The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost June 16, 2024

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 <u>bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org</u>

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 9:30 am

(Lutheran Book of Worship, Setting Two)

Please Note:

Hand sanitizer is available for your use. Offerings may be received by way of offering plates as you enter or leave. All hymns are printed in back of bulletin.

Bold print indicates Congregation.

*Please stand as you are able.

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP

The mustard seed becomes a great shrub that shelters the birds, recalling ancient images of the tree of life. We'd expect a cedar or a sequoia, but Jesus finds the power of God better imaged in a tiny, no-account seed. It's not the way we expect divine activity to look. Yet the tree of life is here, in the cross around which we gather, the tree into which we are grafted through baptism, the true vine that nourishes us with its fruit in the cup we share. It may not appear all that impressive, but while nobody's looking it grows with a power beyond our understanding.

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

In the name of the Father and of the Son, + and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, we confess our sin.

Kneel/stand. Silence is kept for reflection.

God, our provider,

help us.

It is hard to believe there is enough to share.

We question your ways when they differ from our ways.

We turn to our own understanding

rather than trusting in you.

We take offense at your teachings and your love.

Turn us again to you.

Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world.

Amen.

Beloved people of God:

in Jesus, you are fed and nourished.

By Jesus, there is always more than enough.

Through Jesus, 4 the bread of life,

you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

Amen.

***HYMN** We Plow the Fields and Scatter

(LBW, "Green", 362)

*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



*THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE FIRST READING...... Ezekiel 17:22-24 22Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. 23On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind. 24All the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD. I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. I the LORD have spoken; I will accomplish it. The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God. PSALM 92:1-4, 12-15 IIt is a good thing to give thanks | to the LORD,

to sing praise to your name, | O Most High;

2to herald your love | in the morning

30n the psaltery, and | on the lyre,

and your faithful- | ness at night;

S_{age}

and to the melody | of the harp.

4For you have made me glad by your | acts, O LORD; and I shout for joy because of the works | of your hands.

12The righteous shall flourish | like a palm tree, and shall spread abroad like a ce- | dar of Lebanon.

13Those who are planted in the house | of the LORD shall flourish in the courts | of our God;

14they shall still bear fruit | in old age; they shall be | green and succulent;

15that they may show how up- | right the LORD is, my rock, in whom there is | no injustice.

THE SECOND READING....... 2 Corinthians 5:6-17

6So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—7for we walk by faith, not by sight. 8Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. 9So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. 10For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

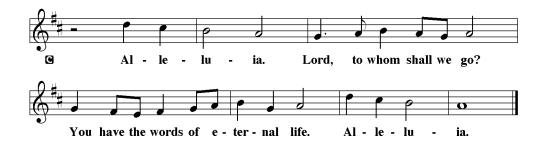
11Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. 12We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. 13For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.14For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. 15And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

16From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. 17So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

*THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 4th chapter



26[Jesus] said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,27and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. 28The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. 29But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

30He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? 31It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; 32yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

33With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; 34he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

The gospel of the Lord.



THE SERMON

*THE APOSTLES' CREED

Living together in trust and hope, 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

*THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION: After each petition, "Merciful God/Receive our prayer".

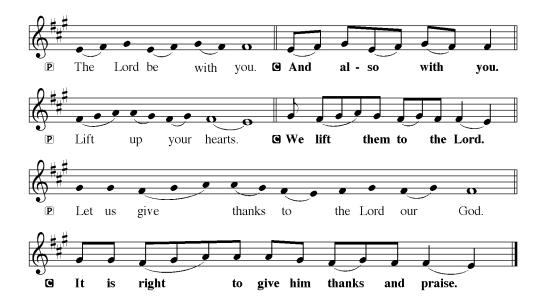
*THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

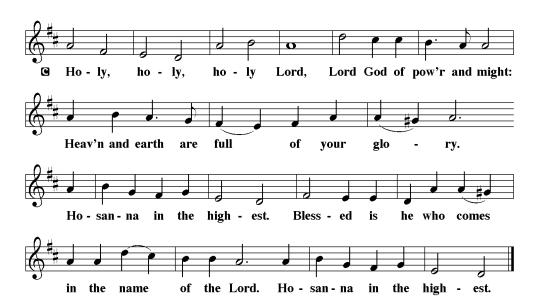
And also with you.

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

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and 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 eternal life. And so with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: 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 good news to the poor, who on the cross opened his arms to all, and by his resurrection brought eternal life.

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 which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to 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,
and unite the wills
of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood
of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom with you
and the Holy Spirit
be all honor and glory,
now and forever.

Amen.

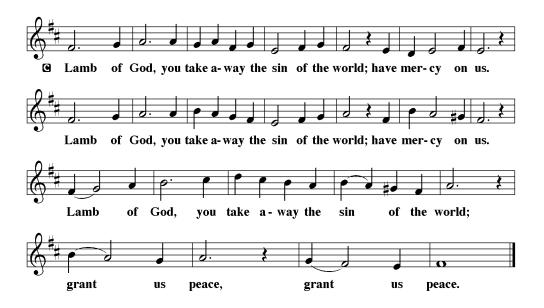
*OUR LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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,

*LAMB OF GOD

forever and ever. Amen.



*INVITATION

Christ has set the table with more than enough for all! Come! Amen.

COMMUNION

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Use the center aisle, pick up a small glass on the way. Receive the bread and then proceed to receive the wine by way of a

pouring chalice. After communing return to your pew using a side aisle. Those not communing may come forward for a blessing.

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

*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

Jesus, Bread of life,
we have received from your table
more than we could ever ask.
As you have nourished us in this meal,
now strengthen us to love the world with your own life.
In your name we pray. **Amen.**

*BLESSING

The blessing of God, Father, Son, + and Holy Spirit, who provides for us, feeds us and journeys with us be upon you now and forever.

Amen.

***HYMN** Sent Forth By God's Blessing

(LBW, "Green", 221)

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

THE POSTLUDE



Liz Ruesskamp, Grace Arner, Vanessa Morgan, Gary Clark, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, April Clark, Gary Cable, Elsie Sechler, Virginia Pulaskie, Bunny Ditchfield, Judy Fortin, Ezra Buckman, Sheila Brassard, Kevin Rosini, Kathy Eshelman, Micah, Deb Buckman, Linda Rosini, Walt

Haussmann, Kristin Rehm, Yvonne and Gerry Myers, Ariel, John Bower, Joseph Baur, Glenn Yaple, John Tartline, Bob Miller, Carl Hieber, Ann Kuntz.



This week's Bulletin is sponsored By YOU. Be a sponsor. Thank You!



OUR STEWARDSHIP June 9, 2024



GRAND TOTAL \$3,196	
Flower Memorials / Tributes 35	.00
Plate Offerings 12	.00
Regular Offering \$3,149	.00

ALTAR FLOWERS

Today Sunday, June 16, 2024 are given to the glory of God:



- + In Loving Memory of Prudence and William Poff by their son, Herb Poff.
- + In Honor of Sarah and Elliot Jones' 12 wedding anniversary by Sally Bjornstad
- +In Honor of our 30th anniversary by Shelby and Gary Weber.

Spring Cleaning? Got Stuff?

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee and the Women of St. Mark's need donations for our annual Fall Sale. We will need many more donations than we currently have if we are to have a sale in 2024.

We are accepting holiday decorations, housewares, linens, toys, small working electronics, gadgets, dishes, jewelry, lamps, art work and the list goes on. If you don't want it, we probably can sell it. Not certain we can use it, speak to Becky Miller Pryor before bringing it.



WORSHIP LEADERS June 16, 2024

Lector	9:30AM	Brian Jackson

Communion Assistants 9:30AM Deb Buckman and Mindy Wentzel

Organist Sam Robinson

Ushers: 9:30AM Mike Jensen, captain

Pam Jensen, Shelby & Gary Weber

Altar Guild JUNE Cindy Huff and Linda Rosini

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!

Summer Hospitality!



The summer months are once again upon us and with them come long, lazy days, swimming, camping, smores, suntans, and all sorts of fun, summery things. At St. Mark's, summer also means a single service beginning at 9:30 AM.

We look forward to sharing hospitality with each other after the 9:30 service, and ask that you please consider signing up to share a few treats ~ nothing fancy is required! Perhaps find a friend to help

make the load just a bit lighter. Sign-up sheets may be found in the "Hospitality Binder" on the "Hospitality Table" in the Narthex. We look forward to spending a little time together on these Summer Sunday mornings. Thank you for helping!

The Great Grab and Go



On Sunday, June 30, after the service, a few able-bodied folks are need to bring all the July Fourth supplies from the basement to Fellowship Hall. With enough volunteers this task takes 10-15 minutes. If you are able to help, meet in Fellowship Hall after the

service. Thank you for any assistance you can give.



The Bus Trip to see "Daniel" at Sight and Sound Theatre

Wednesday, September 11, 2024. The cost of the trip, which includes the show, meal and bus fare is \$153.00/person. We will depart from the lower west end of Beiter's Parking Lot (Williamsport) at 6 am sharp. Please contact Cheryl Williams (570) 327-1627 to reserve space and to answer any questions concerning the trip.

Cereal Sunday Success



Our first Cereal Sunday was a success. We collected 40 family size boxes of cereal and 12 single-serve boxes for a total of 52 boxes of assorted cereals! The United Churches Food Pantry was thrilled to receive them. If you missed last Sunday's collection, no worries. The next collection date is Sunday, July 14, 2024.

FYI: In 2023, we collected a total of 291 boxes of cereal. Can we get to 300 boxes of cereal this year?





This year we will celebrate God and country on our front lawn on Thursday, July 4, 2024. Sam Robinson will entertain folks in the nave with an assortment of organ arrangements. With only TWO Sundays and a few days until this event, it is not too soon to gather needed items or to make a monetary donation. Check out the June Lion for more

details. A tub is in the Narthex for donations.

Volunteers are needed to serve and clean-up after the event. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex.



Committee Meeting Notice

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee will meet for their monthly meeting on Tuesday, July 2, 2024 at 11:00 AM in Middle Lounge. The main business will be to package treat bags for the July Fourth Party. All are welcome.

Blessing Box Needs



With the hot temperatures of summer, it is difficult to provide our usual meat and cheese sandwiches. In addition to the many peanut butter and jelly sandwiches we will provide during the summer months, the Parish Life and Evangelism and Fellowship Committees are asking for two specific donations. They are **Star-Kist Tuna Creations: Deli Style Tuna**

<u>Salad</u> and Star-Kist Chicken Creations: <u>Chicken Salad</u>. Both come in a foil packet and are ready to eat. These items do not need refrigeration and resist spoiling due to extreme temperatures. A container is available in the Narthex for these specific items.

P.S.: We will be collecting these packets throughout the summer.

Many times, these items are on sale at our local supermarkets.



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Monday, June 17, -Sunday, June 23, 2024



Monday, June 17 Council ML 6:00PM Tuesday, June 18

Wednesday, June 19 Thursday, June 20 Friday, June 21 Saturday, June 22 Sunday, June 23

Holy Communion 9:30AM

BIRTHDAYS

Brandon Fortin
Richard Reitz
June 20
Robert Campbell
June 21
Cheryl Williams
June 22
Taigen Tebbs
June 23

ANNIVERSARIES

Ann and Charles Kuntz June 18 Shelby and Gary Weber June 18 Brenda and John Bower June 21 Susan and James Newcomer, Sr. June 23

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 email jbaur@stmarkswilliamsport.org



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 (<u>bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org</u>). 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.

COMMEMORATIONS

Emanuel Nine, martyrs, died 2015



Monday, June 17, 2024
On June 17, 2015, Clementa C.
Pinckney, Cynthia Marie Graham
Hurd, Susie Jackson, Ethel Lee
Lance, DePayne Middleton-Doctor,
Tywanza Sanders, Daniel Lee
Simmons, Sharonda Coleman-

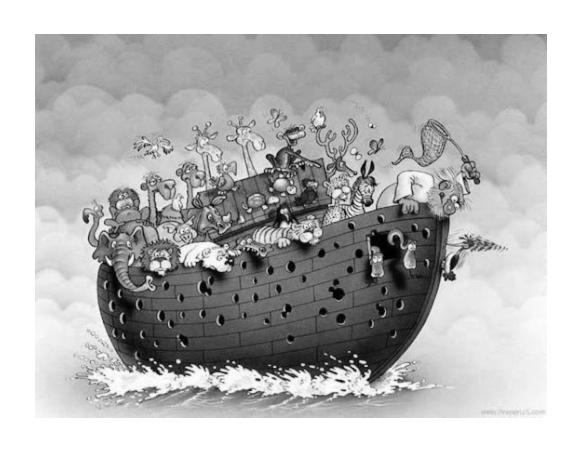
Singleton, and Myra Thompson were murdered by a self-professed white supremacist while they were gathered for Bible study and prayer at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church (often referred to as Mother Emanuel) in Charleston, South Carolina. Pastors Pinckney and Simmons were both graduates of the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. A resolution to commemorate June 17 as a day of repentance for the martyrdom of the Emanuel Nine was adopted by the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on August 8, 2019. Congregations of the ELCA are encouraged reaffirm their commitment to repenting of the sins of racism and white supremacy which continue to plague this church, to venerate the martyrdom of the Emanuel Nine, and to mark this day of penitence with study and prayer.

Onesimos Nesib, translator, evangelist, died 1931



Friday, June 21, 2024

Onesimos was born in Ethiopia. Captured, enslaved, and taken to Eritrea, he was there freed by Swedish missionaries. He translated the Bible into his native Oromo and returned to preach there.





Sponsorships are available

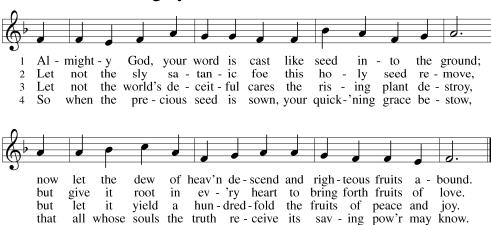


We Plow the Fields and Scatter



Text: Matthias Claudius, 1740–1815; tr. Jane M. Campbell, 1817–1878, alt. Music: WIR PFLÜGEN, Johann A. P. Schulz, 1747–1800

Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast



Text: John Cawood, 1775–1852, alt. Music: ST. FLAVIAN, J. Day, Psalter, 1562

Sent Forth by God's Blessing



Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt. Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune Text \otimes 1964 World Library Publications, 3708 River Rd., Franklin Park, IL 60131-2158. All rights reserved.

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