

**ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF MECHANICSBURG
25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
NOVEMBER 10, 2024**



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

**8:30 am - Sanctuary & Zoom Blended Worship Service
9:45 am - Sunday Church School and Children's Choir
11:00 am - Worship Service**

**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
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*St Mark Lutheran Church Mechanicsburg***

ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF MECHANICSBURG
25TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
NOVEMBER 10, 2024



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 TODAY

Widows are visible everywhere in today’s readings. Jesus denounces those scribes who pray impressive prayers but devour widows’ houses. He commends the poor widow who in his view gave far more than the major donors. Jesus doesn’t see her simply as an object of compassion or charity. She, like the widow of Zarephath who shares her last bit of food with Elijah, does something of great importance.

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Martin, Bishop of Tours, died 397
Monday, November 11, 2024

Martin’s pagan father enlisted him in the Roman army. Approached by a beggar, Martin cut his cloak in half and gave part to the man, whom he later understood as representing Christ. He asked to leave the army, but was jailed instead. After his release, he became a preacher, and later a bishop.

Søren Aabye Kierkegaard, teacher, died 1855
Monday, November 11, 2024

Kierkegaard was a Danish theologian whose writings also gave rise to the modern philosophy of existentialism. He frequently attacked the complacency of the state church of his day, as well as its desire to be accepted by polite society rather than be a stumbling block.

Asterisk (*) in the margin of this bulletin indicates the congregation shall rise as able.

PRELUDE MUSIC

Jubilate

G. Young

***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**

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

P Blessed be the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

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

P Gracious God,
C have mercy on us.

We confess that we have honored you with our lips but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first, we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven.
C Amen.

*GATHERING HYMN

All Depends on Our Possessing



1 All de - pends on our pos - sess - ing God's free grace and
2 God, who hith - er - to has fed me and to man - y
3 When with sor - row I am strick - en, hope my heart a -
4 Well you know what best to grant me; all the long - ing
5 If on earth my days should length - en, God, my wea - ry



con - stant bless - ing, though all earth - ly wealth de - part.
joys has led me, is and ev - er shall be mine.
new will quick - en, all my long - ing shall be hearted.
hopes that haunt me, joy and sor - row, have their day.
soul still strength - en; all my trust in you I place.



They who trust with faith un - shak - en by their God are
God, who did so gent - ly school me and who dai - ly
To your lov - ing - kind - ness ten - der all my be - ing
I shall doubt your wis - dom nev - er; as you will, so
Earth - ly wealth is not a - bid - ing; like a stream a -



not for - sak - en and will keep a daunt - less heart.
guides and rules me, will re - main my help di - vine.
I sur - ren - der; Lord, on you a - lone I build.
be it ev - er; I com - mit to you my way.
way it's glid - ing; safe I an - chor in your grace.

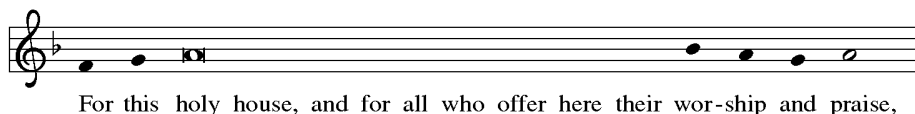
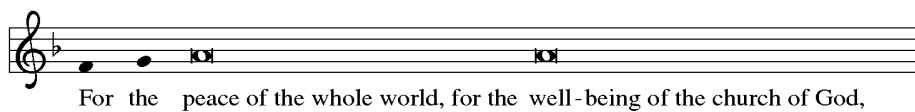
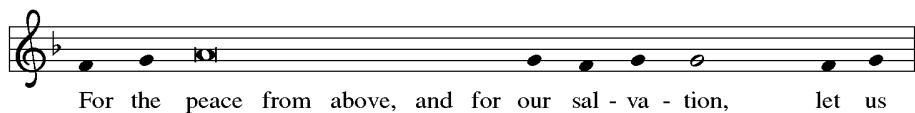
Text: *Gesangbuch*, Nürnberg, 1676; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: ALLES IST AN GÖTTES SEGEN, Johann Löhner, 1645–1705, adapt.

*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



*HYMN OF PRAISE


Refrain



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



1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



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

Refrain



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



2 Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, 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.

Refrain



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



3 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.

Refrain



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

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

P O God, you show forth your almighty power chiefly by reaching out to us in mercy. Grant us the fullness of your grace, strengthen our trust in your promises, and bring all the world to share in the treasures that come through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

ANTHEM

Take Me Back to the Cross

S. Pethel and S. Hicks

BLESSING OF THE LECTOR

P Let us pray.

P God Almighty, we ask your blessing upon Dave as he reads to us the scriptures. May the words of his mouth and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, our rock and our redeemer.

C Amen.

FIRST LESSON: 1st Kings 17:8-16

This chapter begins the story of Elijah. God sends a drought on Israel because of the sins of King Ahab. This passage depicts God's saving acts not only on behalf of Elijah, but also on behalf of those who are associated with the prophet, even a foreigner, the widow of Zarephath.

R A reading from 1st Kings.

⁸The word of the Lord came to [Elijah,] saying, ⁹“Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you.” ¹⁰So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, “Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink.” ¹¹As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.” ¹²But she said, “As the Lord your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.” ¹³Elijah said to her, “Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son. ¹⁴For thus says the Lord the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will

not fail until the day that the Lord sends rain on the earth.”¹⁵ She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days.¹⁶ The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord that he spoke by Elijah.

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 146

Please sing the Psalm responsively. Choir the regular print; congregation the bold print.



¹ Hallelujah! Praise the LORD, | O my soul!
I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God
while I | have my being.

² Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any | child of earth,
for there is no | help in them.

³ When they breathe their last, they re- | turn to earth,
and in that day | their thoughts perish.

⁴ Happy are they who have the God of Jacob | for their help,
whose hope is in the | LORD their God;

⁵ who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that | is in them;
who keeps his prom- | ise forever;

⁶ who gives justice to those who | are oppressed,
and food to | those who hunger.

⁷ The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes | of the
blind;
the LORD lifts up those who | are bowed down;

(Continued next page.)

⁸ the LORD loves the righteous; the LORD cares ¹ for the stranger; he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way ¹ of the wicked.

⁹ The LORD shall ¹ reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. ¹ Hallelujah!

SECOND LESSON: Hebrews 9:24-28

The letter to the Hebrews describes Christ as a high priest who offers himself as a sacrifice for our sin. Christ does not die again and again each year. He died once, is alive with God, and will reveal himself on the last day.

R A reading from Hebrews.

²⁴ Christ did not enter a sanctuary made by human hands, a mere copy of the true one, but he entered into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. ²⁵ Nor was it to offer himself again and again, as the high priest enters the Holy Place year after year with blood that is not his own; ²⁶ for then he would have had to suffer again and again since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the age to remove sin by the sacrifice of himself. ²⁷ And just as it is appointed for mortals to die once, and after that the judgment, ²⁸ so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

R The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

*ALLELUIA VERSE

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

***GOSPEL: Mark 12:38-44**

After engaging in a series of public arguments with religious leaders in the temple, Jesus contrasts the proud and oppressive ways of those leaders with the sacrificial humility and poverty of the widow.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 12th chapter
C Glory to you, O Lord.

³⁸ As [Jesus] taught, he said, “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, ³⁹ and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! ⁴⁰ They devour widows’ houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.”

⁴¹ He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. ⁴² A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. ⁴³ Then he called his disciples and said to them, “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. ⁴⁴ For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

P The gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY

Day by Day

1 Day by day, your mer - cies, Lord, at - tend me, bring - ing com - fort
 2 Day by day, I know you will pro - vide me strength to serve and
 3 Oh, what joy to know that you are near me when my bur - dens

to my anx - ious soul. Day by day, the bless - ings, Lord, you send me
 wis - dom to o - bey; I will seek your lov - ing will to guide me
 grow too great to bear; oh, what joy to know that you will hear me

draw me near - er to my heav'n - ly goal. Love di - vine, be - yond all
 o'er the paths I strug - gle day by day. I will fear no e - vil
 when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer. Day by day, no mat - ter

mor - tal mea - sure, brings to naught the bur - dens of my quest; Sav - ior,
 of the mor - row, I will trust in your en - dur - ing grace. Sav - ior,
 what be - tide me, you will hold me ev - er in your hand. Sav - ior,

lead me to the home I trea - sure, where at last I'll find e - ter - nal rest.
 help me bear life's pain and sor - row till in glo - ry I be - hold your face.
 with your pres - ence here to guide me, I will reach at last the prom - ised land.

*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 Rooted in God's abundant love for the world, let us pray for our
neighbors, the church, and all of creation.

A Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

We offer our prayers to you, gracious God, trusting in your
boundless love for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ
our Savior.

C Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Prelude in B Minor

F. Chopin

*THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

The image shows a musical score for the offertory response. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are: "Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost." The music is a simple, homophonic setting of the hymn.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;

praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711
Music: OLD HUNDREDDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

*THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

P O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory 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, all mighty, God most merciful ✠ bless you, keep you, and
give you peace.

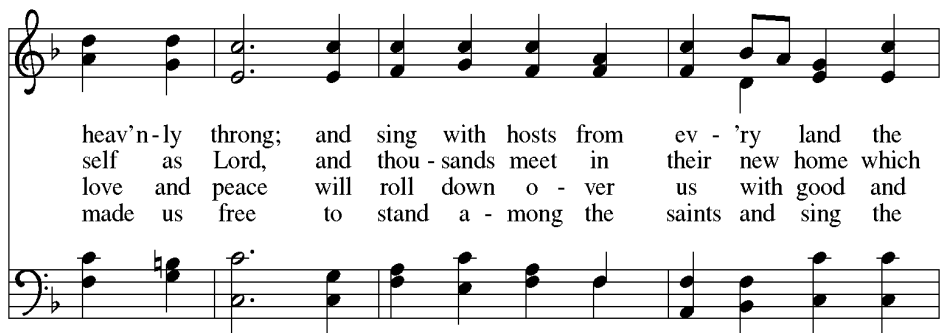
C Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

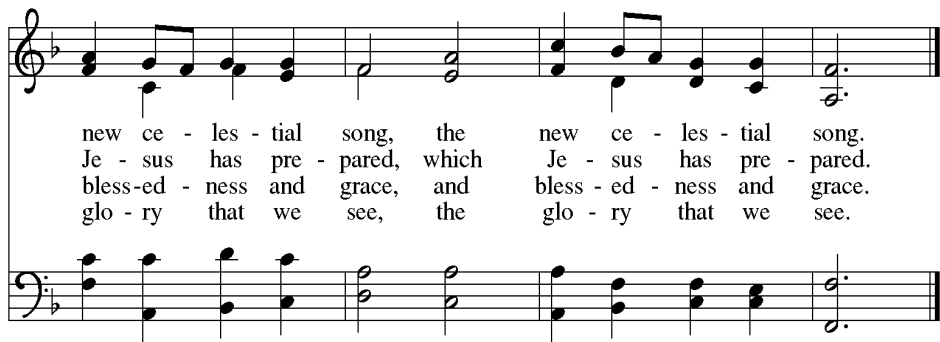
Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand



1 Oh, hap - py day when we shall stand a - mid the
2 Oh, bless - ed day when Christ shall come and show him -
3 Oh, what a might - y rush - ing flood of joy and
4 O Lord, your grace is ev - 'ry - thing; your love has



heav'n - ly throng; and sing with hosts from ev - 'ry land the
self as Lord, and thou - sands meet in their new home which
love and peace will roll down o - ver us with good and
made us free to stand a - mong the saints and sing the



new ce - les - tial song, the new ce - les - tial song.
Je - sus has pre - pared, which Je - sus has pre - pared.
bless - ed - ness and grace, and bless - ed - ness and grace.
glo - ry that we see, the glo - ry that we see.

Text: Wilhelm A. Wexels, 1797–1866; tr. composite

Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, 1480–1561

Text st. 1 © 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress; text sts. 2–4 © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

*DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Follow Jesus.
C Thanks be to God.

*POSTLUDE

When the Roll is Called Up Yonder

J. Black



ALTAR FLOWERS

In memory of loved ones by Muretta Yentzer.

In loving memory of Charles Ditmer, Jr. by
Susan Ditmer.

TODAY'S ASSISTANTS

Assisting Minister:	Denise Hirn
Lay Reader:	Dave Harnish
Acolyte:	Brett Hirn
Ushers:	Sara Jane Miller, Dee Bernatos
Altar Guild:	Sara Jane Miller, Bev Reihart

-THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK-

Sunday, November 10	25th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
8:30 am	In-Person & Zoom Worship Svc.
9:30 am	Congregation Meeting
	Fellowship Committee Meeting following
	Congregation meeting
11:00 am	Worship Service
Monday, November 11	Veterans Day Holiday
2:00 pm	Violin Lessons
7:00 pm	German Group
Tuesday, November 12	
6:30 pm	WinGS
Wednesday, November 13	
11:00 am	Bible Study
1:00 pm	Finance
6:00 pm	Bell Choir
7:00 pm	Adult Choir
Thursday, November 14	
6:45 pm	Property
Friday, November 15	
2:30 pm	Violin Lessons
Saturday, November 16	
5:00 pm	Dinner with Friends at St. Stephen
Sunday November 17	26th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
8:30 am	In-Person & Zoom Worship Svc.
9:45 am	Adult Sunday School
9:45 am	Children's SS/Choir
11:00 am	Worship Service
1:00 pm	FUSE Meeting at St. Stephen
LESSONS:	NOVEMBER 17, 2024
FIRST READING	Daniel 12:1-3
PSALM	Psalms 16
SECOND READING	Hebrews 10:11-25
GOSPEL	Mark 13:1-8

-ANNOUNCEMENTS-

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER

We are planning on celebrating Thanksgiving dinner again this year on **Thursday, November 28, at 1:00 pm.** *Helpers* are needed for this event: cooks, servers, bakers, set up, dishwashers, and friendly faces to welcome guests into our church! In addition, **we need volunteers to deliver meals to our homebound.** Please sign up on the sheets by the entrances to our Church to be part of our community Thanksgiving dinner. For additional information, please contact Werner Jonas at 717-697-8313.

THANKSGIVING DINNER RESERVATIONS AND MENU

Thanksgiving dinner **reservations can be made by using the signup sheets or by contacting the church office no later than November 21.** Menu: Turkey, Gravy, Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Sweet Potato Casserole, Cranberry Sauce, Rolls, Marinated Vegetables, Fruit Salad and Pies. We need donations of pies. Please use the sign-up sheets at the entrances to the Church to indicate if you can donate pies.

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 10% we receive from Giant will be used to pay off the organ. Contact Barb Yost at 717-5 (byost@verizon.net).

BE A SANTA TO UNDERPRIVILEGED ADULTS—CONTRIBUTIONS AND SHOPPERS NEEDED

We will continue our 11-year tradition of celebrating Christmas with residents of American House and Brethen House Apartments. **If you are interested in making a financial contribution to help defray the expenses, please mark it “Social Ministry” no later than Sunday, November 17.** If you would like to help with the shopping, please contact Karen Fisher at 717-580-7507 or email at kfisher@stmarkmburg.com.

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS EXPRESS

Our Christmas Blessings Express tree is up and decorated at the back entrance of St. Mark. Please take an ornament(s) from the tree. Return your unwrapped gift(s) **no later than Sunday, December 1.** Copies of the New Hope Ministries Wish List are available at entrances to the church.

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.

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 EVE - LIGHTING OF THE LUMINARIES - WORSHIP SERVICES

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**).

CHRISTMAS CAROL SINGALONG

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

SILENT AUCTION BASKETS AND ITEMS

The Silent Auction will be held on **December 8** to benefit the Organ Fund; however, you may preview a basket or item any time before December 8.

The baskets and items will be on display at various times and places throughout St. Mark where you will have an opportunity to look them over and read descriptions of each item. The first time you will see most of them will be at the Congregation meeting today! 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 may accompany choir members who are caroling.

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.



****For details on events listed, please read the November 2024 ReMarker.**

YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS A THING**

November 10	Congregational Meeting
November 12	WinGS
November 16	Dinner With Friends at St. Stephen
November 22	Youth Sleep Out for the Homeless at First United Methodist Church through November 23
November 28	Thanksgiving Dinner
December 1	Getting Ready Sunday & Cookie Baking
December 7	Hang Wreaths and Decorate Trees
December 8 December 8	Christmas Carol Singalong Silent Auction of Gift Baskets
December 24	Christmas Eve Luminaries Christmas Eve Services
January 2025	Soup-er Bowl
January 11, 2025	Un-Deck the Halls

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

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

Presented by _____

Deliver to Shut-in

Will pick up after worship service on Christmas.

_____ Total number of Poinsettias ordered

Amount of Check _____

LECTIONARY 32

GOD'S GENEROSITY BRINGS NEW LIFE

As we cross a busy street, a stranger's cry of "WATCH OUT!" will certainly send our heart racing. Such an outburst may not be what we expect to hear, but it is the warning needed for us to get out of the way of an approaching threat. Jesus catches our attention with a similar word today: "Beware." Beware the violence of a system that devours widows' houses while hiding behind prayers and piety; there is danger here! But this is not the only relationship Jesus urges his followers to pay attention to today. He also invites them to be aware of how one widow in their community is responding: she gives—and gives generously. What might that mean for us?

God gives generously too. We often talk about God's generosity being rooted in God's love for us. From the moment we were baptized, we have been reminded of such love that goes with us through death and into the new life God brings. This love takes seriously all the things that tear apart our lives and world—and pays attention to where healing and repair might take hold.

God is always rooting *for us*, and we trust that Christ's resurrection life will bring us through hardships when death has done its worst. What a gift it is to be gathered into the worshiping community week after week, to again be centered around Christ's table and its generous promises of grace that renew us and make us whole: "The body of Christ, given for you; the blood of Christ, shed for you." This is generosity! This is new life!

Yet we do not stay at the table. We are sent from it, together. Where do we go from here? Where might we share such grace and love this week? Perhaps not only "Beware" but also "Be aware" are our invitations to generosity as Jesus draws our attention to all the important relationships around us.

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