

**The Third Sunday after the Epiphany
January 22, 2023**

“Ordinary Time”

in the 170^h Year of the Parish

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701

stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org

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

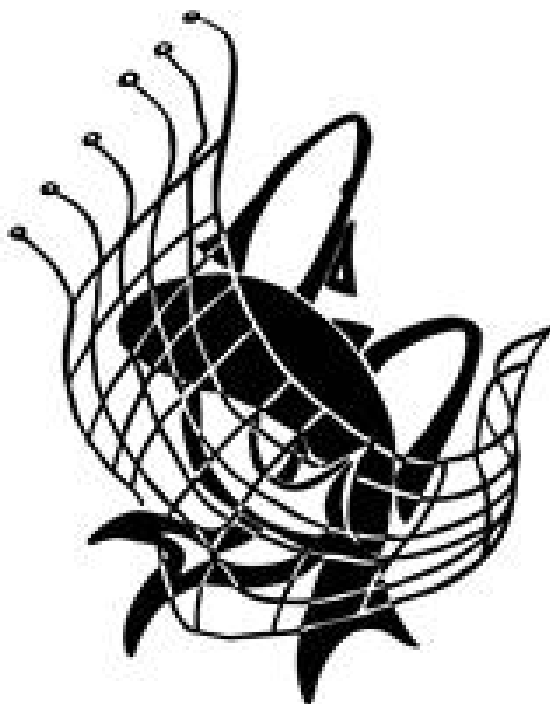
Rev. Brian D. Vasey, Pastor

bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org

Welcome to Saint Mark's!

This is Christ's church. There is a place for you here. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.

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



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: LBW, Green Book; WOV, Blue Book

**Please stand as you are able.*

PRELUDE *Mit Fried und Freud ich fahr dahin* Reger

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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 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.

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.**

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son 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 to 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 The Son of God, Our Christ**

LBW, "Green", 434

***THE GREETING**

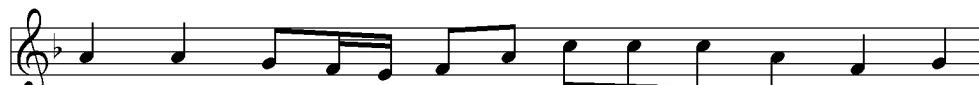
P The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

***HYMN OF PRAISE**



A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



B 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 Lord God, your loving kindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S READINGS

Jesus begins his public ministry by calling fishers to leave their nets and follow him. In Jesus the kingdom of God has come near. We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. We see this light most profoundly in the cross—as God suffers with us and all who are oppressed by sickness, sin, or evil. Light dawns for us as we gather around the word, the font, and the holy table. We are then sent to share the good news that others may be “caught” in the net of God’s grace and mercy.

THE FIRST READING.....Isaiah 9:1-4

1There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the LORD] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

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.

The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 27:1, 4-9

1The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then | shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I | be afraid?

4One thing I ask of the LORD; one | thing I seek;

that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God | in the temple.

5For in the day of trouble God will | give me shelter,

hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high up- | on a rock.

6Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies | who surround me.

Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music | to the LORD.

7Hear my voice, O LORD, | when I call;

have mercy on me and | answer me.

8My heart speaks your message— | “Seek my face.”

Your face, O LORD, | I will seek.

9Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your ser- | vant in anger.

Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of | my salvation.

THE SECOND READING.....First Corinthians 1:10-18

10Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. 11For it has been reported to me by Chloe’s people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. 12What I mean is that each of you says, “I belong to Paul,” or “I belong to Apollos,” or “I belong to Cephas,” or “I belong to Christ.” 13Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? 14I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, 15so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. 16(I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) 17For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

18For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

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. Al - le - lu - ia.

***THE HOLY GOSPEL.....Matthew 4:12-23**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourth chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

12Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. 13He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, 14so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

15“Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—
16the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death
light has dawned.”

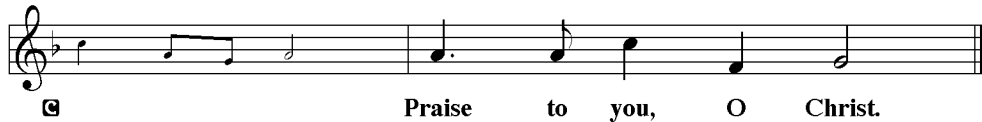
17From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

18As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. 19And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” 20Immediately they left their nets and followed him. 21As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called

them. 22Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

23Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

The gospel of the Lord.



THE SERMON

***HYMN “Come, Follow Me,” the Savior Spake LBW, “Green”, 455**

***THE APOSTLES CREED**

P Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith:

**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, “Merciful God/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 also 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 places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. 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, God of pow'r and might:



Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.



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 You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all goodness; you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence.

We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us.

We thank you for the new world to come and for the love that will rule all.

We praise you for your grace and promises revealed to your people.

In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son who fulfills your promises.

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.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Send now, we pray your Holy Spirit, that we and all who share in this bread and cup may be united in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

C Amen. Come Holy Spirit.

P Join our prayers with those of your servants in every time and place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

C Amen.

***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,

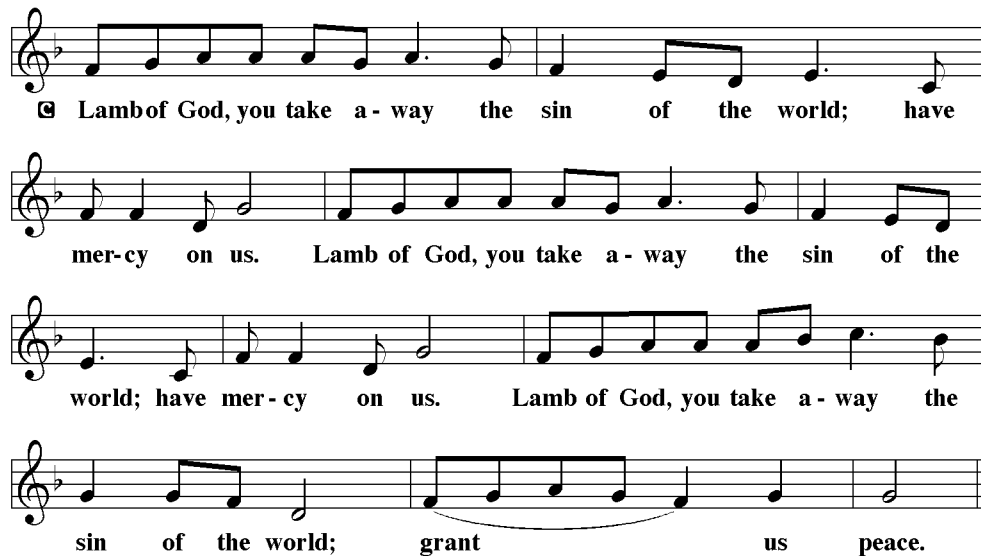
as we forgive those

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.

***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 Come and taste the joy of the Lord!

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. Holy One,
we thank you for the healing
that springs forth abundantly from this table.
Renew our strength to do justice,
love kindness,
and journey humbly with you.

C Amen.

***THE BLESSING**

P Almighty God, Father, †, Son and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

***HYMN Hope of the World LBW, “Green”, 493**

***DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Herr Gott, nun schleuss den Himmel auf Kimmel

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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, the people of Ukraine and Eastern Europe, Storm and Hurricane Victims, Ezra Buckman, Sheila Brassard, Kevin Rosini, Kathy Eshelman, Micah, Ray Huff, Matt Fortin, Dick Reitz, Jackie Kinney and the Hershberger Family.

WORSHIP LEADERS (January 23, 2023)

Lector	8:00 a.m.	Candy Dewar
	10:30 a.m.	Brenda Gair
Communion Assistants	8:00 a.m.	Drew Hausmann
	10:30 a.m.	Ralph and Lou Ann Zeigler
Organist		Sam Robinson
Ushers	8:00 a.m.	Herb Poff and Richard Miller
	10:30 a.m.	Carl Albright, captain
		Brenda, Owen and Levi Gair
Altar Guild	January	Deb Buckman & Leah Hausmann



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 (January 15, 2023)

Regular Offering	\$2,640.00
Plate Offerings	20.00
Christmas and Advent	10.00
Initial Offering	15.00
Sunday School Offering	9.00
Flower Memorials / Tributes	60.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$2,754.00



ALTAR FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God:
 +In Loving Memory of George Bjornstad by his wife, Sally Bjornstad.
 +In Celebration of our Saint Mark’s Family



Deadline for February “Lion”

Tuesday, January 24 is the deadline for the February edition of “The Lion”. Please make sure all articles and submissions are in to Joe Baur (jbaur@stmarkswilliamsport.org) by that date. We will put together “The Lion” and mail it out on Friday, January 27. Anyone who would like to help is welcomed to join us.



MARK YOUR FEBRUARY CALENDARS

February 19, The Transfiguration of Our Lord

Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 a.m.

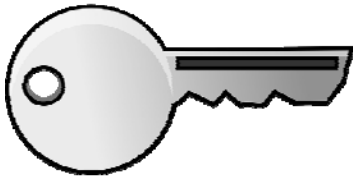
Sunday Church School, 9:15 a.m.

February 21, Shrove Tuesday (Faustnacht Day)

- 6:30 p.m. Fellowship Hall: Donuts, Faustnachts, Coffee and Conversation
- 6:50 p.m. Burning palms for Ash Wednesday from last year's palms
- 7:05 p.m. Liturgy to "Bury the Alleluia" in preparation for Lent.

February 22, Ash Wednesday

- Holy Communion, 12:15 a.m. (Chapel)
- Holy Communion, 7 p.m. (Nave)



SAFETY COMMITTEE REQUEST

The Saint Mark's safety committee would like to remind all members to be diligent in checking that the church doors are securely closed. Please check that the outside door just used is fully closed AND locked behind you upon entering / exiting the building.



BULLETIN SPONSOR

Thank you Sarah Young for sponsoring this week's bulletin.

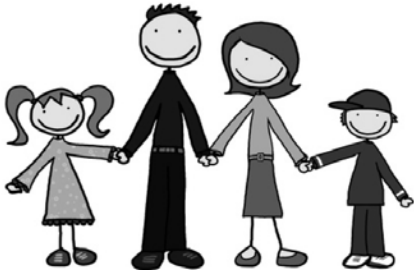
UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Sunday, January 22, 2023 – After 10:30 a.m. Service
Worship and Music Committee Meeting – All are welcome to attend

Monday, January 23, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.
St. Mark's Congregational Council Meeting

Please update the Administrative Assistant, Joe Baur, of the date of Committee Meetings and Times so they can included weekly in the bulletin. Thanks.

FAMILY PROMISE UPDATE



Family Promise says a big thank-you goes out to those cooks who did a heroic deed right before Christmas. Your meals were greatly appreciated. Please mark your calendars for the following weeks: March 26-April 2, July 9-16, Oct 15-22, and Dec 10-17. At this point we are only providing meals which means those persons who were overnight hosts, could you possibly become a cook? For more information on how to be involved contact Deb Buckman at dabuckman65@gmail.com.

Lutheran World Relief - again thank you to all who made kits and helped pack them for shipment. Now is the time to look at the January White Sales to get towels and wash clothes cheap for the personal care kits. Summer baby items are on the clearance rack - remember that the tops cannot be the snap bottoms and the sleepers cannot be footie type. Don't wait until September to do your shopping! For more information contact Deb Buckman at dabuckman65@gmail.com

Thank You

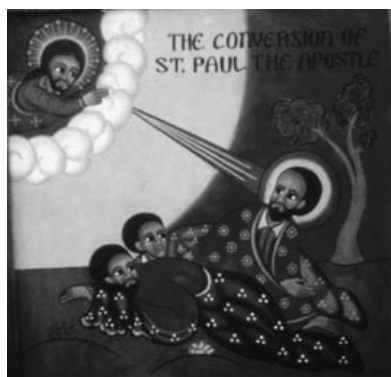


for your Kindness

To St. Mark's- "A sincere thank you for the beautiful notes, cards, and prayers I received"! They definitely helped me in my recovery from my fall.

Love, Connie Shaible

COMMEMORATIONS



Conversion of Paul

Wednesday, January 25, 2023

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begun by the remembrance of Peter's confession now comes to an end as we recall the pivotal moment in the life of the other pillar of the early church, the apostle Paul. His encounter with the risen Christ turned him from persecutor of the early church to one of its leaders.



Timothy



Titus



Silas

Timothy, Titus, and Silas, missionaries

Thursday, January 26, 2023

These three early Christian men were missionary companions of the apostle Paul. Timothy became bishop of Ephesus, Titus bishop of Crete, and Silas was imprisoned with Paul at

Philippi until they were delivered by an earthquake.



Lydia, Dorcas, and Phoebe, witnesses to the faith

Friday, January 27, 2023

Women as well as men were important Christian leaders from the beginning, as demonstrated by these coworkers of the apostle Paul. Lydia, a seller of purple goods, lent her home for a church; Dorcas was known for charitable works; and Phoebe was a deacon in the church at Cenchrae.



Thomas Aquinas, teacher, died 1274

Saturday, January 28, 2023

One of the most brilliant and creative theologians in the church's history, Aquinas worked to bring together scripture and the philosophy of Aristotle. A member of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), Aquinas was also a hymnwriter.