

THE ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 24, 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

Remember the sabbath day. Call the sabbath a delight. This is the Lord's day, and the Lord will do for us what the Lord does: feed us, forgive us, help and heal us. Rejoice at all the wonderful things God is doing.

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAREWELL AND GODSPEED

***BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of and ☩ 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

Silence for reflection and self-examination

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 neighbors 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.

Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ and by his authority, I 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 Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven LBW, “Green,” 549**

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven



- 1 Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en; to his feet your trib - ute bring.
- 2 Praise him for his grace and fa - vor to our fore - bears in dis - tress.
- 3 Tend - er - ly he shields and spares us; well our fee - ble frame he knows.
- 4 An - gels help us to a - dore him, who be - hold him face to face.



Ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, ev - er - more his prais - es sing.
Praise him, still the same for - ev - er, slow to chide and swift to bless.
In his hands he gent - ly bears us, res - cues us from all our foes.
Sun and moon bow down be - fore him; all who dwell in time and space.



Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last - ing King!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious in his faith - ful - ness!
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Wide - ly as his mer - cy flows.
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Praise with us the God of grace.

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847
Music: PRAISE, MY SOUL, John Goss, 1800–1880

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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, mighty and immortal, you know that as fragile creatures surrounded by great dangers, we cannot by ourselves stand upright. Give us strength of mind and body, so that even when we suffer because of human sin, we may rise victorious through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:9b-14

^{9b} If you remove the yoke from among you,

the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
¹⁰ if you offer your food to the hungry
 and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
 then your light shall rise in the darkness
 and your gloom be like the noonday.
¹¹ The LORD will guide you continually
 and satisfy your needs in parched places
 and make your bones strong,
 and you shall be like a watered garden,
 like a spring of water
 whose waters never fail.
¹² Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
 you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
 you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
 the restorer of streets to live in.
¹³ If you refrain from trampling the Sabbath,
 from pursuing your own interests on my holy day;
 if you call the Sabbath a delight
 and the holy day of the LORD honorable;
 if you honor it, not going your own ways,
 serving your own interests or pursuing your own affairs;
¹⁴ then you shall take delight in the LORD,
 and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth;
 I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob,
 for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 103:1-8

¹ Bless the LORD, | O my soul,
 and all that is within me, bless God's | holy name.
² **Bless the LORD, | O my soul,**
and forget not | all God's benefits—
³ who forgives | all your sins
 and heals all | your diseases;
⁴ **who redeems your life | from the grave**
and crowns you with steadfast | love and mercy;
⁵ who satisfies your desires | with good things
 so that your youth is renewed | like an eagle's.

- ⁶O LORD, you provide | vindication
and justice for all who | are oppressed.**
- ⁷You made known your | ways to Moses
and your works to the chil- | dren of Israel.**
- ⁸LORD, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love.**

THE SECOND READING: Hebrews 12:18-29


¹⁸ You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, ¹⁹ and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. ²⁰ (For they could not endure the order that was given, “If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death.” ²¹ Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I tremble with fear.”) ²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³ and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴ and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

²⁵ See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking, for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! ²⁶ At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven.” ²⁷ This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸ Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe, ²⁹ for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.

Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.

Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

***THE GOSPEL: Luke 13:10-17**

The holy gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, according to St. Luke, the 13th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁰ Now [Jesus] was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. ¹¹ And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. ¹² When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, “Woman, you are set free from your ailment.” ¹³ When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. ¹⁴ But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, “There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured and not on the Sabbath day.” ¹⁵ But the Lord answered him and said, “You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it to water? ¹⁶ And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the Sabbath day?” ¹⁷ When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame, and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things being done by him.

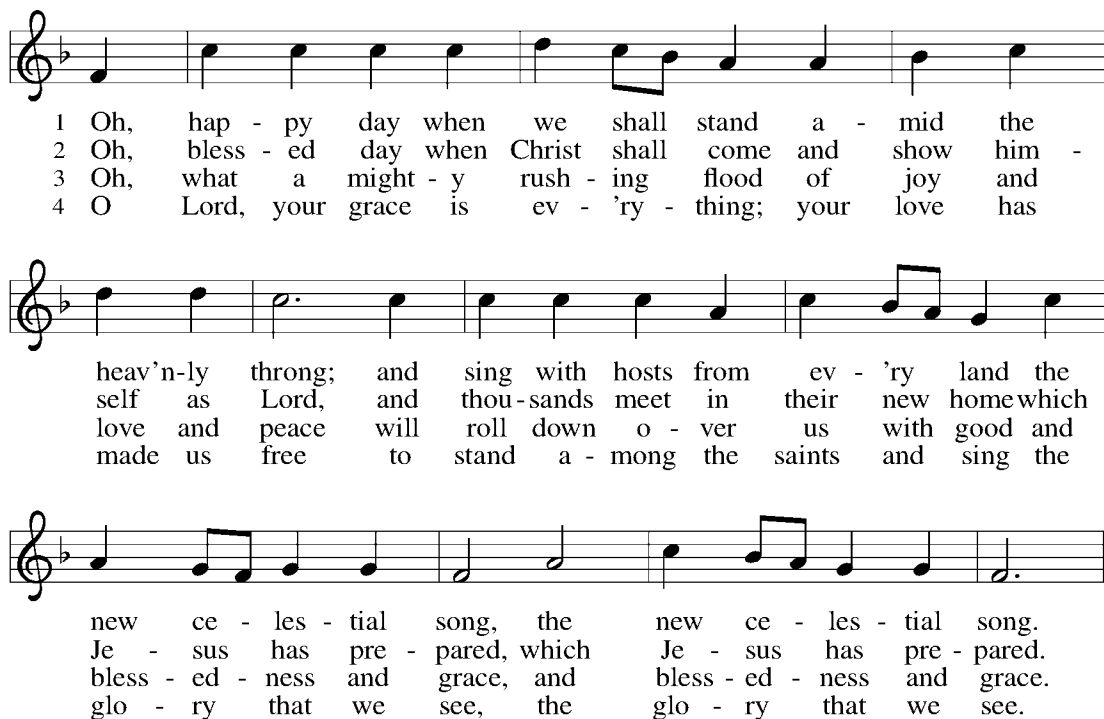
The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

***HYMN Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand No Reference Available**

Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand



1 Oh, hap - py day when we shall stand a - mid the
 2 Oh, bless - ed day when Christ shall come and show him -
 3 Oh, what a might - y rush - ing flood of joy and
 4 O Lord, your grace is ev - 'ry - thing; your love has

heav'n-ly throng; and sing with hosts from ev - 'ry land the
 self as Lord, and thou - sands meet in their new homewhich
 love and peace will roll down o - ver us with good and
 made us free to stand a - mong the saints and sing the

new ce - les - tial song, the new ce - les - tial song.
 Je - sus has pre - pared, which Je - sus has pre - pared.
 bless - ed - ness and grace, and bless - ed - ness and grace.
 glo - ry that we see, the glo - ry that we see.

Text: Wilhelm A. Wexels, 1797–1866; tr. composite
 Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, 1480–1561
 Text © 1958, 1978 Augsburg Fortress

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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.

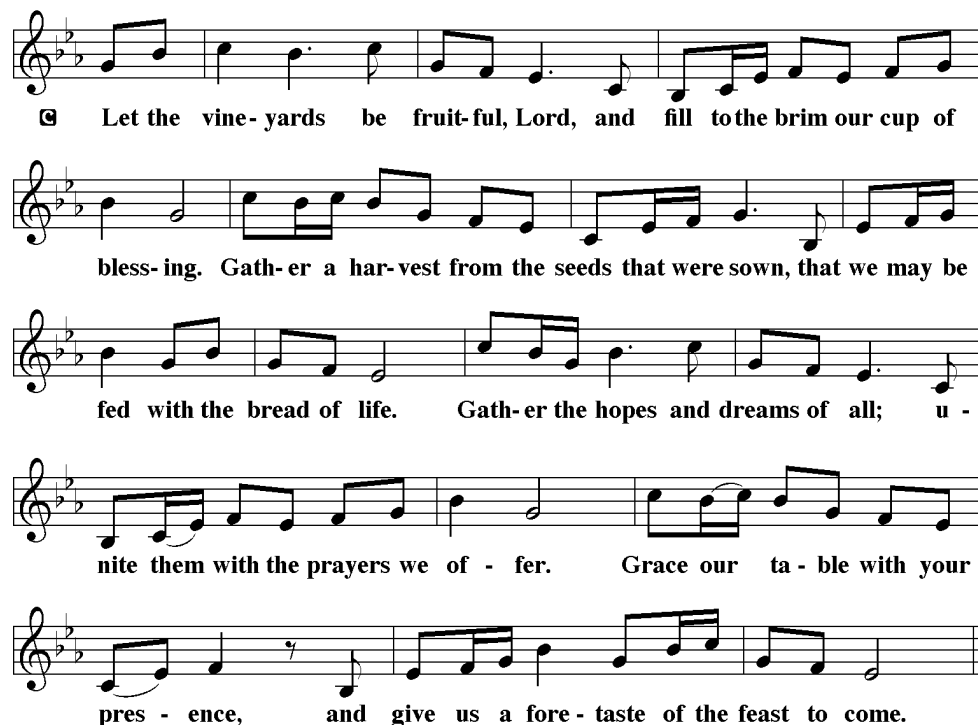
***THE PEACE**

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.

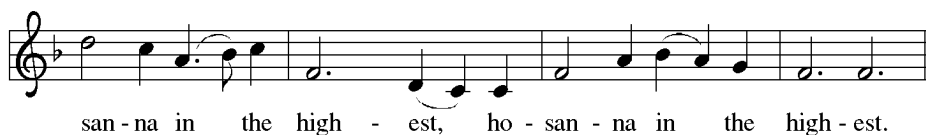
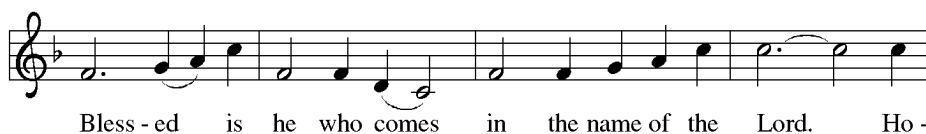
Lift up your hearts.

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:



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 Oh, For a Thousand Tongues to Sing LBW, "Green," 559**

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing



1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great re-deem-er's praise,
2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
4 He breaks the pow'r of can-celed sin; he sets the pris-'ner free.
5 To God all glor-y, praise, and love be now and ev-er giv'n



the glo-ries of my God and king, the tri-umphs of his grace!
to spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.
sings mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
His blood can make the foul-est clean; his blood a-vails for me.
by saints be-low and saints a-bove, the church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.
Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829

*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, Ariel, John Tartline, Donna Baker, George Poliska, April Clark, Connie Shaible, Ann Kuntz, John and Terry Holohan, Shirley Kinney, Alex & Adaline Day, Loretta Hewe and Christina Aguirre.

COMMEMORATIONS

Bartholomew, Apostle

Sunday, August 24, 2025

Mentioned as one of Jesus' disciples in Matthew, Mark, and Luke, Bartholomew's name is replaced in John's gospel by Nathanael, leading many to believe that the two are different names for the same person. Little is known about his work, though some traditions place him later in India or Armenia.



Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, died 430

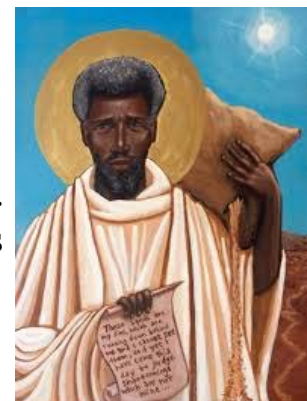
Thursday, August 28, 2025

Augustine was one of the greatest theologians of the Western church. A native of North Africa, he recovered from a debauched young adulthood through the influence of his mother, Monica, and Bishop Ambrose of Milan. Besides writing influential theological books, he served as bishop of Hippo, in present-day Algeria. Martin Luther was highly influenced by his work.

Moses the Black, monk, martyr, died around 400

Thursday, August 28, 2025

Converted from life as a thief and a robber to Christianity, Moses was an Ethiopian who became a desert monk at Skete. The change in his heart and life had a profound impact on his native country. He was murdered when Berber bandits attacked his monastery.



THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Today, August 24 Holy Communion, 9:30 am

Monday, August 25 Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm

Tuesday, August 26 Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm

Wednesday, August 27 Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Thursday, August 28 | Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm |
| Friday, August 29 | Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm |
| Saturday, August 30 | Office Closed |
| Sunday, August 31 | Holy Communion, 9:30 am |

In observance of Labor Day, the Church Office will be closed on Monday, September 1. Happy Labor Day!

OUR STEWARDSHIP for August 17, 2025

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Regular Offering | \$3,202.00 |
| Plate Offerings | 80.00 |
| Food Pantry | 60.00 |
| World Hunger | 50.00 |
| Global Mission | 50.00 |
| Operation Christmas Child | 110.00 |
| Organ Fund | 20.00 |
| Lutheran World Relief | 25.00 |
| Grand Total | \$3,597.00 |

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God; and
 In honor of Shirley Kinney's 94th birthday by Mike & Jackie Kinney and;
 In loving memory of Pastor Duane Nelson (brother of Leah Haussmann) by The Hausmanns.

WORSHIP LEADERS for August 24, 2025

| | | |
|----------------------|---------|---------------------------|
| Lector | 9:30 am | Drew Haussmann |
| Communion Assistants | 9:30 am | Matt & Wanda Fortin |
| Ushers | 9:30 am | Maggs Team, Dick Reitz |
| Hospitality | 9:30 am | Candy Dewar |
| Organist | 9:30 am | Sam Robinson |
| Altar Guild (AUGUST) | | Cindy Huff & Linda Rosini |

BIRTHDAYS

| | | | |
|---------------------|------|-----------------|------|
| Jonah Schreckengast | 8/28 | Lorraine Barone | 8/30 |
| Shirley Kinney | 8/29 | Lou Ann Zeigler | 8/30 |
| Ashton Ott | 8/29 | | |

ANNIVERSARIES

| | | | |
|-------------------------|------|----------------------|------|
| Charles & Gloria Greevy | 8/26 | Thomas Waffenschmidt | |
| Phil & Barb Thomas | 8/28 | & Valerie Doebler | 8/30 |

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.”

Calling all men! St. Mark’s is “exploring” the idea of a Men’s Fellowship Group. If such an idea appeals to you, please join us for a preliminary and organizational meeting determining topics, frequency and location on Sunday, September 7, 9:30 am in our Middle Lounge. All men (teenagers too) are welcome.

St. Mark’s returns to our **fall schedule** on September 7: Holy Communion, 8 am; Holy Communion, 10:30 am. Sunday School begins September 14, 9:15 am.

***There will be a Congregational Meeting to vote on the dossal on Sunday, September 14th, 2025 following the 8 am and 10:30 am services.**



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)



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.



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 needs are women's deodorant, toothpaste, bar soap, bodywash, shampoo and paper towels.** Any assistance you can give to this request is greatly appreciated.

Cereal Sunday

Our final Cereal Sunday will be September 14, 2025. To date our congregation has donated 199 boxes of assorted cereal! The Food Pantry is very grateful for our donations. Like Old Mother Hubbard, their cupboards were bare.

Can we finish this project by getting to 225 boxes of cereal or more being donated?



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 / sign-up sheets in the Narthex.



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**. A container is available in the Narthex for these specific items.

Our final collection date for these two items is Sunday, September 14, 2025.

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.

Pastors' Monthly Luncheons Return

The Parish Life Committee needs the congregation's help. 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. Lunches are held on the second Thursday of each month from September through May with approximately twelve pastors in attendance. We would welcome help with the meal, particularly the donation of a dessert. Please speak with Becky Miller Pryor if you would like to assist with meal prep or donate a dessert or other part of the meal.



TastyKake Thank You

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee wholeheartedly thanks the congregation for their many donations of TastyKakes.

We have made many requests for help for our community and you have not failed to respond abundantly.

With your help, we were able to send 120 packets of assorted TastyKakes to Redeemer Lutheran, plus send another 30 packets to New Covenant's Blessing Boxes! **We are blessed. Thank you.**

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