THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST June 29, 2025

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701
stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org
Office (570-323-4619) Fax (570-323-2452)
Rev.Brian D. Vasey, Pastor
bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org

Welcome to Saint Mark's!

This is Christ's church. There is a place for you here. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.

Our Mission: "To know Christ and to make Christ known."



Please note:

Hand sanitizer is available for your use.

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

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

A guide to hymnal use: All hymns are printed in the bulletin and when reference is available the LBW, Green Book; WOV, Blue Book *Please stand as you are able.

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP

We have no good apart from God. That makes Jesus' call to follow him an invitation to freedom. This is freedom to revel in the Spirit's fruit: love, joy, peace, and patience. This is freedom to not be imprisoned by anything that would keep us from the fullness of the life God has given us. This is the path of life.

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

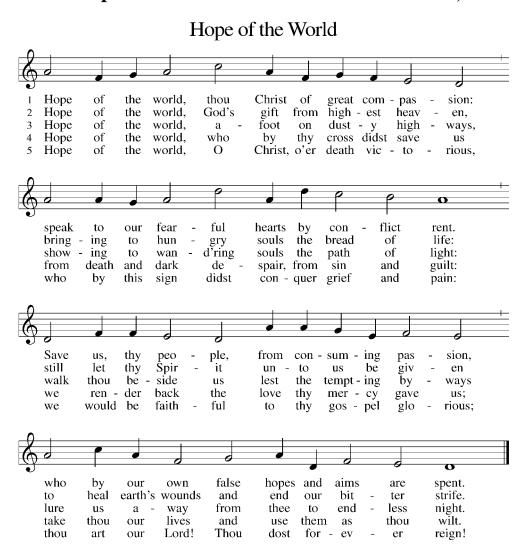
what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbor as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

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

*HYMN

Hope of the World

LBW, "Green," 493



Text: Georgia Harkness, 1891-1974

Music: DONNE SECOURS, Trente quatre pseaumes de David, Geneva 1551

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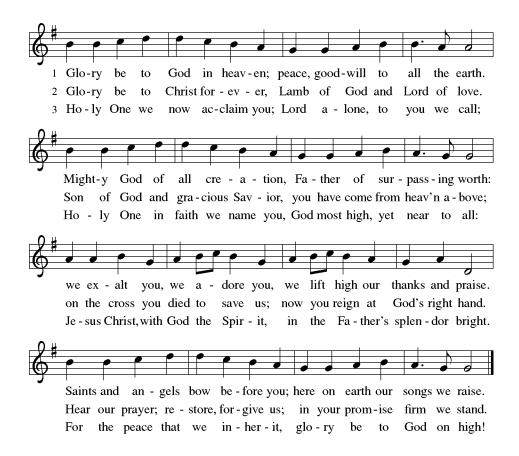
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*THE GREETING

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.

Sovereign God, ruler of all hearts, you call us to obey you, and you favor us with true freedom. Keep us faithful to the ways of your Son, that, leaving behind all that hinders us, we may steadfastly follow your paths, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE FIRST READING: 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21

¹⁵ Then the LORD said to [Elijah,] "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. ¹⁶ Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place."

¹⁹ So he set out from there, and found Elisha son of Shaphat, who was plowing. There were twelve yoke of oxen ahead of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle over him. ²⁰ He left the oxen, ran after Elijah, and said, "Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you." Then Elijah said to him, "Go back again; for what have I done to you?" ²¹ He returned from following him, took the yoke of oxen, and slaughtered them; using the equipment from the oxen, he boiled their flesh, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out and followed Elijah, and became his servant.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 16

¹Protect me, O God, for I take ref- | uge in you;

I have said to the LORD, "You are my Lord, my good a- | bove all other."

- ²All my delight is in the godly that are | in the land, upon those who are noble a- | mong the people.
- ³But those who run after | other gods shall have their troubles | multiplied.
- ⁴I will not pour out drink offerings | to such gods, never take their names up- | on my lips.
- 5O LORD, you are my portion | and my cup; it is you who up- | hold my lot.
- ⁶ My boundaries enclose a | pleasant land; indeed, I have a | rich inheritance.
- ⁷ I will bless the LORD who | gives me counsel; my heart teaches me night | after night.
- ⁸I have set the LORD al- | ways before me; because God is at my right hand, I shall | not be shaken.
- ⁹My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spir- | it rejoices; my body also shall | rest in hope.
- ¹⁰ For you will not abandon me | to the grave, nor let your holy one | see the pit.
- ¹¹You will show me the | path of life;

in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures for- | evermore.

THE SECOND READING: Galatians 5:1, 13-25

¹ For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

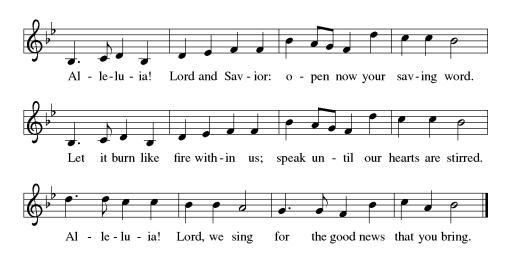
¹³For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. ¹⁴For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁵ If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

¹⁶ Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

²² By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*THE GOSPEL: Luke 9:51-62

The holy gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, according to St. Luke, the 9th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁵¹ When the days drew near for [Jesus] to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵² And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; ⁵³ but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. ⁵⁴ When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" ⁵⁵ But he turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶ Then they went on to another village.

⁵⁷ As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." ⁵⁸ And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." ⁵⁹ To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." ⁶⁰ But Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." ⁶¹ Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." ⁶² Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

*HYMN Will You Come and Follow Me

No Reference Available

Will You Come and Follow Me

The Summons



Text: John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: KELVINGROVE, Scottish traditional
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*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

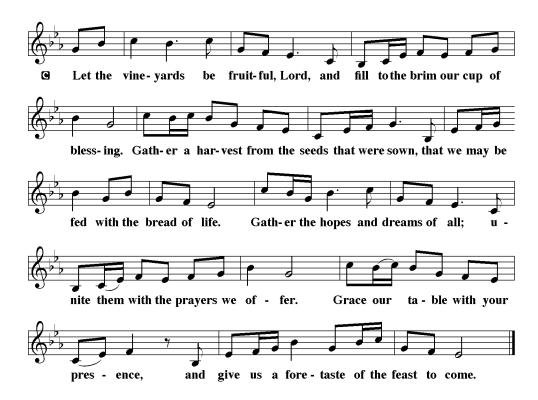
After each petition: God of grace/Hear our prayer.

*THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

*OFFERING



*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.

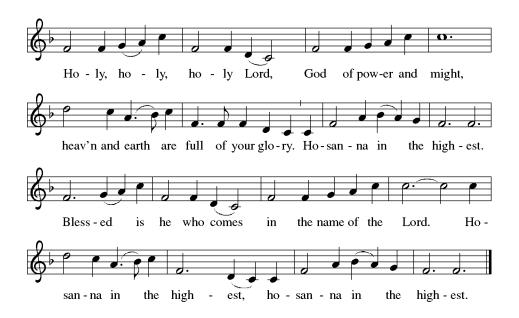
Lift up your hearts.

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



*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 and kneel (stand) at the rail. 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

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

*HYMN Here I Am Lord

WOV, "Blue," 752



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*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.

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Today, June 29	Holy Communion, 9:30 am
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Trionadi, tame 20	Monday, June 30	Office Hours, 9 am – 1 p	m
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Tuesday, July 1 Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm

Wednesday, July 2 Office Hours, 9 am – 1pm

Thursday, July 3 Office Hours, 9 am - 1 pm

Friday, July 4 Office Closed

Lawn Party, 6:00 pm

Organ Concert, "Pedal to the Metal", 7:30 pm

Saturday, July 5 Office Closed

Sunday, July 6 Holy Communion, 9:30 am

OUR STEWARDSHIP for June 22, 2025

Grand Total	\$2607.00
July 4 th Celebration	100.00
Flower Memorials/Tribute	s 35.00
Organ Fund	100.00
Plate Offerings	20.00
Regular Offering	\$2352.00

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God; and

In loving memory of Harold & Joyce Hershberger by Mike, Pam, and Sean Jensen; and

In honor of our St. Mark's Family.

WORSHIP LEADERS for June 29, 2025

Lector	9:30 am	Ralph Zeigler
Communion Assistants	9:30 am	Deb Buckman & Mindy Wentzel
Ushers	9:30 am	Maggs Team, Dick Reitz
Hospitality	9:30 am	LouAnn & Ralph Zeigler
Organist		Sam Robinson
Altar Guild (JUNE)		Mindy & Mel Wentzel

BIRTHDAYS

April Clark	6/30	Max Hospes	7/3
Cindy Todd	6/30	Phil Thomas	7/4

ANNIVERSARIES

Ray & Cindy Huff 7/3 Bud & Margie Doebler 7/5

KEEP IN MIND:

~When you or a family member are ill, have a crisis of faith, or have a personal concern of which you wish to make the pastor aware, please contact him directly by church office telephone (570-323-4619) email (bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org) or his cell phone (272-788-0161). Do not assume the pastor will know of your need any other way.

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

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



Don't forget to look for items for all of the types of kits in preparation for the fall. Especially needed are receiving blankets (medium weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn -36" to 52" square (no polar



fleece), baby shirts up to 24 months with no snap crotches, cotton fabric, diapers (flat fold) and items for school kits (we do not need pencils, erasers or bags). For more info please contact Deb Buckman.



A great big THANK YOU to everyone who continues to donate items for our Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes! Never doubt that God is using these seemingly

small items for good. "Our economic condition is very poor, so my parents cannot afford to buy toys for me. When I heard that I would get a gift box, I was so excited! Thank you to all of my foreign friends who sent me the toys and other amazing things."

-Samia, East Asia

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)



July Fourth Celebration Come Early, Stay Late!

This year we will celebrate God and country on our front lawn on <u>Friday</u>, <u>July 4</u>, <u>2025 starting at 6:00 PM</u>. Bring a friend and your lawn chair. Sam Robinson will entertain folks in the Nave at 7:30 PM. Fireworks will begin at 9:30 PM.

With only a few days until the big event, we still need several volunteers to help host this community event. We also are in need of monetary donations to cover the cost of hotdogs, candy, drinks and snacks. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex. Checks may be made payable to St. Mark's with the memo line indicating July Fourth.

The Great Grab and Go

After the service today, a few able-bodied folks are needed 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.

Blessing Box Needs

With the hot temperatures of summer, it is difficult to provide our usual meat and cheese sandwiches. The Parish Life and Evangelism and Fellowship Committees are asking for two specific donations. They are **Star-Kist Tuna Creations: Deli Style Tuna Salad** and **Star-Kist Chicken Creations: Chicken Salad.** These items do not need refrigeration and resist spoiling due to extreme temperatures. A container is available in the Narthex for these specific items.

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

Cereal Sunday Success

Our first Cereal Sunday was a great success! If you missed it, no worries. The next collection date is <u>Sunday</u>, <u>July 13, 2025</u>.

Upcoming Meeting

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee will meet Tuesday, July 1, 2025 at 5:30 PM in Middle Lounge. The main business will be to package treat bags for the July Fourth celebration. All are welcome to join us. Many hands make for light work.

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.



stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org.

COMMEMORATIONS

Peter and Paul, Apostles

Sunday, June 29, 2025

These two strong-willed apostles were the pillars of the church in the first generation after Christ. Peter was one of the Twelve, one who both offered a glorious confession of faith and later denied knowing Jesus. Paul once led the persecution of Christians, then was converted and helped bring the faith to non-Jewish people.



Catherine Winkworth, died 1878; John Mason Neale, died 1866; hymn translators

Tuesday, July 1, 2025

Neale was an English priest who specialized in the translation of Latin and Greek hymns into English. Winkworth lived in Manchester, England, and devoted herself to translating German hymns. Almost all English-speaking hymnals include many of their translations.



Thomas, Apostle

Thursday, July 3, 2025

Though frequently remembered as "doubting Thomas," this apostle also demonstrated a willingness to suffer and die with Jesus (John 11:16), and finally claimed the risen Christ as "my Lord and my God!" By tradition, he later worked as a missionary in India. Long commemorated on December 21, Thomas's



celebration is moved to July 3 in agreement with ecumenical calendars.

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