

**The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost  
August 13, 2023**

*in the 170<sup>h</sup> Year of the Parish*

**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)

*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 be aware:**

**Hand sanitizer is available for your use.**

**Face masks are optional.**

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

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

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

*C = Congregation P = Pastor*

## **INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP**

*Elijah finds the presence of God not in earthquake, wind, or fire, but in the sound of sheer silence. When the disciples face a great storm on the sea, they cry out with fear. Jesus says: "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Amid the storms of life, we gather to seek the calm presence of Christ that soothes our fears. In comforting words of scripture and in the refreshing bread and cup of the Eucharist, God grants us peace and sends us forth to be a sign of God's presence to others.*

**PRELUDE**      *Adagio, from Organ Sonata No. 1*      Felix Mendelssohn

## **WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

**C**      **Amen.**

**P**      Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C**      **Amen.**

**P**      If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Please kneel as able.*

**P**      Most merciful God,

**C**      **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son,**

**Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

**P** In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the  $\text{†}$  Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**\*HYMN O Worship the King, All Glorious Above LBW, "Green", 548**

**\*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.


**\*HYMN OF PRAISE**



**A** Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



**B** 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 defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** Amen.

**THE FIRST READING.....1 Kings 19:9-18**

<sup>9</sup>At [Horeb, the mount of God,][Elijah] came to a cave, and spent the night there.

Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” <sup>10</sup>He answered, “I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.”

<sup>11</sup>He said, “Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.” Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; <sup>12</sup>and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. <sup>13</sup>When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” <sup>14</sup>He answered, “I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.” <sup>15</sup>Then the LORD said to him, “Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. <sup>16</sup>Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place. <sup>17</sup>Whoever escapes from the sword of Hazael, Jehu shall kill; and whoever escapes from the sword of Jehu, Elisha shall kill. <sup>18</sup>Yet I will leave seven thousand in Israel, all the knees that have not bowed to Baal, and every mouth that has not kissed him.”

The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## PSALM 85:8-13

8I will listen to what the LORD| God is saying;

for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn  
their | hearts to you.

**9Truly, your salvation is very near to | those who fear you,  
that your glory may dwell | in our land.**

10Steadfast love and faithfulness have | met together;  
righteousness and peace have | kissed each other.

**11Faithfulness shall spring up | from the earth,  
and righteousness shall look | down from heaven.**

12The LORD will indeed | grant prosperity,  
and our land will | yield its increase.

**13Righteousness shall go be- | fore the LORD  
and shall prepare for | God a pathway.**

## THE SECOND READING.....Romans 10:5-15

5Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that “the person who does these things will live by them.” 6But the righteousness that comes from faith says, “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ down) 7“or ‘Who will descend into the abyss?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). 8But what does it say?

“The word is near you,  
on your lips and in your heart”

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); 9because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. 11The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” 12For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. 13For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

14But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? 15And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

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 14:13-21**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

22[Jesus] made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead to the other side [of the Sea of Galilee], while he dismissed the crowds.<sup>23</sup>And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, <sup>24</sup>but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. <sup>25</sup>And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. <sup>26</sup>But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out in fear. <sup>27</sup>But immediately Jesus spoke to them and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”

<sup>28</sup>Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” <sup>29</sup>He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. <sup>30</sup>But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” <sup>31</sup>Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” <sup>32</sup>When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. <sup>33</sup>And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.” The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

**THE SERMON**

**\*HYMN            Precious Lord, Take My Hand            WOV, “Blue”, 731**

**\*THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**P     Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:**

**C     I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting.**

**Amen.**

**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*After each petition, “Hear us, O God/Your mercy is great.”*

**\*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.*

**ANTHEM**

*O Rest in the Lord*

Felix Mendelssohn

Soloist: Chase Bower  
**\*GREAT THANKSGIVING**

☐ The Lord be with you. ☑ And al - so 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 him 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 Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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'r and might:  
 Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.  
 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.

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.

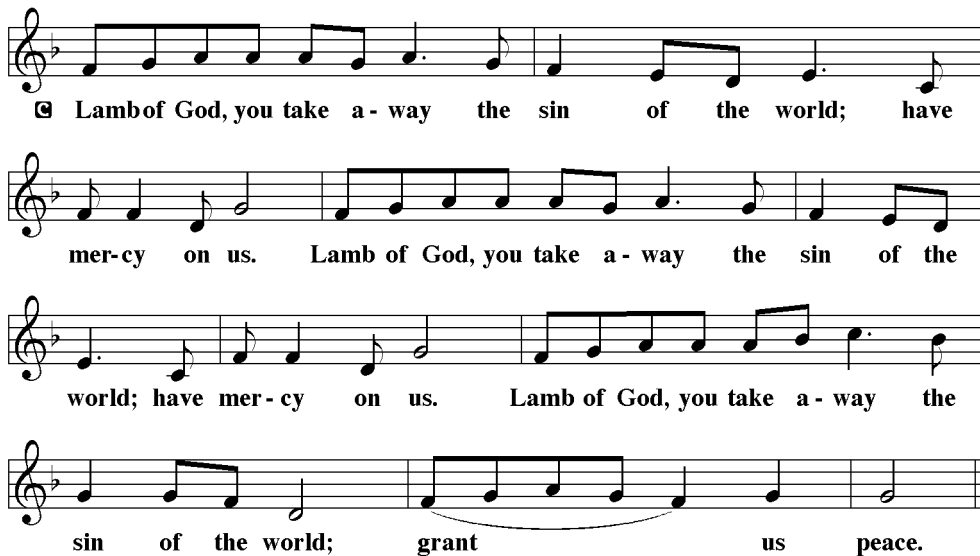
**C Amen. Come Lord Jesus.**

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 all people  
for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

**\*OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

P Lord as you have taught us, so now we 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



☞ 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 *All Are Welcome to Receive.*

*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.*

P All people are called to Christ's table.

Come, taste and see that the Lord is good.

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. We thank you, generous God,  
for the refreshment we have received  
at your banquet table.

Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world,  
through the one who is our dearest treasure,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord;  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

**\*THE BLESSING**

P Almighty God, Father, †, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

**\*HYMN O God, Our Help in Ages Past LBW, “Green”, 320**

**\*DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace, share the harvest.

C Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE Fugue in C Major JS Bach**

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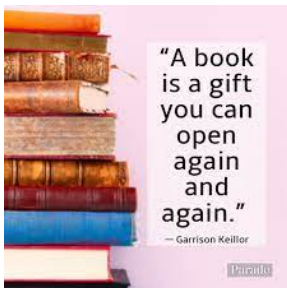
**Prayer List:** Victims of COVID-19 and their families, Liz Ruesskamp, Grace Arner, Diane Damaska, Vanessa Morgan, Gary Clark, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Patricia Alexander, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, April Clark, Gary Cable, Elsie Sechler, Virginia Pulaskie, Susan Kalabacas, Bunny Ditchfield, Judy Fortin, the people of

Ukraine, Eastern Europe and Afghanistan, Ezra Buckman, Sheila Brassard, Kevin Rosini, Kathy Eshelman, Micah, Steve Beiber, Deb Buckman, Linda Rosini, Dick Reitz, Mary Ann Stiller, Charlotte Reitz, Mike Ford, The Family of Lenny Sherlinski



### WORSHIP LEADERS August 13, 2023

Lector	Gary Weber
Communion Assistants	Carl and Audrey Albright
Organist	Sam Robinson
Ushers	Tim Maggs, captain Carl Hieber, Charles Kuntz
Altar Guild	August Cindy Huff & Linda Rosini



**READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY?** Faith Formation 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!



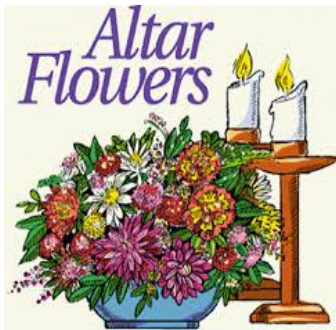
### SAVE THE DATE

This year the Annual CROP walk will take place on Sunday, October 8, 2023. More details to come.



## OUR STEWARDSHIP August 6, 2023

Regular Offering	\$4,980.00
Easter	20.00
Lent	60.00
Operation Christmas Child	50.00
Flower Memorials / Tributes	30.00
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$5,140.00</b>



**ALTAR FLOWERS** today are given to the glory of God:

+In Honor of Ruth Bigelow by Matt and Wanda Fortin.

+In Loving Memory of my parents, Shuman and Delores Miller by Becky Miller Pryor.

+In Honor of our grandson, Dallas Hanford by Matt and Wanda Fortin

+In Honor of my grandchildren, Ezra, Gillian, Asher and my great-granddaughter Ren by Deb Buckman.

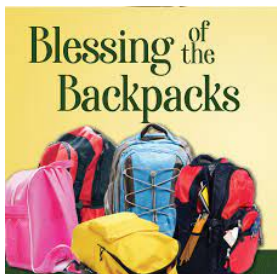


## SIGHT AND SOUND "MOSES" BUS TRIP, SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

Our bus to see "Moses" at the Sight and Sound Theatre has been filled! For those attending a reminder; the bus departs from Beiter's Parking Lot (540 Montgomery Pike,

Williamsport) 6 am on September 20. Please park your car in the West End Parking Lot of Beiter's.

## BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS



Please join us Sunday, August 20th during our 9:30 AM worship service as we bless our backpacks for the upcoming school year. All students, teachers, and educators are encouraged to bring your backpacks as we prayerfully send you into the 2023-23 school year.

We pray: Lord bless this backpack and the one who carries it. May they feel your love and protection in all they do. ~ Amen

## Cereal Sundays

SUPER CEREAL SUNDAY



For food insecure families with children there is no vacation from hunger during the summer. In July we helped to ease that burden with our cereal collection. The congregation donated **54 regular-sized boxes** of cereal and **50 single-serve boxes** of cereal!

**Our next Cereal Sunday is today, August 13, 2023.**

Can we beat our July collection of 104 boxes of cereal?



+ **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) or email ([bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org)). Do not assume the pastor will know of your need any other way.**



+ **When you or a loved one has a change of address, telephone number or email, please contact the church office at 570-323-4619 or [stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org). Please direct your intentions whether or not to share this information with our church family.**



## THE "LION" FOR SEPTEMBER

The deadline for the September "Lion" newsletter is Tuesday, August, 22, 2023. Please have your information in by the deadline. The amazing team of volunteers will put the "Lion" together and ready it for mailing will meet on Tuesday, August 29, 2023. Thanks to all who help with this task. Anyone wishing to join them may do so by showing up around 10AM that Tuesday.



Monday, August 14, -  
Sunday, August 20, 2023

Monday, August 14  
Tuesday, August 15  
Wednesday, August 16  
Thursday, August 17  
Friday, August 18  
Saturday, August 19  
Sunday, August 20

**Holy Communion 9:30 a.m.**

### **BIRTHDAYS**

Ruth Ann Bigelow	August 14	Ray Huff	August 14
Carl Albright	August 15	Beverly Hieber	August 15
Stacie Bieber	August 18	Elizabeth Lewis	August 18
Sean Clouser	August 19		

### **ANNIVERSARY**

Kathy and Neil Eshelman	August 14
Brenda and Edward Gair	August 14
Karen and Stephen Mariano	August 14
Beverly and Carl Hieber	August 18

### **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Wednesday, August 16      Property Committee      6PM

Please remember to let the administrative assistant know when committee meetings are scheduled, or changed, so it can be included in the bulletin.

If there is anything you would like to include in the "This Week at Our Church" please let the administrative assistant, Joe Baur, know at [jbaur@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:jbaur@stmarkswilliamsport.org)

## COMMEMORATIONS



Florence Nightingale



Clara Maass

**Florence Nightingale, died 1910; Clara Maass, died 1901; renewers of society**  
*Sunday, August 13, 2023*

Nightingale was born in England, and horrified her wealthy family by deciding to become a nurse. She led a group of nurses in ministering in the midst of the Crimean War, and worked for hospital reform. Maass, a native of New Jersey, was also a war nurse, and volunteered as a subject for research on yellow fever. She died of the disease.



Maximilian Kolbe



Kaj Munk

**Maximilian Kolbe, died 1941; Kaj Munk, died 1944; martyrs**  
*Monday, August 14, 2023*

Kolbe was a Franciscan pastor arrested by the Nazis and confined in Auschwitz. Kolbe gave generously of his meager resources, and finally volunteered to be starved to death in place of another man. A Danish Lutheran pastor and playwright, Munk strongly denounced the Nazis who occupied Denmark in the Second World War. His sermons and articles helped to show the anti-Christian nature of the movement.



**Mary, Mother of Our Lord**

*Tuesday, August 15, 2023*

The church (including Martin Luther) honors Mary with the title theotokos, meaning "God-bearer," for her role in giving birth to the Son of God. Her song, the Magnificat, speaks eloquently of God's lifting the lowly and feeding the hungry.