

The ReMarker

JANUARY 2025

St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church
of Mechanicsburg

117 West Keller St.
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055



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

Denise Hirn, Director of Children's Choir

Denise's Cell Phone: 717-802-1064

Email: denisehirn@hotmail.com

Brad Hull, Director of Music

Brad's Cell Phone: 202-738-2795

Email: bradleyjhull@gmail.com

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"



Merry Christmas!

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

I know by the time most of you are reading this, it feels like Christmas has passed but it is not over. We wait for all of Advent and then celebrate for 12 days. So once again I write, “**Merry Christmas!**”

Soon it really will be time to pack away the Christmas decorations and even the lights on the houses will stop being lit at night. But I hope amid packing away our nativity scenes, we do not actually pack away Jesus. Too many times, there is a great emphasis on being kind and generous at Christmas and then January comes and old habits of worrying about ourselves and forgetting others take over again. Another way we pack away Jesus is by forgetting to read our stories of faith. Most of us will at least read or listen to the story of Jesus’ birth from the Bible during the Christmas season but many families do not keep reading the stories of faith all year long. Jesus also gets put away when we get too busy to come back to church. Christmas Eve is a beautiful time to worship together but there are many other important annual stories of faith that we miss if we skip gathering in Jesus’ name week after week.

There are many reminders to keep CHRIST in Christmas this time of the year, but I want to remind you to keep Christ in your life

all year long. The gift of Christmas is that God is with us. God does not leave us after Epiphany but is made known to us even fuller after the twelve days of Christmas.

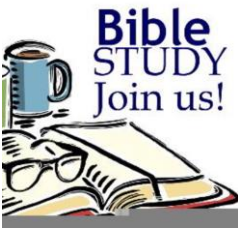
So please keep Jesus out this year when you put away Christmas.

May Christ be your light in the darkness during Christmas and always!

Happy New Year in the presence of our Lord of Life!

Pastor Marleen

Pastor Marleen



**Bible
STUDY**
Join us!

BIBLE STUDY

Start your New Year off by learning a bit more about your faith! Join us for Bible Study. **We gather in person beginning January 8, 11:00 AM, in the Church Parlor. All are welcome.**

BREAD AND BROTH - MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Come share a soup meal at St. Mark every **Wednesday evening at 5:30 pm evening during Lent (March 12-April 9).**



Lenten
Soup and
Bread



Lent Begins
Ash Wednesday

LENT AND ASH WEDNESDAY

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, **March 5, 2025. Worship services will be held at noon and 7:00 pm.**



ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING AND LUNCHEON

The Annual Congregation Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 23, immediately after worship service in the Sanctuary.



CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS FOR 2025

President:	Karen Heath
Vice President:	Terry Shaner
Secretary:	Amy Gimbel
Treasurer:	Barb Yost

Church Council will meet the third Thursday of each month at 6:45 pm. **Church Council officers and members will be installed during worship service on Sunday, January 5, 2025.** Please plan to attend.

2025 Committee Chairpersons:

Evangelism:	Jo Ann Novinger
Fellowship:	Phyllis Mihalich*
Finance:	Terry Shaner
Property:	Ben Yost
Social Ministry:	Karen Fisher
Stewardship:	Karen Heath
Worship & Music:	Amy Gimbel
Youth & Family Ministry:	Denise Hirn

*Phyllis Mihalich, non-council member (Karen Fisher, council liaison, to Fellowship)

If you are interested in serving on a committee, please contact Pastor Marleen or the committee chairperson.



NOVEMBER 2024 ATTENDANCE

Service Date	8:30 am In-Person	8:30 am Zoom	11:00 am In-Person	YouTube Service
November 3	63	9	16	46
November 10	54	5	6	29
November 17	65	5	4	21
November 24	58	5	6	22

EMAIL ADDRESSES

If you would like to receive the weekly bulletins, announcements, and monthly newsletter via email, please forward to Karen in the church office at: kfisher@stmarkmburg.com



E-mail Addresses



BRUNCH AND A MOVIE

On January 12, 2025, at about 10:00 am, we will watch the new movie, *Bonhoeffer*, in Fellowship hall. Set in the 1940's in Berlin, *Bonhoeffer* is a 2024 historical drama thriller film about the German theologian and anti-Nazi dissident Dietrich Bonhoeffer who stood up to the Nazis during the Third Reich. Bring a brunch dish to share or simply come enjoy what we provide.

FEBRUARY 2025 REMARKER DEADLINE

Please deliver or email your information and articles for the February 2025 ReMarker to the church office no later than Wednesday, January 15, 2025. Thank you so much.





Current Account Balances as of November 30, 2024

• General Operating Fund	\$ 10,761.19
• Capital Expenditures Fund	\$ 3,386.33
• Designated Gifts	
Memorial Fund Undesignated	\$ 2,840.08
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	\$ 845.09
• Pastor's Discretionary Fund	\$ 2,575.94
• Investment Account	\$356,681.91
• WinGS Account	\$ 282.33
• Altar Guild Account	\$ 929.69

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



The November "Noisy Sunday" collection totaled \$144.13. Thank you.

NOVEMBER 30, 2024 - INCOME AND EXPENSE REPORT

40001 - Contributions (Offering Envelopes)	\$ 14,410.00
40003 - Benevolence	\$ 328.93
40004 - Social Ministry	\$ 1,050.00
40008 - Property	\$ 1,470.91
40009 - Investments	\$ 2,500.00
40010 - Misc. Income (General Account Interest)	\$ 0.48
40011 - Pastor's Discretionary Account	\$ 0.11
40012 - Designated Gifts	\$ 675.35
40013 - Capital Expenditure Account	\$ 4,495.20
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 24,930.98
50002 - Our Ministry to Others	\$ 526.00
50004 - Work Within our Congregation	\$ 7,296.74
50005 - Worship & Music	\$ 2,186.18
50007 - Administration	\$ 3,683.12
50009 - Property	\$ 2,088.54
50010 - Investment Deposits	\$ 2,180.00
50013 - Designated Gifts	\$ 2,130.00
50014 - Capital Expenditures	\$ 4,487.50
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 24,578.08
Net Difference	\$ 352.90
2024 vs 2023 COMPARISON (All 4 Bank Accounts):	
YTD Deposits through 11/30/24	\$ 291,516.02
YTD Deposits through 11/30/23	\$ 239,673.73
<i>Difference</i>	<u>\$ 51,842.29</u>
YTD Expenses through 11/30/24	\$ 284,616.33
YTD Expenses through 11/30/23	\$ 256,449.01
<i>Difference</i>	<u>\$ 28,167.32</u>
Balance Due to Investment Account	\$ 5,710.00
Amount Repaid in November	\$ 2,180.00
NEW BALANCE	<u>\$ 3,530.00</u>



The Finance Committee will meet on **January 8, 2025**
at 1:00 pm in the Finance Office.



ENJOY THE MUSIC

From the Choir Loft—

CHOIR REHEARSALS

Choir rehearsals continue Wednesday evenings in January at 7:00 pm unless otherwise noted.

NEW YEAR—NEW VOICES—NEW RINGERS

Would you like to sing in the Adult Choir? Play in the Bell Choir? If you are interested, please contact Brad Hull at 202-738-2795

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Happy New Year! The children's choir will resume rehearsals on **Sunday, January 12**, and **will be singing at the service on January 19**. All children ages 3 ½ and up are welcome to join us! Please contact Denise Hirn if you have any questions! denisehirn@hotmail.com or 717-802-1064.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE

The Worship & Music Committee will meet January 15, 2025, in the church parlor.

UNDECK THE HALLS

Volunteers are needed to help take down the Christmas decorations. We will be meeting at the church at 9:00 am on Saturday, January 11. Please considering volunteering.



COMMITTING TO TITHE IN 2025

“Bring the full tithe into the storehouse, so that there may be food in my house, and thus put me to the test, says the Lord of hosts; see if I will not open the windows of heaven for you and pour down for you an overflowing blessing.” -Malachi 3:10

Not everybody can tithe, and not everybody necessarily should tithe—that is, to give 10 percent of their income to God. But there are many who could and probably should. It would benefit them and God’s work.

For centuries, tithing has been a biblical benchmark for faithful giving. Through the prophet Malachi, God goes so far as to challenge faithful people to “*put me to the test*” by tithing, to then receive overflowing blessings.

Though any suggestion is to be avoided that tithing is a way to get rich, as the “prosperity gospel” preachers assert, longtime tithers say they have experienced God’s blessings as contentment, joy-in-giving, and sufficiency. I myself have been a tither for more than 20 years. It continues to be a source of strength.

For most people, tithing represents an impossible sudden jump in giving. If that’s your situation, you could commit to a tithe in 2025, then work up to it over the years. How? Here are some steps:

- Calculate the percentage of your income that you gave to the church in 2024. (Start with after-tax income. Down the road you can always jump to tithing gross income.)
- For 2025, increase giving by 1 percent, 2 percent ... or whatever you're comfortable with.
- Then, every year, increase by another 1 percent.

Eventually, you'll be at a tithe for your after-tax income.

If it is a good experience, continue until you have tithed your gross income.

But the important step is the first one: **Commit to tithing.** You and your congregation will be blessed for it.

--Robert Blezard

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Offering Envelopes



If you haven't picked up your 2025 offering envelopes, they are located in the Narthex. Thank you.

COMMUNITY AID

The Women in God's Service (WinGS) benefit from any items of clothing and shoes that are taken to Community Aid. When delivering items to the store directly, **please use the number**

10053 so that St. Mark (WinGS) receives credit.



MONTHLY SUNDAYS TO BENEFIT NEW HOPE MINISTRIES

The Soup-er Bowl begins January 5, 2025. Let's see who can collect the most soup—Karen's CHICNS (Creating Hope In Chicken Noodle Soup) or Shannon's Soup-er Duper Tomato Soupers.

Following are the items for **January and February**:

**Sundays in January
thru--**

February 9

February 16

Chicken or Tomato Soup

**Chicken or Tomato Soup
Crackers**

St. Mark has participated in the *Souper Bowl* project which benefits clients of New Hope Ministries for many years. Throughout January and up until the "Super Bowl" on **February 9**, we will be collecting cans of **chicken noodle soup and tomato soup**. Watch as the football field unfolds near the kitchen at the beginning of January. **STOCK UP ON SOUP TO SUPPORT YOUR FAVORITE TEAM. TOGETHER** we will make a difference and help those in need.

Can Team Shannon's Super Duper Tomato Soupers defeat Karen's CHICNS (Creating Hope In Chicken Noodle Soup)? We shall see.



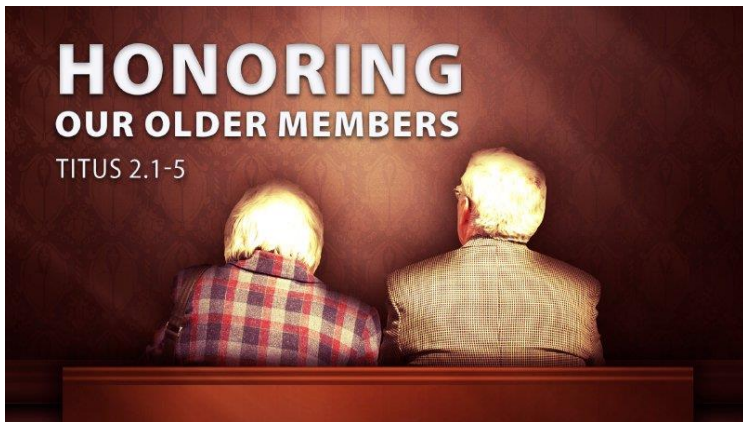
WOMEN IN GOD'S SERVICE (WinGS)

All are welcome to join the WinGS group on **Tuesday, January 14, 2025, at 6:30 pm** in Fellowship Hall.

They will be holding their annual Chinese Auction gift swap game. Each individual is asked to bring 2 wrapped gifts. These items can be something you no longer want, something you received but would like to regift, or if you prefer—but not necessary—something new. In addition, please bring a snack to share. Come and join in the fun with this wonderful group of faithful women.

HONORING OUR OLDER MEMBERS

TITUS 2.1-5



¹But as for you, teach what is consistent with sound doctrine.²Tell the older men to be temperate, serious, prudent, and sound in faith, in love, and in endurance. ³Likewise, tell the older women to be reverent in behavior, not to be slanderers or slaves to drink; they are to teach what is good, ⁴so that they may encourage the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, ⁵to be self-controlled, chaste, good managers of the household, kind, being submissive to their husbands, so that the word of God may not be discredited. Titus 2:1-5

YOUNG AT HEART HONORED AT ST. MARK

As we completed acknowledging several of the “Over 85, Young at Heart” members of our congregation during worship services, we would also like to thank and acknowledge the following individuals for their time and service to our congregation:

Charlene Albert

Jean Eckert

Walt Fake

Diann Foltz

Betty Kearney

Mary Mumma

Andrea Sassaman

John Stoner

Doris Berger

Mary Jane Erby

Ed Fencil

Mary Jones

Pearl Lehmer


Velma Mumper

Dolores Stevens


It has been my honor and privilege to recognize all these individuals that have done so much for so long for our congregation.

Shannon Weaver

JANUARY 2025
8:30 AM Blended Worship Service; 9:45 AM Sunday School
11:00 am-Worship Service

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
		
5 2nd SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS Church Council Installation 8:30 am-Blended In-Person & Zoom Worship Svc.-Comm. 9:45 am-Sunday Church School 9:45 am-Children's SS & Choir 11:00 am-Worship Svc.-Comm.	6 2:45 pm- Violin Lessons 6:45 pm-Y&FM 7:00 pm-German Group	7
12 BAPTISM OF OUR LORD 8:30 am-Blended In-Person & Zoom Worship Svc.-Comm. 9:45 am-Sunday Church School 10:00 am-Brunch and a Movie 11:00 am-Worship Svc.-Comm	13 2:45 pm- Violin Lessons 7:00 pm-German Group	14 6:30 pm-WinGS
19 2rd Sunday after Epiphany 8:30 am-Blended In-Person & Zoom Worship Svc. 9:45 am-Sunday Church School 9:45 am-Children's SS & Choir 11:00 am-Worship Svc.	20 2:45 pm- Violin Lessons 7:00 pm-German Group	21
26 3rd Sunday after Epiphany 8:30 am-Blended In-Person & Zoom Worship Svc. 9:45 am-Sunday Church School 9:45 am-Children's SS & Choir 11:00 am-Worship Svc.	27 2:45 pm- Violin Lessons 7:00 pm-German Group	28 1:00 pm-Social Ministry

JANUARY 2025
8:30 AM Blended Worship Service; 9:45 AM Sunday School
11:00 am-Worship Service

WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>1</p> 	<p>2 Church Office Closed</p>	<p>3 Church Office Closed</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>8 11:00 am-Bible Study 1:00 pm-Finance 7:00 pm-Choir</p>	<p>9 9:00 am-Property Committee—NOTE NEW TIME</p>	<p>10 3:45 pm-Violin Lessons</p>	<p>11 9:00 am-Un-deck the Halls (take down decorations)</p>
<p>15 REMARKER DEADLINE 11:00 am-Bible Study 1:00 pm-Worship & Music 6:00 pm-Bell Choir 7:00 pm-Choir</p>	<p>16 6:45 pm-Church Council</p>	<p>17 3:45 pm-Violin Lessons</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>22 11:00 am-Bible Study 6:00 pm-Bell Choir 7:00 pm-Choir</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 3:45 pm-Violin Lessons</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>29 11:00 am-Bible Study 6:00 pm-Bell Choir 7:00 pm-Choir</p>	<p>30 6:30 pm-Ladies & Friends Night Out TBA</p>	<p>31 3:45 pm-Violin Lessons</p>	<p>February 1</p>



ROLLER SKATING PARTY

On **February 10**, join us at Olympic Skating in Enola from **6:00 pm—8:00 pm** for an evening of roller skating. Bring your own skates or rent them for \$3. Skating is free and friends are welcome.

HELP WANTED—BAKERS

WE NEED ADDITIONAL BAKERS for Mechanicsburg Area Meals on Wheels. Please contact Sara Jane Miller at 717-448-4777 to volunteer. **THANK YOU!** We made brownies in December.

THE QUILTING CONNECTION

The Social Ministry Outreach Committee is looking for someone who would be interested in managing *The Quilting Connection*. If you are interested or you know of someone (does not need to be a member of St. Mark), please contact Karen Fisher at 717-580-7507. **Our sincerest thanks to Alice Park and the late Nancy Kapp for every stitch, every cut, every knot tied, and every quilt put together over the years. We have been honored by your dedication.**



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

"It takes a village to prepare Thanksgiving Dinner. With a very grateful **Thank You** to all that helped in any way! And last but certainly not least "A *Special Thank You* to our Head Chef - *Werner Jonas*. **THANKSGIVING DAY 2024**



BAPTISM OF SKYLAR GOLDEN HENSEL

We celebrated and rejoiced with Teal and Devon Hensel and their families on Sunday, December 8, 2024, as their daughter, Skylar Golden Hensel, was baptized. Skylar is the granddaughter of Keith and Frankie Hensel.



CHRISTMAS CAROL SINGALONG AND BASKET RAFFLE







O Come 
ALL YE
FAITHFUL

NOTES OF THANKS

Dear Ladies of WinGS,
Many thank you's for the Christmas bag of goodies. I especially like the fuzzy socks that will keep my cold feet warm at night. Also I can't say enough about the beautiful handmade card. What talent, it's awesome. Thank you, again.

Diann Foltz



St. Mark Lutheran Church:

Thank you for the Christmas gifts received for our Christmas Blessings Express program and the 169 pounds of food for Christmas. You make a difference.

Sincerely, Eric Saunders, Exec. Director, New Hope Ministries

Social Ministry Committee (Sara Jane Miller, Sandy Brown, Phyllis Mihalich, Bev Weaver, Alice Park, Sue Wright, and Pastor Marleen):

My heartfelt thanks to each one of you for your hard work during 2024—School Kits, Bags of Love, Lutheran World Relief, Quilting Connection, Meals on Wheels bakers, Mechanicsburg Community Meal, Prayer Shawl Ministry, Gods Work. Our Hands, Christmas Blessings Express, Christmas for Underprivileged Adults, the Purse Project, and so much more. I appreciate each one of you. And thank you to those of you who always step up to help our committee. Can't wait for 2025. I know we will continue to make a difference.


Karen Fisher, Chair, Social Ministry

CHRISTMAS FOR UNDERPRIVILEGED ADULTS

Heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to make a special Merry Christmas for 20 individuals at American and Brethren House Apartments. We were able to provide everyone with most everything that was asked for on their "wish lists" plus many extra things. Cinda Roteman made 20 dish cloths and 2 hot pads for each individual. The luncheon consisted of turkey and ham wraps, macaroni salad, chips, pizza, fruit, vegetables, drinks, and cookies. Each resident was gifted a pumpkin roll made by Natalie Thomas, Karen's daughter-in-law.

Thank you to the elves who did all the shopping: Sandy Brown, Alice Park, Michele Connor, Tina Freidhof, Bev Weaver, Sara Jane Miller, Cindy Hoover, Terry and Gene Shaner, Frankie Hensel, and Karen Fisher. Extra special thanks to Tim Thomas (St. Mark Santa) and Cody Moyer (St. Mark Elf) for their help in bringing the joy of Jesus to all of the individuals.
Karen Fisher, Chair, Social Ministry Outreach

8:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE

LAY READER	ASSISTING MINISTER
5 Alma Gimbel	5 Sean Gimbel
12 Connie Kuntz	12 Denise Hirn
19 Karen Heath	19 Barb Yost
26 Matt Yost	26 Phyllis Mihalich
ACOLYTE	USHERS
5 Joan Murphy	5 Keith Hensel, Frankie Hensel
12 Phyllis Mihalich	12 Marlin Brown, Sandy Brown
19 Alma Gimbel	19 Shannon Weaver
26 Phyllis Mihalich	26 Scott Kreiger, Deb Kreiger
ALTAR GUILD	
5 Phyllis Mihalich, Jo Ann Novinger	
12 Michele Connor, Sandy Brown	
19 Andrea Sassaman, Cindy Larkin	
26 Joan Murphy, Bev Reihart	
COUNCIL MONEY DUTY	
Ben Yost, Karen Heath	

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you would like to volunteer to assist, read, acolyte, usher, or become a member of the altar guild, please contact the following individuals:

Assisting Minister
 Acolyte
 Altar Guild
 Lay Reader
 Usher

Phyllis Mihalich
 Joan Murphy
 Connie Kuntz
 Karen Fisher
 Shannon Weaver

JANUARY

If you would like your birthday and/or anniversary to be printed in the ReMarker, please contact Karen at 717-580-7507 or email the office at kfisher@stmarkmburg.com with your name and birthday/anniversary. Thank you.

BIRTHDAYS

5	Barbara Weaver	18	Connie Stoner
9	Joshua Foulds	19	Addyson Tennis
11	Linda Dennis	21	Ezra Sassaman
11	Quinn Hirn	21	Nicole Tennis
12	Bob Curll	23	Jared Warner
15	Charlene Albert	28	Matt Barley
15	Don Stull	28	Caroline Stull

ANNIVERSARIES

12	Bob & Betty Curll
15	John & Connie Stoner



*Hi, I Just Wanted
To Send You A
Little Note To Let
You Know That I Was
Thinking Of You!*

CARD SHOWER

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.



Altar Flowers

January 5	TBA
January 12	TBA
January 19	TBA
January 26	TBA

ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORSHIP PROCEDURES FOR 2025

The cost will be \$25 for one vase and \$50 for two vases. Altar Flower Sponsorship Forms are available at the church entrances or by contacting Connie Kuntz at 717-503-5244. If you wish to sponsor flowers, please complete the form and place it in the offering plate with your check/cash or mail to the church office. ***Checks should be made payable to St. Mark Lutheran Church and note "Altar Guild" in the memo line.*** If you desire to sponsor on a special date, then please complete your requests for 2025 as soon as possible and provide the appropriate amount. Others may desire the same date so if you are willing to share the date, please indicate that on the form. You can also sponsor one vase and allow someone else to sponsor the other.

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

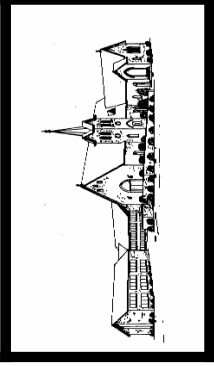
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Please check any that apply!

- 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 717-697-0436 with any questions.

THANK YOU!

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



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

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

