

**The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 18, 2022**

in the 169^h 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.



Our COVID-19 Guidelines:

Hand sanitizer is available for your use.

Face masks are optional.

Offerings may be received by way of baskets as you enter or leave.

Please continue to observe social distancing when passing the peace.

An Order for Holy Communion, 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., Lutheran Book of Worship, Setting Two, (LBW, “Green Book”)

**Please stand as you are able.*

PRELUDE *Rondeau from Abdelezar* Henry Purcell

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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. The congregation may kneel.

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.

The pastor stands and gives words of assurance.

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 Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace LBW, “Green”, 419**

***THE GREETING**

P The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.



*GLORY TO GOD



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



C 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.



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.



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



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



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

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S READINGS

We are invited today to consider what it means to be managers (rather than owners) of all that we have, and to see, Jesus as “a ransom for all.” Apart from the generosity of God we have nothing—we are nothing. By God’s gracious favor we have everything we need.

THE FIRST LESSON.....Amos 8:4-7

4Hear this, you that trample on the needy,
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,
5saying, “When will the new moon be over
so that we may sell grain;
and the sabbath,
so that we may offer wheat for sale?
We will make the ephah small and the shekel great,
and practice deceit with false balances,
6buying the poor for silver
and the needy for a pair of sandals,
and selling the sweepings of the wheat.”
7The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:
Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.
The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 113

1Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants | of the LORD;
praise the name | of the LORD.
2**Let the name of the | LORD be blessed,**
from this time forth for- | evermore.
3From the rising of the sun to its | going down
let the name of the | LORD be praised.
4**The LORD is high a- | bove all nations;**
God’s glory a- | bove the heavens.
5Who is like the | LORD our God,
who sits en- | throned on high,
6**but stoops | to behold**
the heavens | and the earth?
7The LORD takes up the weak out | of the dust
and lifts up the poor | from the ashes,
8**enthroning them | with the rulers,**
with the rulers | of the people.

9The LORD makes the woman of a | childless house
to be a joyful mother of children. | Hallelujah.

THE SECOND LESSON.....1 Timothy 2:1-7

1First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, 2for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. 3This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, 4who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 5For

there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,

Christ Jesus, himself human,

6who gave himself a ransom for all

—this was attested at the right time.7For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

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.....Luke 16:1-13**

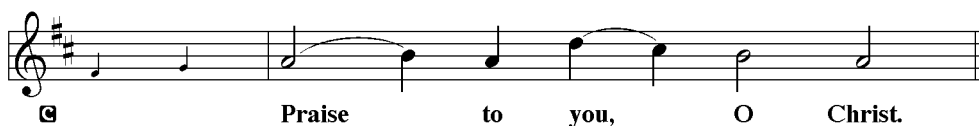
The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the sixteenth chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

1 Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. 2 So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.’ 3 Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. 4 I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ 5 So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ 6 He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ 7 Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’ 8 And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. 9 And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

10 “Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. 11 If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? 12 And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? 13 No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

The gospel of the Lord.



THE SERMON

*HYMN

Son of God, Eternal Savior

LBW, “Green”, 364

*THE APOSTLES' CREED

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

**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,
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.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

After each petition, “God of Grace/Hear our prayer.”

***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.*

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

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

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C 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 the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

C 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 as directed by ushers are asked to come forward by way of the center aisle, take a cup from the tray provided and receive the bread.*
- *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.

P Christ invites you to his table.

Come, taste and see.

C **Thanks be to God.**

THE COMMUNION

***AFTER COMMUNION**

P The body and blood of Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen.**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P Let us pray. God of the abundant table,
you have refreshed our hearts in this meal
with bread for the journey.

Give us your grace on the road
that we might serve our neighbors with joy;
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

***THE BLESSING**

P Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you with truth and peace, free you from despair,
guide you always in faith, hope, and love.

C Amen.

***HYMN Let Justice Flow Like Streams WOV, “Blue”, 763**

***DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace with Christ beside you.

C Amen. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Psalm XIX Bernadetto Marcello

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Prayer List: Victims of COVID-19 and their families, Liz Ruesskamp, Grace Arner, Diane Damaska, Vanessa Morgan, Gary Clark, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Patricia Alexander, Diana Zeigler, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, April Clark, Lenny Sherlinski, Ruth Sherlinski, Gary Cable, Elsie Sechler, Virginia Pulaskie, Susan Kalabacas, Bunny Ditchfield, Judy Fortin, Roy and Gloria Meyer, Mary Lou Doebler, Walt Haussmann, Jeremy, Ezra Buckman, Sheila Brassard, Kevin Rosini, Kathy Eshelman, the people of Ukraine and Eastern Europe, the victims of floods, drought and fires across the country.

WORSHIP LEADERS (9/18/22)

Lector	8:00 a.m. Becky Miller Pryor
	10:30 a.m. Audrey Albright
Communion Assistants	8:00 a.m. Drew Haussmann
	10:30 a.m. Ralph & Lou Ann Zeigler
Organist	Sam Robinson
USHERS:	8:00 a.m. Herb Poff and Richard Miller
	10:30 a.m. Tim Maggs – Captain, Carl Hieber, Charlie Fortin

OUR STEWARDSHIP (9/11/22)

Regular Offering	\$2,125.00
Plate Offering	10.00
Bulletin Sponsor	10.00
World Hunger	10.00
Food Pantry	50.00
Global Mission	30.00
Memorials	425.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$2,660.00



BULLETIN SPONSOR
Thank you Sarah Young.



BLANKETS – HELP

As you know, because of the pandemic our quilting group has not been meeting so there is a lack of blankets to send to LWR. You can help. LWR asks for twin size blankets, approximately 60x80 inches. Please no afghans, throws or polar fleece items. Cotton or lightweight wool are the best. Used blankets are acceptable but must be in good condition with no stains, tears, etc. Monetary contributions are also accepted. Please write LWR blankets in memo line. Envelopes for use in this project can be found in the Narthex.



CROP Hunger Walk

Our Community's annual walk to fight hunger, CROP Hunger Walk, will be held Sunday, October 9th at 1:00 PM, at the River Walk in Williamsport. The walk begins here at St. Mark's and you can walk 3, 6 or 9 miles (most of us walk 3 miles).

Join the St. Mark's team to walk or donate and help us make this the most successful year. Our goal is \$1,000 (last year we raised \$920)! We walk because others must walk for food. By walking on a fall afternoon, you create awareness to these issues, raise funds and have fellowship with members of the St. Mark's congregation as well as other congregations.

25% of the funds we raise support local hunger agencies plus we impact families in more than 35 countries. In partnership CROP walks support self-help programs, assist after disasters and help address root causes of poverty by providing water systems and tools to grow the food they need.

To register to walk or donate to our team, you can speak with volunteers in the Narthex or on-line; <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/williamsportpa>
Click: Donate > Donate to a Team > enter "St. Mark's Lutheran Church Lion" > enter your donation.



ALTAR FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God:
+In Loving Memory of Luella Bair's birthday by her children
+In Celebration of our St. Mark's Family by The Flower Fund



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!



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Thanks again to all who have participated in this project. It is not too late to participate. Kits can be brought in up until Sunday October 2nd. There is a great need for personal care kits and baby kits. Directions for these are in the September “Lion”. Items for the baby kits do not have to be new but used items must be in good condition and without stains. Fabric kits are the easiest to assemble as it is just material and thread. Please be generous. These kits go all over the world to help people in need. Kits will go to Ukraine and other areas of war or natural disasters. If you have any questions please contact me at, Deb Buckman, 570-323-1707 or dabuckman65@gmail.com. Helpers are also needed the week of October 3rd to pack up all of the kits for delivery on Saturday, October 8th. Contact me if you are willing to help.

PS – Money for shipping of the kits is very welcome.



COMMEMORATIONS



Dag Hammarskjöld, renewer of society, died 1961

Sunday, September 18, 2022

A Swedish diplomat, Hammarskjöld served as the second Secretary General of the United Nations until his death in a plane crash while trying to negotiate peace in present-day Zambia. His journal, published as *Markings*, revealed the depth of his Christian faith.



Nelson Wesley Trout, bishop, died 1996

Tuesday, September 20, 2022

A native of Ohio, Trout served parishes in several parts of the United States before being elected bishop of the South Pacific District of the American Lutheran Church, the first African - American Lutheran to serve in such a capacity.



Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Matthew (or Levi, believed to be his Hebrew name) was a tax collector in Capernaum for the Roman government. Tax collectors were frequently despised for dishonesty and for assisting the occupiers. Jesus nevertheless showed love for them, and called Matthew to be an Apostle and evangelist.