

**The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost**

**July 16, 2023**

*in the 170<sup>h</sup> Year of the Parish*

**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!*

*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.”**



**Please be aware:**

**Hand sanitizer is available for your use.**

**Face masks are optional.**

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

**C = Congregation P = Pastor**

*A guide to hymnal use: LBW, Green Book; WOV, Blue Book*

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

## **INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP**

*God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation. It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately. Our lives are like seeds sown in the earth. Even from what appears to be little, dormant, or dead, God promises a harvest. At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.*

**PRELUDE**

*In Green Pastures*

Harold Darke

## **WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **\*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 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.

*Please kneel as able.*

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 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** In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister 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**                      **Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty**    **LBW, “Green”, 250**

**\*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** Let us pray. Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

**THE FIRST READING.....Isaiah 55:10-13**

<sup>10</sup>For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,  
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,

giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
<sup>11</sup>so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;

it shall not return to me empty,  
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,  
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

<sup>12</sup>For you shall go out in joy,  
and be led back in peace;  
the mountains and the hills before you  
shall burst into song,  
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

<sup>13</sup>Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;  
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;  
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,  
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

The word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 65:1-13**

<sup>1</sup>You are to be praised, O | God, in Zion;  
to you shall vows | be fulfilled.

<sup>2</sup>**To you, the one | who answers prayer,**

**to you all | flesh shall come.**

3Our sins are strong- | er than we are,  
but you blot out | our transgressions.

**4Happy are they whom you choose and draw to your | courts to dwell there!**  
**They will be satisfied by the beauty of your house, by the holiness | of**  
**your temple.**

5Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness, O God of | our salvation,  
O hope of all the ends of the earth and of the oceans | far away.

**6You make firm the mountains | by your power;**  
**you are girded a- | bout with might.**

7You still the roaring | of the seas,  
the roaring of their waves, and the clamor | of the peoples.

**8Those who dwell at the ends of the earth will tremble at your | marvelous**  
**signs;**

**you make the dawn and the dusk to | sing for joy.**

9You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river  
of God is | full of water.

You prepare the grain, for so you provide | for the earth.

**10You drench the furrows and smooth | out the ridges;**  
**with heavy rain you soften the ground and | bless its increase.**

**11You crown the year | with your goodness,**  
**and your paths over- | flow with plenty.**

12May the fields of the wilderness be | rich for grazing,  
and the hills be | clothed with joy.

**13May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak them-  
| selves with grain;**

**let them shout for | joy and sing.**

**THE SECOND READING.....Romans 8:1-11**

1There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2For  
the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and  
of death. 3For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by  
sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he

condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup>so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup>For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law—indeed it cannot, <sup>8</sup>and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup>But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

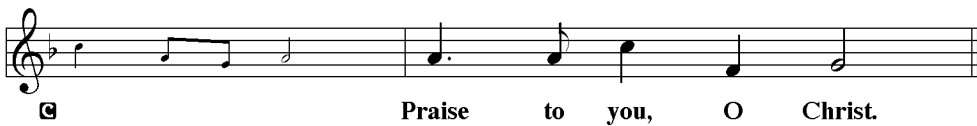
Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**\*THE HOLY GOSPEL.....Matthew 13:1-9**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. <sup>2</sup>Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup>And he told them many things in parables, saying: “Listen! A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup>And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. <sup>5</sup>Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup>But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup>Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup>Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup>Let anyone with ears listen!”  
 The Gospel of the Lord.



## THE SERMON

**\*HYMN                    We Plow the Fields and Scatter                    LBW, “Green”, 362**

### **\*THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**P     Living together in trust and hope, we 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, “God in your mercy/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.*


**\*ANTHEM**

*Simple Gifts*


arr. Aaron Copland

Soloist: Chast Bower


**\*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.

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:



Blessed are you Lord of heaven and earth.  
In mercy for our fallen world  
you gave your only Son,  
that all those who believe in him  
should not perish  
but have eternal life.  
We give thanks to you for the salvation  
you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.  
Send now your Holy Spirit,  
into our hearts and on these gifts,  
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith  
as he comes to us in this his holy supper.

**C Amen. Come Lord Jesus.**

In the night in which he was betrayed  
Our Lord Jesus took bread,  
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 all people  
 for the forgiveness of sin.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

**\*OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

**P** Lord as you have taught us, so now we pray,  
**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**    *All Are Welcome to Receive.*

*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.*

**P**    All people are called to Christ's table.

Come, taste and see that the Lord is good.

**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. We thank you, generous God,  
for the refreshment we have received  
at your banquet table.

Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world,  
through the one who is our dearest treasure,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord;  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.

**C**    **Amen.**

**\*THE BLESSING**

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

C Amen.

\*HYMN Sent Forth By God's Blessing LBW, "Green", 221

\*DISMISSAL

P Go in peace, share the Good News!

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Joyous Acclamation Lani Smith

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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, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, April Clark, Lenny Sherlinski, Ruth Sherlinski, Gary Cable, Elsie Sechler, Virginia Pulaskie, Susan Kalabacas, Bunny Ditchfield, Judy Fortin, the people of Ukraine, Eastern Europe and Afghanistan, Ezra Buckman, Sheila Brassard, Kevin Rosini, Kathy Eshelman, Micah, Steve Beiber, Deb Buckman, Linda Rosini, Brittany Frey, Dick Reitz, Mary Ann Stiller.



WORSHIP LEADERS July 16, 2023



Lector Donna Boston
Communion Assistants Ralph and Lou Ann Ziegler
Organist Sam Robinson
Ushers Tim Maggs, captain



## Cereal Sunday Success!



The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee thanks the congregation for their generous support of Cereal Sunday. July's donations beat June's donations by a wide margin. **This month 54 regular-sized boxes and 50 single-serve boxes of cereal were donated!** Again, the shelves were all but bare when our donations were delivered. **Our next Cereal Sunday is August 13, 2023.**

## Red Cross Blood Drive

Our Blood Drive scheduled for Friday, July 14, 2023 was cancelled due to a lack of donors. Those donors who had blood drives in our area. We recurring problem with all pre-registered were redirected to other blood drives this summer. It is a first for St. Mark's. We have been hosting two blood drives per year since 2017. Our second blood drive is scheduled for December 8, 2023. Please pray for its success.



## Daniel's Closet



This month's clothing drop-off at Redeemer Lutheran is Thursday, July 20, 2023 from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. The distribution of free summer clothing is Saturday, July 22, 2023 from 8:00 – 11:00 a.m. In addition to clean clothing in good condition, shoes for all family members are always needed. Sheets and blankets are also accepted.

# MOSES



From the banks of the Nile River to the depths of the Red Sea, **MOSES** is a spectacular entertainment experience for the whole family!

Set adrift as a baby, Moses is an unlikely hero — until God calls him to lead His people out of Egypt and into the Promised Land. Journey with Moses as he ventures through the wilderness, encounters God at the burning bush, and

ascends to the top of Mount Sinai.

A bus trip to see **Moses** at the Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA is being organized by Cheryl Williams. This trip is being planned for **Wednesday, September 20**, the **11:00 AM** show. While the bus will be pulling out around 6:00 AM, the early start will certainly be well worth it!

With only 12 seats left on the bus, the time to sign up for this wonderful experience is now! Payment for this trip will be due by the second week of August. To sign up, please contact Cheryl Williams at (570) 327-1627. We can't wait to hear from you!

## Summer Hospitality



The summer months are once again upon us and with them come long, lazy days, swimming, camping, s'mores, suntans, and all sorts of fun, summery things. At St. Mark's, **summer also means a single service beginning at 9:30 AM.**

We look forward to sharing hospitality with each other after the 9:30 service, and ask that you please consider signing up to share a few treats ~ nothing fancy is

required! Perhaps find a friend to help make the load just a bit lighter. Sign-up sheets may be found in the “Hospitality Binder” on the “Hospitality Table” in the Narthex. We look forward to spending a little time together on these Summer Sunday mornings. Thank you for helping!



+ **When you or a family member are ill, have a crisis of faith, or have a personal concern of which you wish to make the pastor aware, please contact him directly by church office telephone (570-323-4619) or email ([bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org)). Do not assume the pastor will know of your need any other way.**



+ **When you or a loved one has a change of address, telephone number or email, please contact the church office at 570-323-4619 or [stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org). Please direct your intentions whether or not to share this information with our church family.**

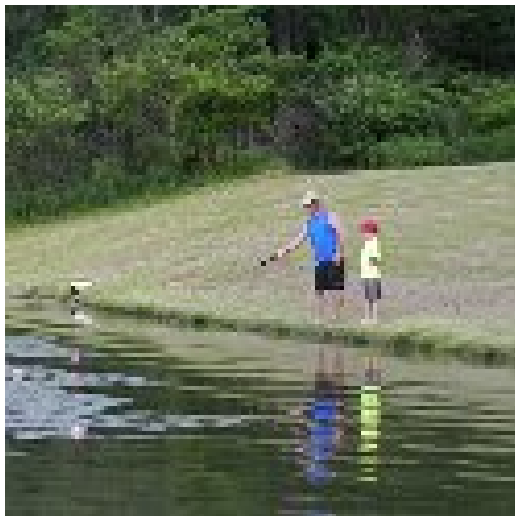


Phil and Barb Thomas  
426 Wyndham Court  
Williamsport, PA 17701



# Church Picnic 2014

## Let's go Fishin'





**The Synod Office will be moving** to our new location in Milton this month. There are lots of items at the Lewisburg location for the taking. Make arrangements to view them with [brenda@uss-elca.org](mailto:brenda@uss-elca.org).

## “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday



**Sept. 10**  
2023

Mark your calendar for Sunday, Sept. 10, when congregations of the ELCA will join together for “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday, our annual day of service. This year marks the 10th anniversary of “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday!

“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday began in 2013 in connection with the ELCA’s 25th anniversary. It continues to be an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the ELCA — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. ELCA congregations participate in acts of service every day. This day of service is an extension of the work you already do to make your community a better place.

Consider expanding your day of service this year by inviting a friend, partnering with a neighbor congregation or serving in collaboration with a local community group or event. If your congregation cannot participate on Sept. 10, you are welcome and encouraged to pick an alternate date that suits your schedule. Be sure to save the date and visit [ELCA.org/DayofService](http://ELCA.org/DayofService) for updates to resources.



Monday, July 17, -  
Sunday, July 23, 2023

Monday, July 17	WCC Board Meeting	6:00 p.m.
Tuesday, July 18		
Wednesday, July 19		
Thursday, July 20		
Friday, July 21		
Saturday, July 22		
Sunday, July 23	<b>Holy Communion 9:30 a.m.</b>	

**BIRTHDAYS**

Brenda Bower	July 18	Patricia Alexander	July 20
Pamela Jensen	July 21	Constance Shaible	July 22
Evan Barone	July 23		

**ANNIVERSARY**

No Anniversaries this week

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Monday, July 17	Council Meeting	6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, July 19	Executive Committee	Noon
	Property Committee	6:00 p.m.

Please remember to let the administrative assistant know when committee meetings are scheduled, or changed, so it can be included in the bulletin.

If there is anything you would like to include in the “This Week at Our Church” please let the administrative assistant, Joe Baur, know at [jbaur@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:jbaur@stmarkswilliamsport.org)

## COMMEMORATIONS



**Bartolomé de Las Casas, missionary to the Indies, died 1566**

*Monday, July 17, 2023*

A native of Spain, Las Casas first came to the Western hemisphere while serving in the military. Upon arriving in the West, Las Casas was granted a large estate with Indigenous enslaved people whom he freed after he was ordained a priest. He worked in the Caribbean and Central America to improve the lives of the native peoples.



**Mary Magdalene, Apostle**

*Saturday, July 22, 2023*

Sometimes called "the apostle to the apostles" because she told them of her encounter with the risen Lord, Mary was a woman of Galilee who followed Jesus throughout his ministry. She was present at Jesus' crucifixion and his burial.