

THE TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 17, 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

Light print = Pastor/Leader. Bold print = Congregation.

**Please stand as you are able.*

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP

The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today in worship we are surrounded by a great “cloud of witnesses.” In the word and in holy communion we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, “the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.”

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

HOLY BAPTISM

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Sponsors: We present Miles William Boyle for baptism

We present Jack Charles Boyle for baptism

Miles and Jack, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace of God, do you desire to be baptized into Christ?

Miles and Jack: I do.

When you receive the gift of holy baptism, you and your parents are entrusted with responsibilities:

- +To live among God's faithful people
- +To hear and study the word of God and receive the holy supper
- +To learn our Lord's Prayer, the Creed and the Ten Commandments
- +To be nurtured in faith and prayer
- +To proclaim Christ in word and deed
- +To trust God
- +To care for others and the world God has made
- +To work for justice and peace

Miles and Jack, together with your parents, do you promise to grow in the Christian faith and life?

Miles, Jack and their parents: I do.

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Miles and Jack in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help them live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Sponsors: We do.

People of God, do you promise to support Miles and Jack and pray for them in their new life in Christ?

Congregation: We do.

The congregation stands

*Let us now profess our faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church:

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces of evil?

All: We renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

All: We renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

All: We renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

All: I believe in God the Father almighty.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

All: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

All: I believe in the Holy Spirit.

Water is poured into the font.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live with you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

The congregation is seated.

Miles William/Jack Charles is baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Blessed be God, the source of all life, the word of salvation, the spirit of mercy.

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give all your children new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life. Sustain Miles William and Jack Charles with the gift of your Holy Spirit: The spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

Miles William/Jack Charles, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

Let you light so shine before others that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Amen.

Now it is our joy to welcome our new brothers in Christ.

All: We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: Join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world. Amen.

Applause may follow!

***HYMN**

Remember and Rejoice

No Reference Available

Remember and Rejoice



1 Re - mem - ber and re - joice, re - newed by floods of grace.
2 In life, in death, we trust in God's most ho - ly name,
3 We pledge our - selves a - new to flee the lures of hell,
4 God, bless us by your grace; re - mind us of your care.
5 Re - mem - ber and re - joice, re - newed by floods of grace.



We bear the sign of Je - sus Christ, that time can - not e - rase.
for - ev - er traced by wa - ter sign, and sealed by Spir - it flame.
to cling to Christ's com - mu - ni - ty, in jus - tice, peace to dwell.
Re - new - ing Spir - it, fill us now, in - spire our work, our prayer.
We bear the sign of Je - sus Christ, that time can - not e - rase.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: ST. THOMAS, Aaron Williams, 1731-1776

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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



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 God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE FIRST READING: Jeremiah 23:23-29

²³ Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? ²⁴ Who can hide in

secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. ²⁵ I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, “I have dreamed! I have dreamed!” ²⁶ How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? ²⁷ They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. ²⁸ Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. ²⁹ Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 82

¹ God stands to charge the divine coun- | cil assembled,
giving judgment in the midst | of the gods:

² **“How long will you | judge unjustly,
and show favor | to the wicked?**

³ Save the weak | and the orphan;
defend the hum- | ble and needy;

⁴ **rescue the weak | and the poor;
deliver them from the power | of the wicked.**

⁵ They do not know, neither do they understand; they wander a- | bout in darkness;
all the foundations of the | earth are shaken.

⁶ **Now I say to you, | ‘You are gods,
and all of you children of | the Most High;**

⁷ nevertheless, you shall | die like mortals,
and fall like | any prince.’ ”

⁸ **Arise, O God, and | rule the earth,
for you shall take all nations | for your own.**

THE SECOND READING: Hebrews 11:29-12:2

²⁹ By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. ³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹ By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

³² And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, ³³ who through faith

conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. ³⁵ Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. ³⁶ Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. ³⁷ They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented ³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground.

³⁹ Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, ⁴⁰ since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

^{12:1} Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



***THE GOSPEL: Luke 12:49-56**

The holy gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, according to St. Luke, the 12th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ⁴⁹ “I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! ⁵⁰ I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹ Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! ⁵² From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; ⁵³ they will be divided:

father against son
and son against father,
mother against daughter
and daughter against mother,
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

⁵⁴ He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain,’ and so it happens. ⁵⁵ And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat,’ and it happens. ⁵⁶ You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

***HYMN The Church of Christ in Every Age LBW, “Green,” 433**

The Church of Christ, in Every Age



1 The church of Christ, in ev - 'ry age be - set by
 2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims
 3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing
 4 For he a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the
 5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -



change, but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its
 of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for
 church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's
 fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to
 be - dience to our Lord; to care for all, with -



her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.
 bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.
 sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.
 share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.
 out re - serve, and spread his lib - er - at - ing word.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: WAREHAM, William Knapp, 1698–1768

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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: Hear us, O God/Your mercy is great.

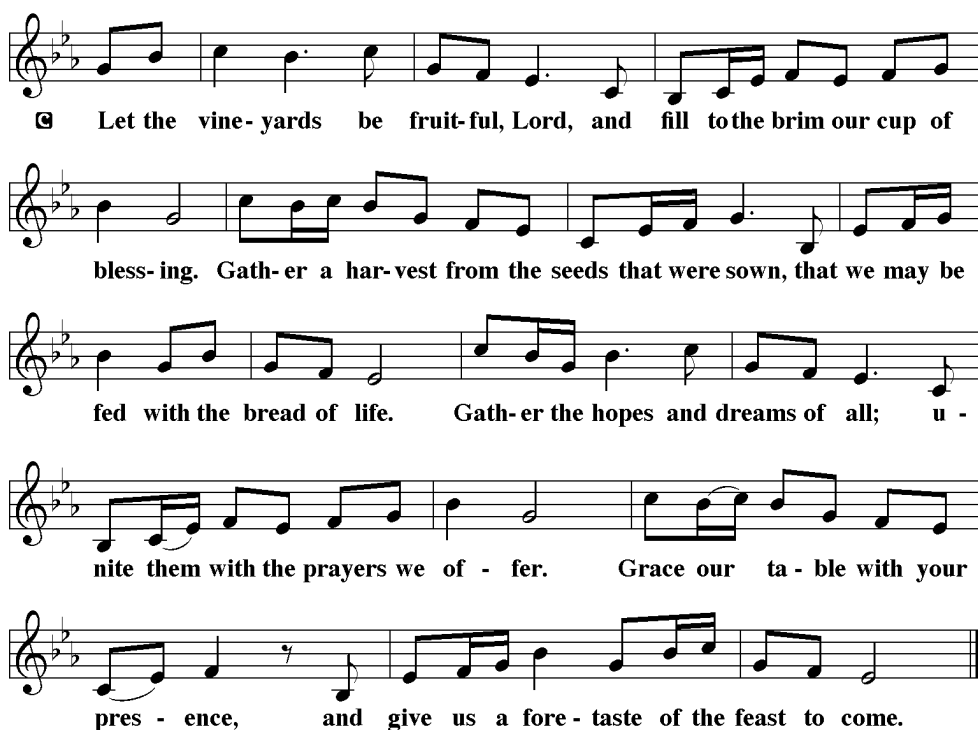
***THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

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

***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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. 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, 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**



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 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**

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 Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

Amen.

***HYMN I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light WOV, "Blue," 649**

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
 2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
 3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
 look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
 be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
 shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934
 Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson
 Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration

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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 Hausmann, Kristin Rehm, Ariel, John Tartline, Donna Baker, George Poliska, April Clark, Connie Shaible, Ann Kuntz, John and Terry Holohan, Shirley Kinney, and Alex & Adaline Day.

COMMEMORATION

Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, died 1153

Wednesday, August 20, 2025

Bernard, a Cistercian monk, was a man of great spirituality who wrote mystical works and criticized those whom he thought took an overly intellectual approach to the faith. He became an abbot, and wrote several hymns that are still beloved today the most famous being, "O Sacred Head Now Wounded."



THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Today, August 17	Holy Communion/Boyle Baptisms, 9:30 am
Monday, August 18	Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm Little Lambs Liaison Meeting, 12:15 pm Council, 6 pm
Tuesday, August 19	Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm
Wednesday, August 20	Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm Holy Communion at Williamsport Home, 2 pm
Thursday, August 21	Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm
Friday, August 22	Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm
Saturday, August 23	Office Closed
Sunday, August 24	Holy Communion, 9:30 am

HOLY BAPTISM. Today, Miles Willam Boyle and Jack Charles Boyle, sons of Michael and Megan Boyle, Jr., receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Sponsors include Mike & Lauren Boyle and Charles & Gloria Greevy. May our Lord continue to bless you on this your special day.

A NEW PRESIDING BISHOP FOR THE ELCA



The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) has elected the The Rev. Yeheil Curry as our new presiding bishop. The election took place on July 30, 2025, during the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Phoenix, Arizona. Curry, who is the first Black presiding bishop in the ELCA's history, was elected on the fifth ballot. He previously served as the bishop of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod since 2019.

OUR STEWARDSHIP for August 10, 2025

Regular Offering	\$2651.00
Plate Offerings	10.00
Food Pantry	10.00
Flower Memorials/Tributes	70.00
Synod Benevolence	10.00
Grand Total	\$2751.00

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God; and
In celebration of our Wedding Anniversary by Steve & Karen Mariano and;
In loving memory of Jack & Eleanor Whiting by Herb Poff & Candy Dewar and;
In loving memory of Cora & Clement Campbell by their grandchildren and;
In loving memory of Shirley Miller by her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

WORSHIP LEADERS for August 17, 2025

Lector	9:30 am	Theresa Furman
Communion Assistants	9:30 am	Brian & Nikki Jackson
Ushers	9:30 am	The Gair Family
Hospitality	9:30 am	Greevy & Zeigler Families
Organist	9:30 am	Sam Robinson
Altar Guild (AUGUST)		Cindy Huff & Linda Rosini

BIRTHDAYS

Stacie Bieber	8/18
Dan Ziegler	8/23

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

Our shoeboxes are getting closer and closer to being filled with just three more months of collecting to go! We bet you might have a good guess as to what August collections might be. Did you say school supplies? Then you are absolutely correct!

In August we are indeed collecting **School Supplies** ~ crayons, pencils, pens, erasers, colored pencils, rulers, scissors (both kid and adult sizes)... you get the picture! Keep an eye out for those great sales that have already started!

These items (or any others you find) may be placed in our red, OCC bin located in the Narthex. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

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



Red Cross Blood Drive
Give the gift of life. Donate blood.

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee will hold the second of three Red Cross Blood Drives on Monday, September 22, 2025 from 11:00 – 3:00 in Fellowship Hall. Please consider donating blood yourself or encouraging your friends and family members to donate. In our community, there continues to be a critical need for all blood types. Donors can preregister by calling 1-800-Red Cross.

Blessing Box Needs:

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. These two items will be collected throughout the summer.

Each week either the Monday Sandwich Crew or the Wednesday Sandwich Crew make 16-24 assorted sandwiches for New Covenant UCC's Blessing Boxes. This outreach has grown increasingly expensive. We welcome monetary donations in addition to the Star-Kist donations. If you would like to participate in the making of sandwiches speak with Becky Miller Pryor. Both men and women are welcome to join us.



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.

Pastors' Monthly Luncheon Returns

Beginning September 11, 2025 we will host the Center City Pastors and others at a luncheon beginning at 1:00 PM in the Middle Lounge.

Luncheons are held the second Thursday of each month from September through May. We would welcome help with the meal, particularly a dessert to serve.

Generally we plan on twelve attendees. Please speak to Becky Miller Pryor if you would like to participate or donate a part of the meal.



Please join us as our Sunday School classes resume September 14th beginning at 9:15 AM. Our Adult Class will meet with an overview and study of the Gospel according to St. Matthew. There will be no shortage of discussion, learning and laughter as Pastor leads this dedicated class in study. We look forward to sharing this time of fellowship and study and hope to have you join us! **All are welcome!**

175th Anniversary Celebration

The 175th Anniversary of the founding of St. Mark's Lutheran Church (formed as the First English Evangelical Lutheran Church) will take place in early 2027. This milestone anniversary is worthy of celebration, and we would like to begin planning for this special occasion. In an effort to accomplish this task, a 175th Anniversary Committee is being formed with our first meeting on Sunday, September 14th after late service. This will be a preliminary meeting to begin discussion and brainstorming on how we would like to proceed. We are looking for committee members (and hopefully committee co-chairs). If you are interested please come! If you are interested but can't make this meeting, please reach out to Vicki Haussmann. Looking forward to seeing you there!



Urgent Needs at Shepherd of the Streets

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee recently received news of an urgent need for specific hygiene products for men and women who come to the Shepherd's office. **Of greatest need are women's deodorant, toothpaste, bar soap, body wash, shampoo and paper towels.** Any assistance you can give to this request is greatly appreciated.

Cereal Sunday

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee wishes to extend a heartfelt thank you to the congregation for their generous donations of **118 boxes of cereal** (a record for us!) for the United Churches Food Pantry. It is most needed as the cereal shelves at the Pantry are all but bare.

Our final Cereal Sunday of 2025 will be September 14, 2025.



Fall Sale

The clock is ticking and in a few more weeks it will be time to prepare for our Fall Bazaar/Sale in Fellowship Hall. Be thinking of how you (men and women) can help with set-up, the sale on September 12 and 13 and clean up. Many hands make for light work. Be looking for more information in the weeks to come.

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