

The Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 26, 2023

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

Chorale

Leon Boellman

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

All may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of their baptism.

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

C Amen.

P God of all mercy and consolation,

come to the aid of your people,

turning us from sin

to live for you alone.

Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that,

attentive to your Word,

we may confess our sins,

receive forgiveness,

and grow into the fulness of your Son,

Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

The congregation may kneel.

P Gracious God,

C have mercy on us.

In your compassion forgive us our sins,

known and unknown,

things done and left undone.

Uphold us by your Spirit

so that we may live and serve you

in newness of life,

**to the honor and glory of your holy name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P Almighty God have mercy on you,
forgive you all your sins
through Jesus Christ,
strengthen you in all goodness,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit †
keep you in eternal life.

C Amen.

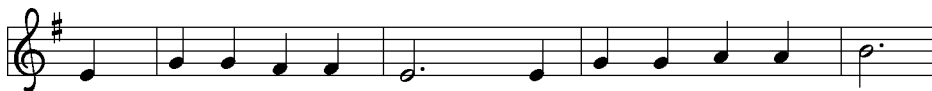
***HYMN** **Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing** **LBW, “Green”, 559**

***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**



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from
sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to
new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, 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 today's gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life. At the Easter Vigil we remember God's unfailing promise in our baptism.

THE FIRST READING.....Ezekiel 37:1-14

1The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. 2He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. 3He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." 4Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. 5Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. 6I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

7So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. 8I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. 9Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." 10I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

11Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' 12Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. 13And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my

people. 14I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.”

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 130

1Out | of the depths

I cry to | you, O LORD;

2O LORD, | hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my | supplication.

3If you were to keep watch | over sins,

O LORD, | who could stand?

4Yet with you | is forgiveness,

in order that you | may be feared.

5I wait for you, O LORD; | my soul waits;

in your word | is my hope.

6My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch | for the morning,

more than those who keep watch | for the morning.

7O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is | steadfast love;

with the LORD there is plen- | teous redemption.

8For the LORD shall | redeem Israel

from | all their sins.

THE SECOND READING.....Romans 8:6-11

6To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 7For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law—indeed it cannot, 8and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

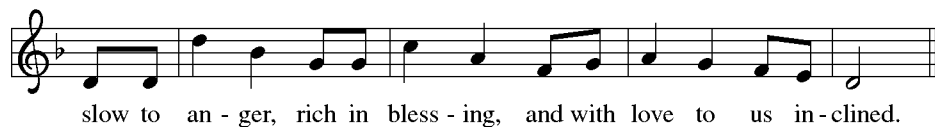
9But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. 10But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is

life because of righteousness. 11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



***THE HOLY GOSPEL.....John 11:1-45**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the eleventh chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

1 Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. 2 Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. 3 So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” 4 But when Jesus heard it, he said, “This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God’s glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.” 5 Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, 6 after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

7 Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” 8 The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?” 9 Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. 10 But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.” 11 After saying this, he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep,

but I am going there to awaken him.” 12The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.” 13Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. 14Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. 15For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” 16Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

17When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. 18Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, 19and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. 20When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. 21Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” 23Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” 24Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” 25Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, 26and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” 27She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

28When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” 29And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. 30Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. 31The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. 32When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” 33When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. 34He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” 35Jesus began to weep. 36So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” 37But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from

dying?”

38Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. 39Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, “Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.” 40Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” 41So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. 42I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” 43When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” 44The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

45Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

P The gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE SERMON

***HYMN Christ, the Life of All the Living LBW, “Green”, 97**

***THE NICENE CREED**

P Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith:

C **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, "Merciful God/Receive 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 with limited physical contact.*

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

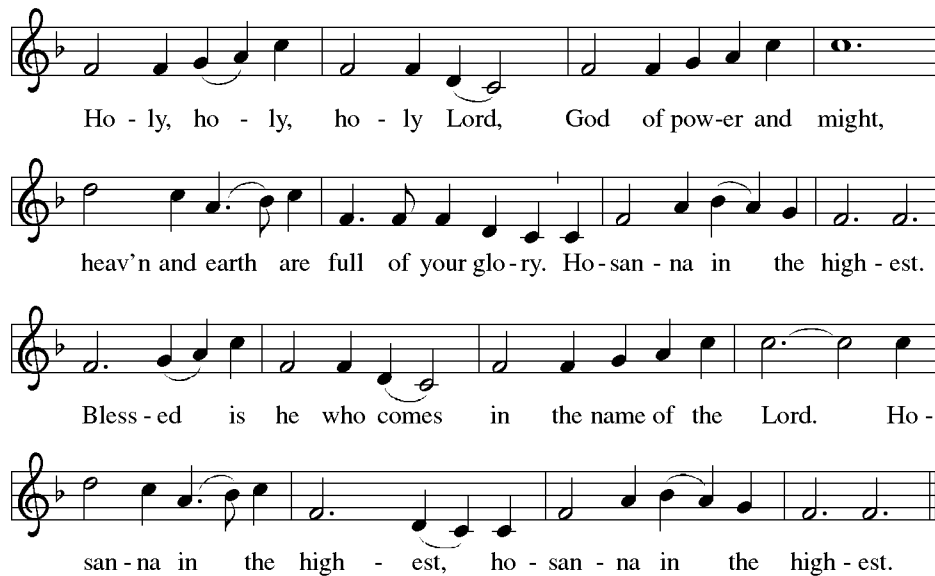
P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fulness of grace that belongs to the children of God. 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'n 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.

P Blessed are you Lord of heaven and earth.
In mercy for our fallen world
you gave your only Son,
that all those who believe in him should not perish,
but have eternal life.
We give thanks to you for the salvation
you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit
into our hearts and on these gifts
that we may receive our Lord
with a living faith
as he comes to us
in this his holy supper.

C Amen. Come Lord Jesus.

P 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."

***OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

*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 receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

C **Thanks be to God.**

THE COMMUNION

*AFTER COMMUNION

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

C **Amen.**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P Let us pray. Embodied God,
at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.
With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,
empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors
and touch the world with your love.

C Amen.

***THE BLESSING**

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and
✠, give you peace.

C Amen.

***HYMN My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less LBW, “Green”, 293**

***DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Serve in love.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Menuet Gothique Leon Boellman

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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, Ray Huff, Matt Fortin, Steve Beiber, Deb Buckman.

WORSHIP LEADERS (March 26, 2023)

Lector	8:00 a.m.	Becky Pryor
	10:30 a.m.	Candy Dewar
Communion Assistants	8:00 a.m.	Drew Haussmann
	10:30 a.m.	Ralph and Lou Ann Zeigler
Organist		Sam Robinson
Ushers	8:00 a.m.	Richard Miller and Herb Poff
	10:30 a.m.	Tim Maggs, captain Carl Hieber, Charles Kurtz
Altar Guild	March	Cindy Huff and Linda Rosini



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!



ALTAR FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God:
 +In Loving Memory of our Loved ones by Gary and Donna Clark.
 +In celebration of our St. Mark's Family.

OUR STEWARDSHIP (March 19, 2023)

Regular Offering	\$3,099.00
Lent	175.00
Miscellaneous	25.00
Sunday School Offering	8.00
Parish Life	25.00
Flower Memorial / Tributes	60.00
Family Promise	30.00
Easter Flowers	109.50
GRAND TOTAL	\$3,531.50



EASTER HOSPITALITY

We are excited to once again be hosting Easter Hospitality! Please join us April 9th for a variety of tasty treats ~ nothing too big so no worries that Easter dinner will be ruined. We will meet in Fellowship Hall during the Sunday School hour (anytime after 9:15 should work well) for refreshments and Christian Fellowship. All are invited and welcome to join in our Easter Celebration! We can't wait to see you!



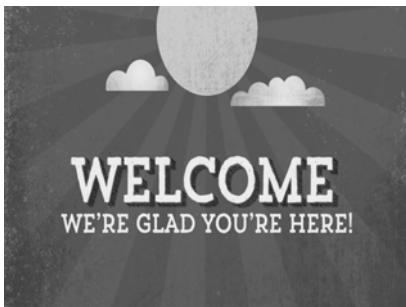
WELCOME PATTY FALK!

Patty begins her duties this Sunday (March 26, 2023) as our new Church Sexton! Welcome Patty!



CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU BOB AND MEL!

Bob Campbell and Mel Wentzel have both agreed to serve as St. Mark's lay representatives to both the West Branch Conference of the Upper Susquehanna Synod and the Upper Susquehanna Synod's Annual Synod Assembly. Congratulations to our lay representatives and thank you for your willingness to represent St. Mark's.



WELCOME (BACK) RICHARD BATES!

Richard Bates will reaffirm his baptism at our Easter Vigil. Richard was confirmed at St. Mark's as a youth and has decided to once again become active in the life of our congregation. Welcome!



Newsletter

Anyone interested in helping with the newsletter we will be putting it together on Tuesday, March 29 and mailing it out. Thanks in advance to all who help.



Lutheran World Relief (LWR)

There is a great need for personal care kits for the victims of the Turkey earthquake and for war victims in the Ukraine. Kits are composed of a bath towel (dark color preferred - regular size not a bath blanket), 2 bars of soap, a comb, a toothbrush, and a nail clipper. You can provide a complete kit or bring in any of the components of the kit and I will make sure to complete the kit. Monetary donations are also welcome - make out to St. Mark's with LWR kits in the memo line.



Family Promise

Hosting for Family Promise will begin March 26. Chefs are needed to prepare dinner for the families. Alternatives to cooking are take-out, pizza, providing the components for one of the guests to do the cooking. More information will be given toward the end of the month. If you can provide a dinner (in any form), please let me know. dabuckman65@gmail.com or 570-323-1707



The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee thanks everyone who sent Valentine's Day cards to our Special Concern folks and others. We are certain there were many smiles by those receiving them.

We need the congregation's help, once again, in sending Easter greetings to our Special Concern folks and others we do not see as often as we would like.

Cards will be available in the Narthex on Sunday, March 26, 2023 before and after each service. Please add a cheery message, affix a stamp and mail in time for Easter on Sunday, April 9, 2023. Thank you for any assistance you can provide.

HOLY WEEK

and

EASTER

SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 2, Sunday of the Passion (Palm Sunday)

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

Thursday, April 6, Maundy Thursday

Holy Communion, 12:05 p.m. (Chapel)

Holy Communion with Foot Washing,

7:30 p.m. (Nave)

Friday, April 7, Good Friday

Ecumenical Service, Trinity Episcopal

Pro-Cathedral, Noon

(844 West 4th Street)

Tenebrae (Service of the Shadows), in our Nave 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, April 8, Holy Saturday

The Great Vigil of Easter, 8 p.m.

(We will gather in the Chapel and move to the Nave)

Sunday, April 9, Easter Sunday

The Feast of Resurrection (Easter Holy Communion), 8 and 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, April 30, "St. Mark Sunday"

(Remembering our patron)

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



HAPPENING THIS MONTH:

Sunday, March 26, Fifth Sunday in Lent

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

Wednesday, March 29

Midweek Service of the Word, 12:15 p.m., Chapel



Monday, March 27- Sunday, April 2, 2023

Monday, March 27	Civic Chorus Rehearsal (Fellowship Hall)	7:00 p.m.
	Chamber Choir and Orchestra (Nave)	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, March 28	Putting “The Lion” together and Mailing it out	10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, March 29	Mid-Week Lent Service (Chapel)	12:15 p.m.
Thursday, March 30		
Friday, March 31		
Saturday, April 1		
Sunday, April 2	<i>PALM SUNDAY</i>	
	Holy Communion 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.	

BIRTHDAYS

Jonathan Bower	March 27
Sandra Edler	March 28
David Walz	March 28
Mark Bittenbender	March 29
Tyler Bower	March 29
Carl Hieber	March 29
Jenna Eyer	April 2
Jon Huff	April 2

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

No Committee meetings on the schedule for this week

If there is anything you would like to include in the “This Week In Your Church” please let the administrative assistant, Joe Baur, know at jbaur@stmarkswilliamsport.org.

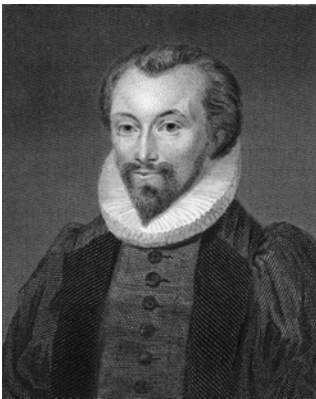
COMMEMORATIONS



Hans Nielsen Hauge, renewer of the church, died 1824

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Hauge was a layperson who wished to revitalize the church in Norway. As a result of a mystical experience, he felt called to preach. At first, many pastors and lay professionals feared his motives and influence. He is looked upon as one of the leading influences of what is known today as “Lutheran Pietism”.



John Donne, poet, died 1631

Friday, March 31, 2023

After finishing his education at Oxford University, Donne seemed headed for a career in the English public service. But a series of circumstances led him into the ordained ministry. He is well known as a writer of both secular and sacred poetry.