

The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

August 20, 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.”



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.

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

**Please stand as you are able.*

C = Congregation P = Pastor

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP

In Isaiah we hear that God's house shall be a house of prayer for all people and that God will gather the outcasts of Israel. The Canaanite woman in today's gospel is a Gentile, an outsider, who is unflinching in her request that Jesus heal her daughter. As Jesus commends her bold faith, how might our church extend its mission to those on the margins of society? In our gathering around word and meal we receive strength to be signs of comfort, healing, and justice for those in need.

PRELUDE *Andante* WA Mozart

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Pastor's Introduction

Backpack Blessing (if you have your backpack with you, hold it high)

P Gracious and loving God, bless these backpacks and all who carry them. Make them strong for their job of helping students learn, teachers teach, and workers work. May their straps never break, their padding never give out, their zippers never jam. May they never be forgotten in strange places; may the burdens in them be light; may the bodies that bear them be strong. Grant this O Lord in the name of the Great Teacher, at whose knee we are all students and servants, even the same Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen**

***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 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.**

All are Welcome

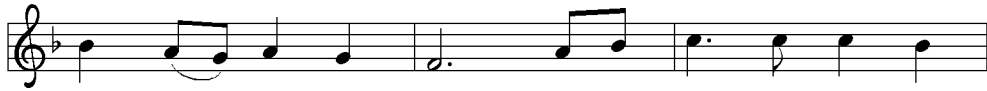
All Are Welcome



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
 2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
 true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
 wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
 stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
 heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
 peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
 live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
 words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
 strang-er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
 laugh-ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 claim the faith of Je - sus:
 Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
 end to fear and dan - ger:
 claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
 Music: TWO OAKS, Marty Haugen
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*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. God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

THE FIRST READING.....Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

1 Thus says the LORD:

Maintain justice, and do what is right,
for soon my salvation will come,
and my deliverance be revealed.

6 And the foreigners who join themselves to the LORD,
to minister to him, to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the sabbath, and do not profane it,
and hold fast my covenant—

7 these I will bring to my holy mountain,
and make them joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and their sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house shall be called a house of prayer
for all peoples.

8 Thus says the Lord GOD,
who gathers the outcasts of Israel,
I will gather others to them
besides those already gathered.

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 67

1 May God be merciful to | us and bless us;
may the light of God's face | shine upon us.

2 Let your way be known | upon earth,
your saving health a- | mong all nations.

3Let the peoples praise | you, O God;

let all the | peoples praise you.

4Let the nations be glad and | sing for joy,

for you judge the peoples with equity and guide all the na- | tions on earth.

5Let the peoples praise | you, O God;

let all the | peoples praise you.

6The earth has brought | forth its increase;

God, our own | God, has blessed us.

7May God | give us blessing,

and may all the ends of the earth | stand in awe.

THE SECOND READING.....Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

[Paul writes:] 1I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. 2aGod has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

29For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. 30Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, 31so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. 32For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

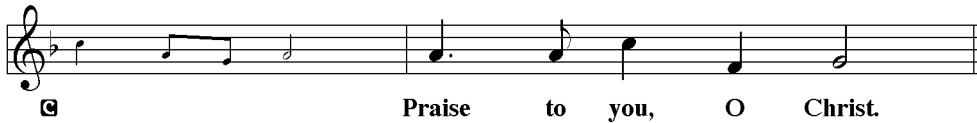
Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

***THE HOLY GOSPEL.....Matthew 15:21-28**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 15th chapter

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

21 Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. 22 Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” 23 But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” 24 He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” 25 But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” 26 He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” 27 She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” 28 Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly. The Gospel of the Lord.



THE SERMON

*HYMN Oh, Praise the Gracious Power WOV, “Blue”, 750

*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, "Hear us, O God/Your mercy is great."

***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


O Lord on High WA Mozart

Soloist: Chase Bower


***GREAT THANKSGIVING**



② The Lord be with you. ③ And al - so with you.



② Lift up your hearts. ③ We lift them to the Lord.

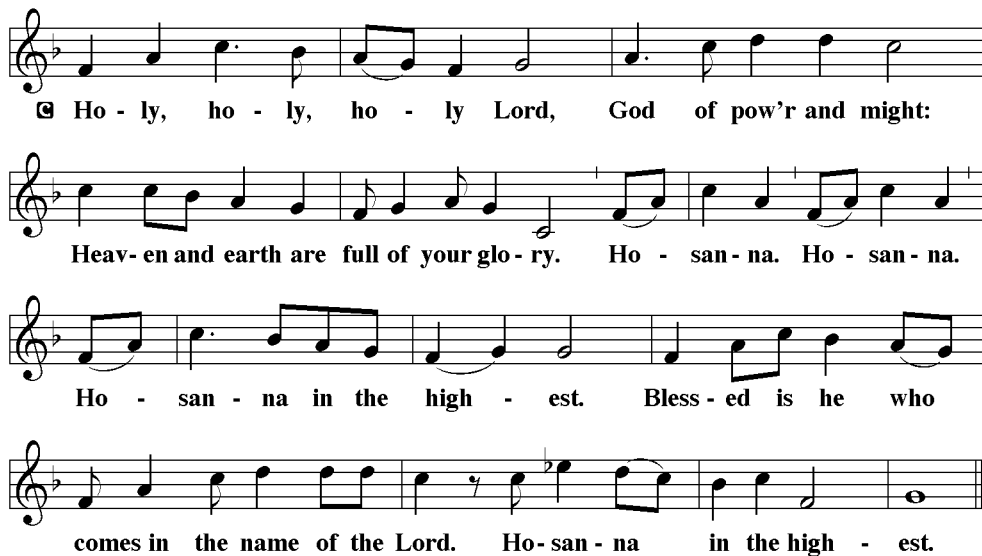


② Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



③ 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:



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.

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.

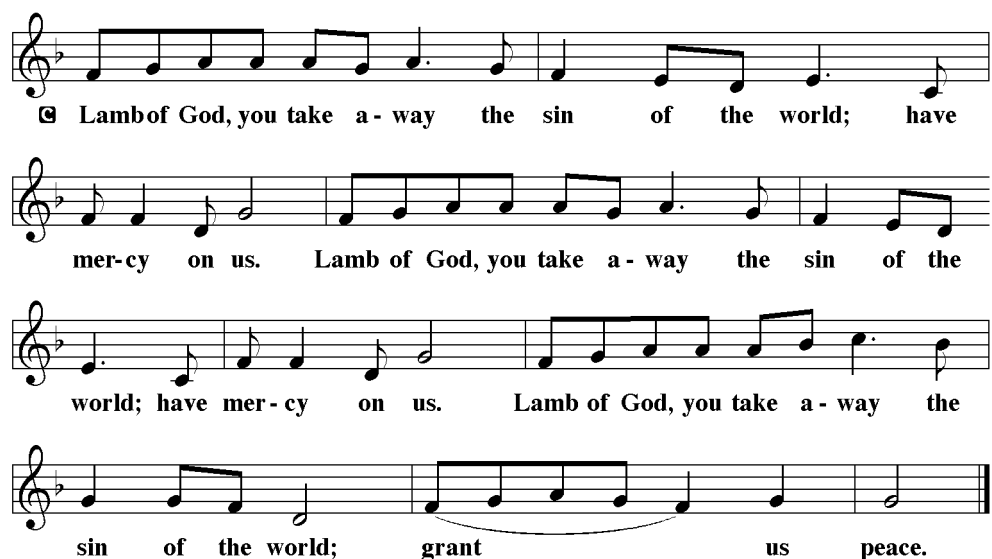
In the night in which he was betrayed
 Our Lord Jesus took bread,
 gave thanks; broke it,
 and gave it to his disciples saying:
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

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** **Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing** **LBW, “Green”, 559**

***DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace, share the harvest.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *Gloria in C* WA Mozart

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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, 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, Dick Reitz, Mary Ann Stiller, Charlotte Reitz, Mike Ford, The Family of Lenny Sherlinski, the victims and survivors of the Maui Fire.

WORSHIP LEADERS

August 20, 2023

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Lector | Linda Rossini |
| Communion Assistants | Ralph and Lou Ann Zeigler |
| Organist | Sam Robinson |
| Ushers | Gary Weber, captain Shelby Weber, Dick Reitz |
| Altar Guild | Cindy Huff and Linda Rosini |

PASTOR ON VACATION



Tuesday, August 22-Monday, August 28 Pastor Vasey will be on vacation. Should you need a pastor during his absence please contact either the church office (570-323-4619) or Pastor Ronald Montgomery (570-584-4465). On Sunday, August 27, Donna Batschelet (Synod Authorized Lay Worship Leader) will preach and preside.



READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY? Faith Formation 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

August 13, 2023

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|
| Regular Offering | \$2,750.00 |
| Special Collection (Maui Fire) | 167.00 |
| GRAND TOTAL | \$2,917.00 |



Altar Flowers

ALTAR FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God:
+In Celebration of our Wedding Anniversary by Karen and Steve Mariano.
+In Loving Memory of Jack and Eleanor Whiting by Herb Poff and Candy Dewar.

+In Loving Memory of Cora and Clement Campbell by their grandchildren.
+To the Glory of God in Loving Memory of Shirley G. Miller by her family.



+ 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). 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. Please direct your intentions whether or not to share this information with our church family.

THE “LION” FOR SEPTEMBER



showing up around 10AM that Tuesday.

The deadline for the September “Lion” newsletter is Tuesday, August, 22, 2023. Please have your information in by the deadline. The amazing team of volunteers will put the “Lion” together and ready it for mailing will meet on Tuesday, August 29, 2023. Thanks to all who help with this task. Anyone wishing to join them may do so by

Maui's Wildfire



The significant loss of life and damage caused by the wildfires in Hawaii have turned our prayers and attention to mourning those lost, supporting the survivors and how Lutheran Disaster Response can assist with recovery.

Exacerbated by strong winds, wildfires on Maui have claimed dozens of

lives and have destroyed homes, businesses and lines of communication. The Big Island of Hawaii has also been impacted by wildfires, and more islands remain vulnerable to additional fires this season.

Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with the Pacifica Synod and other partners to assess the needs of people impacted by the wildfires. We will work with them to provide for immediate needs and long-term recovery amid the widespread destruction. Lutheran Disaster Response is committed to accompanying recovering communities in the years ahead.

By standing with Maui's wildfire survivors, we follow Christ's call to share hope and healing with our neighbors in need.

Should you wish to contribute, please do so by way of the basket off of the Narthex by the Baptismal Fount in our Nave.



ST LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH
1400 MARKET ST. WILLIAMSPORT PA, 17701

ANNUAL BLUEBERRY FESTIVAL

**Join us in helping the homeless
and feeding the hungry in our
community!**

Free event - Accepting donations for
Sojourner Truth Ministries

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 26TH 2023
1PM-5PM**

FREE FOOD - BLUEBERRY DESSERTS
- VOTING FOR THE BEST PIE - KIDS
GAMES - BLUES BAND

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

**This event is free to attend. We are accepting donations for
Sojourner Truth Ministries in Williamsport this year.**



SIGHT AND SOUND “MOSES” BUS TRIP, SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

Our bus to see “Moses” at the Sight and Sound Theatre has been filled! For those attending a reminder; the bus departs from Beiter's Parking Lot (540 Montgomery Pike, Williamsport) 6 am on September 20. Please park your car in the West End Parking Lot of Beiter's.

COLLECTION SUCCESS



The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee thanks the congregation for their outstanding support of our August collections. Cereal Sunday received **72 assorted boxes of cereal**. Plus **230 hygiene items were donated** to Lycoming College's Open Williamsport event on August 21. All hygiene items will ultimately be given to the Shepherd of the Streets for use by their clients.



CEREAL SUNDAY IN SEPTEMBER

Our final Cereal Sunday will be September 3, 2023. To date we have collected 211 boxes of assorted cereals. With September's collection can we get to 300? Going away that weekend? Bring your cereal ahead of Cereal Sunday.

GOT STUFF?



If you have items that you wish to donate to our Fall Sale, they now can be placed on the stage in Fellowship Hall. Please place your items in front of the stage curtains.

Please also be thinking as to when you can help get our sale ready. Members of the Evangelism and Fellowship Committee will be asking for your help in the near future. From September 10-September 16 we will need help. Join the fun and say “yes” to helping.



SUNDAYS IN SEPTEMBER:

Sunday, September 3, The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Communion, 9:30 am

Sunday, September 10, The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
God's Work/Our Hands Sunday
Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 am
Sunday School, 9:15 am

Sunday, September 17, The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 am
Sunday School, 9:15 am

Sunday, September 24, The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 am
AED Refresher Course Between Services
Sunday School, 9:15 am
Pet Blessing, 2 pm



The Adult Sunday School Class resumes Sunday, September 10, 9:15 am in the Middle Lounge. All are welcome to join us as we continue in our study of Holy Purpose: The Blessings of Service, Obedience and Faith.



SAVE THE DATE

This year the Annual CROP walk will take place on Sunday, October 8, 2023. More details to come.





Monday, August 21, -
Sunday, August 27, 2023

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|-----|
| Monday, August 21 | WCC Board Meeting | 6PM |
| | Church Council Meeting | 6PM |

Tuesday, August 22
Wednesday, August 23
Thursday, August 24
Friday, August 25
Saturday, August 26
Sunday, August 27

Holy Communion 9:30 a.m.

BIRTHDAYS

| | | | |
|----------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| Daniel Zeigler | August 23 | Janet Jones | August 24 |
| Nathan Clouser | August 26 | | |

ANNIVERSARY

Gloria and Charles Greevy August 26

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----|
| Monday, August 21 | Council Meeting | 6PM |
|-------------------|-----------------|-----|

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@stmarkswilliamspar

COMMEMORATIONS

Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, died 1153

Sunday, August 20, 2023



Bernard, a Cistercian monk, was a man of great spirituality who wrote mystical works and criticized those whom he thought took an overly intellectual approach to the faith. He became an abbot, and wrote several hymns that are still beloved today.



Bartholomew, Apostle

Thursday, August 24, 2023

Mentioned as one of Jesus' disciples in Matthew, Mark, and Luke, Bartholomew's name is replaced in the Gospel According to John by Nathanael, leading many to believe that the two are different names for the same person. Little is known about his work, though some traditions place him later in India or Armenia.