

**The Second Sunday of Advent**

**December 7, 2025**

***The Chrismon Service***

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**

142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701

[stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org)

Office (570-323-4619) Fax (570-323-2452)

Rev. Brian D. Vasey, Pastor

[bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org)

***A Veni Emmanuel Setting for Holy Communion***  
**(9:30 am)**



**Please Note:**

**Hand sanitizer is available for your use. Offerings may be received by way of offering plates as you enter or leave.**

**Bold print indicates Congregation.**

***A GUIDE TO HYMNAL USE: LBW, Green Book; WOV, Blue Book***

***\*Please stand as you are able.***

**INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP**

*Today's liturgy is an order of worship for decorating the Christmas Tree with "Chrismons". Chrismons are "Christian Monograms"; symbols of Christ and his ministry. There is no formal sermon today for the message is found in scripture, narration, hymns and symbols of our tree.*

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**\*BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
alive in the world,  
reviving creation,  
arriving soon.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God  
and of one another.

*Kneel/stand. A brief silence is observed.*

God of mercy,

**we confess that we have sinned.**

**We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.**

**We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

God of might,

**we confess that we have sinned.**

**We have turned away from our neighbors.**

**We have trusted false promises.**

God in our midst,

**we confess that we have sinned.**

**We plead: come to us.**

**Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

A righteous branch springs forth:

it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,

in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.

By the power of the Holy Spirit,

receive the grace and forgiveness of God

through ✠ Christ Jesus,

whose day draws near.

**Amen.**

**\*HYMN      Come, Thou Long - Expected Jesus      LBW, "Green," 30**

**\*THE GREETING**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**\*KYRIE**

The musical notation for the Kyrie consists of three systems, each with two staves. The first staff of each system is labeled 'Cantor' and the second is labeled 'All'. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy, Christ, have mercy, Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

1      Cantor      All  
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

3      Cantor      All  
Christ, have mercy, Christ, have mercy,

5      Cantor      All  
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

## **\*LIGHTING OUR ADVENT WREATH**

*(Sung) Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to you O Israel.*

## **\*THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **“OUR PAGEANT OF CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS”**

### Trinity

Matthew 28: 16-20

Narration

Hymn Holy, Holy, Holy (Sts. 1 and 3) LBW 165

### Iota

Matthew 1:18-23

Narration

Hymn At the Name of Jesus (Sts. 1-3) LBW 179

### Angel

Luke 2:8-14

Narration

Hymn It Came Upon the Midnight Clear LBW 54

### Fish

Luke 9:10-17

Narration

Hymn Break Now, the Bread of Life (Sts. 1-3) LBW 235

### Crook

John 10:11

Narration

Hymn Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us (Sts. 1-2) LBW 481

Cross

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

Narration

Hymn In the Cross of Christ I Glory (Sts. 1 and 4) LBW 104

Crown of Thorns

John 19:1-5

Narration

Hymn O Sacred Head, Now Wounded Sts. 1 and 4) LBW 117

Butterfly

Mark 16: 1-7

Narration

Hymn Thine Is the Glory LBW 145

Lights

John 8:12

Narration

Hymn I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (Sts. 1-2) WOV 649

**\*NICENE CREED**

Rejoicing in him whom our tree proclaims, let us confess our faith.

**We believe in one God,**

**the Father, the Almighty,**

**maker of heaven and earth,**

**of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**

**the only Son of God,**

**eternally begotten of the Father,**

**God from God, Light from Light,**

**true God from true God,**

**begotten, not made,**

**of one Being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,  
and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

**\*THE PRAYERS**

*(After each petition: Coming Lord/Receive our prayer)*

**\*THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*All may greet one another with these or similar words and/or gestures of peace*

**\*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, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the choirs of angels, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Holy One,  
the beginning and the end,  
the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.  
Blessed are you  
in the darkness and the light.  
Blessed are you  
for your promise to your people.  
Blessed are you  
in the prophets' hopes and dreams.  
Blessed are you  
for Mary's openness to your will.  
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,  
the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and 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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:  
**Christ is died. Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

With this bread and cup  
we remember your Word  
dwelling among us,



full of grace and truth.  
We remember our new birth  
in his death and resurrection.  
We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God,  
we long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours,

Holy One of Israel

Word of God incarnate

Power of the Most High,

one God, 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

The musical score is written on three staves. The first staff is for the Cantor, with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "Je sus, wis - dom and might - y Lord, you take a way the sins\_\_\_ of the Je-sus, true branch of Jes - se's Tree Key of Dav - id and Day - spring from on high. De sire of na - tions, our Em - man - u - el,". The second staff is for the choir, with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. It begins with a "1.2.3." marking and an "All" marking. The lyrics are: "world: have mer - cy on us. Have mer - cy on us." The third staff is also for the choir, with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. It begins with a "4." marking and an "All" marking. The lyrics are: "world: Grant us\_\_\_ peace. Grant us\_\_\_ peace." The score uses various musical notations including eighth notes, quarter notes, and rests.

### \*INVITATION TO COMMUNE

God feeds us with tender mercy, come!

*All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Use the center aisle, pick up a small glass on the way. Receive the bread and then proceed to receive the wine by way of a pouring chalice. After communing return to your pew using a side aisle. Those not communing may come forward for a blessing.*

*Know that the crucified and risen Christ gives himself to you in his supper. If you cannot eat bread, drink only the wine. If you cannot drink wine, eat only the bread*

### \*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

Generous God,  
we thank you for the gift of life in bread and wine,  
for coming among us, for leading us into peace.  
You shower us with mercy, and send us into the world,  
proclaiming the One who has come, is coming

and has promised to come again,  
Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**\*THE PROCLAMATION OF JESUS AS KING**

Revelation 11:15-17

Narration

Hymn Crown Him with Many Crowns (Sts. 1-4)

LBW 170

**\*THE WITNESS OF OUR TREE**

Receive the message of this tree which proclaims Jesus as Savior and Lord!

**Amen. Alleluia!**

**\*THE BLESSING**

May the blessing of him who has come and has promised to come again,  
the One whose kingdom is foretold in this tree, bless you ☩ now and forever.

**Amen.**

**\*SONG “O Chrismon Tree”**

**“O Chrismon Tree”**

**O Chrismon Tree, O Chrismon Tree!**

**You stand before us brightly**

**From base to summit you are bright**

**And tell us of true heaven's light**

**O Chrismon Tree, O Chrismon Tree!**

**You stand before us brightly.**

**O Chrismon Tree, O Chrismon Tree!**

**You tell of Christ so faithfully.**

**How he came as heaven's bliss,**

**To bring us life and forgiveness**

**O Chrismon Tree, O Chrismon Tree!**

**You tell of Christ so faithfully.**

**\*DISMISSAL**

**Go in peace, Christ is with you!**

**Thanks be to God!**

***PLEASE REMAIN SEATED. OUR ANNUAL MEETING WILL BEGIN SHORTLY***  
**COMMEMORATIONS**

**Ambrose, Bishop of Milan, died 397**

*Sunday, December 7, 2025*

While a governor of northern Italy, Ambrose was elected bishop of Milan on the same day he was baptized. He was a famous preacher, a writer of hymns we still sing today, and helped lead Augustine (4<sup>th</sup> Century Bishop of Hippo) to faith.



**Lucy, martyr, died 304**

*Saturday, December 13, 2025*

Lucy was a young Christian of Sicily who was martyred during the persecutions under Emperor Diocletian. Her celebration became particularly important in Sweden and Norway, perhaps because the feast of Lucia (whose name means "light") originally fell on the shortest day of the year.



**Chrismon Narrations**

Trinity

We place these symbols of the Trinity on our tree to remind us that the One God is in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Iota

We place this symbol on our tree to remind us that the name of Jesus means Savior.

Angel

We place an angel on our tree to remind us that when Jesus was born angels revealed the news to Mary, Joseph, and shepherds.

Fish

We place the fish on our tree to remind us that Jesus fed over 5000 with fish and bread; that he is the Bread of Life.

Crook

On our tree we place the Shepherd's Crook between the symbols of the Alpha and Omega to remind us that Jesus is our eternal Good Shepherd.

Cross

The cross on our tree reminds us of the love of God and the power of Christ's cross.

Thorns

We place a Crown of Thorns on our tree to remind us what Jesus wore while on the cross.

Butterfly

We place the butterfly on our tree because the butterfly is a symbol of resurrection and the new life that Jesus brings.

Lights

Lights have been placed on our tree to remind us that Jesus is our Light and our Life.

King's Crown

A King's Crown adorns the top of our tree to remind us that Jesus is the King of Heaven and Earth.

**We thank Megan Cartwright for sharing her talents with us in worship today.  
Thank you Megan!**

**Pianist:** Megan Cartwright

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**OUR PRAYER LIST**

Grace Arner, Vanessa Morgan, 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, John and Terry Holohan, Loretta Hawe, Carol Waltz, and the family of Sandy Noyce.

## **THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S**

Today, December 7	Second Sunday of Advent <i>Chrismon Service, 9:30 am</i> Annual Meeting and Brunch
Monday, December 8	Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm
Tuesday, December 9	Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm
Wednesday, December 10	Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm Mid-week Advent Worship, Chapel, 12:10 pm
Thursday, December 11	Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm
Friday, December 12	Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm
Saturday, December 13	Office Closed
Sunday, December 14	Third Sunday of Advent Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 am Sunday School, 9:15 am

## **OUR STEWARDSHIP for November 30, 2025**

Regular Offering	\$4,108.00
Plate Offerings	5.00
Thanksgiving	75.00
Food Pantry	50.00
Operation Christmas Child	60.00
Christmas Flowers	32.00
Family Promise Hosting	50.00
Organ Fund	200.00
Capital Fund	75.00
Flower Memorials/Tributes	35.00
Selinsgrove Christmas Party	100.00

**Grand Total                      \$4,790.00**

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the Glory of God; and  
In loving memory of Larry and Catherine Lundy by the family; and  
In honor of my sisters Barb, Karen and Diane; and in loving memory of my sister  
Peggy by Jackie Kinney.

**WORSHIP LEADERS for December 7, 2025**

Lector	9:30 am	Phil Thomas
Communion Assistants	9:30 am	Ralph & Lou Ann Ziegler
Ushers	9:30 am	Miller/Poff
Hospitality	9:30 am	BRUNCH
Pianist		Megan Cartwright
Altar Guild (NOVEMBER)		Matt & Wanda Fortin

**BIRTHDAYS**

Laura Schreckengast              12/7

**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."



So we are done for this year however, please do not stop thinking about the kits and the items for them! Watch the clearance racks and shelves for items and snap them up. If you do not want to store them at home, you can bring them to the church and put them in the office opposite the middle lounge -

you will know which one it is - the messy one with boxes, etc. Baby clothes, towels, etc. can be found on clearance. Deb Buckman



**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](mailto:stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org).



#### **Urgent Needs At.....**

**Shepherd of the Streets:** Shampoo, toothpaste, bar soap, boxes of tissues and baby wash, wipes and shampoo. Any other hygiene item is also greatly appreciated.

**Sojourner Truth Ministries (STM):** Needed are brown, large-size lunch bags, Dixie paper bowls (10-12 oz.) and plastic forks. FYI: STM serves more than 600 meals each week that include both eat-in and brown bag lunches to go.

**United Churches Food Pantry:** As we near the holiday season, please consider continuing to offer non-perishable food items to be used by the Pantry. Choosing to participate in our Reverse Advent project is an easy and fun way to do so. Any help you can give is greatly appreciated as the need is great and growing.

#### **Gifts to the Ladies of CM-6 and the Residents of the Danville State Hospital**

**For the ladies of CM-6,** we are in need of cozy slipper socks, pudding cups in all flavors but vanilla, (Vanilla is the only flavor the center serves.) moisturizing body wash and money to offset the cost of items not donated. We will also take a basket of individually wrapped snacks for the caregivers. Donations of needed items and snacks can be placed in the tub in the Narthex. Monetary donations may be made payable to St. Mark's with the memo line indicating "Selinsgrove Party." Thank you in advance for any help you are able to give.

**Donations for the Ladies of CM-6 are due by Sunday, December 14, 2025.**

**For the Residents of the Danville State Hospital,** we supply general gifts that can be used where they are most needed. The need is greatest for those residents who arrive at the hospital in November or December. Items being requested this



year for both men and women include socks, hats, gloves, scarves, inexpensive wallets and watches, underwear, sweatshirts, sweat pants, t-shirts and slippers in sizes large and up. Regular sizes of body wash, shampoo, conditioner, body lotion and deodorant are also requested.

All donations should be left unwrapped and placed in the tub in the Narthex. Thank you for any assistance you can give to this outreach.

**Donations for Danville State Hospital are due today Sunday, December 7, 2025.**

### **Holiday Cookie Trays**

Need cookies for Christmas? The Rise Up Village Bakery ([riseupvillagebakery@gmail.com](mailto:riseupvillagebakery@gmail.com)) is offering Holiday Cookie Trays. One tray contains three dozen assorted cookies plus extra sweet surprises. Profits benefit the United Churches of Lycoming County

Price: \$25.00 (Prepay by December 2)

Pickup: Choice of December 9 or December 16

Order Link: <https://forms.gle/uXJdp35RoJmD4Wq97> or call 570-215-3577

### **Church Women United - Update**



Members of CWU make fidget bags and small fidget quilts for hospitalized children and nursing home residents. If any members of St. Mark's have cotton or cotton/polyester material they wish to donate to the ladies, please leave it in the Narthex and the Evangelism and Fellowship Committee will deliver it to them.

St. Mark's Church Council cordially invites you to attend a brunch immediately following today's Annual Congregational Meeting. Our brunch menu, catered by The Food Guy, is tentatively set for quiche, egg casserole fresh fruit, sweet treats, and beverages and will be served in Fellowship Hall. We look forward to this time of Christian Fellowship, and hope that our time together might be a blessing to you during the busy holiday season.



Please join us on Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup> after the second service to share the Christmas spirit with our special concerns folks. We'll have a light lunch, then break up into teams. The more volunteers we have, the more people's day we can brighten! THE ONLY REQUIREMENTS ARE A WILLING SPIRIT AND A SMILING FACE, NOT MUSICAL TALENT! Please sign up on the clipboard in the Narthex so that we'll be able to plan our routes ahead of time, based on the number of volunteers. THANK YOU!

**Addendum to the Parish Register of the Annual Report:**

**Additional Members Removed from the Membership Rolls due to Death:**

(Marshall) Ray Reams

Catherine Lundy

Sandy (Stover) Noyes



**PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

The newly formed Men's Fellowship Group is hosting a Pancake Breakfast on **Sunday, January 4, 2026!** Come enjoy a plate of fluffy flapjacks and warm Christian fellowship as we kick off the new year together. We'll gather in **Fellowship Hall at 9:15 AM** for this time of food, conversation, and community. We look forward to seeing you there!

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