



Reformation Day

October 31, 2021

in the 168th Year of the Parish

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701

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Office (570-323-4619) Fax (570-323-2452)

Rev. Brian D. Vasey, Pastor

bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org

Welcome to Saint Mark's Lutheran Church!

Our Mission: “*To know Christ and to make Christ known.*”

This is Christ's church. There is a place for you here.

We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace.

Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person—questions, complexities and all. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.

Please Note: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has provided revised guidelines with regard to mask wearing. Following these guidelines, and the specific recommendations of our bishop (Bishop Collins of the Upper Susquehanna Synod) Church Council strongly recommends that masks be worn, social distancing followed, and to speak and sing in very low tones when worshipping in St. Mark's church building. Thank You!

An Order for Holy Communion, 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., Lutheran Book of Worship, Setting Two, (LBW, “Green Book”)

****Please stand as you are able.***

PRELUDE *Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott*

JS Bach

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY

***BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

The pastor leads the congregation in the invocation, the sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

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 If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us and for his sake forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare unto you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

*HYMN

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God (LBW, "Green" 229)

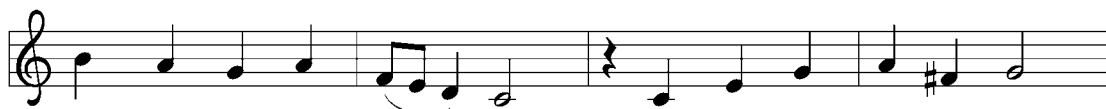
A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -
4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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*THE 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



A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



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



C Lord, have mer - cy.



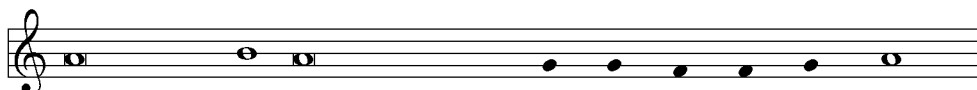
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. **C** A - men

*THIS IS THE FEAST



A This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



B Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in your word, protect and comfort us in times of trial, defend us against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen**

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S READINGS

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

THE FIRST LESSON.....Jeremiah 31:31-34

31The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 32It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. 33But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 46

1 God is our ref- | uge and strength,
a very present | help in trouble.

**2 Therefore we will not fear, though the | earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths | of the sea;**

3 though its waters | rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble | with its tumult.

**4 There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- | y of God,
the holy habitation of | the Most High.**

5 God is in the midst of the city; it shall | not be shaken;
God shall help it at the | break of day.

**6 The nations rage, and the | kingdoms shake;
God speaks, and the earth | melts away.**

7 The LORD of | hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.

**8 Come now, regard the works | of the LORD,
what desolations God has brought up- | on the earth;**

9 behold the one who makes war to cease in | all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the | shields with
fire.

**10 “Be still, then, and know that | I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted | in the earth.”**

11 The LORD of | hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.

THE SECOND LESSON.....Romans 3:19-26

19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. 20 For “no human being will be justified in his sight” by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

21 But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, 22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, 23 since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; 24 they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his

blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; 26it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus.

27Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. By what law? By that of works? No, but by the law of faith. 28For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

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

***THE HOLY GOSPEL.....John 8:31-36**

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eighth chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

31Jesus said to

the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; 32and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” 33They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

34Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. 35The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. 36So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

*HYMN **Salvation unto Us Has Come** (LBW, "Green" 297)

Salvation unto Us Has Come



1 Sal - va - tion un - to us has come by God's free grace and fa - vor;
2 Theirs was a false, mis - lead - ing dream who thought God's law was giv - en
3 And yet the law ful - filled must be, or we were lost for - ev - er;
4 Faith clings to Je - sus' cross a - lone and rests in him un - ceas - ing;
5 All bless - ing, hon - or, thanks, and praise to Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it,



good works can - not a - vert our doom, they help and save us
that sin - ners might them - selves re - deem and by their works gain
there - fore God sent his Son that he might us from death de -
and by its fruits true faith is known, with love and hope in -
the God who saved us by his grace; all glo - ry to his



nev - er. Faith looks to Je - sus Christ a - lone, who did for
heav - en. The law is but a mir - ror bright to bring the
liv - er. He all the law for us ful - filled, and thus his
creas - ing. For faith a - lone can jus - ti - fy; works serve our
mer - it. O tri - une God in heav'n a - bove, you have re -



all the world a - tone; he is our me - di - a - tor.
in - bred sin to light that lurks with - in our na - ture.
Fa - ther's an - ger stilled which o - ver us im - pend - ed.
neigh - bor and sup - ply the proof that faith is liv - ing.
vealed your sav - ing love; your bless - ed name we hal - low.

Text: Paul Speratus, 1484–1551; tr. *Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-Book*, 1912, alt.
Music: ES IST DAS HEIL, *Ethlich christlich Lieder*, Wittenberg, 1524

***THE NICENE CREED (8 am)**

P Living together in trust and hope, we affirm our faith:

C We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven**

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

**With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM AND RECEPTION (10:30 am)

L. Jane Kline

P People of St. Mark's, we rejoice with Jane Kline who this day makes public affirmation of her baptism.

Sponsor: Brothers and sisters, I present Jane Kline, who desires to make public affirmation of her baptism through reception into this congregation.

P Let us pray.

Merciful God, we thank you for Jane,
whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism.
You have called her to yourself,
enlightened her with the gifts of your Spirit,
and nourished her in the community of faith.
Continue to uphold your servant in the gifts and promises of baptism,
and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth.
We ask this in the name of Christ.

C Amen.

P I ask all of you to now stand and profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

**C 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,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father.
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**

P Jane, you have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:
to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Jane: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P People of God, do you promise to support this sister and pray for her in her life in Christ?

C We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

P Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

Stir up in Jane the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and

understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

C Amen

P Let us rejoice with this sister in Christ.

C We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:**

After each petition, "Hear us, O God/Your Mercy is Great"

***THE PEACE**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

The ministers and congregation greet one another with these or similar words, and/or gestures of peace, limiting physical touch and contact with one another.

ANTHEM *That Priceless Grace*

John Helgen

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

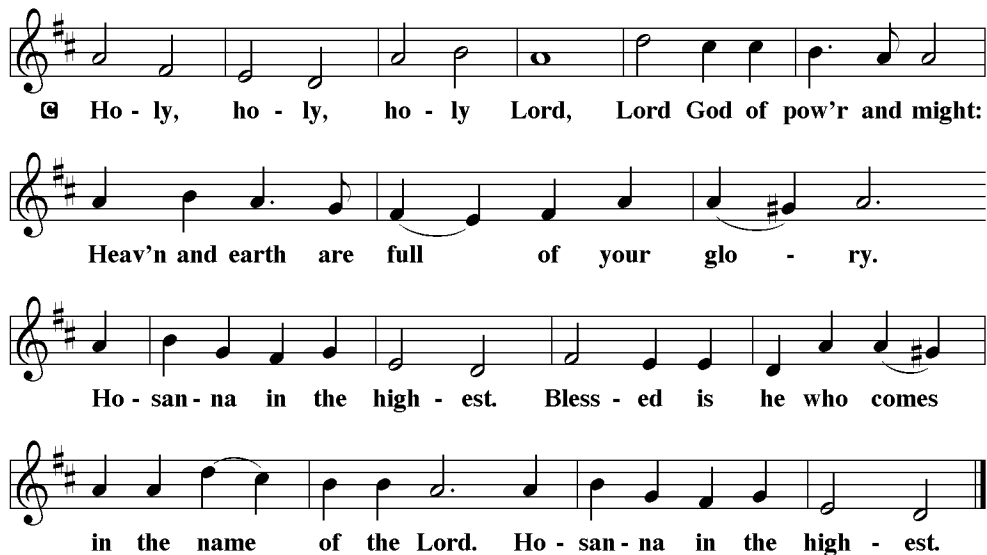
P The Lord be with you. **G** And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts. **G** We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

G It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with the Church on earth and in heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

P In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

***OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

P Let us pray in the words our Savior gave us:

**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

***LAMB OF GOD**



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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



grant us peace, grant us peace.

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Persons may come forward to the chancel to receive Holy Communion. This format will be more “continuous” noting the following procedure:

- *Communicants, masked and observing social distancing, are asked to come forward as directed by ushers by way of the center aisle, take a cup from the tray provided and receive the bread from Pastor Vasey.*

- *Once receiving the bread, communicants will proceed to one of two stations (left or right) to receive wine from the pouring chalice.*
- *After receiving wine, communicants will place the empty cup in the designated tray and return to their pew by way of the side aisles.*

Please do not kneel at the rail. Kneeling at the rail will return at a time to be determined by pastor and Church Council.

P All who hunger and thirst, come.

The table is ready.

C **Thanks be to God.**

THE COMMUNION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood
you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation.

Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy,
bearing witness to the abundance of your love
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen**

***THE BLESSING**

P The blessing of God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and
forever.

C **Amen**

***HYMN The Church of Christ, in Every Age (LBW, "Green" 433)**

The Church of Christ, in Every Age



1 The church of Christ, in ev - 'ry age be - set by
 2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims
 3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing
 4 For he a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the
 5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -



change, but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its
 of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for
 church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's
 fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to
 be - dience to our Lord; to care for all, with -



her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.
 bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.
 sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.
 share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.
 out re - serve, and spread his lib - er - at - ing word.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000
 Music: WAREHAM. William Knapp, 1698–1768
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***DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. The Living Word dwells in you.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Gothic Fanfare*

Lester Groom

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Prayer List: Victims of COVID-19 and their families, Liz Ruesskamp, Grace Arner, Diane Damaska, Vanessa Morgan, Gary Clark, Doris Brown, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Patricia Alexander, Joann Zeigler, Diana Zeigler, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, April Clark, Lenny Sherlinski, Ruth Sherlinski, Gary Cable, Elsie Sechler, Virginia Pulaskie, Bernadette Jones, Susan Kalabacas, Kay Poliska, Bunny Ditchfield, Judy Fortin, Roy and Gloria Meyer, Mary Lou Doebler, Walt Haussmann, Lou and Linda DeSeau, the family of Grace Schoffstall.

WORSHIP LEADERS (10/31/21)

Lector 8 a.m. Vicki Haussmann
 10:30 a.m. Ray Huff

Cantor/Song-leader (10:30 a.m.) Ray Huff

Communion Assistants

8 a.m. Drew Haussmann
10:30 a.m. Gregg & Kathy Dancho

Organist Sam Robinson

USHERS:

8 a.m. Dick Miller/Herb Poff
10:30 a.m. Tim Maggs, Captain. Carl Hieber and Charlie Fortin.

COVID CONTACT: Please note that your attendance at worship will be recorded. This serves as a precaution in case contact-tracing due to the pandemic is warranted. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

WELCOME L. JANE KLINE! Today (L) Jane Kline is received into the membership of St. Mark's by way of her "Letter of Transfer of Membership" from First United Methodist Church, Fort Smith, AR. Welcome Jane!

TODAY IS REFORMATION SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31. Today, “All Hallows Eve”, commemorates the anniversary of Martin Luther posting his 95 Theses, a summary of abuses in the church of his day, to the Castle Church Door, Wittenberg, Germany, 1517. Luther chose the date of October 31 because it was (and still is) the day before All Saints' Day when many attended worship. The message of the 95 Theses and all of Lutheran theology is that the gospel comes by grace alone, through faith alone by Scripture alone. Reformation Day (or the Sunday closest to October 31) proclaims that by God's free and full love all are set free from sin and death.

CONSECRATION SUNDAY. In addition to Reformation Day, October 31, 2021, serves as our Consecration Sunday (the day we return our pledges for the next calendar year). Today, please place in the basket provided your completed “Estimate of Giving Card” along with your offering. Reformation Sunday reminds us to show our gratitude to God for sharing with us Christ's gifts of acceptance, love, grace, forgiveness, life, life eternal and faith; the blessings we enjoy and proclaim as People of God.

READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY? Faith and Fellowship has temporarily “moved some books” from our church library to the Front Lounge in order to make them more accessible. Stop by the Front Lounge and take a look!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD. Please join us in Fellowship Hall on November 7th during the Sunday School hour (9:15-10:15) to help pack shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. A brief presentation will show how meaningful and life-changing these gifts are to the kids who receive a shoebox filled with all sorts of goodies. Plus, it's tons of fun as well! Many hands make for light work, and all are welcome to participate in this outreach project. We look forward to seeing you there!!

CROP WALK 2021. Thank you to Michael Ochs, Pastor Vasey and Owen Gair for representing St. Mark's at the CROP walk on October 10th. Our congregation raised \$920.00 and we truly appreciate all who donated! \$230.00 stayed locally and \$690.00 will be distributed by Church World Service nationally and internationally, to help people who are hungry. We

walked to represent the millions of people who walk miles every day in search of food and water. We hope you can join us in 2022! ~ Brenda Gair

OUR STEWARDSHIP

Regular Offering	\$ 2,840.00
Sunday School Offering	\$ 9.00
Capital Fund	\$ 10.00
Synod Benevolence	\$ 10.00
Grand Total	\$ 2,869.00

ALTAR FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God:

+ In Honor of our daughter, Hannah, on her 20th birthday, by Vicki and Drew Haussmann.

+ In Celebration of our St. Mark's Family.

BULLETIN SPONSOR : Shirley Miller. Thank you Shirley!

COMMEMORATIONS

All Saints Day

Monday, November 1, 2021

The custom of commemorating all of the saints of the church on a single day goes back at least to the third century. All Saints Day celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who make up the body of Christ. On November 7, the Sunday following November 1, St. Mark's will remember our faithful friends and family who have died during the past year.

Martín de Porres, renewer of society, died 1639

Wednesday, November 3, 2021

Martín was the son of a Spanish knight and a freed black slave from Panama. As a lay brother in the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), he engaged in many charitable works in Lima, Peru. He founded an orphanage, a hospital, and a clinic for cats and dogs.