

**The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost  
September 3, 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)

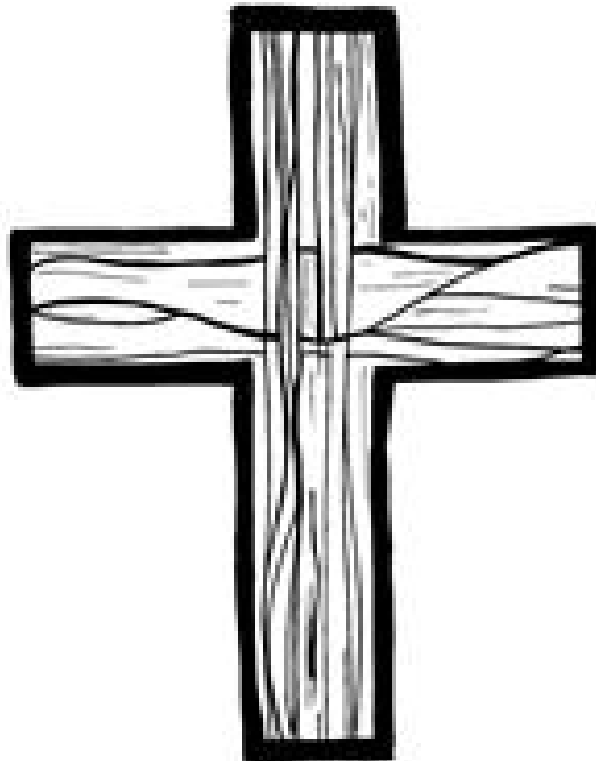
Rev. Brian D. Vasey, Pastor

[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.**

*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**

*The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the incurable wound of his suffering yet finds in God's words the delight of his heart. When Peter doesn't grasp Jesus' words about suffering, Jesus tells the disciples they will find their lives in losing them. Such sacrificial love is described by Paul when he urges us to associate with the lowly and not repay evil with evil. In worship we gather as a community that we might offer ourselves for the sake of our suffering world.*

**PRELUDE**      *Prelude in E minor*      JS Bach

## **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 the Church of Christ, and be his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the  $\text{†}$ , Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**\*HYMN Son of God, Eternal Savior**


**LBW, "Green", 364**

**\*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. O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

**THE FIRST READING.....Jeremiah 15:15-21**

<sup>15</sup>O LORD, you know;

remember me and visit me,  
and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors.

In your forbearance do not take me away;  
know that on your account I suffer insult.

<sup>16</sup>Your words were found, and I ate them,  
and your words became to me a joy  
and the delight of my heart;  
for I am called by your name,  
O LORD, God of hosts.

<sup>17</sup>I did not sit in the company of merrymakers,  
nor did I rejoice;  
under the weight of your hand I sat alone,  
for you had filled me with indignation.

<sup>18</sup>Why is my pain unceasing,  
my wound incurable,  
refusing to be healed?  
Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook,  
like waters that fail.

<sup>19</sup>Therefore thus says the LORD:  
If you turn back, I will take you back,  
and you shall stand before me.  
If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless,

you shall serve as my mouth.

It is they who will turn to you,  
not you who will turn to them.

20And I will make you to this people  
a fortified wall of bronze;  
they will fight against you,  
but they shall not prevail over you,  
for I am with you  
to save you and deliver you,  
says the LORD.

21I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked,  
and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM 26:1-8**

1Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived | with integrity;  
I have trusted in the LORD and | have not faltered.

2**Test me, O | LORD, and try me;**  
**examine my heart | and my mind.**

3For your steadfast love is be- | fore my eyes;  
I have walked faithful- | ly with you.

4**I have not sat | with the worthless,**  
**nor do I consort with | the deceitful.**

5I have hated the company of | evildoers;  
I will not sit down | with the wicked.

6**I will wash my hands in inno- | cence, O LORD,**  
**that I may go in procession | round your altar,**

7singing aloud a song | of thanksgiving  
and recounting all your won- | derful deeds.

8**LORD, I love the house in | which you dwell**  
**and the place where your glo- | ry abides.**

**THE SECOND READING.....Romans 12:9-21**

9Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; 10love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. 11Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. 12Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. 13Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

14Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. 15Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. 16Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. 17Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. 18If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. 19Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” 20No, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” 21Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

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 16:21-28**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

21

From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. 22And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “God

forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.” <sup>23</sup>But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

<sup>24</sup>Then Jesus told his disciples, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. <sup>26</sup>For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?

<sup>27</sup>“For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. <sup>28</sup>Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.”

The Gospel of the Lord.



## THE SERMON

\*HYMN

Lift High the Cross

LBW, “Green”, 377

\*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, “Merciful God/Receive 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.*


**\*GREAT THANKSGIVING**



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



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



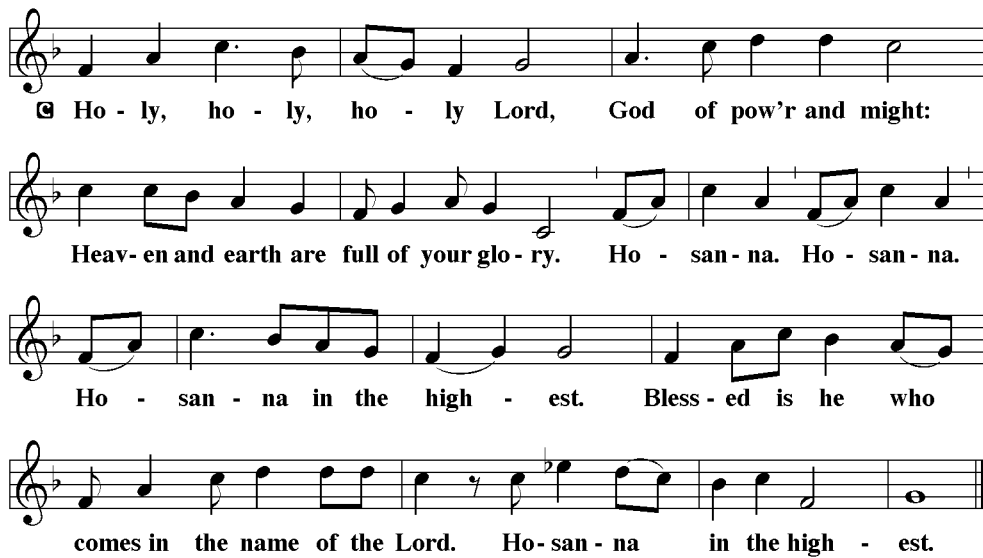
☐ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



☑ 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:





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 Jesus invites you to his table. Come, eat and live.

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. Blessed be your name, O God,  
for we have feasted on your Word,  
Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.  
Strengthened by this food,  
send us to gather the world to your banquet,  
where none are left out and all are satisfied.  
In Jesus' name we pray.

C **Amen.**

### **\*THE BLESSING**

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

C **Amen.**

**\*HYMN           Lead On, O King Eternal**

**LBW, "Green", 495**

### **\*DISMISSAL**

L Go in peace, the Lord is with you.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**    Postlude in Bb Major                      JS Bach

+++++

*Portions of this service are reprinted with permission from...*

*Lutheran Book of Worship (copyright, 1978)*

*Augsburg-Fortress Publishers (#2562-L).*

*Evangelical Lutheran Worship (copyright 2006)*

*Augsburg-Fortress Publishers, under license #2562-L.*

*sundayandseasons.com (copyright 2019), Augsburg-Fortress. All rights reserved.*

*Augsburg-Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB144818.*

*“One License” A-738528.*

+++++



**Prayer List:** 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, Ezra Buckman, Sheila Brassard, Kevin Rosini, Kathy Eshelman, Micah, Steve Beiber, Linda Rosini, Dick Reitz, Mary Ann Stiller, Mike Ford, Alex Mazzante. The family of Charlotte Reitz, the victims of Hurricane Idelia.



**WORSHIP LEADERS**

**September 3, 2023**

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Lector                   | Deb Buckman  |
| Communion Assistants     | Ralph and Lou Ann Zeigler                            |
| Organist                 | Sam Robinson   |
| Ushers                   | Carl Albright, captain<br>Brendan Owen and Levi Gair |
| Altar Guild    September | Connie Shaible and Sally Bjornstad                   |



**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 27, 2023

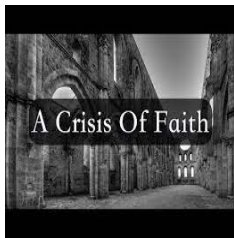
Regular Offering	\$1,645.00
Plate Offerings	5.00
Food Pantry	50.00
Family Promise Hosting	50.00
Flower Memorials / Tributes	90.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	50.00
Lutheran World Relief	150.00
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,040.00</b>



**ALTAR FLOWERS** today are given to the glory of God:

+In Loving Memory of Mr. and Mrs. Gelbert Lloyd by Carl and Beverly Hieber and family

+In Loving Memory of my father Glenn Means and in Honor of my mother Pauline Means by Kathy Eshelman



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.

## Cereal Sunday



Today is our final Cereal Sunday.... kind of! To date we have collected 211 boxes of assorted cereals. And there are many boxes in the Narthex yet to be counted. But with the Food Pantry being closed for Labor Day we cannot deliver our donations. So, if you forgot to bring a box or would like to donate another box, you can do so next Sunday, September 10. Donations will be delivered to the Food Pantry on Monday, September 11.



## Sojourner Truth Ministries

STM continues to serve up to 600 meals per week! These meals are a combination of eat in or take a bagged lunch to go. It has been daunting to keep up with this need. We can help support STM's efforts to feed low income and homeless individuals and families. During September the Evangelism and Fellowship Committee is seeking donations of brown paper lunch bags, rolls of plastic wrap and jars of sweet or dill relish. Donations may be placed on the tables in the Narthex closet. Thank you for any help you can provide.



## Got Stuff? The Clock Is Ticking.

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. From September 10-September 16 we will need help. Join the fun and say "yes" to helping. Here is a quick time line.

- Sunday, September 10: Arranging tables and bringing donations from the basement.
- Monday, September 11 - Friday, September 15 from 9:15 - Noon: Unpack and arrange all the treasures. (We can have an evening session for those who work during the day.)
- Friday, September 15: Late day selling to the public from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday, September 16: Selling from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Saturday, September 16: Clean-up starting at 1:00 p.m. followed by the American Rescue Worker's picking up our leftovers.



## Looking Ahead / Redeemer's Community Dinner

For Redeemer's dinner on Thursday, September 14, the Evangelism and Fellowship Committee needs the congregation's help. We will be donating boxes of TastyKake cupcakes. We are in need of 20 boxes to be able to provide 120 individual packets to folks receiving a meal. The cupcakes can be any type as long as there are six packets per box. Our local supermarkets offer sales regularly. Thank you in advance for any help you can give.





Monday, September 4, -  
Sunday, September 10, 2023

Monday, September 4  
Tuesday, September 5  
Wednesday, September 6  
Thursday, September 7  
Friday, September 8  
Saturday, September 9  
Sunday, September 10

Labor Day *CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED*  
Evangelism and Fellowship Committee 5:30 PM  
Property Committee 6PM

**Holy Communion 8:00 a.m.**  
**Holy Communion 10:00 a.m.**

## **BIRTHDAYS**

Valerie Doebler	September 5	Derek Lewis	September 6
Hudson Ott	September 9	Nolan Ott	September 9
Mary Clouser	September 10		

## **ANNIVERSARY**

Shelly and Robert Clokey September 4

## **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee will meet Tuesday, September 5, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. in the Middle Lounge. All are welcome to attend.  
Property Committee Middle Lounge 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@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:jbaur@stmarkswilliamsport.org)

## COMMEMORATIONS



**Peter Claver, missionary to Colombia, died 1654**

*Saturday, September 9, 2023*

Born into Spanish nobility, Claver became a Jesuit missionary, and served in present-day Colombia. His ministry was focused on the enslaved people who arrived there. He gave them food and medicine, learned their dialects, and taught them Christianity.



In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life we commend Charlotte E. Reitz. Funeral services are September 9, 2023, 11:30 am, St. Mark's. Greeting of the family will precede the funeral 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM