

July 26, 2026
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

RINGING OF THE BELLS ~ WELCOME and GREETING

OPENING HYMN: *"God in Heaven has a Treasure"*
by Frances Bevan (Public Domain)

INVOCATION

(10:30) Baptism
Jailynn Marie Mielke
daughter of Jason & Rebecca Mielke

CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

P Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SONG OF PRAISE: *"You are My All in All"*

OLD TESTAMENT: Deuteronomy 7:6-9

"For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

EPISTLE: Romans 8:28-39

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God!

VERSE: *"What Is the World to Me" (LSB 730 vs 1)*

GOSPEL: Matthew 13:44-52

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 13th chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

"Have you understood all these things?" They said to him, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ!

APOSTLE'S CREED

VERSE: *"What Is the World to Me" (LSB 730 vs 4)*

SERMON

PRAYERS FOR THE FAMILY OF GOD

ANNOUNCEMENTS / OFFERING

RITE OF FELLOWSHIP

(Please indicate if you are a member or visitor in the Rite of Friendship books and if you will be joining us for Holy Communion. If visiting please leave us a means to contact you as we would love to follow up with you.)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

HOLY COMMUNION

We believe Christ's body and blood are truly present in the bread and wine of this Sacrament for the forgiveness of sins to all who believe. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us. If you share this belief and practice, please join us in celebrating the meal of God's family – Holy Communion. Those of you who will not be communing are welcome to come up and receive a blessing by crossing your arms.

(The cups with white juice are for those who have requested them. Gluten free wafers are available upon request.)

COMMUNION HYMNS

"Children of the Heavenly Father" (LSB 725)

"Amazing Grace" (LSB 744 vs 1-4)

BLESSING and BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN: "Amazing Grace" (LSB 744 vs 5)

DISMISSAL

Please keep the following people in our prayers:

Medical / Health Concerns: Jenny Garcia, daughter of Andy & Mary Hoppe, Ella Holmes, Anne Raduechel, Raphael Klein, Cindy Barton, Marie Borchardt, Ava Downing, Lana Wilkinson, Carla Grulkowski, Sandy Flanagan, Lizzy Marciniak, Evelyn Mielke, sister in law to Carol Leopold, Judy Young, Jessie Myers, Marliss Fritz, Emily Ramthun, Jamesetta, daughter of Pastor Kollie, who is in need of a transplant, daughter-in-law of Ruby Phillips who had a stroke, Grace Kobs, Donna Schroeder, who is in hospice.

Battling Cancer: Brenda Barttelt, sister of Carla Haebig, Lee Seis, brother-in-law of Henry Jennejohn, Bill Kobs, Aissen Witter, Mike Ferry, brother of Scott, Jody Krieg, Rhonda Payne, Jean Majewski, niece of Sandy Cotey, son of Ruby Phillips who is battling cancer.

Military Service - SSGT Jacob Lang, deployed with the U.S. Marine Corp., PFC Ty Crisman who is base in Poland.

Son-Shine Bible Study

Just a mid-month check-in with our daily scripture reading challenge. Comments have included 'I'm reading more each day', 'It's reading like a novel', and 'I didn't know...'. Even if you have missed a few days or are having trouble getting started, we're encouraging one another to read daily. Chronological Bible reading plans are on the credenza. Pick one up and you can begin anytime.

We will get together for group study again on August 6th with Praying the Names of God, 'God Most High'. All are welcome to join us.

Share Your Musical Gifts in Worship

Do you enjoy singing or playing an instrument? We invite musicians of **all ages and experience levels** to share their God-given talents during our worship services. Whether you're a child, youth, or adult, we'd love to help you find an opportunity to participate.

If you feel called to glorify God through music, please contact Matt Rhyner Contemporary leader or Dan Page Worship Coordinator. We look forward to worshipping together as we use our gifts to praise the Lord!





Mission Corner: Hearts in Action

Connecting Our Church to Outreach Opportunities

Welcome to our Mission Corner—a dedicated space in our newsletter highlighting the outreach efforts and opportunities that connect our church family with our broader community and the world. Each month, we'll share updates, stories, and ways you can get involved in making a positive impact through missions.

Spotlight: Blessing Bags

Our Mission Corner shines a spotlight on those in need in our community with **Blessing Bags** for the homeless or those down on their luck. Feel free to take one to keep in your vehicle to hand out to someone in need.

Spotlight: The Babies Place at The Neighbors Place

The Neighbors Place has a program for new mothers and their babies to provide diapers and products to help care for them. We are doing a summer diaper drive for babies and toddlers. Please bring in packages of diapers: **Newborn to Size 7 and Pull Ups Size 2T – 5T.**

Spotlight: Orphan Grain Train

ORPHAN GRAIN TRAIN NEEDS:

Sewing Supplies, School Supplies, (used crayons, pencils, markers, ½ used notebooks), Gently Used Backpacks, Children's Summer Clothes, Men's Summer Clothes



How You Can Help

- Take a **Blessing Bag** to keep in your vehicle to give to a person in need
 - Bring in a package of diapers or pull ups for **The Babies Place**
 - Bring in items for **Orphan Grain Train**
- Pray for our mission projects and those we serve.

Let's continue to be the hands and feet of Christ, sharing love and hope through mission work.

Stay tuned to the Mission Corner for more ways to serve and stories of impact!

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..." – Matthew 28:19

The Gathering-Mount View Care Center



On **Tuesday, July 28th**, The Gathering will be heading to Mount View Care Center for a morning of Bingo. **We will meet in the Mount View Care Center parking lot at 10:00 am.**

Monetary gifts to offset the cost of Bingo prizes will be greatly appreciated, monetary gifts can be placed in the offering plate in a sealed envelope, labeled "The Gathering-Bingo". If you would like to donate Bingo prizes, please contact Linda at (715)297-8605

for more information. Thank you for your support.

Everyone is welcome – grandparents, parents, children! Many hands are needed to make this a fun event.



The Built in Love campaign has two phases:

- ① Gifts now to reach the initial goal of raising \$650K to proceed with permits and getting “shovels in the ground.”

We are 99% there in accomplishing this goal, needing just \$8100 to start construction!

- ② Pledges to give gifts over the next 3 years to pay off the building loan.

EVERY gift, regardless of the size, makes a difference, especially over 3 years! The giving chart below makes it easy to see how your pledge will **build** over time.

This expansion is designed to serve our entire congregation, as well as reach the community in new ways. As we look forward to launching phase 2, our goal is that 80% of the congregation would participate.

Monthly	Annually	3 Year Total
\$5	\$60	\$180
10	120	360
25	300	900
50	600	1,800
100	1,200	3,600
200	2,400	7,200
250	3,000	9,000

Pick up a pledge form at the Built in Love display in the narthex

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Check out **Mission Corner**—a dedicated space in our narthex highlighting the outreach efforts and opportunities that connect our church family with our broader community and the world.

YOUNG ADULTS BIBLE STUDY

Men & Women | Ages: 18 - mid 30's

Series Topic: Hot Topics for Young Adults

- Identity in Christ
- Purpose
- Communication
- Relationships
- Social Media
- Money
- Spiritual Habits
- and more!

What the Bible says & how to develop practical skills as we navigate this season of life.
Childcare will be provided.

Join the GroupMe for more information.
Join at any point, 1st Thursday of the month
5:30-6:30pm!



Co-coordinators:

Emily Ramthun 715-409-6963, Melodie Witter Barker 715-571-1549, Brad Barker 715-551-7595

We would love for you to become a part of our vibrant community at St. Mark's. If you're looking for a place to grow in your faith, connect with others, and serve the community, then there are plenty of opportunities for you here.

Come join us for a service, learn more about our church, and discover how you can get involved. We welcome all who are seeking to deepen their spiritual journey and connect with a loving church family.

We look forward to welcoming you!

~ The next New Member classes will be October 1, 8, 15 ~

Please contact the office to sign up.

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN PRESCHOOL IS NOW ENROLLING FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR



St. Mark's Lutheran Preschool offers 2-day, 3-day, 4-day 4K, and 5-day classes for three and four year old children in a caring, Christian environment. Before and After School Care is also available. **Enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year is now open.** Classes are expected to fill up quickly so don't wait! For more information, contact Preschool Director, Cathy Page, at cpage@stmarkslcms.org or 715-848-551.

We Are Hiring!

St. Mark's Lutheran School is hiring several teaching positions for the 2026-2027 school year. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming part of our wonderful St. Mark's Preschool staff, please contact Cathy Page at cpage@stmarkslcms.org for 715-848-5511 for specific information.

WE ARE HIRING

JOIN OUR TEAM

2026 St. Mark's Softball Schedule

Date	Home/ Visitor		Time	Field	W/L
5/17/2026	H	Christ Community Church	7:30PM	3	Won 10-1
5/31/2026	H	Cheeks Bar and Grill	6:30PM	3	Won 6-3
6/7/2026	H	The Garage II	7:30PM	2	Lost 4-7
6/7/2026	V	Falcon Valley Farm	8:30PM	2	Lost 7-19
6/14/2026	H	L&S Electric	6:30PM	2	Lost 12-17
6/21/2026	H	Family Insurance Center	7:30PM	3	Lost 0-15
6/28/2026	V	S.O.S.	5:30PM	3	Won 12-5
7/12/2026	V	The Garage	7:30PM	3	Lost 5-17
7/19/2026	V	Melonheads	5:30PM	3	Won 11-9
7/26/2026	V	Immanuel Baptist Church 2	7:30PM	2	

St. Mark's Scoop

July 26 – August 2, 2026

Sun, July 26	8:00 Worship 9:15 Bible study 10:30 Worship ~ Pastor Eric on vacation until 8/3 ~
Mon, July 27	7:30 Preschool Summer Camp 8:00 OGT 11:30 Noon Optimists
Tues, July 28	6:30 MIA Bible study 7:30 Preschool Summer Camp 10:00 The Gathering (at Mount View)
Wed, July 29	7:30 Preschool Summer Camp 6:00 Worship
Thurs, July 30	7:30 Preschool Summer Camp
Fri, July 31	OFFICE CLOSED Pastors & Blaine's Family Day
Sat, August 1	~ Fellowship Hall rented out ~
Sun, August 2	8:00 Worship 9:15 Bible study 10:30 Worship

Pastor Eric Hauan / Senior Pastor:

715-848-5511 Ext 2 or
PEHauan@stmarkslcms.org

Pastor Joe Bender / Associate Pastor:

715-848-5511 Ext 6 or
PJBender@stmarkslcms.org

Blaine Welch / Dir. of Ministry Operations:

715-848-5511 Ext 3 or
bwelch@stmarkslcms.org

Jean Drake / Admin. Assistant:

715-848-5511 Ext 1 or
jdrake@stmarkslcms.org

Kurt Haebig / Financial Manager:

715-848-5511 Ext 4 or
khaebig@stmarkslcms.org

Cathy Page / Preschool Director:

715-848-5511 Ext. 5 or
cpage@stmarkslcms.org

Kiersten Fricke / Volunteer Coordinator:

618-419-3916 or
kierstenfricke@gmail.com

Matt Rhyner / Praise Team Coordinator

715-551-0975 or
matthew.rhyner@gmail.com

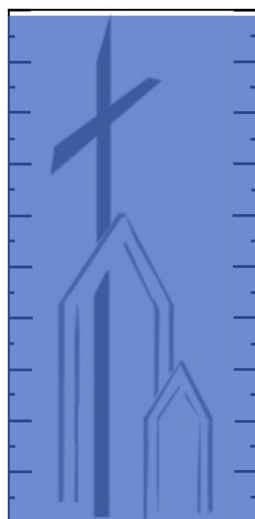
Dan Page / Worship Coordinator

715-921-0404 or
danpage671@yahoo.com

Pastoral Coverage

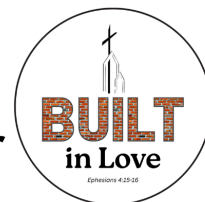
While Pastor Eric is gone, please call either
Pastor Gary or Pastor Joe for emergencies.

Pastor Gary ~ 715-574-1650 or Pastor Joe ~ 414-779-1785



\$642K

**Help us reach our
initial goal of raising
\$650K to kick off our
expansion project!
Only \$8100 left!!**



GIVE HERE!

