

The Transfiguration of Our Lord
The Last Sunday after the Epiphany
February 19, 2023

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 *Voluntary in d minor, Andante* John Stanley

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

All may make the sign of the cross 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 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 \dagger Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

*HYMN **Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise** LBW, "Green", 526

***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.

***KYRIE**

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

[A] For the peace from above, and for our salvation, 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 unity 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 worship and praise,

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

[A] Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. [C] A - men

*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 Let us pray. O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its

fullness, 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

Today's festival is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle that comes to a close today, and the Lent-Easter cycle that begins on Wednesday. On a high mountain Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son, echoing the words at his baptism. This vision of glory sustains us as Jesus faces his impending death in Jerusalem. On Ash Wednesday we begin our yearly baptismal journey from Lent to Easter. On Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday, we put aside (bury) the alleluia. This word of joy will be omitted during the penitential season of Lent but will return again during the Easter Season.

THE FIRST READING.....Exodus 24:12-18

12The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." 13So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. 14To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them."

15Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. 16The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. 17Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. 18Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights. The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 2

1Why are the nations | in an uproar?

Why do the peoples mutter | empty threats?

2Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the princes | plot together,

against the LORD and against the | LORD's anointed?

3“Let us break their | yoke,” they say;

“let us cast off their | bonds from us.”

**4God whose throne is in heav- | en is laughing;
the LORD holds them | in derision.**

5Then in wrath God | speaks to them,
and in rage fills | them with terror.

**6“As for me, I have anoint- | ed my king
upon Zion, my | holy mountain.”**

7Let me announce the decree | of the LORD,
who said to me, “You are my son; this day have I be- | gotten you.

**8Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for | your inheritance
and the ends of the earth for | your possession.**

9You shall crush them with an | iron rod
and shatter them like a | piece of pottery.”

**10And now, you | kings, be wise;
be warned, you rulers | of the earth.**

11Submit to the | LORD with fear,
and with trembling | bow in worship;

**12lest the LORD be angry, and you perish in a sudden | blaze of wrath.
Happy are all who take ref- | uge in God!**

THE SECOND READING.....2 Peter 1:16-21

16For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” 18We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

19So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. 20First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, 21because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from 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 17:1-9

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

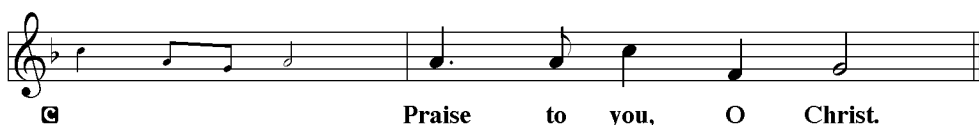


Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

1 Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. 2 And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. 3 Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. 4 Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” 5 While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” 6 When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. 7 But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” 8 And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

9 As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

The gospel of the Lord.



Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

***HYMN Jesus on the Mountain Peak**

WOV, “Blue”, 653

***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.”

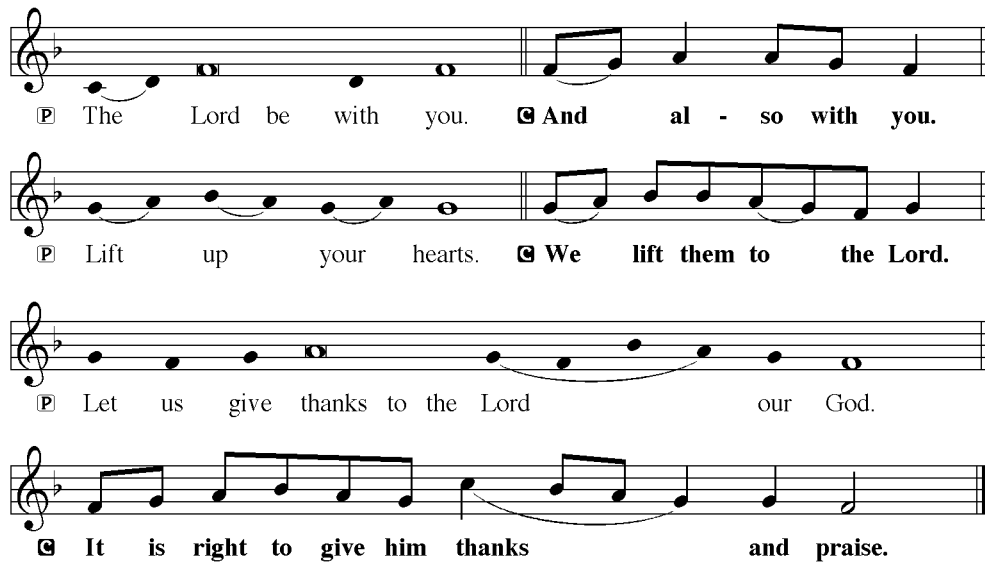
***THE PEACE**

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



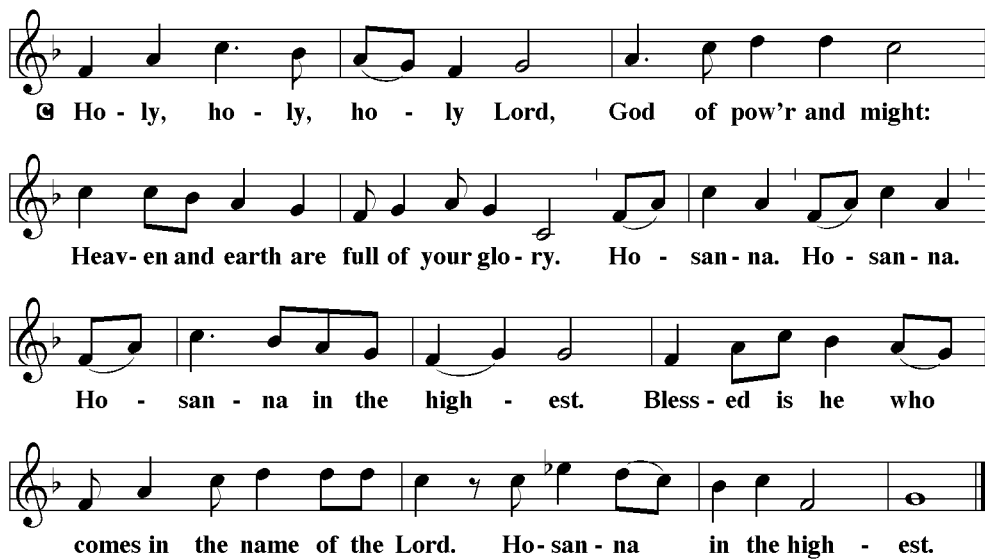
☐ The Lord be with you. ☑ And al - so with you.

☐ Lift up your hearts. ☑ We lift them to the Lord.

☐ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

☑ 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:



☑ 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,

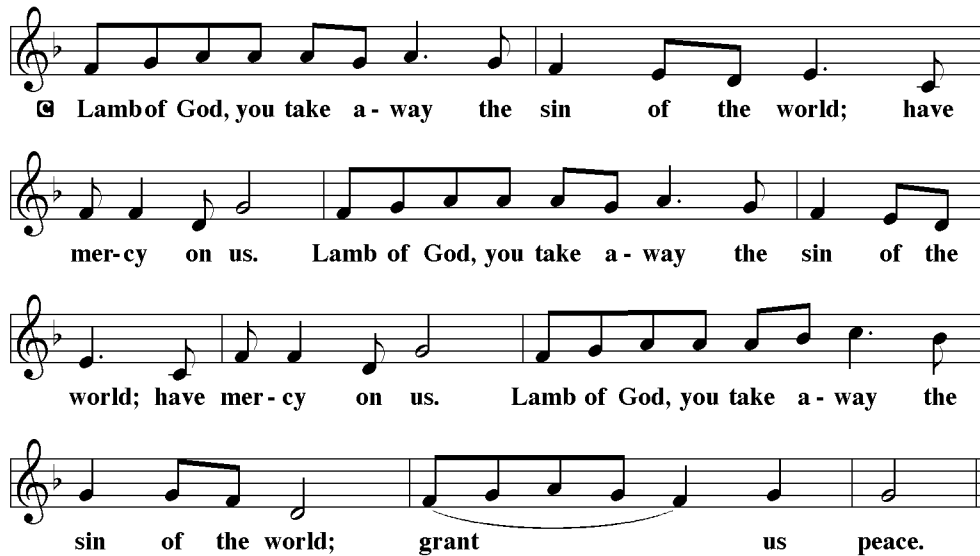
but deliver us from evil.

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 our 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 Songs of Thankfulness and Praise LBW, “Green”, 90**

***DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.
C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Voluntary in d minor, Allegro* John Stanley

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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, Steve Beiber, the Hershberger Family, Earthquake victims in Turkey and Syria, the victims and their families of mass shootings at Michigan State University.

WORSHIP LEADERS (February 19, 2023)

Lectors	8:00 a.m.	Walt Haussmann
	10:30 a.m.	Linda Rosini
Communion Assistants	8:00 a.m.	Jackie Kinney
	10:30 a.m.	Deb Buckman and Mindy Wentzel
Organist		Sam Robinson
Ushers	8:00 a.m.	Richard Miller and Herb Poff
	10:30 a.m.	Tim Maggs, captain Carl Heiber, Charles Kurtz
Altar Guild	February	Wanda Fortin and Mindy Wentzel



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!

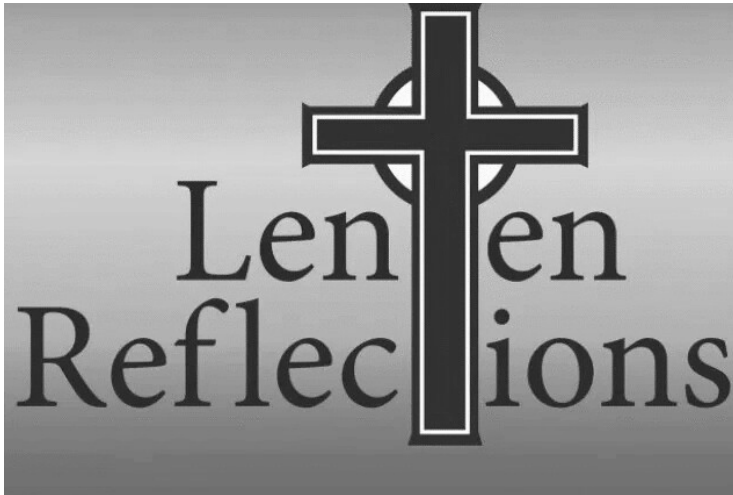


ALTAR FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God:
+In celebration of our Saint Mark’s family
+In honor of my son and daughter-in-law, Grant and Lisa Rees’ anniversary by Ruth Rees.



OUR STEWARDSHIP (February 12, 2023)

Regular Offering	\$2,400.00
Plate Offering	20.00
Initial Offering	10.00
Miscellaneous	25.00
Food Pantry	100.00
Parish Life	38.00
Memorials	250.00
Souper Bowl	75.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$2,918.00



Midweek Lenten Series: Making Change Wednesdays in Lent (March 1-29), 12:15 p.m., Chapel

Change is a constant in our lives. Some changes mark gradual transitions, as when daytime shifts toward twilight or winter turns to spring. Others happen in the blink of an eye, separating time into "before" and "after". We choose to undergo some changes after carefully considering our options, while others are forced upon us.

In the weeks, days, and hours before Jesus' crucifixion, the disciples also experienced change: a change of venue as the gates of Jerusalem approached; a change of plans as their long-awaited Messiah was arrested and tried; a change of circumstance as the crowds shouted "Crucify!"

Change is hard. We long for the expected and familiar, but all too often find ourselves in the midst of uncertainty and the unknown. We cannot predict how things will turn out. The hymnwriter Joachim Neander proclaimed God's steadfast love in the midst of life's inevitable changes: "All my hope on God is founded who will all my trust renew, who through change and chance will guide me, only good and only true. God unknown, from thy throne call my heart to be thine." (WOV 782).

Each Wednesday in Lent we will explore together how in the midst of change, God in Christ is always with us.

All are welcome!

The best things about this week

This Week we celebrate the following Birthdays

Amanda Eyer	February 19
Tyler Stugart	February 20
Donna Elkin	February 21
Brandon Pelleschi	February 21
Kahla Doane	February 22
Seth Greninger	February 22



UPCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

No Meetings Scheduled This Week

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

There is a folder in the Administrative Assistant Office (Joe Baur) that has copies of committee meeting minutes. Minutes can be reviewed at any time. When possible, please send them to me and I will include them. Thanks, Joe.

The Office will be **CLOSED on Monday, February 20, 2023** for President's Day. Office hours will resume on Tuesday, February 21, 2023 with normal hours.



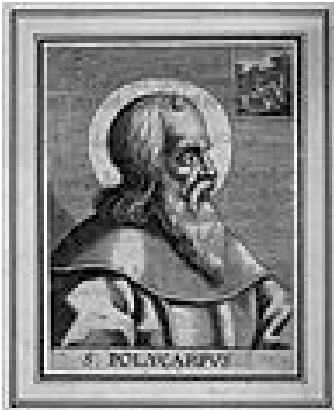
Thank You everyone for submitting your "Lion" articles for March on time. This month we will put the "Lion" together and mail it out on February 28, 2023. The crew meets around 10 a.m. and anyone who would like to help is welcomed. Thanks.



Right now, your congregations can rush aid to our neighbors devastated by the earthquake in Turkey. Lutheran World Relief teams are already coordinating a response, and it is your congregations' compassion and generosity that will rush emergency care. Gifts to LWR's emergency response fund will deliver critically needed care for families like water, medical care, shelter and

essential supplies. Congregations and their members can give online at lwr.org/quake or mail a check to Lutheran World Relief, PO Box 17061, Baltimore, MD 21297-1061. Please write QUAKE in the memo.

COMMEMORATIONS



Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr, died 156

Thursday, February 23, 2023

Because he is said to have been known by John, the author of Revelation, as well as the important early church fathers Irenaeus and Ignatius, Polycarp serves as a vital link in church history. He was burned at the stake at age 86 for refusing to renounce his faith.



Elizabeth Fedde, deaconess, died 1921

Saturday, February 25, 2023

Born in Norway and trained there as a deaconess, Fedde was asked to come and minister to the poor and to seamen in New York City. She established the Deaconess House in Brooklyn as well as Deaconess Hospital in Minneapolis.