



**The Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ  
December 24, 2022**

*In the 169<sup>th</sup> Year of the Parish*

*A Hymn Setting of the Eucharist for Christmastide*

**Ten O'Clock in the Evening**

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**

**142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701**

**[stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org)**

**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.**

**A guide to hymnal use: WOV “Blue” Hymnal; LBW “Green” Hymnal.**

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

**PRELUDE** *Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming* arr. Diane Bish

**\*THE CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION**

**\*HYMN** **Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful** **LBW, “Green”, 45**

**\*GREETING**

**P** Christ is born! Alleluia! 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 (Sung)**

**C** **Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy**  
**Upon us.**

**Christ have mercy. Christ have mercy. Christ have mercy**  
**Upon us.**

**God the Father, with the Spirit, gave us Christ to**  
**love and save us.**

**Lord have mercy upon us. Lord have mercy upon us.**

Tune *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*  
Words BDV and others, 2017

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE Angels We Have Heard on High (LBW “Green” 71)**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray. Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus’ presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

**THE FIRST LESSON Isaiah 9:2-7**

*This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah’s king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God’s passion for the people: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!*

2The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.

3You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.

4For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

5For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

6For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

7His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The word of the Lord

**C Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM 96**

1Sing to the LORD| a new song;  
sing to the LORD, | all the earth.

**2Sing to the LORD, bless the name | of the LORD;  
proclaim God’s salvation from | day to day.**

3Declare God’s glory a- | mong the nations  
and God’s wonders a- | mong all peoples.

**4For great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised,  
more to be feared | than all gods.**

5As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;  
but you, O LORD, have | made the heavens.

**6Majesty and magnificence are | in your presence;  
power and splendor are in your | sanctuary.**

7Ascribe to the LORD, you families | of the peoples,  
ascribe to the LORD hon- | or and power.

**8Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the | holy name;  
bring offerings and enter the courts | of the LORD.**

9Worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness;  
tremble before the LORD, | all the earth.

**10Tell it out among the nations: “The | LORD is king!**

**The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will  
judge the peo- | ples with equity.”**

11Let the heavens rejoice, and let the | earth be glad;  
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all  
that | is therein.

**12Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your com- | ing,  
O LORD,**

**for you come to | judge the earth.**

13 You will judge the | world with righteousness  
and the peoples | with your truth.

**THE SECOND LESSON Titus 2:11-14**

*The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Savior's final appearance.*

11 The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, 12 training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, 13 while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. 14 He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

The word of the Lord

**C Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (sung)**

**Angels, from the realms of glory, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
Once you sang creation's story; Now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn king. (REGENT SQUARE)**

**\*THE GOSPEL Luke 2:1-20**

*God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.*

**P** The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

**C Glory to you, O Lord.**

1 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3 All went to their own towns to be registered. 4 Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. 5 He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over

their flock by night. 9Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11 to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” 13And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

14“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” 16So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. 17When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; 18and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. 19But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. 20The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen as it had been told them.

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

## SERMON

**\*HYMN                    O Little Town of Bethlehem                    LBW, “Green”, 41**

### **\*THE NICENE CREED**

P Living together in trust and hope, we confess 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.**

**\*THE PRAYERS**

*(after each petition: Merciful God/Hear our prayer.)*

**\*THE PEACE**

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

**ANTHEM** “*Still, Still, Still*” (traditional Austrian carol)  
arranged by Norman Luboff.

## **\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**(Sung responsively to IN DULCI JUBILO, “Good Christian Friends Rejoice”)**

**P** O may the good Lord be with you,  
**C** **And may the Lord be with you too.**  
**P** Lift your hearts and voice in praise,  
**C** **To the Lord our voices raise.**  
**P** Christ comes down from God above,  
**C** **To share with us the Father's love**  
**P & C** **Christ is born today!**  
**Christ is born today!**

(Spoken)

**P** It is indeed right, salutary and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful  
God through our Savior Jesus Christ.  
In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh  
you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant  
vision of your glory, that beholding the God  
made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom  
we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with  
the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(Sung)

**P & C Holy, Holy, Holy Lord**  
**God of power and might adored!**  
**Heaven and earth reflect your bliss,**  
**For your Word is in our midst,**  
**Blessed be the One who comes,**  
**In God's name, Hosanna.**  
**Christ is born today!**  
**Christ is born today!**

(Spoken)

**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."

(Sung)

**P & C Christ is born today!  
Christ is born today!**

**\*OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

**P** Rejoicing in Christ who has come among us, let pray as our Savior taught 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** **Lord Jesus Christ the Lamb of God who takes away  
the sin of the world,  
Redeemer sweet who brings God's peace,  
the babe, the son of Mary.  
This, this is the Lamb of God  
who takes away the world's great sin.  
This, this is the Child mild, the babe, the son of Mary.**

Tune GREENSLEVES

### **\*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.*

***Please complete the communion card and give it to an usher before coming forward for Holy Communion. Thank you.***

**P** Joy to the world! The Lord is come!  
Come to the Christmas Feast!

**C** **Amen. Thanks be to God!**

### **THE COMMUNION**

Please join in singing the following as we commune:

Lo, How a Rose Is Growing	(LBW, “Green”, 58)
Away in a Manger	(LBW, “Green”, 67)
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing	(LBW, “Green”, 60)

### **\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**P** Let us pray. Emmanuel, God with us,  
you grace us with life and breath  
and give us bread for the journey.  
Send us out in service to this world that you love,  
telling the amazing news of your coming  
to be Savior and Lord of all.

**C** **Amen.**

**\*CANDLE LIGHTING**

**P** Arise and shine you people of God for your light has come and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth and a thick darkness over the people; but the Lord will rise upon you, and God's glory will be seen through you.

**C Amen.**

*(Please exercise caution and tilt only unlit candles to receive the light from your neighbor. Remember to keep your candles upright and burning until the conclusion of “Joy to the World”, raising your candle high on stanza 4).*

**\*HYMN                      Silent Night, Holy Night                      (LBW “Green” 65)**

**\*PRAYER OF LIGHT**

**P** All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your Light into our world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness and empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

**\*BLESSING**

**P** May Christ, who by his incarnation has filled us with grace and truth, give you peace this Christmas and always.  
Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C Amen.**

**\*SENDING HYMN    Joy to the World                      (LBW “Green” 39)**

**\*DISMISSAL**

**P** Glory to God in the highest!  
Peace to God’s people on earth!  
Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE            Toccata from Symphony V            Charles-Marie Widor**

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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, Susan Kalabacas, Bunny Ditchfield, Roy and Gloria Meyer, the people of Ukraine and Eastern Europe, Ezra Buckman, Shelia Brassard, Kevin Rosini, Kathy Eshelman, Micah, Connie Shaible, Ann Kuntz.

**WORSHIP LEADERS, 10 p.m.**

- Lector Ray Huff
  
- Communion Assistants Ralph and Lou Ann Zeigler
  
- Organist Sam Robinson
  
- Ushers Walt Doebler and Gary Weber
  
- Altar Guild Bev Hieber and Audrey Albright



*A Blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy  
2023 to all!*

*Pastor Brian Vasey and Family.*



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Sunday, December 25 and January 1 there will be only one  
worship time at 9:30 a.m.*

***MONDAY, DECEMBER 26- THURSDAY, DECEMBER  
29, THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED.  
THE OFFICE WILL BE OPEN FRIDAY, DECEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>.  
BUT EMERGENCY MESSAGES WILL BE RETURNED.***

Sunday, January 1, The Holy Name of Jesus (Holy Communion, 9:30 a.m.)

*Only one worship time this Sunday. No Sunday Church School*

***MONDAY, JANUARY 2, 2023, THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED.***

# Christmas 2022

## We Remember and Honor.....

Giving in Honor of Loved Ones

***Harold and Joyce Hershberger***

*By Pam Jensen*

***Chris and Richard Manny***

*by Roxie Larson*

***Shirley Kinney (our Mother)***

*by Mike and Jackie Kinney*

***James Zeigler, Anna and Laura Zeigler***

*By Dan and Diana Zeigler*

***Our Mothers Ruth and Gloria***

***Our Children, Riley and Stefan***

*By Gary and Shelby Weber*

***My Wife Charlotte***

*By Dick Reice*

***Annika, Gabriella and Makensi Wilson, Sr.***

***Emily Doebler and James and Jane Horner***

*By Walter and Margie Doebler*

***Anna Plank***

*By Dan and Diana Zeigler*

***Loved Ones***

*By Susan Newcomer*

Giving in Honor of Deceased Loved Ones

**Our parents Dorothy Baur and Donald & Barbara Phillips**

by Joseph and Christine Baur

**In Memory of Betty Ann and Wayne Braden**

by Lou Ann and Ralph Zeigler and family

**Our Parents**

By Ray and Cindy Huff

**Fredrick Larson Family**

by Roxie Larson

**Bill and Prudy Poff**

by Herb Poff and Steve and Candy Dewar

**Jack and Eleanor Whiting**

by Herb Poff, Steve and Candy Dewar

**Jack and Marg Dewar**

by Steve and Candy Dewar

**Bill and Marion Waldeisen**

by Family

**In Memory of Ralph and Elda Zeigler**

by their family

**Harry Osbaugh, Dominic Mariano**

by Karen Mariano

**Ray Kinney (our Father) and Carol Smith (our Mother)**

by Mike and Jackie Kinney

**Martin Kuntz, Robert and Anna Kuntz**

by Chas and Ann Kuntz



**Grandparents - Alfred and Lois Johns**

**Grandparents - Jack and Doris Fortin**

by Matt and Wanda Fortin

**Josephine and Allen Malick**

**Phillip and Julia Williams**

by Dave and Cheryl Williams

**Robert Kuntz and Mark Kuntz (Son)**

by Ann L. Kuntz

**Joann Zeigler, Leon and Rosena Haines and Kay Walter**

by Dan and Diana Zeigler

**Jack and Ruth Burkholder**

by Anna Plank and Laura

**Husband Francis Bigelow**

by Ruth Ann Bigelow

**Paul Robinson**

by Sam Robinson

**Eugene and Reba Jacobs**

by Linda Rosini, Holly and John Carlson

**Memory of our Parents**

by P. Thomas



# **Memory of William Hill**

by Shirley Hill

## **Robert and Shirley Campbell**

by Cathy Fenderson

### **Gift to UCLC Food Pantry**

Shirley Hill

P. Thomas

Sam Robinson

Ann L. Kuntz

Matt and Wanda Fortin

Chas and Ann Kuntz

My parents, Don and Helen Ochs by Michael Ochs

### **Gift for Decorations**

P. Thomas

Dick Reice

Matt and Wanda Fortin

Karen Mariano

Susan Newcomer

**ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 and JANUARY 1, THERE WILL BE ONLY ONE WORSHIP TIME AT 9:30 AM. JOIN US!**

## Looking Forward into the New Year

LOOK FORWARD  
WITH HOPE,  
  
NOT BACKWARDS  
WITH REGRET.

[WWW.LIVELIFEHAPPY.COM](http://WWW.LIVELIFEHAPPY.COM)

Sunday, January 8: The Baptism of Our Lord.

Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 am

Installation of new Congregational Council Members at both services.

Sunday, January 15, The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 am

Sunday Church School, 9:15 am

Sunday, January 22, The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 am

Sunday Church School, 9:15 am

Sunday, January 29, The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 am

Sunday Church School, 9:15 am

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Adult Sunday School Class is currently studying, *Living the Kingdom; Reflections on the Small Catechism*. We meet in the Middle Lounge at 9:15 am. All are welcome





## **STAFF OFFICE HOURS**

Pastor: The Rev. Brian Vasey

Mon-Thu 9 a.m.-1 p.m., & by appointment

Church Organist: Sam Robinson

Summer Mon 1-3 p.m. & by appointment

Sexton: George Poliska

By appointment

Bookkeeper: Jackie Baysore

By appointment

Administrative Assistant: Joseph Baur

Tuesday through Friday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.



Welcome back Jackie Baysore

Welcome George Poliska

## COMMEMORATIONS IN THIS HOLY TIDE OF CHRISTMAS



### **Stephen, Deacon and Martyr**

*Sunday, December 26, 2021*

Stephen was a deacon and the first martyr of the church. He was one of those seven upon whom the apostles laid hands after they had been chosen to serve widows and others in need. Stephen's preaching angered the temple authorities, and they ordered him to be put to death by stoning, with Saul (later Paul) as one of the observers. As he died he witnessed to his faith and spoke of a vision from heaven.



### **John, Apostle and Evangelist**

*Monday, December 27, 2021*

John, the son of Zebedee, was a fisherman and one of the Twelve. John, his brother James and Peter were the three who witnessed the transfiguration.

Tradition has attributed authorship of the Gospel according to John, three epistles and Revelation to this apostle.



### **The Holy Innocents, Martyrs**

*Tuesday, December 28, 2021*

The infant martyrs commemorated on this day are the children of Bethlehem, two years and younger, who were murdered by Herod, who worried that his reign was threatened by the birth of “the new king”, Jesus. (Matthew 2:16-18).



### **Holy Name of Jesus**

*Saturday, January 1, 2022*

Joseph and Mary bring Jesus to the temple to be circumcised and named (Luke 2:21).