

THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 10, 2025

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 note:

Hand sanitizer is available for your use.

Offerings may be received by way of offering plates as you enter or leave.

**An Order for Holy Communion, 9:30 am
(Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting 10)**

A guide to hymnal use: All hymns are printed in the bulletin and when reference is available the LBW, Green Book; WOV, Blue Book

Light print = Pastor/Leader. Bold print = Congregation.

**Please stand as you are able.*

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP

Jesus says, "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." It is God's promise from the beginning—to Abraham, to the early church, and to the "little flock" of which we are a part in today's assembly. Faith, God's baptismal gift, trusts the promises of God. Have no fear.

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***A BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of 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.

Amen.

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.

(Kneel/Stand)

Most merciful God,
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 neighbor 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.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become children of God and bestows upon them the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

***HYMN The God of Abraham Praise No Reference Available**

The God of Abraham Praise



1 The God of A - br'ham praise, who reigns en-throned a - bove;
 2 The God of A - br'ham praise! At your su - preme com - mand
 3 The God of A - br'ham praise! Your all - suf - fi - cient grace
 4 Your prom-ise you have sworn; I on your oath de - pend.



An - cient of ev - er - last - ing days, and God of love—
 from earth I rise and seek the joys at your right hand.
 shall guide me all my pil - grim days in all my ways.
 I shall, on ea - gle wings up - borne, to heav'n as - cend.



"I Am the One I Am"—by earth and heav'n con - fessed;
 I all on earth for - sake—its wis - dom, fame, and pow'r—
 You deign to call me friend; you call your - self my God!
 I shall be - hold your face; I shall your pow'r a - dore,



I bow and bless the sa - cred name for - ev - er blest.
 and you my on - ly por - tion make, my shield and tow'r.
 And you will save me to the end through Je - sus' blood.
 and sing the won - ders of your grace for - ev - er - more.

*THE GREETING

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

And also with you.

*HYMN OF PRAISE



- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

*THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1-6

¹ After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great."² But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of

my house is Eliezer of Damascus?”³ And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.”⁴ But the word of the LORD came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.”⁵ He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.”⁶ And he believed the LORD, and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 33:12-22

¹² Happy is the nation whose God | is the LORD!

Happy the people chosen to | be God’s heritage!

¹³ **The LORD looks | down from heaven,
and sees all | humankind.**

¹⁴ God sits firmly en- | throned and watches
all who dwell | on the earth.

¹⁵ **God fashions | all their hearts
and observes | all their deeds.**

¹⁶ A king is not saved by the size | of the army,
nor are warriors rescued by | their great strength.

¹⁷ **The horse gives vain | hope for victory;
despite its great strength it | cannot save.**

¹⁸ Truly, your eye is upon those who fear | you, O LORD,
upon those who wait for your | steadfast love,

¹⁹ **to deliver their | lives from death,
and to keep them alive in | time of famine.**

²⁰ Our innermost being waits for | you, O LORD,
our helper | and our shield.

²¹ **Surely, our heart rejoic- | es in you,
for in your holy name we | put our trust.**

²² Let your lovingkindness, O LORD, | be upon us,
even as we place our | hope in you.

THE SECOND READING: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

¹ Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ² Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³ By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

⁸ By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹ By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰ For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹ By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹² Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

¹³ All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴ for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵ If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



***THE GOSPEL: Luke 12:32-40**

The holy gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, according to St. Luke, the 12th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ³² “Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³ Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

³⁵ “Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶ be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷ Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. ³⁸ If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

³⁹ “But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰ You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

***HYMN**

Jesus, Priceless Treasure

LBW, “Green,” 457

Jesus, Priceless Treasure



1 Je - sus, price-less trea - sure, source of pur - est plea - sure,
2 In thine arm I rest me; foes who would mo - lest me
3 Hence, all fears and sad - ness, for the Lord of glad - ness,



tru - est friend to me: ah, how long I've pant - ed, and my heart has
can-not reach me here. Though the earth be shak - ing, ev - 'ry heart be
Je - sus, en - ters in. Those who love the Fa - ther, though the storms may



faint - ed, thirst-ing, Lord, for thee! Thine I am, O spot - less Lamb;
quak-ing, Je - sus calms my fear. Sin and hell in con - flict fell
gath - er, still have peace with - in. Yea, what-e'er I here must bear,



I will suf - fer nought to hide thee, nought I ask be - side thee.
with their bit - ter storms as - sail me, Je - sus will not fail me.
still in thee lies pur - est plea - sure, Je - sus, price-less trea - sure!

***THE APOSTLES' CREED**

With all the people of God, we confess our faith:

**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 of grace/Hear our prayer.

***THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

People may greet one another with these or similar words and/or gestures of peace.

*OFFERING



Let the vine- yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless- ing. Gath- er a har- vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath- er the hopes and dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

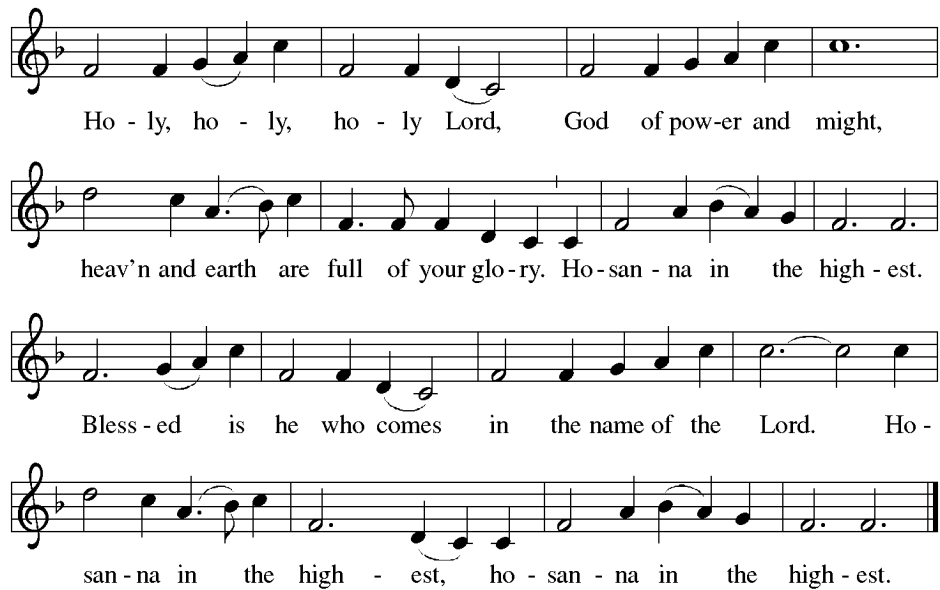
*OFFERING PRAYER

Creator God,
in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good
and the harvest is plentiful.
Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth
and our labor,
that we may work for the good of all;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

*THE 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 through Jesus Christ our Lord; who
on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened

to us the way to eternal life. And so with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Holy, mighty and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In your great love you sent to us Jesus your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached the good news to the poor,
and who on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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 for all people
for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering therefore,
his death, resurrection and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us
the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with whom and in whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

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



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

*INVITATION TO COMMUNE

The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice!

Thanks be to God!

All are welcome at our Lord's Table. Use the center aisle to come forward, pick up a small cup on the way. Receive the bread from Pastor Vasey and then proceed to receive the wine from one of two pouring chalices. After communing, please return to your pew by the side aisles. Those not communing are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

Know that the crucified and risen Christ gives himself to you in his holy supper. If you cannot drink wine, eat only bread. If you cannot eat bread, drink only wine.

THE COMMUNION

*AFTER COMMUNION

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

Amen.

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Triune God,
you gathered us to your table
and we drank deeply of your grace.
Send us out by your Spirit
to love our neighbors as ourselves
and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.

Amen.

*BLESSING

The God of love, Father, ☩ Son and Holy Spirit, who gives to us the gift of freedom, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

*HYMN O God, Our Help in Ages Past

LBW, "Green," 320

O God, Our Help in Ages Past



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
soon bears us all away;
we fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home!

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit!
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

OUR PRAYER LIST

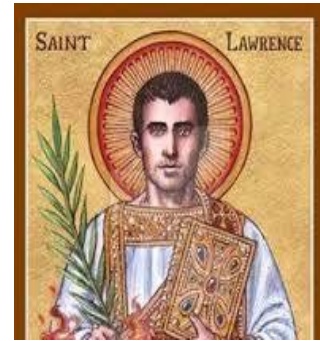
Liz Ruesskamp, Grace Arner, Vanessa Morgan, Gary Clark, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, Gary Cable, Virginia Pulaskie, Bunny Ditchfield, Judy Fortin, Ezra Buckman, Sheila Brassard, Kevin Rosini, Kathy Eshelman, Micah, Deb Buckman, Linda Rosini, Walt Haussmann, Kristin Rehm, Ariel, John Tartline, Donna Baker, George Poliska, April Clark, Connie Shaible, Ann Kuntz, John and Terry Holohan, and Shirley Kinney.

COMMEMORATIONS

Lawrence, deacon, martyr, died 258

Sunday, August 10, 2025

As one of the seven deacons of the church at Rome, Lawrence was responsible for the church's financial matters and for the care of the poor. Asked by the emperor to gather the church's treasure, he presented a collection of orphans, lepers, and the like. The enraged emperor had him put to death.



Clare, Abbess of San Damiano, died 1253

Monday, August 11, 2025

A contemporary of Francis of Assisi, Clare and a growing number of companions established a women's Franciscan community, called the Order of Poor Ladies, or Poor Clares. She inspired other women to pursue spiritual goals.



Florence Nightingale, died 1910; Clara Maass, died 1901; renewers of society

Wednesday, August 13, 2025

Nightingale was born in England, and horrified her wealthy family by deciding to become a nurse. She led a group of nurses in ministering in the midst of the Crimean War, and worked for hospital reform. Maass, a native of New Jersey, was also a war nurse, and volunteered as a subject for research on yellow fever. She died of the disease.



Maximilian Kolbe, died 1941; Kaj Munk, died 1944; martyrs

Thursday, August 14, 2023

Kolbe was a Franciscan arrested by the Nazis and confined in Auschwitz. Kolbe gave generously of his meager resources, and finally volunteered to be starved to death in place of another man. A Danish Lutheran pastor and playwright, Munk strongly denounced the Nazis who occupied Denmark in the Second World War. His sermons and articles helped to show the anti-Christian nature of the movement.



Mary, Mother of Our Lord

Friday, August 15, 2025

The church (including Martin Luther) honors Mary with the title theotokos, meaning "God-bearer," for her role in giving birth to the Son of God. Her song, the Magnificat, speaks eloquently of God's lifting the lowly and feeding the hungry.

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Today, August 10	Holy Communion, 9:30 am
Monday, August 11	Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm
Tuesday, August 12	Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm
Wednesday, August 13	Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm
Thursday, August 14	Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm
Friday, August 15	Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm
Saturday, August 16	Office Closed
Sunday, August 17	Holy Communion, 9:30 am Boyle Baptisms

PASTOR'S VACATION

Thank you to Ray Huff, Phil Thomas, Megan Cartwright and Vicki Haussmann for the preaching, reading leading and presiding at worship while I was on vacation! Well done indeed!

A NEW PRESIDING BISHOP FOR THE ELCA



The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has elected the The Rev. Yeheil Curry as our new presiding bishop. The election took place on July 30, 2025, during the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Phoenix, Arizona. Curry, who is the first Black presiding bishop in the ELCA's history, was elected on the fifth ballot. He previously served as the bishop of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod since 2019.

OUR STEWARDSHIP for August 3, 2025

Regular Offering	\$3,877.00
Operation Christmas Child	25.00
Flower Memorials/Tributes	70.00
Grand Total	\$3,972.00

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God; and
In honor of Ruth Ann Bigelow by Matt & Wanda Fortin and;
In honor of our grandson Dallas Hanford by Matt & Wanda Fortin and;
In honor of my grandchildren Ezra, Gillian, Asher and my great-granddaughter Ren by Deb Buckman

WORSHIP LEADERS for August 10, 2025

Lector	9:30 am	Karen Mariano
Communion Assistants	9:30 am	Ralph & Lou Ann Ziegler
Ushers	9:30 am	Fortin, Yapple & Wentzel
Hospitality	9:30 am	Gary & Donna Clark
Organist	9:30am	Sam Robinson
Altar Guild (AUGUST)		Cindy Huff & Linda Rosini

BIRTHDAYS

Susan Newcomer	8/10	Ruth Ann Bigelow	8/14
Lynna Robertson	8/10	Ray Huff	8/14
Gillian Buckman	8/11	Carl Albright	8/15
Dallas Fortin	8/11	Beverly Hieber	8/15
Charles Greevy	8/11		

ANNIVERSARIES

Tim & Deb Maggs	8/10
Ken & Laura Schreckengast	8/10
Neil & Kathy Eschelman	8/14
Ed & Brenda Gair	8/14
Karen & Stephen Mariano	8/14

KEEP IN MIND:

~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) email (bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org) or his cell phone (272-788-0161). Do not assume the pastor will know of your need any other way.

~ When you or a loved one has a change of address, email, or telephone number, please contact the church office at stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org or 570-323-4619. Please direct your intentions whether or not to share this information with our church family, so that in may be included in the weekly bulletin and/or the "Lion."

Summer Camp brochures are available in the church office or contact Camp Mount Luther at 570-922-1587 or at cml@campmountluther.org.





Don't forget to look for items for all of the types of kits in preparation for the fall. Especially needed are receiving blankets (medium weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn – 36” to 52” square (no polar fleece), baby shirts up to 24 months with no snap crotches, cotton fabric, diapers (flat fold) and items for school kits (we do not need pencils, erasers or bags). For more info please contact Deb Buckman.



A great big THANK YOU to everyone who continues to donate items for our Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes! Never doubt that God is using these seemingly small items for good. **“Our economic condition is very poor, so my parents cannot afford to buy toys for me. When I heard that I would get a gift box, I was so excited! Thank you to all of my foreign friends who sent me the toys and other amazing things.”**

–Samia, East Asia

Our shoeboxes are getting closer and closer to being filled with just three more months of collecting to go! We bet you might have a good guess as to what August collections might be. Did you say school supplies? Then you are absolutely correct!

In August we are indeed collecting **School Supplies** ~ crayons, pencils, pens, erasers, colored pencils, rulers, scissors (both kid and adult sizes)... you get the picture! Keep an eye out for those great sales that have already started!

These items (or any others you find) may be placed in our red, OCC bin located in the Narthex. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

*The age ranges for the boxes we fill are 2-4, 5-9, and 10-14 (both boys and girls)



Red Cross Blood Drive

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee recently hosted its first of three blood drives. Fifteen pints of much needed blood was donated. We learned that those pints could save up to 45 lives! Our next blood drive will be Monday, September 22, 2025 from 11:00A – 3:00P in Fellowship Hall.

Blessing Box Needs:

The Parish Life and Evangelism and Fellowship Committees are asking for two specific donations. They are **Star-Kist Tuna Creations: Deli Style Tuna Salad and Star-Kist Chicken Creations: Chicken Salad**. These items do not need refrigeration and resist spoiling due to extreme temperatures. A container is available in the Narthex for these specific items. These two items will be collected throughout the summer.

Each week either the Monday Sandwich Crew or the Wednesday Sandwich Crew make 16-24 assorted sandwiches for New Covenant UCC's Blessing Boxes. This outreach has grown increasingly expensive. We welcome monetary donations in addition to the Star-Kist donations. If you would like to participate in the making of sandwiches speak with Becky Miller Pryor. Both men and women are welcome to join us.



WANT TO EXPLORE WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A LUTHERAN CHRISTIAN? Adults wishing to unite with St. Mark's in church membership are invited to contact PASTOR VASEY at 570-323-4619 or email: stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org.



A bus trip to Stone Gables Estate* in Elizabethtown, PA is being organized by Cheryl Williams. This trip is being planned for Wednesday, November 19, 2025. The bus will be pulling out around 9:00 AM from Beiter's parking lot. The trip will include bus fare, a meal catered by "Food for Thought Catering", a ride on the Santa Express train, and the National Christmas center followed by the Christmas light drive-thru. All are included in the price of \$145.09 per person. If interested, please contact Cheryl at (570) 327-1627.

* Stone Gables Estate is a biblical faith-based ministry/business. Their mission is to donate 100% of net profits to aid abandoned children worldwide.



Backpack Blessing

Please join us Sunday, August 17th during our 9:30 AM worship service as we bless our backpacks for the upcoming school year. All students, teachers, educators, business executives, attorneys, physicians, nurses, in short, 'anyone who carries a bag or satchel' are encouraged to bring their bag with them as we prayerfully send you into the 2025-26 school year.

We pray: Lord bless this backpack and the one who carries it. May they feel your love and protection in all they do. ~ Amen

Pastors' Monthly Luncheon Returns

Beginning September 11, 2025 we will host the Center City Pastors and others at a luncheon beginning at 1:00 PM in the Middle Lounge.

Luncheons are held the second Thursday of each month from September through May. We would welcome help with the meal, particularly a dessert to serve.

Generally we plan on twelve attendees. Please speak to Becky Miller Pryor if you would like to participate or donate a part of the meal.



Please join us as our Sunday School classes resume September 14th beginning at 9:15 AM. Our Adult Class will meet with an overview and study of the Gospel according to St. Matthew. There will be no shortage of discussion, learning and laughter as Pastor leads this dedicated class in study. We look forward to sharing this time of fellowship and study and hope to have you join us! **All are welcome!**

175th Anniversary Celebration

The 175th Anniversary of the founding of St. Mark's Lutheran Church (formed as the First English Evangelical Lutheran Church) will take place in early 2027. This milestone anniversary is worthy of celebration, and we would like to begin planning for this special occasion. In an effort to accomplish this task, a 175th Anniversary Committee is being formed with our first meeting on Sunday, September 14th after late service. This will be a preliminary meeting to begin discussion and brainstorming on how we would like to proceed. We are looking for committee members (and hopefully committee co-chairs). If you are interested please come! If you are interested but can't make this meeting, please reach out to Vicki Haussmann. Looking forward to seeing you there!



Urgent Needs at Shepherd of the Streets

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee recently received news of an urgent need for specific hygiene products for men and women who come to the Shepherd's office. Of greatest need are women's deodorant, toothpaste, bar soap, body wash, shampoo and paper towels. Any assistance you can give to this request is greatly appreciated.

Thank You

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to the congregation for their generous donations this month of TastyKake's for Redeemer's dinner and for the many, many boxes of cereal for the United Churches Food Pantry.

Our final cereal Sunday of 2025 will be September 14, 2025.

Can we beat this month's donations?



Fall Sale

The clock is ticking and in a few more weeks it will be time to prepare for our Fall Bazaar/Sale in Fellowship Hall. Be thinking of how you (men and women) can help with set-up, the sale on September 12 and 13 and clean up. Many hands make for light work. Be looking for more information in the weeks to come.

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