

# THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 22, 2025

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**

142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701

[stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org)

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

Rev. Brian D. Vasey, Pastor

[bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto: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 be aware:**

**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*

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

## **INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP**

*This Sunday's texts paint startling pictures of the horrific nature of sin. The church's repeated celebration of holy communion counters that tragic reality in a continued showing forth of the death of Jesus until he comes again. It is a dramatic declaration of "how much God has done for you."*

## **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 all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

**\*HYMN Word of God, Come Down on Earth**

**WOV, "Blue," 716**

**Word of God, Come Down on Earth**



1 Word of God, come down on earth, liv - ing rain from  
2 Word e - ter - nal, throned on high, Word that brought to  
3 Word that speaks God's ten - der love, one with God be -



heav'n de - scend - ing; touch our hearts and bring to birth  
life cre - a - tion, Word that came from heav'n to die,  
yond all tell - ing, Word that sends us from a - bove



faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,  
cru - ci - fied for our sal - va - tion, sav - ing Word, the  
God the Spir - it, with us dwell - ing, Word of truth, to



we re - vere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.  
world re - stor - ing, speak to us, your love out - pour - ing.  
all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

Text: James Quinn, SJ, b. 1919

Music: LIEBSTER JESU, WIR SIND HIER, Johann R. Ahle, 1625–1673

Text © James Quinn, SJ, admin. Selah Publishing Co., Inc., North American Agent.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

## **\*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. O Lord God, we bring before you the cries of a sorrowing world. In your mercy set us free from the chains that bind us, and defend us from everything that is evil, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **THE FIRST READING: Isaiah 65:1-9**

<sup>1</sup> I was ready to be sought out by those who did not ask,  
to be found by those who did not seek me.

I said, "Here I am, here I am,"

to a nation that did not call on my name.  
<sup>2</sup> I held out my hands all day long  
to a rebellious people,  
who walk in a way that is not good,  
following their own devices;  
<sup>3</sup> a people who provoke me  
to my face continually,  
sacrificing in gardens  
and offering incense on bricks;  
<sup>4</sup> who sit inside tombs,  
and spend the night in secret places;  
who eat swine's flesh,  
with broth of abominable things in their vessels;  
<sup>5</sup> who say, "Keep to yourself,  
do not come near me, for I am too holy for you."  
These are a smoke in my nostrils,  
a fire that burns all day long.  
<sup>6</sup> See, it is written before me:  
I will not keep silent, but I will repay;  
I will indeed repay into their laps  
<sup>7</sup> their iniquities and their ancestors' iniquities together,  
says the LORD;  
because they offered incense on the mountains  
and reviled me on the hills,  
I will measure into their laps  
full payment for their actions.  
<sup>8</sup> Thus says the LORD:  
As the wine is found in the cluster,  
and they say, "Do not destroy it,  
for there is a blessing in it,"  
so I will do for my servants' sake,  
and not destroy them all.  
<sup>9</sup> I will bring forth descendants from Jacob,  
and from Judah inheritors of my mountains;  
my chosen shall inherit it,  
and my servants shall settle there.  
The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 22:19-28

<sup>19</sup> But you, O LORD, be not | far away;  
O my help, hasten | to my aid.

<sup>20</sup> **Deliver me | from the sword,  
my life from the power | of the dog.**

<sup>21</sup> Save me from the | lion's mouth!  
From the horns of wild bulls you have | rescued me.

<sup>22</sup> **I will declare your name | to my people;  
in the midst of the assembly | I will praise you.**

<sup>23</sup> You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's | line, give glory.  
Stand in awe of the LORD, all you off- | spring of Israel.

<sup>24</sup> **For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is  
the LORD's face hid- | den from them;  
but when they cry out, | the LORD hears them.**

<sup>25</sup> From you comes my praise in the | great assembly;  
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who | fear the LORD.

<sup>26</sup> **The poor shall eat | and be satisfied,  
Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts | live forever!**

<sup>27</sup> All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the LORD;  
all the families of nations shall bow | before God.

<sup>28</sup> **For dominion belongs | to the LORD,  
who rules o- | ver the nations.**

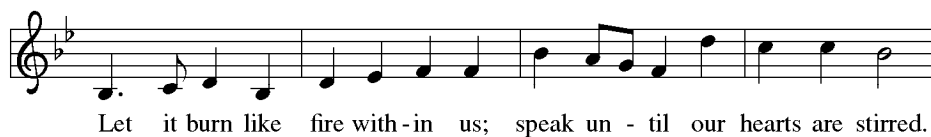
## THE SECOND READING: Galatians 3:23-29

<sup>23</sup> Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. <sup>24</sup> Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. <sup>25</sup> But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, <sup>26</sup> for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. <sup>27</sup> As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. <sup>28</sup> There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup> And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## \*THE GOSPEL: Luke 8:26-39

The holy gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, according to St. Luke, the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter.

### Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>26</sup> Then [Jesus and his disciples] arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. <sup>27</sup> As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. <sup>28</sup> When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me”—<sup>29</sup> for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) <sup>30</sup> Jesus then asked him, “What is your name?” He said, “Legion”; for many demons had entered him. <sup>31</sup> They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

<sup>32</sup> Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. <sup>33</sup> Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

<sup>34</sup> When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. <sup>35</sup> Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. <sup>36</sup> Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by

demons had been healed. <sup>37</sup> Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. <sup>38</sup> The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, <sup>39</sup> “Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.” So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.  
The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## THE SERMON

### \*HYMN Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness No Reference Available

#### Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



- 1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
- 3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.  
praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.  
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,  
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;  
Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.



calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.  
from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.  
Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

Text © 1987 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.



## **\*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.**

## **\*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**

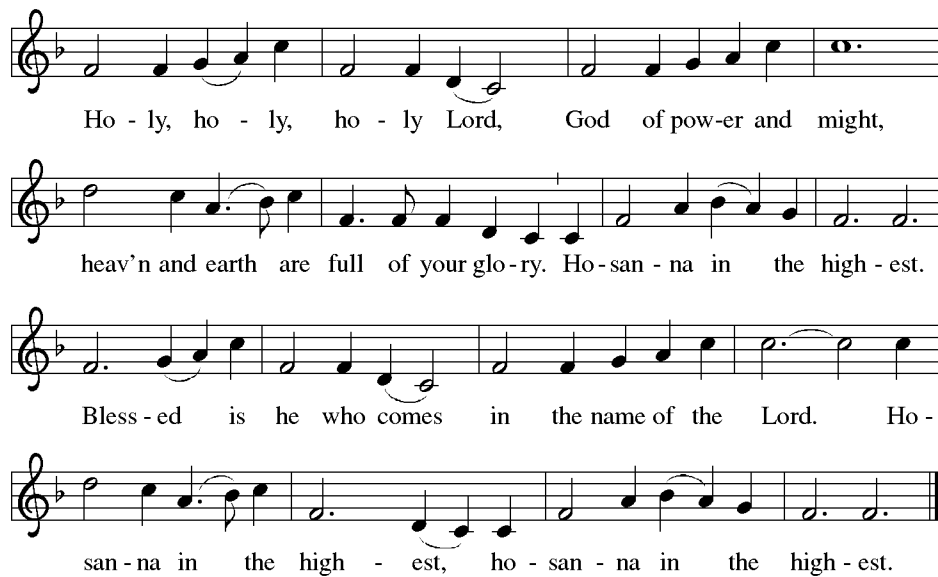
Creator God,  
 in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good  
 and the harvest is plentiful.  
 Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth  
 and our labor,  
 that we may work for the good of all;  
 through Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
**Amen.**

### **\*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 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 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.*

## 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**

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

**Amen.**

**\*HYMN    Amazing Grace**

**LBW, "Green," 448**

**Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound**



1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that  
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me  
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and



now am found; was blind, but now I see.  
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807  
Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

**\*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, Gerry Myers, Ariel, John Tartline, Donna Baker, George Poliska, April Clark, Connie Shaible, Ann Kuntz, Michael Reitz and Becky Pryor.

**WELCOME!** Today we welcome Ray Huff as our preacher and presider.  
Thank you Ray!

### THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Today, June 22	Holy Communion, 9:30 am
----------------	-------------------------

Monday, June 23	Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm
-----------------	---------------------------

Tuesday, June 24	Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm
------------------	---------------------------

Wednesday, June 25	Office Hours, 9 am – 1pm
--------------------	--------------------------

Thursday, June 26	Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm
-------------------	---------------------------

Friday, June 27	Office Hours, 9 am – 1pm
-----------------	--------------------------

Saturday, June 28	Office Closed
-------------------	---------------

Sunday, June 29	Holy Communion, 9:30 am
-----------------	-------------------------

## **OUR STEWARDSHIP for June 15, 2025**

Regular Offering	\$2067.00
World Hunger	50.00
Food Pantry	60.00
Global Mission	50.00
Family Promise Hosting	75.00
Flower Memorials/Tributes	175.00
Synod Benevolence	10.00
July 4 <sup>th</sup> Celebration	75.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$2562.00</b>

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the Glory of God; and

In honor of Sarah and Elliot Jones' 13<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary by Sally Bjornstad; and

In loving memory of John and Ruth Burkholder by Michele, Devin and Dawson Owen.

## **WORSHIP LEADERS for June 22, 2025**

Lector	9:30 am	Becky Pryor
Communion Assistants	9:30 am	Matt & Wanda Fortin
Ushers	9:30 am	Gair Team
Hospitality	9:30 am	Michele Owen
Organist		Sam Robinson
Altar Guild (JUNE)		Mindy & Mel Wentzel

## **BIRTHDAYS**

Cheryl Williams	6/22
Robert Helm	6/24
George Poliska	6/28

## **ANNIVERSARIES**

James & Susan Newcomer	6/23
Drew & Vicki Haussmann	6/28



## 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 it 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**

In June, we are collecting: ~ **small balls (no super balls please), yo-yo's (light up if possible), bungee cords, and screwdrivers.**

Monetary donations are also welcome to help offset the \$10.00/box cost for shipping our shoeboxes. This \$10.00 also provides devotional material for every child who receives a shoebox. Checks may be made to St. Mark's with OCC in the memo line. These items (or anything else you may find) may be placed in our red, OCC bin located in the narthex. Thank you!

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



### **Our July Fourth Celebration Needs You!**

Only one more Sunday remains to donate items for our annual July Fourth celebration. If you have not yet done so, please consider donating candy, water, soda or money. We are still in need of the following items.

- Bottles of water (16- and 8-ounce bottles)
- Lollipops (Blow Pops, Tootsie Pops and Dum Dums)
- Candy (Smarties, Tootsie Rolls, etc.)
- Individual packets of fruit snacks
- Mini-cans of soda
- Monetary donations to cover the cost of hot dogs and rolls. Checks can be made payable to St. Mark's with the memo line indicating July Fourth.

**Volunteers** are needed on the big day to set up, serve snacks and clean up before the fireworks begin. A poster with options for helping is in the Narthex. **Don't wait, sign up now to help. We cannot do it without you.**

**The Great Grab and Go** will be held after church on June 29. If you can help bring July Fourth supplies from the basement to Fellowship Hall, meet in Fellowship Hall. With enough volunteers it should only take 10-15 minutes.

### **Cereal Sundays are Back for 2025!**

Our first Cereal Sunday saw the donation of 32 assorted boxes of cereal. **Our next collection will be Sunday, July 13, 2025. Can you help by donating a box?**

### **We Care for Families**

Next Sunday is the last day to donate hygiene items that are of tremendous help to families with children. **We are requesting baby shampoo, baby lotion, baby/kids body wash, baby wipes, tissues and kids' toothbrushes and toothpaste.** Items may be placed on the table in the Narthex closet.

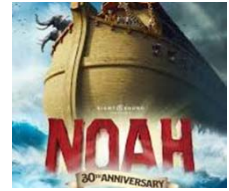
### **Ongoing Collections and Activities at St. Mark's:**

- **United Churches Food Pantry:** The following items are **most needed** at this time. Small bags of white and brown sugar, wide egg noodles, cans of pineapple and mandarin oranges, Spam, cans of pork and beans, chunky soups, ramen noodles and salt and pepper sets.
- **Shepherd of the Streets:** See the article **We Care for Families.**
- **Summer Blessing Box Needs:** **The Parish Life and Evangelism and Fellowship Committees are asking for two specific donations. They are Star-Kist Deli Style Tuna Salad and Star-Kist Chicken Salad.** Both come in a foil packet and are ready to eat. These items are able to resist spoiling due to extreme temperatures. A container is available in the Narthex for these specific items. Thank you to everyone who donated 24 packets so far this summer.
- **Sojourner Truth Ministries (STM):** Sugar, mayonnaise, ketchup, large size lunch bags, sets of salt and pepper shakers and nine-ounce paper bowls.



Thank you so much to everyone who donated cake pans, cake mixes, and candles to our Lenten “Birthday Bag” collection. Thanks to your generosity, 22 beautiful Birthday Bags were delivered to the United Churches Food Pantry last week. Anne, the pantry director, was visibly moved when these bags were dropped off as the neighbors who are served will now have something to make birthdays just a little extra special. St. Mark’s continues to serve others and show love in a myriad of ways. Please know how much it is appreciated.

## ALL ABOARD THE ARK!



A bus trip to see **Noah** at the Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA is being organized by Cheryl Williams. This trip is being planned for Wednesday, September 24, the 11:00 AM show. While the bus will be pulling out around 6:00 AM, the early start will certainly be well worth it! Bus fare, show ticket, and dinner at Hershey Farm Inn are all included in the adult price of \$176.77 and \$110.61 per child. If interested, please contact Cheryl Williams at (570) 327-1627.



**Become Part of Our Church Family** **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](mailto:stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org).

## COMMEMORATIONS

### John the Baptizer

*Tuesday, June 24, 2025*

John said, "[Jesus] must increase, but I must decrease." And so his birth is celebrated half a year before Jesus', just as the daylight in the northern hemisphere begins to wane. Jesus honored John as being the greatest prophet.



### Presentation of the Augsburg Confession,

*Wednesday, June 25, 2025*

On this day in 1530 the German and Latin editions of the Augsburg Confession were presented to the Emperor Charles of the Holy Roman Empire. The Augsburg Confession was written by Philipp Melanchthon and endorsed by Martin Luther, and consists of a brief summary of points in which the reformers saw their teaching as either agreeing with or differing from that of the Roman Catholic Church of the time.



**Philipp Melanchthon, renewer of the church, died 1560**

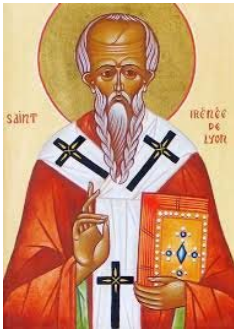
*Wednesday, June 25, 2025*

Though he died on April 19, Philipp Melanchthon is commemorated today because of his connection with the Augsburg Confession. Colleague and co-reformer with Martin Luther, Melanchthon was a brilliant scholar, known as "the teacher of Germany."

**Cyril, Bishop of Alexandria, died 444**

*Friday, June 27, 2025*

Cyril defended the orthodox teachings about the person of Christ. After a conflict involving all of the major Christian leaders of the time, it was decided that Cyril's interpretation, that Christ's person included both divine and human natures, was correct.



**Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, died around**

*Saturday, June 28, 2025*

This important early church leader tried very hard to hold to the faith handed down by the apostles. An opponent of the movement known as gnosticism, Irenaeus was one of the first to speak of the church as catholic, or linked together.

\*\*\*\*\*  
*Portions of this service are reprinted with permission from...*  
*Lutheran Book of Worship (copyright, 1978)*  
*Augsburg-Fortress Publishers (#2562-L).*  
*Evangelical Lutheran Worship (copyright 2006)*  
*Augsburg-Fortress Publishers, under license #2562-L.*  
*sundayandseasons.com (copyright 2019), Augsburg-Fortress.*  
*All rights reserved.*  
*Augsburg-Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB144818.*  
*“One License” A-738528*  
\*\*\*\*\*