

HOLY CROSS DAY

September 14, 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, 8 & 10:30 am
(With One Voice, Setting 5)**

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

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY

This festival, which originated in the fourth century, celebrates the triumph of the cross. Paul reminds us that Christ crucified is the power and wisdom of God. As Moses put a serpent on a pole to be a source of healing for the Israelites, we lift high the cross as the sign of our health and salvation. Each time we make the sign of the cross we remember our baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of and ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. By the power of your Holy Spirit, grant that we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Kneel/Stand

Silence for reflection and self-examination

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

With joy I proclaim to you that Almighty God ☩, rich in mercy, abundant in love, forgives you all your sin and grants you newness of life, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

***HYMN The Head That Once Was Crowned LBW, “Green,” 173**

The Head That Once Was Crowned



- 1 The head that once was crowned with thorns is crowned with glo - ry now;
- 2 The high - est place that heav'n af - fords is his by sov'-reign right,
- 3 The joy of all who dwell a - bove, the joy of all be - low
- 4 To them the cross, with all its shame, with all its grace, is giv'n;



a roy - al di - a - dem a - dorns the might - y vic - tor's brow.
the King of kings, and Lord of lords, and heav'n's e - ter - nal light.
to whom he man - i - fests his love, and grants his name to know;
their name, an ev - er - last - ing name, their joy, the joy of heav'n.

Text: Thomas Kelly, 1769–1855

Music: ST. MAGNUS, Jeremiah Clarke, 1669–1707

***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



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



☐ Lord God, heav-en - ly king, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;



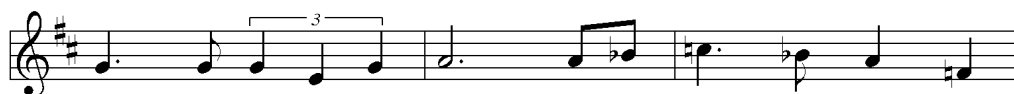
glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



☐ Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re-ceive our prayer.

Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;

glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

I For you a-lone are the Ho - ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,
II

you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly

Spir- it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther, A - men.

Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;

glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth,

and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

*THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that he might draw the whole world to himself. To those who look upon the cross, grant your wisdom, healing, and eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE FIRST READING: Numbers 21:4b-9

[From Mount Hor the Israelites set out,] ^{4b} but the people became discouraged on the way. ⁵ The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you

brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.”⁶ Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷ The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸ And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.”⁹ So Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it upon a pole, and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live. The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 98:1-4

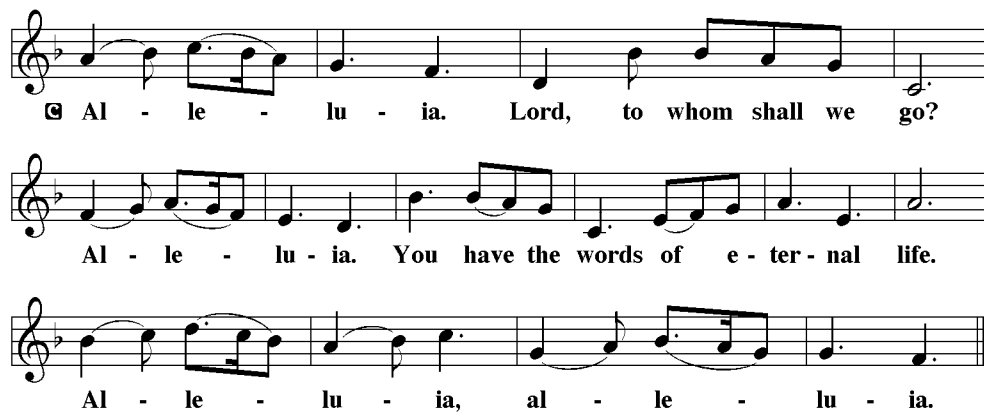
- ¹ Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done | marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have | won the victory.
- ² **O LORD, you have made | known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight | of the nations.**
- ³ You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the | house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory | of our God.
- ⁴ **Shout with joy to the LORD, | all you lands;
lift up your voice, re- | joice, and sing.**

THE SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-24

- ¹⁸ The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,
“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”
- ²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*THE GOSPEL: John 3:13-17

The holy gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, according to St. John, the 3rd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹³ “No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

*HYMN

There in God's Garden

WOV, “Blue,” 668

There in God's Garden



1 There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom,
 2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!"
 3 Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its fo - liage;
 4 See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come;



whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:
 There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - f'ring;
 our greed has starved it, our de - spite has choked it.
 hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry!



Tree of all knowl - edge, Tree of all com -
 see there the ten - drils of our hu - man
 Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not de -
 Give me your sick - ness, give me all your



pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.
 self - hood feed on its life - blood.
 stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.
 sor - row, I will give bless - ing."

5 This is my ending
 this my resurrection;
 into your hands, Lord,
 I commit my spirit.
 This have I searched for;
 now I can possess it.
 This ground is holy.

6 All heav'n is singing,
 "Thanks to Christ whose passion
 offers in mercy
 healing, strength, and pardon.
 Peoples and nations,
 take it, take it freely!"
 Amen! My Master!

***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/Receive our prayer.

***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.

***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 now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
Lord, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Lord our God, through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts.
Strengthened by them we offer ourselves to your service
and dedicate our lives to 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.



***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**



☞ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

***INVITATION TO COMMUNE**

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.

Come to this meal of mercy.

Amen. 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**

O God,
through this meal you have strengthened us
and appointed us to be your servants.
Send us to do good
and to share our possessions with all in need.
We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

***BLESSING**

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

Amen.

***HYMN**

Go To the World

No Reference Available

Go to the World!



1 Go to the world! Go in - to all the earth.
 2 Go to the world! Go in - to ev - 'ry place.
 3 Go to the world! Go strug - gle, bless, and pray;
 4 "Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,
 Go preach the cross where Christ re - news life's worth,
 Go live the word of God's re - deem - ing grace.
 the nights of tears give way to joy - ous day.
 for I am with you till the age shall end,
 bap - tiz - ing as the sign of our re - birth.
 Go seek God's pres - ence in each time and space.
 As ser - vant church, you fol - low Christ's own way.
 when all the hosts of glo - ry cry, A - men!"

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: SINE NOMINE, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

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*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

OUR PRAYER LIST

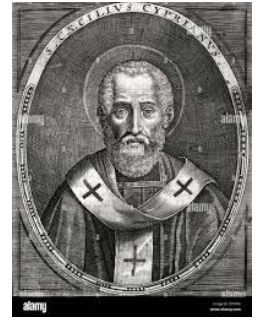
Liz Ruesskamp, Grace Arner, Vanessa Morgan, Gary Clark, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, Gary Cable, Virginia Pulaskie, Bunny Ditchfield, Judy Fortin, Ezra Buckman, Sheila Brassard, Kevin Rosini, Kathy Eshelman, Micah, Deb Buckman, Linda Rosini, Walt Haussmann, Kristin Rehm, Ariel, John Tartline, Donna Baker, George Poliska, April Clark, Connie Shaible, Ann Kuntz, John and Terry Holohan, Alex & Adaline Day, Loretta Hawe, Christina Aguirre, Bill Emery, for all involved in the shooting at Utah Valley University, and the family of Charles Kirk.

COMMEMORATIONS

Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, martyr, died around 258

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

Cyprian served as a bishop during a time of great persecution of Christians. He insisted on receiving back those who had left the faith under duress. He also provided medical care during a severe epidemic.



Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, died 1179

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

A mystic who was widely influential within the church, Hildegard advised and reprovved kings and popes, wrote poems and hymns, and produced treatises in medicine, theology, and natural history. She was also a musician and artist.



Dag Hammarskjöld, renewer of society, died 1961

Thursday, September 18, 2025

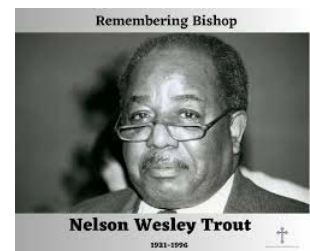
A Swedish diplomat, Hammarskjöld served as the second Secretary General of the United Nations until his death in a plane crash while trying to negotiate peace in present-day Zambia. His journal, published as *Markings*, revealed the depth of his Christian faith.



Nelson Wesley Trout, bishop, died 1996

Saturday, September 20, 2025

A native of Ohio, Trout served parishes in several parts of the United States before being elected bishop of the South Pacific District of the American Lutheran Church, the first African American Lutheran to serve in such a capacity.



THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Today, September 14	Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 am Congregational Meeting follows both services Sunday School, 9:15 am 175 TH Anniversary Meeting following 10:30 am Congregational Meeting
Monday, September 15	Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm Council, 6 pm
Tuesday, September 16	Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm
Wednesday, September 17	Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm
Thursday, September 18	Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm
Friday, September 19	Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm
Saturday, September 20	Office Closed
Sunday, September 21	Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 am Sunday School, 9:15 am Men's Fellowship, 9:30 am

OUR STEWARDSHIP for September 7, 2025

Regular Offering	4,329.00
Plate Offerings	15.00
Bulletin Sponsor	20.00
World Hunger	20.00
Food Pantry	20.00
Parish Life	30.00
Operation Christmas Child	90.00
Capital Fund	50.00
Flower Memorials/Tributes	175.00
Synod Benevolence	10.00
Grand Total	\$4759.00

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God; and
In Celebration of our St. Mark's Family and;
To the Glory of God by Steve & Karen Mariano.

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WORSHIP LEADERS for September 14, 2025

Lector	8:00 am	Nikki Jackson
	10:30 am	Shelby Weber
Communion Assistants	8:00 am	Nikki Jackson
	10:30 am	Shelby & Gary Weber
Ushers	8:00 am	Miller/Poff
	10:30 am	Gair Family
Hospitality	8:00 am	The Newcomers
Organist		Sam Robinson
Altar Guild (SEPTEMBER)		Deb Buckman

BIRTHDAYS

Audrey Bower 9/19

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.”



Lutheran
World
Relief

Thank you so much to those persons who have already made kits – school, fabric and personal care. There are still a few school bags left to be filled. Collection will go on throughout Sept. Baby kits are desperately needed in several war torn countries. These are people who have lost everything. Kits are also being distributed in areas of natural disasters here in the US.

If you do not want to make a kit or buy items toward kits, cash donations are always accepted. Please put ‘LWR kits’ in memo line. Money is needed to ship the kits to their final destinations.

There is a map of the 2024 distributions in the hallway across from the offices.

Thanks again - Deb B dabuckman65@gmail.com

PACK UP DAY will be Sunday, September 28, 2025 after 10:30 am service.

Family Promise

Our next hosting is in October beginning on the 5th. I will be contacting everyone in the middle of September. If you wish to get involved but have not in the past, please talk to me. Our final hosting for the year is Nov. 16 - 22 which is before Thanksgiving. I will be on vacation that week and will need someone to oversee the hosting in the event of a problem (none in the past 3 hostings). Deb B dabuckman65@gmail.com



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 red bin has been overflowing all year which is absolutely wonderful! This September we are collecting, **Small Games/Puzzles, and School Supplies.** Not a huge fan of shopping? Please consider a donation of \$10.00 which will be put toward our \$750.00 (or more) shipping costs.

These items (or any others you find) may be placed in our red, OCC bin located in the narthex. Your generosity is very much appreciated! 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.

New Ecumenical Youth Group

All interested youth (grades 6-12) are asked to gather for pizza, games and brainstorming at Trinity Episcopal Church, Williamsport, on Sunday, September 28 from 6-8pm. Hope to see you there!



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.

CROP Walk

Our Community's annual walk to fight hunger, CROP Hunger Walk, will be held **Sunday, October 12th** at 1:00 PM, on the River Walk in Williamsport. The walk begins here at St. Mark's and you can walk 3, 6 or 9 miles (most of us walk 3 miles).

Join the **St. Mark's Lutheran Church Lions** team to walk or donate. Our goal is \$1,000 (last year we raised \$1,065)! Hungry people in developing countries can walk as many as six miles a day for food and water. We walk because they walk. By walking on a fall afternoon, you create awareness to these issues, raise funds and have fellowship with members of the St. Mark's congregation as well as other congregations.

25% of the funds we raise support local hunger agencies and the other 75% is distributed by Church World Service nationally and internationally. In partnership CROP walks support self-help programs, assist after disasters and help address root causes of poverty by providing water systems and tools to grow the food they need.

To register to walk or donate to our team, you can speak with Brenda Gair (text 570-220-8859) or on-line;

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/team/st-marks-lutheran-church-lions>

Checks can be made payable to "CWS/CROP"



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



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.



New Address: Cards and letters are welcome!

Smart Communications/PA DOC
Ezra Buckman/QR1277
SCI Smithfield
PO Box 33028
St. Petersburg, Florida 33733

Still interested in a **Men's Fellowship** but missed the first meeting? Not to worry! We will meet again on September 21, 2025 at 9:30 am in the Middle Lounge to discuss topics and confirm our meeting time. Hope to see you then!

A Concert in SOUND and SIGHT –
The Seipp/Fickley Trumpet/Organ Duo
VIDEO illustrating MUSIC

From Copland's *Fanfare for the Common Man*, to the 1917 silent film *Teddy at the Throttle*, to Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*, enjoy unprecedented entertaining and musical heights through all styles of specialized arrangements synchronized to captivating and moving videos. An entertaining and engaging program for all ages.

Covenant Central Presbyterian Church
807 West Fourth Street, Williamsport
Saturday, October 4, 3 p.m.

No tickets, but donations welcome to benefit veterans

Sergeant Major Chuck Seipp, U.S. Army Band, retired, performed at national, presidential, and historical world events, especially in Washington D.C. He has toured and recorded throughout Europe.

Todd Fickley is Organist of National Presbyterian Church, Washington D.C., and founder of "The Back Project". He has performed across the United States, Europe and Israel.

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