

REFORMATION SUNDAY

October 26, 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, 8 & 10:30 am

(Lutheran Book of Worship, Setting 1)

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

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of and ☩ 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 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.

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

Silence for reflection and self-examination

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 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.

In the mercy of almighty God Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I there declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the $\dagger$ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

***HYMN**

A Mighty Fortress

LBW, "Green," 229

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -
4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



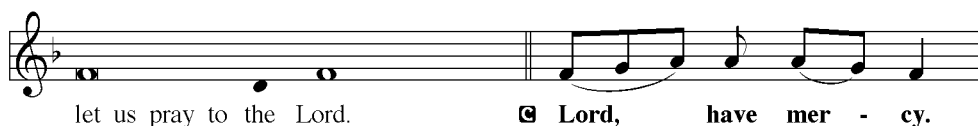
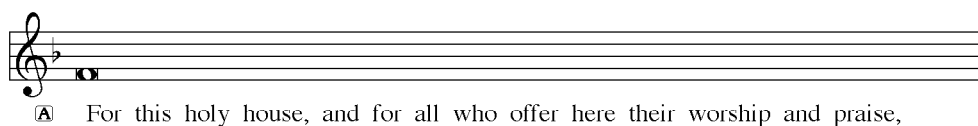
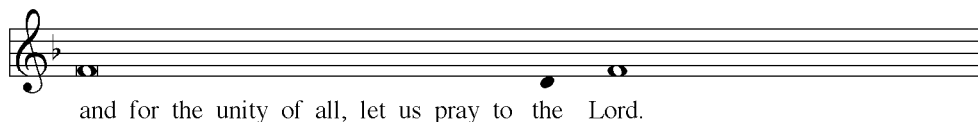
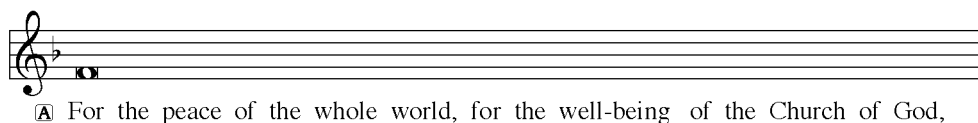
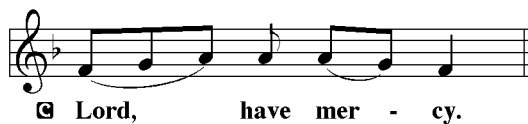
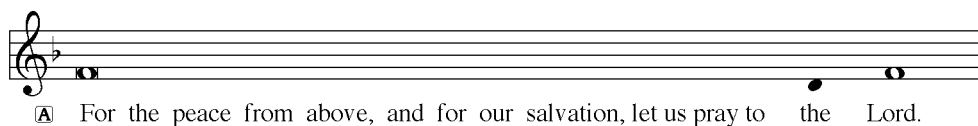
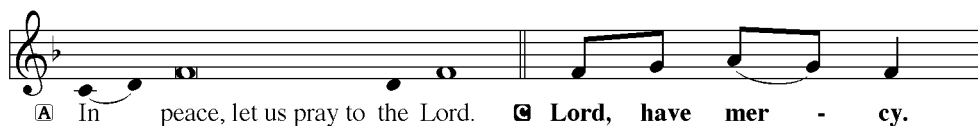
he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

*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.

*KYRIE



*HYMN OF PRAISE

C This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. I Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was
 slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
 C This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. II Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and
 strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.
 C This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. I Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and
 might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.
 C This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. II For the Lamb who was
 slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.
 C This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

***THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us steadfast in your word, protect and comfort us in times of trial, defend us against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on all the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE FIRST READING: Sirach 35:12-17

¹² Give to the Most High as he has given to you
and as generously as you can afford.

¹³ For the Lord is the one who repays,
and he will repay you sevenfold.

¹⁴ Do not offer him a bribe, for he will not accept it,
¹⁵ and do not rely on a dishonest sacrifice,
for the Lord is the judge,
and with him there is no partiality.

¹⁶ He will not show partiality to the poor,
but he will listen to the prayer of one who is wronged.

¹⁷ He will not ignore the supplication of the orphan
or the widow when she pours out her complaint.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 84:1-7

¹ How dear to me | is your dwelling,
O | LORD of hosts!

² **My soul has a desire and longing for the courts | of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the | living God.**

³ Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest where she may | lay
her young,

by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my king | and my God.

⁴ **Happy are they who dwell | in your house!
They will always be | praising you.**

⁵ Happy are the people whose strength | is in you,
whose hearts are set on the | pilgrims' way.

⁶ **Those who go through the balsam valley will find it a | place of springs,
for the early rains have covered it with | pools of water.**

⁷ They will climb from | height to height,
and the God of gods will be | seen in Zion.

THE SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

⁶ As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷ I have fought the good fight; I have finished the race; I have kept the faith. ⁸ From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

¹⁶ At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! ¹⁷ But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸ The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



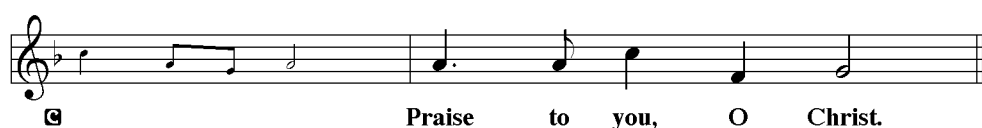
***THE GOSPEL: Luke 18:9-14**

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



⁹ [Jesus] also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: ¹⁰ “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ ¹³ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴ I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other, for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

The gospel of the Lord.



THE SERMON

The Reverend Craig Miller, Bishop, Upper Susquehanna Synod

*HYMN Out of the Depths I Cry to You

LBW, “Green,” 295

Out of the Depths I Cry to You

1 Out of the depths I cry to you; O Fa - ther,
 2 All things you send are full of grace; you crown our
 3 It is in God that we shall hope, and not in
 4 My soul is wait - ing for the Lord as one who

hear me call - ing. In - cline your ear to my dis - tress
 lives with fa - vor. All our good works are done in vain
 our own mer - it. We rest our fears in his good Word
 longs for morn - ing; no watch - er waits with great - er hope

in spite of my re - bel - ling. Do not re - gard
 with - out our Lord and Sav - ior. We praise the God
 and trust his Ho - ly Spir - it. His prom - ise keeps
 than I for his re - turn - ing. I hope as Is -

my sin - ful deeds. Send me the grace my spir -
 who gives faith sure; and saves us from the grip -
 us strong and sure; we trust the ho - ly grip -
 rael in the Lord; he sends re - demp - tion through

it needs; with - out it I am noth - ing.
 of death; our lives are in his keep - ing.
 na - ture in - scribed up - on our tem - ples.
 his Word. We praise him for his mer - cy.

***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/Receive 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.

ANTHEM (10:30am) *God Be in My Head* – John Rutter

*OFFERING

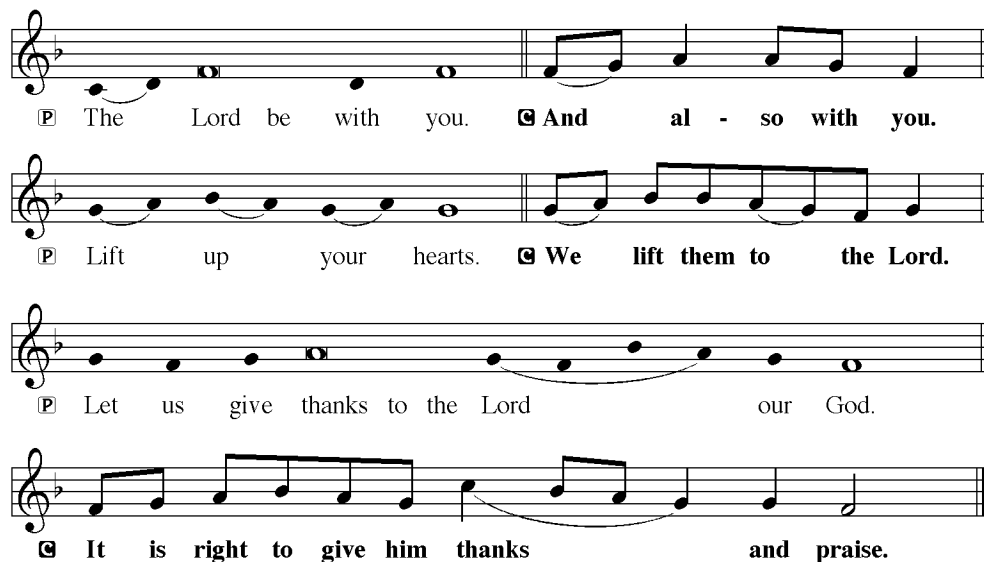


Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your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

*OFFERING PRAYER

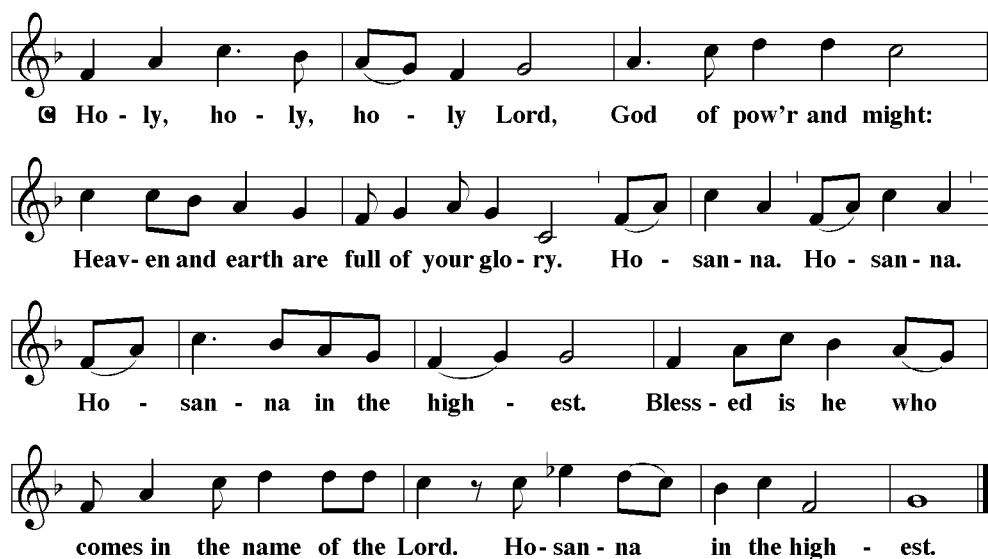
Lord of the harvest,
we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.
Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches,
but on you, who richly provides for us.
Multiply what we have gathered
to bless all who are suffering and in need,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

*THE 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 truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, for the Good News of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. On this day he overcame sin, and death that we may be made righteous in your sight by grace through faith in Christ alone. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and singing:



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.

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.

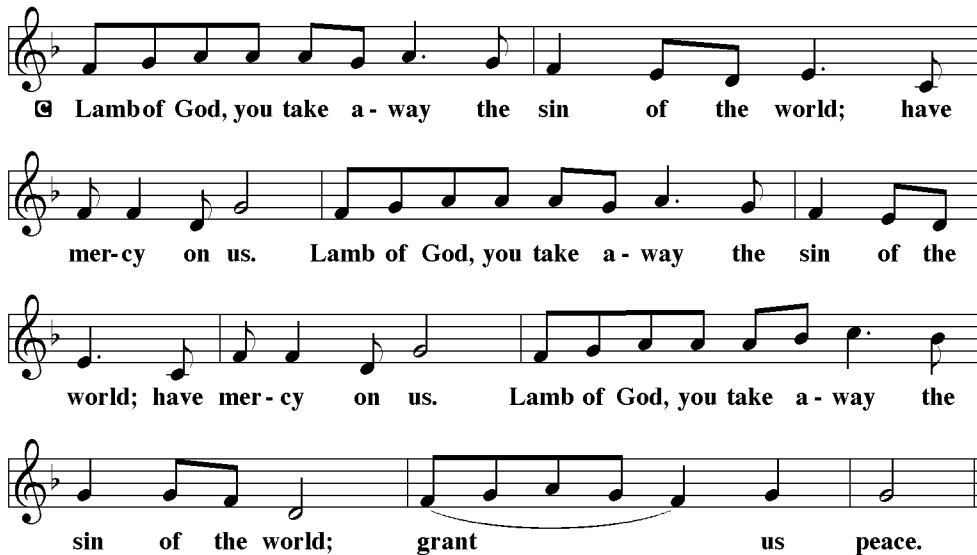
Amen.

***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**



☩ 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 COMMUNE**

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.

Come to this meal of mercy.

Amen. 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**

O God,
through this meal you have strengthened us
and appointed us to be your servants.
Send us to do good
and to share our possessions with all in need.
We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen

***BLESSING**

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

Amen.

***HYMN Built on a Rock**

LBW, "Green," 365

Built on a Rock



1 Built on a rock the church shall stand, e - ven when stee - ples are
 2 Not in our tem - ples made with hands God, the Al - might - y, is
 3 We are God's house of liv - ing stones, built for his own hab - i -
 4 Yet in this house, an earth - ly frame, Je - sus the chil - dren is
 5 Through all the pass - ing years, O Lord, grant that, when church bells are



fall - ing; crum - bled have spires in ev - 'ry land, bells still are
 dwell - ing; high in the heav'n's his tem - ple stands, all earth - ly
 ta - tion; he fills our hearts, his hum - ble thrones, grant - ing us
 bless - ing; hith - er we come to praise his name, faith in our
 ring - ing, man - y may come to hear God's Word where he this



chim - ing and call - ing— call - ing the young and old to rest, call - ing the
 tem - ples ex - cel - ling. Yet he who dwells in heav'n a - bove deigns to a -
 life and sal - va - tion. Were two or three to seek his face, he in their
 Sav - ior con - fess - ing. Je - sus to us his Spir - it sent, mak - ing with
 prom - ise is bring - ing: I know my own, my own know me; you, not the



souls of those dis - tressed, long - ing for life ev - er - last - ing.
 bide with us in love, mak - ing our bod - ies his tem - ple.
 midst would show his grace, bless - ings up - on them be - stow - ing.
 us his cov - e - nant, grant - ing his chil - dren the king - dom.
 world, my face shall see; my peace I leave with you. A - men

Text: Nicolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Carl Doving, 1867–1937, adapt.
 Music: KIRKEN DEN ER ET GAMMELT HUS, Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812–1887

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*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart
 Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

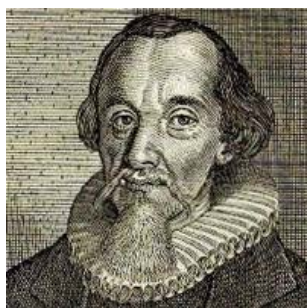
OUR PRAYER LIST

Grace Arner, Vanessa Morgan, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, Gary Cable, Virginia Pulaskie, Bunny Ditchfield, Ezra Buckman, Sheila Brassard, Kevin Rosini, Kathy Eshelman, Micah, Deb Buckman, Linda Rosini, Walt Haussmann, Kristin Rehm, Ariel, John Tartline, George Poliska, Connie Shaible, Ann Kuntz, John and Terry Holohan, Loretta Hawe and Len.

WELCOME BISHOP MILLER. Today St. Mark's welcomes the Rev. Craig Miller, Bishop of our Upper Susquehanna Synod! We thank Bp. Miller for preaching and presiding at both services today at St. Mark's! A "Question and Answer Forum" with Bp. Miller takes place in our Chapel today at 9:30 am. All are welcome!

COMMEMERATIONS

Philipp Nicolai, died 1608; Johann Heermann, died 1647; Paul Gerhardt, died 1676; hymnwriters



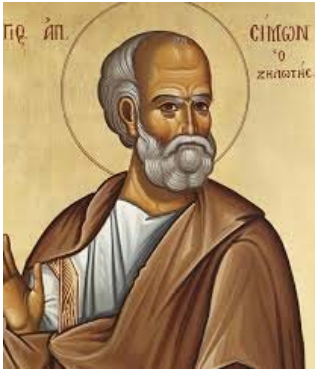
Sunday, October 26, 2025

These great hymnwriters all worked in seventeenth-century Germany in times of war and plague. Nicolai, a pastor, lost 1,300 parishioners to plague, 170 in one week. He wrote "O Morning Star, how fair and bright" and "Wake, awake, for night is flying." Heermann's hymns, including "Ah, holy Jesus," often express the

emotions of faith. Gerhardt, perhaps the greatest Lutheran hymnwriter, was a pastor in Berlin.

Simon and Jude, Apostles

Tuesday, October 28, 2025



We know little about these apostles. Simon is listed as "the zealot" or Cananean in New Testament lists. Jude, also called Thaddeus, asked Jesus at the last supper why he had revealed himself to the disciples but not to the world.

Reformation Day

Friday, October 31, 2025



By the end of the seventeenth century, many Lutheran churches celebrated a festival commemorating Martin Luther's posting of the Ninety-five Theses, a summary of abuses in the church of his time. At the heart of the reform movement was the gospel, the good news that it is by grace through faith that we are justified and set free.

All Saints Day

Saturday, November 1, 2025



The custom of commemorating all of the saints of the church on a single day goes back at least to the third century. All Saints Day celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who make up the body of Christ. On this day or the following Sunday, many congregations will remember the faithful who have died during the past year. In 2025 All Saints will be celebrated on Sunday, November 2 at both services.

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Today, October 26	Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 am Bishop Miller preaching /presiding Hospitality, Narthex Forum with Bp. Miller, 9:30 am, Chapel
Monday, October 27	Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm
Tuesday, October 28	Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm
Wednesday, October 29	Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm
Thursday, October 30	Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm
Friday, October 31	Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm
Saturday, November 1	Office Closed
Sunday, November 2	All Saints' Sunday Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 am Sunday School, 9:15 am

All Saints' Sunday

All Saints' Sunday will be celebrated at St. Mark's on November 2 at both services. All Saints' remembers and give thanks to God for all the faithful in Christ past, present and future. Be sure to join us as we commemorate the faithful and commit ourselves to be “servants of Christ”.

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN: NOVEMBER 2-23, 2025

Our 2025 Stewardship Campaign begins next Sunday, November 2 and concludes Sunday, November 23. Our theme this year is “Because of God's Great Mercy”. During these several weeks as we celebrate all our congregation does in Jesus' name within St. Mark's, our community and around the world, think and pray about how you might respond to God's great mercy in Jesus Christ.

OUR STEWARDSHIP for October 19, 2025

Regular Offering	\$2,067.00
Plate Offerings	60.00
World Hunger	50.00
Food Pantry	50.00
Global Mission	50.00
Sunday School Offering	5.00
Parish Life	90.00
Operation Christmas Child	150.00
Flower Memorials/Tributes	35.00
Synod Benevolence	42.00
Crop Walk	25.00
Evangelism & Fellowship	25.00
Grand Total	\$2,649.00

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God; and
In loving memory of Elmer D. & Eva F. Hunt and William W. & Frederica M.
Bastian by Romain & Evelyn Bastian; and
In loving memory of John C. Rees by Ruth and son, Grant. And in loving memory
of Lisa Rees by her husband Grant and her mother-in-law, Ruth Rees; and

In honor of our daughter, Hannah, on her 24th birthday by Vicki and Drew Haussmann; and

In loving memory of my grandmother, Freda Shaner, on what would have been her 100th birthday on October 31st, by Shelby Weber.

WORSHIP LEADERS for October 26, 2025

Lector	8:00 am	Drew Haussmann
	10:30 am	Phil Thomas
Communion Assistants	8:00 am	Brian Jackson
	10:30 am	Deb Buckman & Mindy Wentzel
Ushers	8:00 am	Miller/Poff
	10:30 am	Gary & Shelby Weber
Hospitality	9:15 am	Hospitality in Narthex
Organist		Sam Robinson
Altar Guild (OCTOBER)		Bev Hieber

BIRTHDAYS

Hazel Boone	10/26	Barb Thomas	10/29
Naomi Boone	10/26	Deb Maggs	10/30
Hannah Haussmann	10/26	Donna Maule	10/31
Kathy Eshelman	10/27		
Drew Haussmann	10/28		

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."

Thank You

Dear Pastor Vasey and the Congregation of St. Mark's Church,

Thank you so much for welcoming our family for the baptism of our two boys. It meant a lot to me personally to have my children baptized at the church that has

meant so much to my family for so many years. Please accept this donation to the church as a thank you for everything the church did to make our day so special.

With Love, The Boyle Family



CROP Walk

The CROP walk was another huge success on October 12th. It was a beautiful afternoon, with amazing company; Pastor Vasey, Karen Mariano, Matt & Wanda Fortin, Dan Simmons from St. James Lutheran Church in Rauchtown and myself. We were especially grateful to have Barb Thomas join us and make the entire three miles! With the support and generosity of our congregations, we raised \$1,157.00!! \$290.00 will support local food banks and \$867.00 national & international programs. THANK YOU! We made one more step to Help Stop Hunger. Next year, we hope you can walk with us!

Brenda Gair



On Saturday, October 18, 2025 our kits were delivered to Faith Lutheran Church in Lewisburg. There were 2 quilts, 22 personal care kits, 70 school kits, 8 fabric kits, 6 baby care kits and 5 fleece blankets. Thank you to everyone who donated!!!! These kits will be distributed to East and West Africa, Latin America, Europe, Asia, the Middle East and the United States and will help to end poverty, injustice and human suffering. Deb B dabuckman65@gmail.com.

Family Promise

Thanks to all who helped with our family promise hosting. Our next hosting is coming up quickly Nov. 16 to Nov. 22. This is our last hosting for this year. Currently there are two families - a mother with 7 children and another mother

with 2 children. As you know this can change quickly so I will keep you up to date as I receive information. Sunday and Tuesday are already spoken for. Also - I am looking for a co-worker to help me with this task. It is not hard - scheduling the meals and making sure there are not three nights of spaghetti! is the hardest part. If you are interested in helping please talk to me - 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

November brings much excitement for Operation Christmas Child as it is time to pack our shoeboxes! We have been collecting all sorts of items over the past 10 months, and it is now time to pull everything together! We will be packing our shoeboxes in Fellowship Hall on **Sunday, November 9th**. Due to the Civic Chorus concert in the afternoon, we will begin packing shoeboxes after the 8:00 service to get a bit of a “head start”. Have no fear though, packing will also take place after the 10:30 service. A light lunch will be served around 11:30, and a brief presentation will show how meaningful and life-changing these gifts are to the kids who receive a shoebox filled with all sorts of goodies. Plus, packing shoeboxes for others is tons of fun! This promises to be a fun hour (or less) with the goal of packing *at least* 75 boxes to be sent out to children in need. Come see what this outreach is all about. You won’t be disappointed!

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



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.



Urgent Needs At.....

Shepherd of the Streets: Toothbrushes and toothpaste, Women's deodorant, Disposable razors, Laundry pods, Bars of soap, Q-tips and Band-Aids.

United Churches Food Pantry: Again, many thanks to Ray and Cindy Huff and the congregation for their very generous donations made during our annual Harvest Home. As we near the holiday season, please consider continuing to offer items to be used by the Pantry. Any help you can give is greatly appreciated as the need is great.

Church Women United Visit St. Mark's

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee will host the Church Women United of Lycoming County as they celebrate World Community Day on Saturday, November 1, 2025 beginning at 10:00 AM in Fellowship Hall. CWU will present a bible study based on peace and kindness followed by light refreshments and fellowship. Monetary donations are being requested for their Christmas Stocking Project that distributes stockings to 1,000 area nursing home residents. All women of St. Mark's are cordially invited to attend.



This year's Little Lambs' Halloween Party theme is: Noah's Ark Parade. The parade of costumes will begin at 9:30 am, October 31, 2025 and march through our Parish House. If you would like to participate in providing "treats" please bring them to the church office.



Williamsport Civic Chorus Concert

Sacred Voices: Divine Harmony from Martines to Mozart on Sunday Nov. 9 at 3 PM here at St. Mark's. Cost: general admission - \$12 at door, Senior/Student \$10 at door. \$2 discount if purchased online through Williamsportcivicchorus.org or at RM Sides or Otto's bookstore.



Williamsport Chamber Choir & Orchestra present:

REFRAINS OF THE REFORMATION

Samuel Robinson, Artistic Director

"The centerpiece of the concert will be Johann Sebastian Bach's Cantata 80, Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott ("A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"), based on Luther's well-known hymn. The program will also include works by Felix Mendelssohn and feature a special collaboration by the Williamsport Youth Choir."

Concert Details:
Friday, November 14, 2025
7:30 PM
St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Williamsport, PA
Tickets: \$10 adults/\$5 students at the door.



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