# THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST October 19, 2025

# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701
<a href="mailto:stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org">stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org</a>
Office (570-323-4619) Fax (570-323-2452)
<a href="mailto:Rev.Brian">Rev.Brian D. Vasey, Pastor</a>
<a href="mailto:bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org">bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org</a>

### 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 (Lutheran Book of Worship, Setting 1)

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

Pray always. Do not lose heart. This is Christ's encouragement in the gospel today. Wrestle with the word. Remember your baptism again and again. Come regularly to Christ's table. Persistence in our every encounter with the divine will be blessed.

### WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### \*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 our 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.

In the mercy of almighty God Jesus Christ was given 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 there 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

# **Thy Strong Word**

LBW, "Green," 233



- 5 Give us lips to sing thy glory, tongues thy mercy to proclaim, throats that shout the hope that fills us, mouths to speak thy holy name. Alleluia! Alleluia! May the light which thou dost send fill our songs with alleluias, alleluias without end!
- 6 God the Father, light-creator, to thee laud and honor be. To thee, Light of Light begotten, praise be sung eternally. Holy Spirit, light-revealer, glory, glory be to thee. Mortals, angels, now and ever praise the holy Trinity!

## \*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.

Let us pray. O Lord God, tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to hear our cries. Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for all this suffering world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

### THE FIRST READING: Genesis 32:22-31

<sup>22</sup> The same night [Jacob] got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. <sup>23</sup> He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. <sup>24</sup> Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. <sup>25</sup> When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. <sup>26</sup> Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." <sup>27</sup> So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." <sup>28</sup> Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed." <sup>29</sup> Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. <sup>30</sup> So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved." <sup>31</sup> The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

#### **PSALM 121**

<sup>1</sup>I lift up my eyes | to the hills;

from where is my | help to come?

<sup>2</sup> My help comes | from the LORD,

the maker of heav- | en and earth.

- <sup>3</sup> The LORD will not let your | foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you | fall asleep.
- Behold, the keep- | er of Israel

will neither slum- | ber nor sleep;

5 the LORD watches | over you;

the LORD is your shade at | your right hand;

6the sun will not strike | you by day,

# nor the | moon by night.

- <sup>7</sup>The LORD will preserve you | from all evil and will | keep your life.
- <sup>8</sup> The LORD will watch over your going out and your | coming in, from this time forth for- | evermore.

# THE SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

<sup>14</sup> But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it <sup>15</sup> and how from childhood you have known sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> so that the person of God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

<sup>4:1</sup> In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: <sup>2</sup> proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage with the utmost patience in teaching. <sup>3</sup> For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound teaching, but, having their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires <sup>4</sup> and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. <sup>5</sup> As for you, be sober in everything, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

The word of the Lord.

# Thanks be to God.

### \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



### \*THE GOSPEL: Luke 18:1-8

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



<sup>1</sup> Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. <sup>2</sup> He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. <sup>3</sup> In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my accuser.' <sup>4</sup> For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, <sup>5</sup> yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.' " <sup>6</sup> And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. <sup>7</sup> And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? <sup>8</sup> I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

The Gospel of the Lord.



### THE SERMON

# \*HYMN If You But Trust in God to Guide You LBW, "Green," 453



### \*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



### \*OFFERING PRAYER

Lord of the harvest,

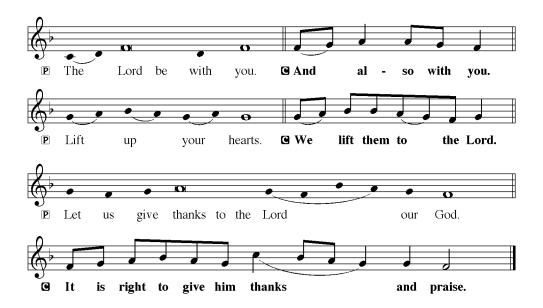
we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.

Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us.

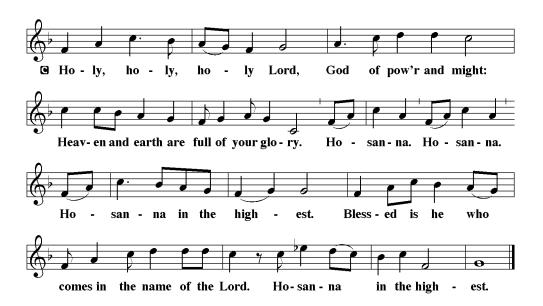
Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### Amen.

### \*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



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

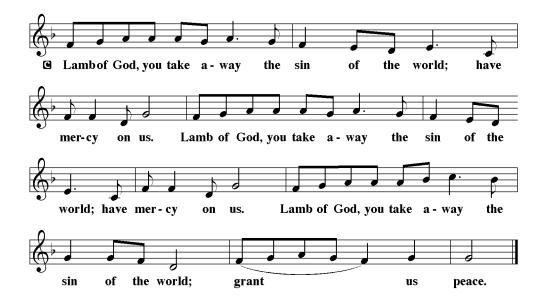
Lord as you have taught us, so now we pray:
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,

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



### \*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** Great is Thy Faithfulness

WOV, "Blue," 771

# Great Is Thy Faithfulness



Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866-1960

Music: FAITHFULNESS, William M. Runyan, 1870–1957
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# \*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart!

Thanks be to God.

### **POSTLUDE**

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### **OUR PRAYER LIST**

Grace Arner, Vanessa Morgan, Gary Clark, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, Gary Cable, Virginia Pulaskie, Bunny Ditchfield, Ezra Buckman, Sheila Brassard, Kevin Rosini, Kathy Eshelman, Micah, Deb Buckman, Linda Rosini, Walt Haussmann, Kristin Rehm, Ariel, John Tartline, George Poliska, Connie Shaible, Ann Kuntz, John and Terry Holohan, Loretta Hawe and Len.

### **COMMEMORATION**

# James of Jerusalem, martyr, died around 62

Thursday, October 23, 2025



One of three early-church leaders named James, this man is identified in the New Testament and by a historian of the time as a brother of Jesus. Scholars are uncertain whether this means a biological brother. He was a leader of the church in Jerusalem.

### THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Today, October 19 Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 am

Sunday School, 9:30 am

Monday, October 20 Office Hours, 9 am - 1 pm

Little Lambs Liaison, 12:15 pm Nominating Committee, 5:30 pm

Council, 6 pm

Tuesday, October 21 Office Hours, 9 am - 1 pm

Wednesday, October 22 Office Hours, 9 am − 1 pm

Study, "The Place of Trust", 12:10 pm, FH

Thursday, October 23 Office Hours, 9 am - 1 pm

Friday, October 24 Office Hours, 9 am - 1 pm

Saturday, October 25 Office Closed

Sunday, October 26 Reformation Sunday

Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 am

Sunday School, 9:15 am Bishop Miller at St. Mark's

Wear Red!!!

# **October Bible Study**

Please join us Wednesdays in October as we take time to learn and grow in our faith. Pastor Vasey will lead us in a study based on the Beatitudes in the Gospel according to Matthew. Our texts will be scripture and The Place of Trust (an understanding of the Beatitudes from the writings of Martin Luther) by Dr. Martin Marty. Both will be available for use. You are invited to bring a brown bag lunch to munch as we meet from 12:10-12:45 in Fellowship Hall. We are excited for this opportunity, and look forward to sharing this time of study and fellowship.

# **Reformation Sunday**

Reformation Sunday will be celebrated October 26, 2025. Bishop Miller (Upper Susquehanna Synod) will join us in worship at both services. Following our 8 am Service and Hospitality there will be a "question and answer" time with our bishop in Fellowship Hall. Remember...Reformation Sunday is October 26, 2025. Don't forget to "Wear Red" to worship as we celebrate this special day!

# All Saints' Sunday

All Saints' Sunday will be celebrated at St. Mark's on November 2 at both services. All Saints' remembers and give thanks to God for all the faithful in Christ past, present and future. Be sure to join us as we commemorate the faithful and commit ourselves to be "servants of Christ".

# Thank You!

Dear St. Mark's Family,

Thank you so very much for remembering me on Pastor Appreciation Sunday in such a delicious and flavorful way! Sticky buns from Mr. Sticky's really hit the spot and as you know, taste even better when warmed in a microwave. The gift card from Perkin's is very thoughtful. Perkin's is a "big hit" with Diana and Robin and grandma' and pop-pop think it's pretty good too! Thank you for your generosity and thoughtfulness.

Your Pastor,

Brian D. Vasey

# **OUR STEWARDSHIP for October 12, 2025**

Regular Offering	2,531.00
Plate Offerings	20.00
Sunday School Offering	8.00
Parish Life	30.00
Organ Fund	100.00
Flower Memorials/Tributes	s 35.00
Grand Total	\$2,724.00

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

In loving memory of my parents, Lester & Joanne Snyder, by Michele, Devin & Dawson Owen and;

In loving memory of Ed & Mary Gair, by their children and grandchildren.

\*Please note: One vase of altar flowers for 9-28-25 was in loving memory of loved ones by Donna Boston.

# **WORSHIP LEADERS for October 19, 2025**

Lector	8:00 am	Nikki Jackson
	10:30 am	Mary Ann Stiller
Communion Assistants	8:00 am	Becky Pryor
	10:30 am	Shelby & Gary Weber
Ushers	8:00 am	Miller/Poff
	10:30 am	The Maggs/Dick Reitz
Hospitality	8:00 am	Cheryl & Dave Williams
	10:30 am	Barb & Phil Thomas

Organist Sam Robinson Altar Guild (OCTOBER) Bev Hieber

**BIRTHDAYS** 

Theresa Furman 10/21 Dick Miller 10/24

Paige Hanford 10/21 Charles Kuntz 10/24

#### **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."



On Saturday, October 18, 2025 our kits were delivered to Faith Lutheran Church in Lewisburg. There were 2 quilts, 22 personal care kits, 70 school kits, 8 fabric kits, 6 baby care kits and 5 fleece blankets. Thank you to everyone who donated!!!!! These kits will be distributed to East and West Africa, Latin America, Europe, Asia, the Middle East and the United States and will help to end poverty, injustice and human suffering. Deb B <a href="mailto:dabuckman65@gmail.com">dabuckman65@gmail.com</a>.

# **Family Promise**

Our next hosting is Nov 16-22 so please mark this on your calendar.. Thanks to all who have helped in the past. Please stay tuned for further information. Deb B <u>dabuckman65@gmail.com.</u>



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

Thanks to your continued generosity, our OCC shoeboxes are just about complete. In fact, they are just about bursting at the seams ~ a great "problem" to have! For the month of October, we will be collecting "Odds N Ends" ~ things that will help us finish each of the 75 (or more) boxes that we will be donating to Samaritan's Purse. School supplies, combs/brushes, hair accessories, small toys, flashlights, all are welcome! Not a huge fan of shopping? Please consider donating \$10.00 to help cover the cost of shipping our boxes. Thank you again for your continued support of this outreach project. We are excited to see our boxes come together at our **Shoebox Packing Event** which will be held in Fellowship Hall on **November 9th** after the 10:30 service. Would love to see you there!

\*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.

# **Soup Sale at Sojourner Truth Ministries**

For those who ordered soup from STM, this is a reminder that pick up is Friday, October 24 and Saturday, October 25 from 9:00 - 1:00. Sojourner Truth Ministries is located at 501 High Street in Williamsport.



# Urgent Needs At.....

<u>Shepherd of the Streets:</u> Toothbrushes and toothpaste, Women's deodorant, Disposable razors, Laundry pods, Bars of soap, Q-tips and Band-Aids.

<u>United Churches Food Pantry:</u> The congregation is to be congratulated for their many food donations made during our Harvest Home collection. Ray and Cindy Huff recently delivered our donations to the United Churches Food Pantry. The Pantry reported that St. Mark's donated 41 bags equaling 210.85 pounds of non-perishable food! As we near the holiday season, please consider continuing to offer items to be used by the Pantry. Any help you can give is greatly appreciated as the need is great.

# **Church Women United Visit St. Mark's**

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee will host the Church Women United of Lycoming County on Saturday, November 1, 2025 beginning at 10:00 AM in Fellowship Hall. CWU will present a bible study followed by light refreshments and fellowship. A free will offering will be taken to support their outreach. All women of St. Mark's are cordially invited to attend.



This year's Little Lambs' Halloween Party theme is: <u>Noah's Ark Parade</u>. The parade of costumes will begin at 9:30 am, October 31, 2025 and march through our Parish House. If you would like to participate in providing "treats" please bring them to the church office.



# **Williamsport Civic Chorus Concert**

Sacred Voices: Divine Harmony from Martines to Mozart on Sunday Nov. 9 at 3 PM here at St. Mark's. Cost: general admission - \$12 at door, Senior/Student \$10 at door. \$2 discount if purchased online through Williamsportcivicchorus.org or at RM Sides or Otto's bookstore.



# Williamsport Chamber Choir & Orchestra present:

# **REFRAINS OF THE REFORMATION**

Samuel Robinson, Artistic Director

"The centerpiece of the concert will be Johann Sebastian Bach's Cantata 80, Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott ("A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"), based on Luther's well-known hymn. The program will also include works by Felix Mendelssohn and feature a special collaboration by the Williamsport Youth Choir."

### Concert Details:

Friday, November 14, 2025
St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Williamsport, PA
Tickets: \$10 adults/\$5 students at the door.



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