

**The Second Sunday of Advent**

**December 8, 2024**

*The Chrismon Service*

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**

142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701

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Office (570-323-4619) Fax (570-323-2452)

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***A Veni Emmanuel Setting for Holy Communion***

**(9:30 am)**

**Please Note:**

**Hand sanitizer is available for your use. Offerings may be received by way of offering plates as you enter or leave.**

**Bold print indicates Congregation.**

***A GUIDE TO HYMNAL USE: LBW, Green Book; WOV, Blue Book***

***\*Please stand as you are able.***

**INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP**

*Today's liturgy is an order of worship for decorating the Christmas Tree with "Chrismons". Chrismons are "Christian Monograms"; symbols of Christ and his ministry. There is no formal sermon today for the message is found in scripture, narration, hymns and symbols of our tree.*

**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.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,

alive in the world,

reviving creation,

arriving soon.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God  
and of one another.

*Kneel/stand. A brief silence is observed.*

God of mercy,

**we confess that we have sinned.**

**We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.**

**We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

God of might,

**we confess that we have sinned.**

**We have turned away from our neighbors.**

**We have trusted false promises.**

God in our midst,

**we confess that we have sinned.**

**We plead: come to us.**

**Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

A righteous branch springs forth:

it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,

in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.

By the power of the Holy Spirit,

receive the grace and forgiveness of God

through † Christ Jesus,

whose day draws near.

**Amen.**

**\*HYMN      Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending      LBW, “Green,” 27**

**\*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

1 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

*(Please sing only stanza two)*

### Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah

- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.

He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.  
 He shall feed the flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.  
 Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.  
 He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954  
 Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune  
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## **\*THE 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 give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## **“OUR PAGEANT OF CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS”**

### Trinity

Matthew 28: 16-20

Narration

Hymn                      Holy, Holy, Holy LBW 165

### Iota

Matthew 1:18-23

Narration

Hymn                      At the Name of Jesus (Sts. 1-4)                      LBW 179

### Angel

Luke 2:8-14

Narration

Hymn                      It Came Upon the Midnight Clear                      LBW 54

### Fish

Luke 9:10-17

Narration

Hymn                      Break Now, the Bread of Life                      LBW 235

### Crook

John 10:11

Narration

Hymn                      Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us                      LBW 481

### Cross

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Narration

Hymn                      In the Cross of Christ I Glory                      LBW 104

Crown of Thorns

John 19:1-5

Narration

Hymn

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded      LBW 117

Butterfly

Mark 16: 1-7

Narration

Hymn

Thine Is the Glory                      LBW 145

Lights

John 8:12

Narration

Hymn

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light                      WOV 649

**\*NICENE CREED**

Rejoicing in him whom our tree proclaims, let us affirm 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**

#### **\*THE PRAYERS**

*(After each petition: Lord in your mercy/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**

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, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,

through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the choirs of angels, with the 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 One,  
the beginning and the end,  
the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you  
in the darkness and the light.  
Blessed are you  
for your promise to your people.  
Blessed are you  
in the prophets' hopes and dreams.  
Blessed are you  
for Mary's openness to your will.  
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,  
the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:  
**Christ is died. Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup  
we remember your Word  
dwelling among us,  
full of grace and truth.  
We remember our new birth  
in his death and resurrection.  
We look with hope for his coming.  
**Come, Lord Jesus.**



Holy God,  
we long for your Spirit.  
Come among us.  
Bless this meal.  
May your Word take flesh in us.  
Awaken your people.  
Fill us with your light.  
Bring the gift of peace on earth.  
**Come Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours,  
Holy One of Israel  
Word of God incarnate  
Power of the Most High,  
one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**\*OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to 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

Taste and see that the Lord is good!

*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

Generous God,  
we thank you for the gift of life in bread and wine,  
for coming among us, for leading us into peace.  
You shower us with mercy, and send us into the world,

proclaiming the One who has come, is coming  
and has promised to come again,  
Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**\*THE PROCLAMATION OF JESUS AS KING**

Revelation 11:15-17

Narration

Hymn

Crown Him with Many Crowns (Sts. 1-4)

LBW 170

**\*THE WITNESS OF OUR TREE**

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

**Amen. Alleluia!**

**\*THE BLESSING**

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

**Amen.**

**\*SONG “O Chrismon Tree”**

**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 Chismon 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.**

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, Christ is with you!

**Thanks be to God!**

## COMMEMORATIONS

### Lucy, martyr, died 304

*Friday, December 13, 2024*

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

*Saturday, December 14, 2024*

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.



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## OUR PRAYER LIST

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, John Tartline, Carl Hieber, Donna Baker, Tom Waffenschmidt, George Poliska, Pam Osbaugh, and the family of Lillian Foucart.

## OUR STEWARDSHIP for December 1

Regular Offering	\$4,162.00
Plate Offerings	40.00
Christmas & Advent	10.00
Thanksgiving	140.00
Christmas Flowers	14.00
Flower Memorials/Tributes	455.00
Synod Benevolence	10.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$4,841.00</b>

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the glory of God and

In loving memory of my parents Elias & Grace Lehman, Herbert Winters & son Scott and sisters Eva & Helen by Lois Winters Goldy.

In loving memory of Helen & F. B. Troxell by Margie Levinson and her family and by Frank Troxell and his family.

**WORSHIP LEADERS**      December 1, 2024

Lector	Deb Buckman
Communion Assistants	Dan Zeigler
Ushers	Fortin Team
Organist	Sam Robinson
Altar Guild (December)	Connie Shaible, Sally Bjornstad, Sarah Young

**THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S:**

Sunday, December 8	Holy Communion 9:30 am Annual Meeting and Brunch following worship
Monday, December 9	Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm
Tuesday, December 10	Church Office Hours, 9 am-1 pm West Branch Conference, 9:30 am
Wednesday, December 11	Church Office Hours, 9 am-1 pm Advent Word and Prayer Service, Chapel, 12:10 pm
Thursday, December 12	Church Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm
Friday, December 13	Church Office Hours, 9 am -1 pm
Saturday, December 14	Bob Miller Funeral, 11:30 am Visitation 11:00 a.m.

**BIRTHDAYS**

Orion Snyder	12/11
Ernest Larson	12/12

Megan Catino 12/13

Alverda Comerford 12/14

**REVERSE ADVENT CALENDARS** As we count down the 25 days until Christmas, the Faith Formation Committee would like to offer congregation members an alternative to the traditional Advent calendars where a treat of some sort is received. Instead of *receiving* something each day of Advent, we are counting down to Christmas by *giving* something each day of Advent.

Please take a holiday bag from the Narthex and each day during Advent place an item in your bag. Please pray that these small items might be a blessing to those who receive them. Return your filled bag on Christmas Eve. Even sometime in January would be fine! We hope that this Reverse Advent Calendar will be a blessing to your Advent preparations. Thank you for your generosity!

### **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, 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.

+ To keep members of the church update on new address, phone number, change in marital status or anything else that needs updated, you will see in the weekly bulletin and the “Lion”, updates on the information. If you have any information that needs to be updated, please send an email to jbaur@stmarkswilliamsport.org or call the church office at 570-323-4619, Tuesday through Friday 9 a.m.- 1 p.m. The office is working on an updated Church directory so please update any information ASAP to insure the directory is up to date.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES (December 24, 2024):**

7 pm: “A Children's Candlelight Eucharist”. This service is “family friendly” and will include the Christmas story according to Luke, Christmas Carols appropriate for children, candlelight and Holy Communion.

10 pm: “A Traditional Christmas Eucharist by Candlelight”. This service will include the traditional “Christmas Proclamation”, the Christmas story according to Luke, a Christmas liturgy of familiar Christmas Carols, Choir anthems and Holy Communion.

*Best wishes for a Blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy 2025!*

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 25 – SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28 TO CELEBRATE THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY! SHOULD YOU NEED A PASTOR DURING THIS TIME PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE (570-323-4619) OR PASTOR VASEY (272-788-0161).**

***Merry Christmas and Happy 2025!***

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## Chrismon Narrations

### Trinity

We place these symbols of the Trinity on our tree to remind us that the One God is in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

### Iota

We place this symbol on our tree to remind us that the name of Jesus means Savior.

### Angel

We place an angel on our tree to remind us that when Jesus was born angels revealed the news to Mary, Joseph, and shepherds.

### Fish

We place the fish on our tree to remind us that Jesus fed over 5000 with fish and bread; that he is the Bread of Life.

### Crook

On our tree we place the Shepherd's Crook between the symbols of the Alpha and Omega to remind us that Jesus is our eternal Good Shepherd.

### Cross

The cross on our tree reminds us of the love of God and the power of Christ's cross.

### Thorns

We place a Crown of Thorns on our tree to remind us what Jesus wore while on the cross.

### Butterfly

We place the butterfly on our tree because the butterfly is a symbol of resurrection and the new life that Jesus brings.

### Lights

Lights have been placed on our tree to remind us that Jesus is our Light and our Life.

### King's Crown

A King's Crown adorns the top of our tree to remind us that Jesus is the King of Heaven and Earth.