

The First Sunday after the Epiphany

The Baptism of Our Lord

January 8, 2023

“Ordinary Time”

in the 170^h Year of the Parish

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.”*



Our COVID-19 Guidelines:

Hand sanitizer is available for your use.

Face masks are optional.

Offerings may be received by way of baskets as you enter or leave.

Please continue to observe social distancing when passing the peace.

A guide to hymnal use: LBW, Green Book; WOV, Blue Book

**Please stand as you are able.*

PRELUDE *Air from Water Music* GF Handel

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS

***THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of baptism.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the fountain of living water,
the rock who gave us birth,
our light and our salvation.

C Amen.

P Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water is poured into the font.

P We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By water and the Word you claim us as daughters and sons.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.

Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace and love.

To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C Amen.

***HYMN From God the Father, Virgin-Born**

LBW, “Green”, 83

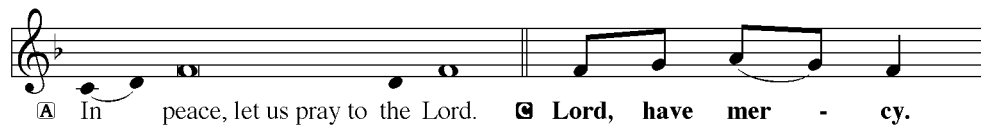
***THE GREETING**

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

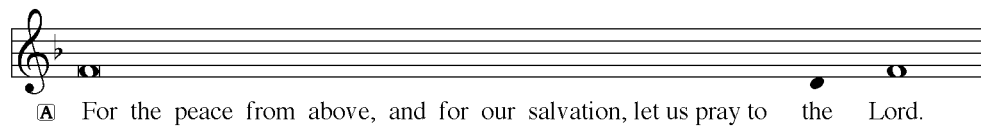
C And also with you.



*KYRIE



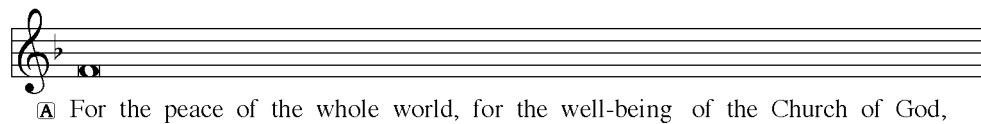
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mer - cy.



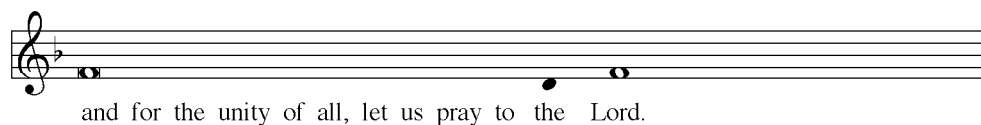
A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



G Lord, have mer - cy.



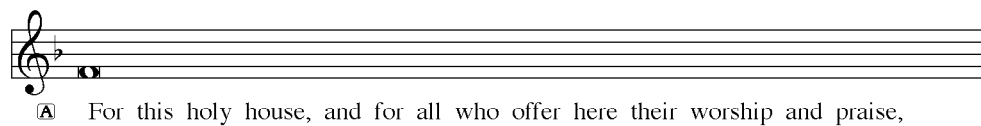
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



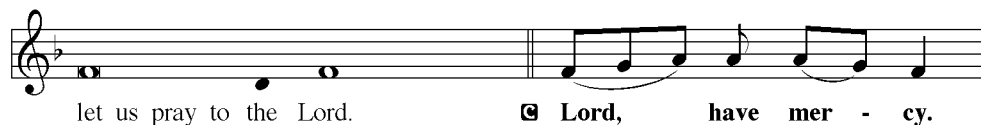
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



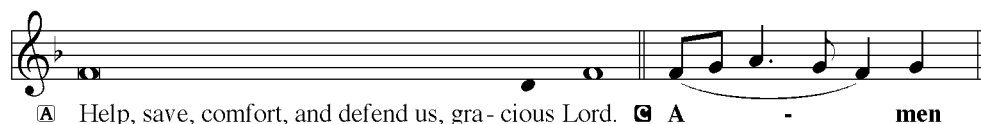
G Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra-cious Lord. **G** A - men

*HYMN OF PRAISE



☒ Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his 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.



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.



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



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

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who

lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S READINGS

In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing.

THE FIRST READING.....Isaiah 42:1-9

1 Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.

2 He will not cry or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;

3 a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.

4 He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

5 Thus says God, the LORD,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:

6 I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,
7 to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

8 I am the LORD, that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.

9See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 29

1Ascribe to the | LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glo- | ry and strength.

**2Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due God's name;
worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness.**

3The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of | glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the | mighty waters.

**4The voice of the LORD is a pow- | erful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a | voice of splendor.**

5The voice of the LORD breaks the | cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the ce- | dars of Lebanon;

**6the LORD makes Lebanon skip | like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a | young wild ox.**

7The voice | of the LORD
bursts forth in | lightning flashes.

**8The voice of the LORD | shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilder- | ness of Kadesh.**

9The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the | forests bare.
And in the temple of the LORD all are | crying, "Glory!"

**10The LORD sits enthroned a- | bove the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king for- | evermore.**

11O LORD, give strength | to your people;
give them, O LORD, the bless- | ings of peace.

THE SECOND READING.....Acts 10:34-43

34Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, 35but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. 36You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. 37That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: 38how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with

power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. 39We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; 40but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, 41not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. 42He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. 43All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

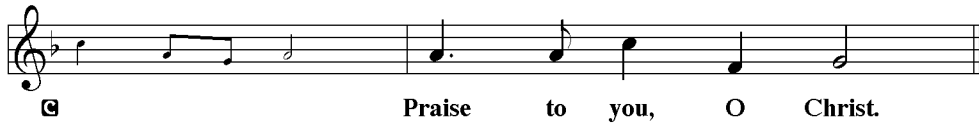
Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

***THE HOLY GOSPEL.....Matthew 3:13-17**
 The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the third chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

13Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. 14John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” 15But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. 16And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. 17And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

The gospel of the Lord.



THE SERMON

*HYMN **When Jesus Came to Jordan** **WOV, “Blue”, 647**

AN ORDER FOR INSTALLING MEMBERS OF CHURCH COUNCIL

P Dear Christian friends: Baptized into the priesthood of Christ, we all are called to offer ourselves to the Lord of the Church in Thanksgiving for what he has done and continues to do for us. It is our privilege to recognize and support those who are engaged in the work of this congregation, especially those in the ministry of the Church Congregational Council.

The following persons, having been elected to the positions of leadership by the congregation known as St. Mark's Church, Williamsport, PA, are asked to come forward as their names are read.

President of the Church Council reads the names of those elected.

P In Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ liberated you from sin and death and made you members of his Church. Through Word and Sacrament you have been nurtured in faith. I ask you, together with all who are here gathered, to stand and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we are baptized.

Pastor and Congregation:

**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**

P You have been elected to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation. You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith reflect Christ in whose name we gather. You are to work together with other members to see that the worship and work of Christ are done in this congregation and that God's will is done in this community and in the whole world. You are to be diligent in your service to the Lord so that the Lord who empowers you is glorified. You are to be examples of faith active in love, to help maintain the life and harmony of this congregation.

P On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you: Are you ready to accept and faithfully to execute the duties of the office to which you have been elected? If so please answer, "Yes, by the help of God".

***Council Members* Yes, by the help of God.**

P People of God, I ask you: Will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized? If so answer, "Yes, by the help of God."

***Congregation* Yes, by the help of God.**

P I now declare you installed as council members of this congregation. God bless you with his Holy Spirit, that you may prove faithful servants of Christ.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

After each petition, "Merciful God/Hear our prayer."

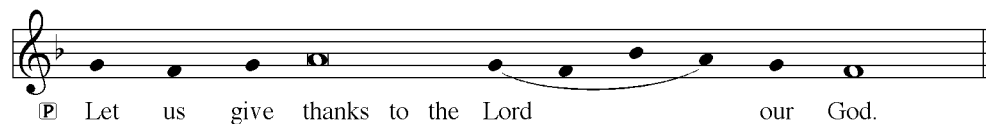
*THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

The ministers and congregation greet one another with these or similar words, and/or gestures of peace, limiting physical touch and contact with one another.

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



P 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 Christ our Lord. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



P You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all goodness; you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence.

We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us.

We thank you for the new world to come and for the love that will rule all.

We praise you for your grace and promises revealed to your people.

In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son who fulfills your promises.

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.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Send now, we pray your Holy Spirit, that we and all who share in this bread and cup may be united in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

C Amen. Come Holy Spirit.

P Join our prayers with those of your servants in every time and place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

C Amen.

***OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

P Let us pray in the words our Savior gave us:

C 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.

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Persons may come forward to the chancel to receive Holy Communion. This format will be more “continuous” noting the following procedure:

- *Communicants as directed by ushers are asked to come forward by way of the center aisle, take a cup from the tray provided and receive the bread.*
- *Once receiving the bread, communicants will proceed to one of two stations (left or right) to receive wine from the pouring chalice.*
- *After receiving wine, communicants will place the empty cup in the designated tray and return to their pew by way of the side aisles.*

Please do not kneel at the rail.

P Come and taste the joy of the Lord!

C **Thanks be to God.**

THE COMMUNION

***AFTER COMMUNION**

P The body and blood of Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P Let us pray. Holy One,
we thank you for the healing
that springs forth abundantly from this table.
Renew our strength to do justice,
love kindness,
and journey humbly with you.

***THE BLESSING**

P The God who faithfully brings forth justice
and breaks the oppressor's rod
✠ bless, strengthen, and uphold you,
today and always.

C Amen.

***HYMN I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light WOV, "Blue", 649**

***DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Minuet and Hornpipe from Water Music* GF Handel

Council Members Installed Today

New Members

Debra Buckman, Nikki Jackson, Helen Schramm and Shelby Weber

Returning Members

Vicki Haussmann and Ralph Zeigler

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Prayer List: Victims of COVID-19 and their families, Liz Ruesskamp, Grace Arner, Diane Damaska, Vanessa Morgan, Gary Clark, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Patricia Alexander, Diana Zeigler, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, April Clark, Lenny Sherlinski, Ruth Sherlinski, Gary Cable, Elsie Sechler, Virginia Pulaskie, Susan Kalabacas, Bunny Ditchfield, Judy Fortin, Roy and Gloria Meyer, the people of Ukraine and Eastern Europe, Storm and Hurricane Victims, Ezra Buckman, Sheila Brassard, Kevin Rosini, Kathy Eshelman, Micah, Ann Kuntz, Ray Huff

WORSHIP LEADERS (1/8/23)

Lector	8:00 a.m.	Leah Haussmann
	10:30 a.m.	Karen Mariano
Communion	8:00 a.m.	Becky Pryor / Drew Haussmann /
Assistants		Jackie Kinney
	10:30 a.m.	Deb Buckman and Mindy Wentzel
Organist		Sam Robinson
Ushers	8:00 a.m.	Richard Miller and Herb Poff
	10:30 a.m.	Mike Jensen, captain
		Gary Weber, Pam Jensen, Shelby Weber
Altar Guild		Deb Buckman and Leah Haussmann



READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY? Faith and Fellowship has temporarily “moved some books” from our church library to the Front Lounge in order to make them more accessible. Stop by the Front Lounge and take a look!



OUR STEWARDSHIP (1/1/23)

Regular Offering	\$3,205.00
Plate Offerings	20.00
Initial Offering	65.00
Food Pantry	10.00
Synod Benevolence	15.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$3,315.00



ALTAR FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God:
 +In Loving Memory of Bob Shaible by his wife Connie Shaible
 +In Loving Memory of Alice and Gilbert Lloyd by Carl and Beverly Hieber



THANK YOU

Thank You to all who shared well wishes, cards and gifts with the Vasey Family this Christmas Season! All of us in the Vasey House wish all of you, the hope, peace, joy and love of Christ and blessings for 2023!
 Pastor Vasey and Family.



Property Committee Meeting

Wednesday, January 18, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Please let Drew Haussmann know if you will be attending.

Drew Haussmann <drewhaussmann@gmail.com>



Today, Sunday, January 8: The Baptism of Our Lord.

Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 a.m.

Installation of new Congregational Council Members at both services.

Sunday, January 15, The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Church School, 9:15 a.m.

Sunday, January 22, The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Church School, 9:15 a.m.

Sunday, January 29, The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Church School, 9:15 a.m.



February 19, The Transfiguration of Our Lord

Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Church School, 9:15 a.m.

February 21, *Shrove Tuesday*.



February 22, Ash Wednesday

Holy Communion, 12:15 a.m. (Chapel)

Holy Communion, 7 p.m. (Nave)



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Adult Sunday School Class is currently studying, *Living the Kingdom; Reflections on the Small Catechism*. We meet in the Middle Lounge at 9:15 a.m. All are welcome.



Help Wanted

Wanted: ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT for Faxon-Kenmar United Methodist Church, 1301 Clayton Ave., Williamsport, PA.

16 hours per week. See Faxonkenmar.org for details about position and application process.



UNITED CHURCHES of
LYCOMING COUNTY

Join us on a visit to the

UNITED STATES
HOLOCAUST
MEMORIAL
MUSEUM

February 20th, 2023

\$70 includes bus transportation and entrance to the Museum.

5:45am: Depart Williamsport | 10:00am: Arrive at Museum

Limited to 56 people, so reserve your spot today!

Email: office@uclc.org or call: 570-322-1110

Communion Assistants for January

Please arrange replacement if you cannot serve.

All 8:00 a.m. services will be one of the following: Becky Pryor or Drew Haussmann or Jackie Kinney

January 8 10:30 a.m. Deb Buckman and
Mindy Wentzel

January 15 10:30 a.m. Walt Doebler and Gary
Weber

January 22 10:30 a.m. Ralph & Lou Ann Zeigler

January 29 10:30 a.m. Dan Zeigler

USHERS for January

January 8 8:00 a.m. Herb Poff and
Richard Miller

10:30 a.m. Mike Jensen, captain
Gary Weber, Pam
Jensen, Shelby
Weber

January 15 8:00 a.m. Herb Poff and
Richard Miller

10:30 a.m. Matt Fortin, captain
Glenn Yapple, Bud
Doebler

January 22 8:00 a.m. Herb Poff and
Richard Miller

10:30 a.m. Carl Albright, captain
Brenda, Owen and
Levi Gair

January 29 8:00 a.m. Herb Poff and
Richard Miller

10:30 a.m. Tim Maggs, captain
Carl Hieber, Charles
Kurtz

Lectors

For January

Note to all Lectors: We have lost some of our folks so we could use some more lectors. So if you know anyone please send their names to me, Joyce Hershberger at

***Joyce Hershberger
(deermountain2@comcast.net)***

January 8 8:00 a.m. Leah Haussmann
10:30 a.m. Karen Mariano

January 15 8:00 a.m. Candy Dewar
10:30 a.m. Phil Thomas

January 22 8:00 a.m. Drew Haussmann
10:30 a.m. Brenda Gair

January 29 8:00 a.m. Pastor Vasey
10:30 a.m. Dan Zeigler

COMMEMORATIONS



Adrian of Canterbury, teacher, died around 710

Monday, January 9, 2023

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.