

# **The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**October 2, 2022**

*in the 169<sup>h</sup> 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](mailto:bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org)

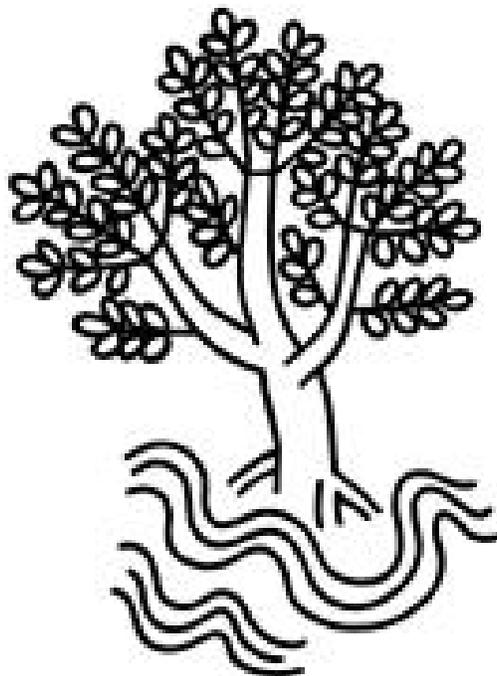
*Welcome to Saint Mark's Lutheran Church!*

**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 and 10:30 a.m., Lutheran Book of Worship, Setting Two, (LBW, “Green Book”)*

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

**PRELUDE**

**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**

**God Is Here**

**WOV, “Blue”, 719**

**\*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. Benevolent, merciful God: When we are empty, fill us. When we are weak in faith, strengthen us. When we are cold in love, warm us, that with fervor we may love our neighbors and serve them for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** Amen.

## INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S READINGS

*A little faith goes a long way is Jesus' point in the gospel. A mustard seed's-worth of faith has miraculous potential. The patience, tenacity, and endurance required for the life of faith are the blessings received in holy baptism, holy communion, and the word read and proclaimed in this assembly. Anticipate them. Receive them with thanksgiving.*

### THE FIRST LESSON.....Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4

1The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw.

2O LORD, how long shall I cry for help,  
and you will not listen?

Or cry to you "Violence!"  
and you will not save?

3Why do you make me see wrongdoing  
and look at trouble?

Destruction and violence are before me;  
strife and contention arise.

4So the law becomes slack  
and justice never prevails.

The wicked surround the righteous—  
therefore judgment comes forth perverted.

2:1I will stand at my watchpost,  
and station myself on the rampart;

I will keep watch to see what he will say to me,  
and what he will answer concerning my complaint.

2Then the LORD answered me and said:

Write the vision;  
make it plain on tablets,  
so that a runner may read it.

3For there is still a vision for the appointed time;  
it speaks of the end, and does not lie.

If it seems to tarry, wait for it;  
it will surely come, it will not delay.

4Look at the proud!  
Their spirit is not right in them,  
but the righteous live by their faith.

The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 37:1-9

1Do not be provoked by | evildoers;  
do not be jealous of those | who do wrong.

**2For they shall soon wither | like the grass,  
and like the green grass | fade away.**

3Put your trust in the LORD| and do good;  
dwell in the land and | find safe pasture.

**4Take delight | in the LORD,  
who shall give you your | heart's desire.**

5Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust | in the LORD,  
and see what | God will do.

**6The LORD will make your vindication as clear | as the light  
and the justice of your case like the | noonday sun.**

7Be still before the LORD and wait | patiently.

Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in | evil schemes.

**8Refrain from anger, leave | rage alone;  
do not be provoked; it leads on- | ly to evil.**

9For evildoers shall | be cut off,  
but those who hope in the LORD shall pos- | sess the land.

## THE SECOND LESSON.....2 Timothy 1:1-14

1Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

2To Timothy, my beloved child:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

3I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. 4Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. 5I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. 6For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; 7for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

8Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, 9who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ

Jesus before the ages began, 10but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. 11For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, 12and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to him. 13Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. 14Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

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 17:5-10**

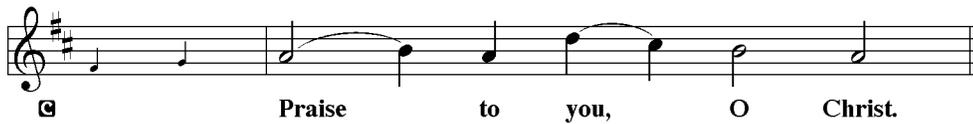
The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the seveneenth chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

5The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” 6The Lord replied, “If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.

7“Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, ‘Come here at once and take your place at the table’? 8Would you not rather say to him, ‘Prepare supper for me, put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink’? 9Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? 10So you also, when you have

done all that you were ordered to do, say, ‘We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!’ ”  
The gospel of the Lord.



## THE SERMON

**\*HYMN**                      **Come Down, O Love Divine**                      **LBW, “Green”, 508**

### **\*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.”*

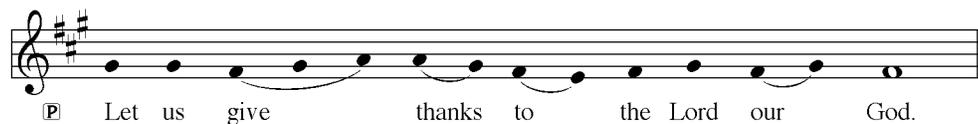
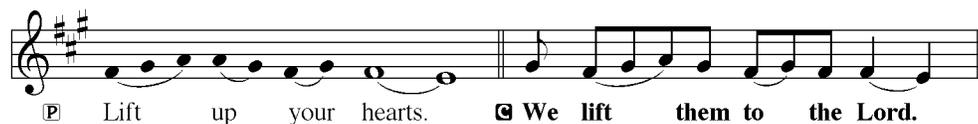
## \*THE PEACE

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

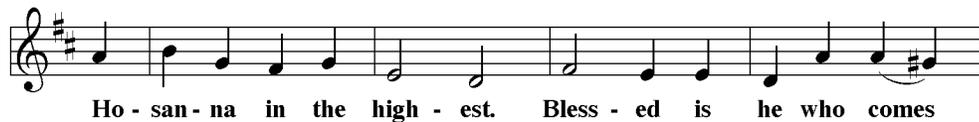
**C** And also with you.

*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** 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:



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



**C** 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 The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve**

**WOV, “Blue”, 723**

**\*DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace with Christ beside you.

C Amen. Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE**

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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, 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, Ezra Buckman, Sheila Brassard, Kevin Rosini, Kathy Eshelman, Micah, the people of Ukraine and Eastern Europe, storms and hurricane victims

**WORSHIP LEADERS (10/2/2022)**

<b>Lector</b>	8:00 a.m.	Drew Haussmann
	10:30 a.m.	Ray Huff
<b>Communion</b>	8:00 a.m.	Becky Pryor/Drew Haussmann
<b>Assistants</b>	10:30 a.m.	Wanda and Matt Fortin
<b>Organist</b>		Sam Robinson
<b>Ushers:</b>	8:00 a.m.	Richard Miller and Herb Poff
	10:30 a.m.	Matt Fortin – Captain, Glenn Yapple, Bud Doebler
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	October	Cindy Huff and Linda Rosini



**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!

## OUR STEWARDSHIP (9/25/22)

Regular Offering	\$2,207.00
Sunday School Offering	7.00
Blanket Appeal	150.00
Flower Memorials / Tributes	90.00
Children's Church – Crop Walk	25.00
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,479.00</b>



**ALTAR FLOWERS** today are given to the glory of God:

+In Loving Memory of my husband, Jim Buckman and parents, Mary Jane and Dorsey Ringler and Doris and Sydney Buckman by Deb Buckman and family.

+In Loving Memory of parents, Myron and Florence Ditchfield, husband Charles Ditchfield and daughter-in-law,

Mary Ditchfield by Bunny Ditchfield and family.



## HARVEST HOME SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2022

Our church family will be celebrating a "Day of Thanksgiving" by bringing nonperishable food items for the local United Churches Food Pantry. Bags will be available today. Items should be brought to the church in the bags provided or plastic bags on Sunday October 9 and 16. Your generosity helps provide people in need a three day supply of food. We hope you and your family will be part of this celebration as we thank God for what He has given us.



## ALTERNATE EMAIL FOR PASTOR

Pastor Vasey has been experiencing technical problems with his church email. He hopes to have the problem corrected soon.

Until such time, please use [cryptol@comcast.net](mailto:cryptol@comcast.net) when emailing pastor. **Thank You!**



Recently, several weather disasters in Puerto Rico, Alaska, Japan, Pakistan and Florida have caused significant property damage, loss of power, injury and death. Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response help minister to people in need in the name and way of Christ. Should you wish to contribute, please make your check payable to St. Mark's and note, "Response" on the memo line. Thank You!



### **PET BLESSING**

Today at 2 p.m. we will gather in the church parking lot to have our loving pets blessed. Dogs, lizards, snakes, even cats are welcomed. In case of inclement weather we will gather in Fellowship Hall.



### **Public response period: Social message on climate care**

We need your help! A draft of the ELCA's forthcoming social message on climate change and how we are called to respond has been posted, and the public comment period is open through Friday, Dec. 2. The draft will be edited in response to your feedback and brought to the ELCA Church Council for a

vote this spring. To read the draft and provide your input through our online form, go to [elca.org/climatecare](http://elca.org/climatecare).



### **Support the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act**

"A Declaration of the ELCA to American Indian and Alaska Native People" articulates our church's commitment "to supporting the healing of survivors of Indian boarding schools, adoption, and foster

care and their descendants while advocating for policies that will bring both truth and justice". Join ELCA Advocacy in urging Congress to pass the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act (H.R. 5444/S. 2907) by contacting [ELCA.org/Advocacy/ActionCenter](http://ELCA.org/Advocacy/ActionCenter).

## COMMEMORATIONS



**Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church, died 1226**

*Tuesday, October 4, 2022*

Born into the family of a wealthy merchant, Francis gave up his inheritance to serve poor people. He formed the Order of Friars Minor (called Franciscans), who took on poverty and the task of preaching "using words if necessary". Francis had a spirit of gratitude for all of God's creation.



**Theodor Fliedner, renewer of society, died 1864**

*Tuesday, October 4, 2022*

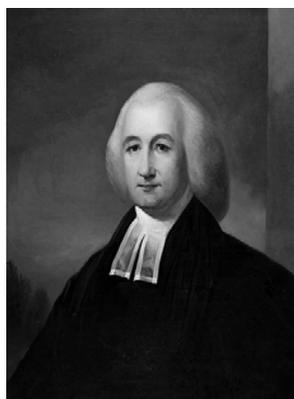
Fliedner helped to bring about a revival of the ministry of deaconesses among Lutherans. He was influenced in this by Moravian deaconesses he had met. The motherhouse he founded in Kaiserswerth, Germany, inspired many around the world to take up this ministry.



**William Tyndale, translator, martyr, died 1536**

*Thursday, October 6, 2022*

Tyndale, an ordained pastor in England, wished to translate the Bible into English. He was opposed in this by King Henry VIII, causing him to flee to Germany. He completed the New Testament in 1525, but before he could finish the Old Testament, he was tried for heresy and burned at the stake.



**Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, pastor in North America, died 1787**

*Friday, October 7, 2022*

Divided Lutherans in America asked leaders in Europe to send someone who could take charge and unite their work. Muhlenberg was sent, and was effective in organizing the American Lutherans. Among other accomplishments, his liturgical principles became the basis for the Common Service of 1888, and eventually, all Lutheran liturgy.