

**The Second Sunday of Advent
December 10, 2023**

The Chrismon Service

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 seek,
"To know Christ and to make Christ known."*



An Order for Holy Communion (Veni Emmanuel Setting)

9:30 am

Please Note:

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.*

Bold = Congregation

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP

Today is our "Chrismon Service"; a liturgy for decorating the Christmas Tree. Chrismons are Christian Symbols which remind us of the identity of Christ. By way of our Chrismons our tree becomes an evangelist thereby "telling the story" of the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

PRELUDE

Prelude Solonnel

Richard Purvis

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

All may make the sign of cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the pastor begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who opens the heavens
and draws near to us with salvation.

Amen.

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance.

Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Kneel/Stand

Everlasting God,

you love justice and you hate wrongdoing.

**We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness
that make us reluctant to work against oppression.**

We are complicit in systems of exploitation.

We choose comfort over courage.

We are careless with creation's bounty.

**Look upon us with mercy.
Turn our hearts again to you.
Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways
for the sake of our waiting world.**

Amen.

Hear these words of assurance:
God clothes you with garments of salvation
and covers you with robes of righteousness.
In the tender compassion of † Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven.
God's covenant is eternal,
and God's blessing rests upon us all.

Amen.

***HYMN O Come, O Come, Emmanuel LBW, "Green", 34**

***THE GREETING**

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

And also with you.

***KYRIE**

Cantor All

Lord, _____ have mer - cy. Lord, _____ have mer - cy.

3 Cantor All

Christ, _____ have mer - cy, _____ Christ, _____ have mer - cy, _____

5 Cantor All

Lord, _____ have mer - cy. Lord, _____ have mer - cy.

***LIGHTING OUR ADVENT WREATH**

**Lord Jesus is coming and so we prepare,
Our homes and our lives for Messiah so fair.
It's Advent, we're happy, for Jesus is near,
O Come and live in us, our Savior so dear.**

*Words, B. Vasey, 1995
Tune, CRADLE SONG*

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

“OUR PAGEANT OF CHRISMONS

Trinity

Matthew 28:16-20

Narration

Hymn **Holy, Holy, Holy (1 and 4) LBW, “Green”, 165**

Fish

Luke 9:10-17

Narration

Hymn **Break Now the Bread of Life (1, 3 and 4) LBW, “Green”, 235**

Iota

Matthew 1:18-23

Narration

Hymn **At the Name of Jesus (1, 3, 6) LBW, “Green”, 179**

Crook

John 10:11

Narration

Hymn **Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us (1 and 2) Back Page**

Cross

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Narration

Hymn **In the Cross of Christ I Glory** (*all*) LBW, “Green”, 104

Crown of Thorns

John 19:1-5

Narration

Hymn **O Sacred Head, Now Wounded** (1 and 4) LBW, “Green”, 117

Butterfly

Mark 16:1-7

Narration

Hymn **Thine Is the Glory** (*all*) LBW, “Green”, 145

Lights

John 8:12

Narration

Hymn **I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light** (*all*) WOV, “Blue”, 649

***THE NICENE CREED**

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth,

of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God,

eternally begotten of the Father,

God from God, Light from Light,

true God from true God,

begotten, not made,

of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven;

by the power of the Holy Spirit

**he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

After each petition, "Merciful Lord/Hear Our Prayer"

***THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you. *The ministers and congregation greet each other.*

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also 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 our 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, almighty and everlasting God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new. And so, with your Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

1 Cantor

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and God of might.

2 All

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and God of might.

3 Cantor

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

4

Ho-san - na in the high - est, ho-san-na in the high - est.

5 All

Ho-san - na in the high - est, ho-san-na in the high - est.

6 Cantor

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

7

Ho-san - na in the high - est, ho-san-na in the high - est.

8 All

Ho-san - na in the high - est, ho-san-na in the high - est.

Holy God, mighty Lord, glorious Father:
 Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.
 You have filled all creation with light and life;
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.
 Through Abraham you promised to bless all nations.
 You rescued your chosen people who were slaves in Egypt.
 Through prophets you renewed your promise;

and at this end of all ages, you sent your Son,
who in words and deeds proclaimed your kingdom
and was obedient to your will,
even to giving his life.

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.

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 for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often we eat this bread
and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Therefore gracious Father we await his coming in power
to share with us the promised feast.

Amen. Come Lord Jesus.

Send now your Holy Spirit,
the spirit of our Lord and of his resurrection,
that we who receive our Lord's body and blood
may live to the praise of your glory
and receive our inheritance with all the saints in light.

Amen. Come Holy Spirit.

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

Amen.

*OUR LORD'S PRAYER

Lord as you have taught us, so now we pray,

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

Cantor



Je sus, wis - dom and might - y Lord, you take a way the sins___ of the
Je - sus, true branch of Jes - se's Tree
Key of Dav - id and Day - spring from on high.
De sire of na - tions, our Em - man - u - el,

2 | 1.2.3. | All



world: have mer - cy on us. Have mer - cy on us.

3 | 4. | All



world: Grant us___ peace. 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.*

In this meal righteousness and peace dwell together. Come take your place at the table.

Thanks be to God.

THE COMMUNION

***AFTER COMMUNION**

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

***THE PROCLAMATION OF JESUS AS KING**

Revelation 11:15-17

Narration

Hymn **Crown Hymn with Many Crowns (1-4)** LBW, “Green”, 170

***THE WITNESS OF OUR TREE**

Receive the message of this tree which proclaims Jesus as Savior and Lord!

Amen. Alleluia!

***BLESSING**

May the blessing of him who has come and has promised to come again, the One whose coming is foretold in this tree, bless you now ✠ and forever.

Amen.

***SONG**

O Chrismon Tree, O Chrismon Tree,
You stand before us brightly.
From base to summit you are bright,
And tell us of true heaven's light.
O Chrismon Tree, O Chrismon Tree,
You stand before us brightly.

O Chrismon Tree, O Chrismon Tree,
You tell of Christ so faithfully.
How he came as heaven's bliss,
To bring us life and forgiveness.
O Chrismon Tree, O Chrismon Tree,
You tell of Christ so faithfully.

*Text: Traditional
Tune: "O Christmas Tree"*

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

OUR ANNUAL MEETING FOLLOWS THE DISMISSAL

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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, Ezra Buckman, Sheila Brassard, Kevin Rosini, Kathy Eshelman, Micah, Deb Buckman, Linda Rosini, Mike Ford, Walt Haussmann, Kristin Rehm, Yvonne and Gerry Myers.

WORSHIP LEADERS

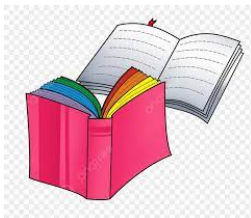
December 10, 2023 (Single Service)



Lector	9:30AM	Brenda Gair
Communion Assistants	9:30AM	Matt and Wanda Fortin
Ushers	9:30AM	Gary Weber, captain Shelby Weber and Dick Reitz
Guest Organist		Carol Waltz
Altar Guild	December	Wanda Fortin and Mindy Wentzel



WELCOME CAROL! Today we welcome Carol Waltz as our guest organist and thank her for sharing her talents with us.



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!



The annual Service of Lessons and Carols will be held at 4 PM today at Trinity Episcopal Church on West Fourth Street, next to the Lycoming County Historical Society and Taber Museum. This traditional program of word and music is a wonderful gift to our community. All are invited to attend.

OUR STEWARDSHIP December 3, 2023

Regular Offering	\$5,195.00
Plate Offerings	30.00
Christmas and Advent	500.00
Thanksgiving	260.00
Miscellaneous	20.00
Food Pantry	10.00
Parish Life	100.00
Christmas Flowers	75.00
Family Promise Hosting	30.00
Organ Fund	100.00
Flower Memorials / Tributes	30.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$6,350.00



ALTAR FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God:
+In Loving Memory of my parents, Elias and Grace Lehman, Herbert Winters and son Scott and sisters Eva and Helen by Lois Winters Goldy.
+In Loving Memory of Helen and F.B. Troxell by Margie Levinson and her family and by Frank Troxell and his family.



Evangelism and Fellowship Activities for Advent



Today is the last day for donating items to the Ladies of CM-6 and the residents of Danville Hospital. If you have not contributed something there is still time to help. We are still in need of the following...

- The Ladies of CM-6 at the Selinsgrove Center: Pudding cups.
- Check out the December Lion for information about our Habitat Faith Build Luncheon.
- Monetary donations may be made to offset the cost for items not donated. Checks can be made payable to St. Mark's with the memo line indicating Evangelism and Fellowship.

Christmas Ornaments



As you enter the Narthex there is a display of Christmas ornaments, crafted by Lou Ann Zeigler. The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee is giving them away at no cost. But to make the joy the ornaments give stretch further; we are accepting a modest monetary donation. The combined donations will be used to purchase \$10.00 and \$15.00 grocery cards to be given to the United Churches Food Pantry. These gift cards allow families to purchase fresh fruits, meat and dairy products that are not available at the pantry.

Christmas Greetings



The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee need your help in sending Christmas greetings to the folks on our Special Concern List. Next Sunday, December 17 cards will be available in the Narthex for folks on the Special Concern List. Take a card or two, write a cheery message and mail in time for Christmas. Thank you for any help you can give.

Reverse Advent Calendar

The Faith Formation and Evangelism and Fellowship Committees are once again giving congregation members an alternative to the traditional chocolate Advent calendars. And instead of *receiving* something each day of Advent, we are counting down to Christmas by *giving* something each day of Advent.



This year we would really like to focus our efforts on collecting hygiene products for Wise Options and Liberty House shelters. At any point in time these shelters may be housing up to 80 individuals, and hygiene products for women and children are in high demand. Please take a holiday bag from the Narthex and each day of Advent place a hygiene product in your bag. Soap/body wash, shampoo, shaving cream, toothbrushes, toothpaste, loofahs, deodorant, etc. may be found at any of the

“Dollar Stores” and would be perfect donations. Please pray that these small items might be a blessing to those who receive them. Return your filled bag on Christmas Eve or New’s Year Eve. Even sometime in January would be fine! All items will be sorted and delivered to the YWCA. We hope that this Reverse Calendar will be a blessing to your Advent preparations. Thank you for your generosity!





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

Advent

*A Season of Hope
& Expectation*



Monday, December 11, - Sunday, December 17, 2023

Monday, December 11	Pastor Visit to Little Lambs	10:30AM
	WCC Rehearsal	7:00PM FH
Tuesday, December 12	NGA Staff Meeting	7:00PM ML
Wednesday, December 13	Mid-Week Advent Service	12:15PM CH
<p><i>We gather for mid-week services in our Chapel, 12:15 pm, Wednesdays in Advent (December 6, December 13, December 20). Our theme this year is, "Wait, Watch and Wonder". Please join us for these times of worship which will heighten our awareness and anticipation for the celebration of Christ's coming in the flesh.</i></p>		
Thursday, December 14	Pastor Visit to Little Lambs	10:30AM
Sunday, December 17	Holy Communion	8:00 and 10:30AM

BIRTHDAYS

Ernest Larson	December 12	Alverda Comerford	December 14
Derek Gilbert	December 17	Marlene Vollmer	December 17

ANNIVERSARIES

None

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

COMMEMORATIONS

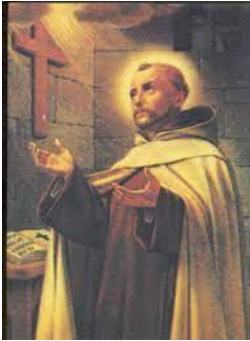
Lucy, martyr, died 304



Wednesday, December 13, 2023

Lucy was a young Christian of Sicily who was martyred during the persecutions under Emperor Diocletian. Her celebration became particularly important in Sweden and Norway, perhaps because the feast of Lucia (whose name means "light") originally fell on the shortest day of the year.

John of the Cross, renewer of the church, died 1591



Thursday, December 14, 2023

John was a member of the Carmelite monastic order, and worked to reform it. His writings reflect a deep interest in mystical thought and meditation.

Las Posadas



Saturday, December 16, 2023

This celebration, long popular in Mexico, takes its name from the "posadas," or lodgings, sought by Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem. Their search is reenacted in a neighborhood, unsuccessfully, until finally they are welcomed in, and a party commences.



THREE WISTFUL MEN



"Oh no, look who's in ..."

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us (Stanzas 1 and 2)

Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us



1 Sav-ior like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten - der care.
2 We are yours; in love be - friend us, be the guard-ian of our way;
3 You have prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful though we be;
4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor, ear - ly let us do your will;



In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us, for our use your fold pre-pare.
keep your flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray.
you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us; we are yours.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us, love us still.

Text: attr. Dorothy A. Thrupp, 1779-1847
Music: BRADBURY, William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868