On in Endless Song

1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam - en - ta - tion,  
2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.  
3 What though my joys and com - forts die? The Lord my Sav - ior liv - eth.  
4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring - ing!

I catch the sweet, though far - off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.  
It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing - ing?  
What though the dark - ness gath - er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.  
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing - ing?

*Refrain*

No storm can shake my in - most calm while to that Rock I'm cling - ing.

Since Christ is Lord of heav - en and earth, how can I keep from sing - ing?



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \*DISMISSAL

A        Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.  
C        Thanks be to God.

### \*POSTLUDE

*Wonderful Grace of Jesus*

*H. Lillanas*



In memory of all lost loved ones by  
Bev Weaver.

## TODAY'S ASSISTANTS

<b>Ushers:</b>	Greg Hoover, Cindy Hoover
<b>Assisting Minister:</b>	Matt Yost
<b>Lay Reader:</b>	Alma Gimbel
<b>Acolyte:</b>	Caroline Stull
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Sara Jane Miller, Bev Reihart
<b>Council Money Duty:</b>	Amy Gimbel, Terry Shaner

## THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK

Sunday, March 30

8:30 am

9:45 am

9:45 am

11:00 am

4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT

Blended Worship Svc.

Sunday Church School

Children's Choir

Worship Svc

Monday, March 31

2:45 pm

7:00 pm

Violin Lessons

German Group

Tuesday, April 1

6:00 pm

Fellowship Committee

Wednesday, April 2

11:00 am

4:30 pm

5:30 pm

6:45 pm

Before Lent Worship

After Lent Worship

Bible Study

Deliver meals to homebound

Bread and Broth

Lenten Worship Svc.

Bell Choir

Adult Choir

Thursday, April 3

7:00 pm

Iglesia Dios Con Nosotros

Friday, April 4

3:45 pm

Violin Lessons

Saturday, April 5

Sunday, April 6

8:30 am

9:45 am

9:45 am

11:00 am

5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT

Blended Worship Svc.-Communion

Sunday Church School

Children's Choir

Worship Svc.-Communion

LESSONS:

FIRST READING

PSALM

SECOND READING

GOSPEL

APRIL 6, 2025

Isaiah 43:16-21

Psalms 126

Philippians 3:4b-14

John 12:1-8

## -ANNOUNCEMENTS-

### SOUP SCHEDULE FOR BREAD AND BROTH MEALS:

April 2

\*Open Donations

April 9

Worship & Music (including choirs)

When your group is providing soup, keep in mind that we will need 6 to 7 pots of soup. Everyone will have a chance to sign up to bring in soup on \*Open Donation nights. Sign-up sheets are posted at entrances to the church for soup donations and/or to assist with cleanup after the dinner. If you have any questions about the dinner, please contact Phyllis Mihalich, Fellowship Chair.

### MONTHLY SUNDAYS TO BENEFIT NEW HOPE MINISTRIES

Here are the items for April, May, and June:

April 27

Canned Fruit or Fruit Cups

May 27

Feminine Hygiene Products

June 8

Ketchup and Mustard

### SUMMER CAMP

Brochures for Summer Camp at either Camp Nawakwa or Camp Kirchenwald are available at the church office, or you can contact our camp person, Connie Kuntz, at 717-503-5244. You can also register or find additional information online at [www.lutherancamping.org](http://www.lutherancamping.org). Our congregation will provide half the basic camp fee and scholarship money is available if needed. Both camps will again hold Open House on **April 6 from 2:00-4:30 PM**. Remember to get the camp person discount and if you register with your full payment **before April 5**, you are eligible for the full payment discount. The congregation will be billed later for half the basic fee. Remember there are camps available for all ages with Family Camps and Elder Camp. The Bible study theme this year is God's Word Comes Near. The theme verse is:

*The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart.*  
Romans 10:8

### GOOD FRIDAY COMMUNITY PRAYER WALK

The community will gather on **April 18** in various locations at **11:00 am** to begin walking and cover our community in prayer. Pastor Marleen will be leading a prayer group from St. Mark that day. All the groups will end at Mechanicsburg First Church of God near the center of town at **NOON** and conclude with a brief time of worship together.

## **HOLY HUMOR SUNDAY**

On Sunday, **April 27**, during worship, we will have our regular elements of worship with fun and creative moments and experiences mixed in. We will use God's gifts of laughter and joy to enjoy the new life that Christ gave us through the Easter miracle as we gather in worship, celebration, and praise! Let's laugh at the devil through our humor! Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

## **NEW DATE AND TIME - EASTER EGG HUNT**

All kids and their families are welcome to join us on **Saturday, April 26, at 10:00 am** for our annual Easter Egg Hunt. Children through 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to hunt, and older youth help hide the eggs. Refreshments will be provided.

## **YARD SALE IS BACK!**

**Sell your stuff or come to shop!** Join us on Saturday, **May 24** from 9:00 am--? for a yard sale on our back lawn. Anyone is welcome to set up starting at 7:00 am. Mechanicsburg Borough does not permit sales before 9:00 am.

## **BOOK CLUB -NEW!**

Join us on Thursday, **May 15**, at **1:00 pm** in the parlor to discuss *The Story of Arthur Truelove* by Elizabeth Berg.

Suggested book is a novel by Elizabeth Berg, *The Story of Arthur Truluv*.

This is a heartwarming novel about two unlikely people who find a connection. Arthur is a kind caring man who visits the cemetery daily to have an imaginary conversation with his late wife. There he meets Maddy, a troubled teen hiding from school. Together they find their way back from loss and loneliness to a different kind of life.

We look forward to conversation and fellowship with you. We encourage you to share and invite a friend.

The book is available through the library or Thrift books.

## **ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORS NEEDED**

Sponsors are needed for **all Sundays in May**. Please use the form located in the bulletin or at entrances to the church. Please contact Connie Kuntz at 717-503-5244 with questions.



April 2	Bread & Broth Continues
April 13	Palm Sunday
April 17 April 17	Maundy Thursday, Noon, St. Mark Maundy Thursday AGAPE Feast at St. Stephen, 30 W. Main St., New Kingston, 17072 - 6:00 PM
April 18 April 18	Good Friday Community Prayer Walk Good Friday Service
April 20	Easter Sunrise Service - 6:30 AM
April 20	Potluck Easter Breakfast - 7:15 AM
April 20	Resurrection of our Lord - Easter Day
April 26	CHANGE OF DATE Easter Egg Hunt and Lunch- 10:00 am
April 27	Holy Humor Sunday
May 15	Book Club read of <i>Arthur Truluv</i>
May 24	Community Yard Sale
August 4-7	St. Mark Day Camp
September 8	God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday.
October 14	Soup on the Sidewalk at Mechanicsburg Halloween Parade
October 19	CROP Walk at Memorial Park
November 27	Thanksgiving Dinner

# Altar Flower Sponsorship Form

Please check the one that applies to your sponsorship and complete the following statements:

- In memory of \_\_\_\_\_
- In honor of \_\_\_\_\_
- To the Glory of God

Sponsor Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Requested: \_\_\_\_\_

- Willing to Share

Circle Payment Enclosed:

\$25.00 One Vase of Flowers

\$50.00 Both Vases of Flowers



***Checks should be made payable to St. Mark Lutheran Church and note "Altar Guild" in the memo line.*** Place in the offering plate or mail directly to the church office



Please check any that apply!

- Flowers will be picked up by sponsor.
- Deliver one vase of flowers to shut-in or hospital
- Deliver both vases of flowers to shut-in or hospital

Please contact Connie Kuntz at 717-503-5244 with any questions.

THANK YOU!

## FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

### GETTING TO THE FAT CALF

Whatever you think of, however you feel about this story, don't fool yourself into believing that it is all about a party. Pie-in-the-sky piety skims the fat and squeezes the fruit out of the parable, reducing a teaching about what is wildly prodigal to a mere morality play. Here's the bulk of the story: abandonment, longing, waste, famine, then hunger, humiliation, and dishonor, dying in pig dirt, shame unto pleading, resentment, sore bitterness . . . loss in every direction. Loss and falling—from comfort and certainty, respectability and character; from pleasure into pain, well-being into misery. Jesus told this agonizing, heartbreaking, undignified, lowdown, vanished-hope story for a reason. Jesus knew what life can be like. He recognized the deep ravines of loss and the gullies into which we fall. It doesn't look as if the story begins in those sad places, but it surely lands and sits there for a while, the kind of sedentary existence that is too much like an awful eternity.

A father, bereaved and insulted (Was he not the parent he hoped, thought, intended himself to be?), is left gazing into an empty distance. A child disappearing (Why such urgency to run from his birth home?) is left in disgrace. A child dutiful, hard at work, utterly dependable (How had he come to feel so cheated, denied of love?) is left mucking in thick refusal.

And while it is so . . . And though it is true . . .

Suddenly, or maybe it's eventually, the story becomes larger. The story collides with gospel. The late preacher and theologian Frederick Buechner observed, "The gospel is bad news before it is good news." Jesus knew how we fail the world and how the world fails us. Jesus was a truth-teller, the whole truth: rags and robes, pigpen and dance floor, defiance and embrace, but no pie-in-the-sky piety. Instead, a festive roast in the oven! That's how grace behaves.