

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS

January 4, 2026

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; Setting 5 With One Voice

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

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSiON AND FORGIVENESS**

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

Amen.

All may make the sign of the cross as marked at baptism

Unto us a child is born; unto us a son is given.

Come, let us adore him. Alleluia

Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Kneel/Stand. Silence for reflection.

Reconciling God,
**we yearn for your presence to transform
our grief, pain, and despair.**

**We confess that we have not always prepared
room in our hearts for your love;
we have not always recognized
your presence among us;
we have not always embraced your message of peace.
We cry out, weary with the burden of violence,
oppression, and fear.
We confess our failure to make room
for those seeking refuge;
our participation in violent systems
that harm your innocent ones;
our reluctance to embody your good news.
Be born in us today
and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation.
Amen.**

God's grace flows over us.

☩ Christ's presence redeems the whole creation.

Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

Amen.

***HYMN Angels From the Realms of Glory LBW, "Green," 50**

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.
seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.
ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

Refrain

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4
Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

*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.

*KYRIE

A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **C** Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:

A Chri - ste e - le - i - son: **C** Christ, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy:

A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **C** Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:

*HYMN OF PRAISE

C 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 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.

C 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.

III 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.

*THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, 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: Jeremiah 31:7-14

⁷ Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
“Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel.”

⁸ See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor together;
a great company, they shall return here.

⁹ With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back;
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path where they shall not stumble,
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰ Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him
and will keep him as a shepherd does a flock.”

¹¹ For the LORD has ransomed Jacob
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

¹² They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.

¹³ Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.
I will turn their mourning into joy;
I will comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow.

¹⁴ I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
says the LORD.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 147:12-20

¹² Worship the LORD, | O Jerusalem;
praise your | God, O Zion,

¹³ **who has strengthened the bars | of your gates
and has blessed your chil- | dren within you.**

¹⁴ God has established peace | on your borders
and satisfies you with the | finest wheat.

¹⁵ **God sends out a command | to the earth,
a word that runs | very swiftly.**

¹⁶ God gives | snow like wool,
scattering | frost like ashes.

¹⁷ **God scatters | hail like bread crumbs.
Who can stand a- | gainst God's cold?**

¹⁸ The LORD sends forth the | word and melts them;
the wind blows, and the | waters flow.

¹⁹ **God declares the | word to Jacob,
statutes and judg- | ments to Israel.**

²⁰ The LORD has not done so to any | other nation;
they do not know God's judgments. | Hallelujah!

THE SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-14

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on

earth.¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will,¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory.¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit;¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
Al - le - lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*THE GOSPEL: John 1:1-18

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave

power to become children of God,¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is the only Son, himself God, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

***HYMN Of the Father's Love Begotten**

LBW, "Green," 42

Of the Father's Love Begotten

1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,
 3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his
 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly

gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing.
 one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
 prais - es sing; pow'r, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks-giv - ing

he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that
 bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -
 prom - ised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be -
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -

have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,
 deem er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,
 pect ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
 si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
 min ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry

ev - er - more and ev - er - more,
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more,
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more,
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more,
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more!

A - men.

***THE NICENE CREED**

With all the people of God, we 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

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

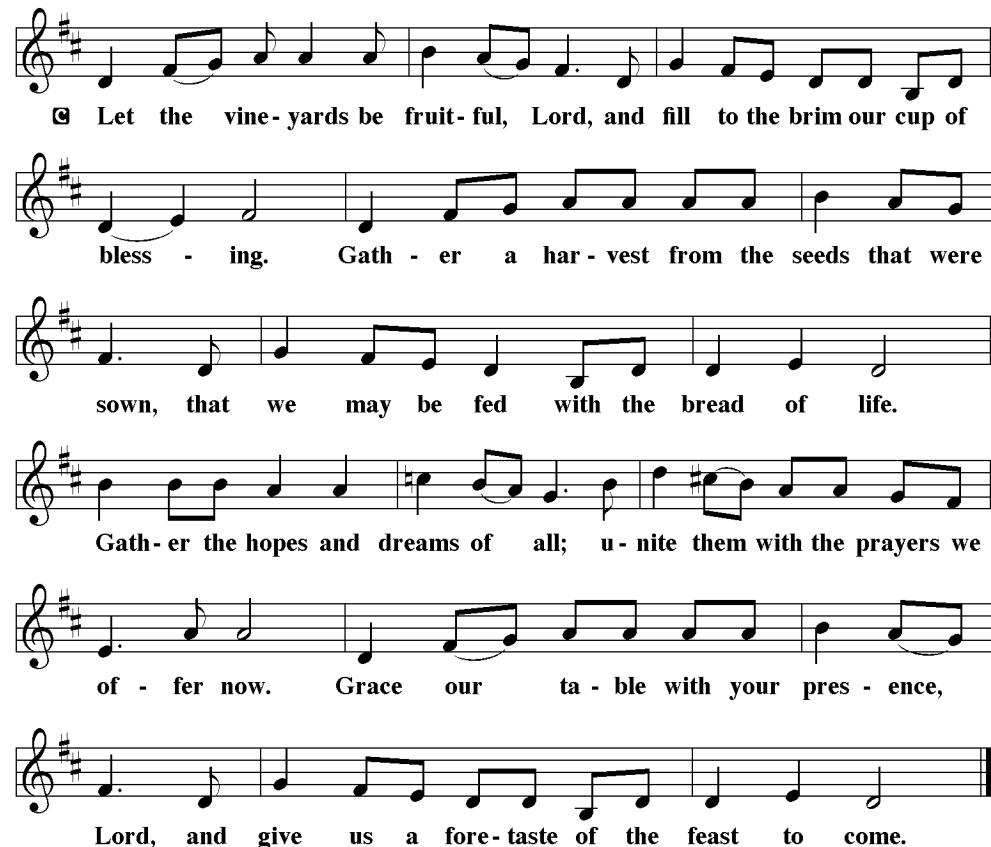
*THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

People may greet one another with these or similar words.

OFFERTORY



C 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**

God of glory,

great are your wonders among us

and many are the blessings you bestow.

Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world,

that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace,

through 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. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory; that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

© Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
 might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
 high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:
 Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.
 You have filled all creation with light and life;
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.
 We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age:
 The promise to Israel, the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land,
 the words of the prophets; and the gift of your Son,
 who proclaimed the good news in word and deed and was obedient to your will,
 even to the giving of his life.

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.”

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has 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 rejoice in the hope of his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,
that we who share in Christ's body and blood
may live to the praise of your glory
and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

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

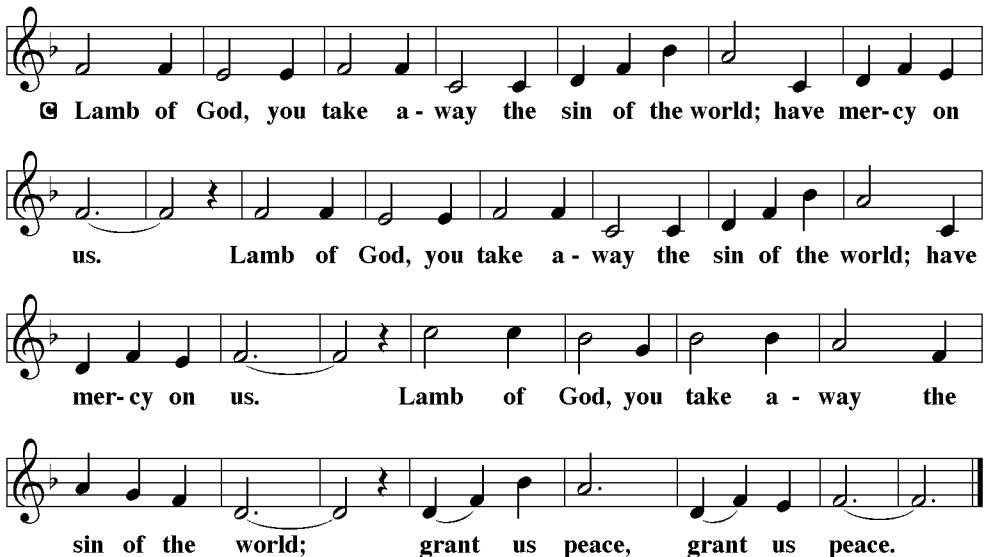
Lord as you have taught us, so now we pray:

**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



C 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**

In Christ's manger, at Christ's table, come, see what God makes known for you.

Thanks be to God!

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.

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**

Incarnate God, you are among us at this table.

May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence.

Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

***BLESSING**

The triune God,
glorious Mystery,
holy Incarnate One,
abiding Comforter,

☩ bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

Amen.

***HYMN**

Let All Together Praise Our God

LBW, "Green," 47

Let All Together Praise Our God



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God be - fore his glo - rious
2 The Fa - ther sends him from his throne to be an in - fant
3 With - in an earth-born form he hides his all - cre - at - ing
4 He un - der - takes a great ex - change, puts on our hu - man



throne; to - day he o - pens heav'n a - gain to
small and lie here poor - ly man - gered now in
light; to serve us all he hum - bly cloaks the
frame, and in re - turn gives us his realm, his



give us his own Son, to give us his own Son.
this cold, dis - mal stall, in this cold, dis - mal stall.
splen - dor of his might, the splen - dor of his might.
glo - ry, and his name, his glo - ry, and his name.

5 He is a servant, I a lord:
how great a mystery!
How strong the tender Christchild's love!
No truer friend than he,
no truer friend than he.

6 He is the key, and he the door
to blessed paradise;
the angel bars the way no more.
To God our praises rise,
to God our praises rise.

7 Your grace in lowliness revealed,
Lord Jesus, we adore,
and praise to God the Father yield
and Spirit evermore;
we praise you evermore.

***DISMISSAL**

Glory to God in the highest!
And peace to God's people on earth!
Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

OUR PRAYER LIST

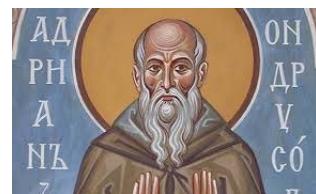
Grace Arner, Vanessa Morgan, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, Gary Cable, Virginia Pulaskie, Bunny Ditchfield, Ezra Buckman, Sheila Brassard, Kevin Rosini, Kathy Eshelman, Micah, Deb Buckman, Linda Rosini, Walt Haussmann, Kristin Rehm, Ariel, John Tartline, George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

COMMEMORATION

Adrian of Canterbury, teacher, died around 710

Friday, January 9, 2026

African by birth, Adrian (or Hadrian) worked with Theodore, archbishop of Canterbury, in developing the church in England. He was director of a school at which church leaders were trained.



Dear Church Family,

Thank you so very much for the kind words, well-wishes, cards and gifts during this season of Christmas. Much appreciated indeed! I look forward to working with you in 2026.

*Yours in Christ,
Pastor Vasey.*

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Today, January 4	Second Sunday of Christmas Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 am PANCAKE BREAKFAST, 9:15 am
Monday, January 5	Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm
Tuesday, January 6	Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm
Wednesday, January 7	Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm Men's Fellowship, 6 pm
Thursday, January 8	Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm
Friday, January 9	Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm
Saturday, January 10	Office Closed
Sunday, January 11	Baptism of Our Lord Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 am Installation of Council Members Sunday School, 9:15 am

OUR STEWARDSHIP for December 28, 2025

Regular Offering	\$4,600.00
Plate Offerings	164.00
Christmas & Advent	1,470.00
Initial Offering	5.00
Miscellaneous	575.00
Food Pantry	50.00
Operation Christmas Child	60.00
Family Promise Hosting	50.00
Organ Fund	200.00
Capital Fund	500.00
Flower Memorials/Tributes	35.00
Synod Benevolence	500.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	50.00
Grand Total	\$8,259.00

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God; and
In loving memory of Margaret & Forrest Klinger, by their daughter, Donna Baker
and family; and
In loving memory of Jean & Walter Belles, and Carl, Lois & Jeanne Belles, by the
Family.

WORSHIP LEADERS for January 4, 2026

Lector	8:00 am	Candy Dewar
	10:30 am	Donna Boston
Communion Assistants	8:00 am	Jackie Kinney
	10:30 am	Shelby & Gary Weber
Ushers	8:00 am	Miller/Poff
	10:30 am	The Maggs/Dick Reitz
Hospitality	9:15 am	PANCAKE BREAKFAST
Organist		Sam Robinson
Altar Guild (JANUARY)		Sally Bjornstad & Vicki Haussmann

BIRTHDAYS

Jim Newcomer, Sr.	1/4
Mary Lou Doebler	1/6
Andrew Zeigler	1/10

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 it 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.



Christmas Ornaments

Again this year, our trio of crafters, Cindy Todd, Theresa Furman and Lou Ann Zeigler, have provided the Evangelism and Fellowship Committee with wire ornaments that are on display in the Narthex. We are giving them away at no cost. But to make the joy the ornaments provide stretch even further, we are accepting a modest monetary donation to be given, in the form of grocery gift cards, to Code Blue. Code Blue is an overnight, winter shelter for the homeless at First Church. These gift cards allow for the purchase of food to be used as part of the shelter's outreach.

Urgent Needs At.....

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

Sojourner Truth Ministries (STM): Needed are brown, large-size lunch bags, cleaning wipes, Lysol spray, and boxes of tissues.

United Churches Food Pantry: Please consider continuing to offer non-perishable food items to be used by the Pantry.

A NOTE FROM THE OFFICE: We are in need of communion assistants for the 10:30 am service. If this is something you would be interested in, please call the office at 570 323-4619. Thank you!!

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