

**The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost August 27, 2023**

**August 27, 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)

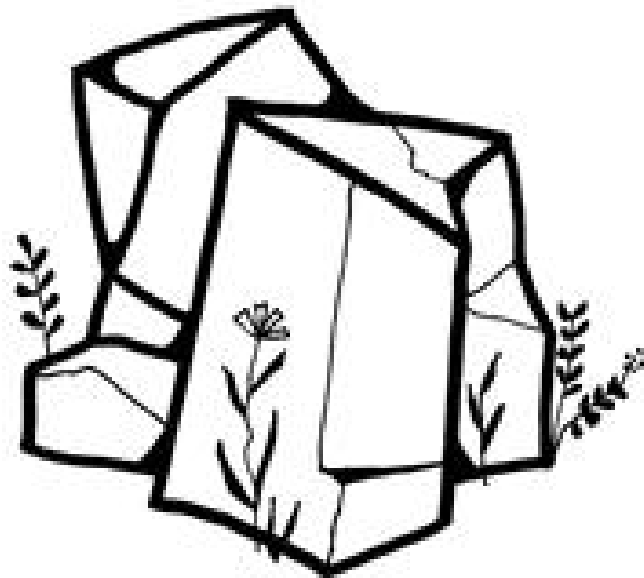
Rev. Brian D. Vasey, Pastor

[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**

*In Isaiah the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and God's mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.*

## **PRELUDE      Adoration      Florence Price**

"Florence Price holds a significant place in American music as a trailblazing composer who shattered racial and gender barriers. As the first African-American woman to have her work performed by a major orchestra, Price's compositions, including symphonies, chamber pieces, and vocal works, reflect a fusion of traditional European forms with elements of African-American folk melodies and spirituals. Her contributions not only enriched the American classical music landscape but also stood as a testament to resilience, creativity, and the power of art to challenge societal norms."

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

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

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

**C**     **Amen.**

**L**     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.**

**L**     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.*

L 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.

L In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ are given the power to become children of God bestowing on them the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

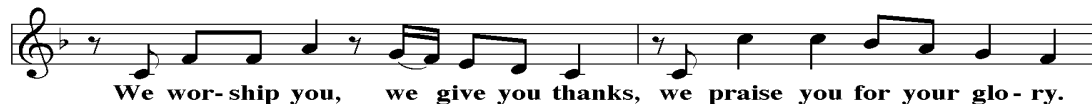
**\*HYMN Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation WOV, "Blue", 747**

**\*THE GREETING**

L 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**



**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray. O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

**THE FIRST READING.....Isaiah 51:1-6**

<sup>1</sup>Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness,  
you that seek the LORD.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn,  
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

<sup>2</sup>Look to Abraham your father  
and to Sarah who bore you;  
for he was but one when I called him,  
but I blessed him and made him many.

<sup>3</sup>For the LORD will comfort Zion;  
he will comfort all her waste places,  
and will make her wilderness like Eden,  
her desert like the garden of the LORD;  
joy and gladness will be found in her,  
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

<sup>4</sup>Listen to me, my people,  
and give heed to me, my nation;  
for a teaching will go out from me,  
and my justice for a light to the peoples.

<sup>5</sup>I will bring near my deliverance swiftly,  
my salvation has gone out  
and my arms will rule the peoples;

the coastlands wait for me,  
and for my arm they hope.

6Lift up your eyes to the heavens,  
and look at the earth beneath;  
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,  
the earth will wear out like a garment,  
and those who live on it will die like gnats;  
but my salvation will be forever,  
and my deliverance will never be ended.

The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM 138**

1I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with | my whole heart;  
before the gods I will | sing your praise.

**2I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of  
your steadfast | love and faithfulness;  
for you have glorified your name and your word a- | bove all things.**

3When I called, you | answered me;  
you increased my | strength within me.

**4All the rulers of the earth will praise | you, O LORD,  
when they have heard the words | of your mouth.**

5They will sing of the ways | of the LORD,  
that great is the glory | of the LORD.

**6The LORD is high, yet cares | for the lowly,  
perceiving the haughty | from afar.**

7Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you | keep me safe;  
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right | hand  
shall save me.

**8You will make good your pur- | pose for me;**

**O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the  
works | of your hands.**

**THE SECOND READING.....Romans 12:1-8**

1I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

3For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. 4For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, 5so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. 6We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; 7ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; 8the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL  
ACCLAMATIO  
N**

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 16:13-20**

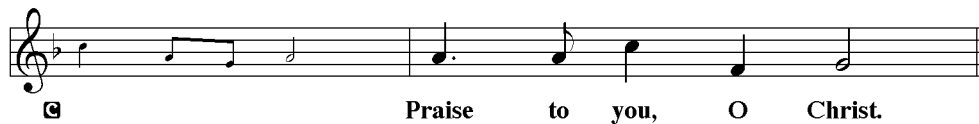
**L** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 16<sup>th</sup> chapter

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

13Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” 14And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the

prophets.” <sup>15</sup>He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” <sup>16</sup>Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” <sup>17</sup>And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup>And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup>I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” <sup>20</sup>Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The Gospel of the Lord.



**THE SERMON**            **Donna Batschelet**

**\*HYMN**                    **Built on a Rock**                    **LBW, “Green”, 365**

**\*THE APOSTLES' CREED**

**L**    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**

**L** 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**

Deb Buckman, Soloist


**\*GREAT  
THANKSGIVING**



Ⓟ The Lord be with you. ☩ And al - so with you.



Ⓟ Lift up your hearts. ☩ We lift them to the Lord.



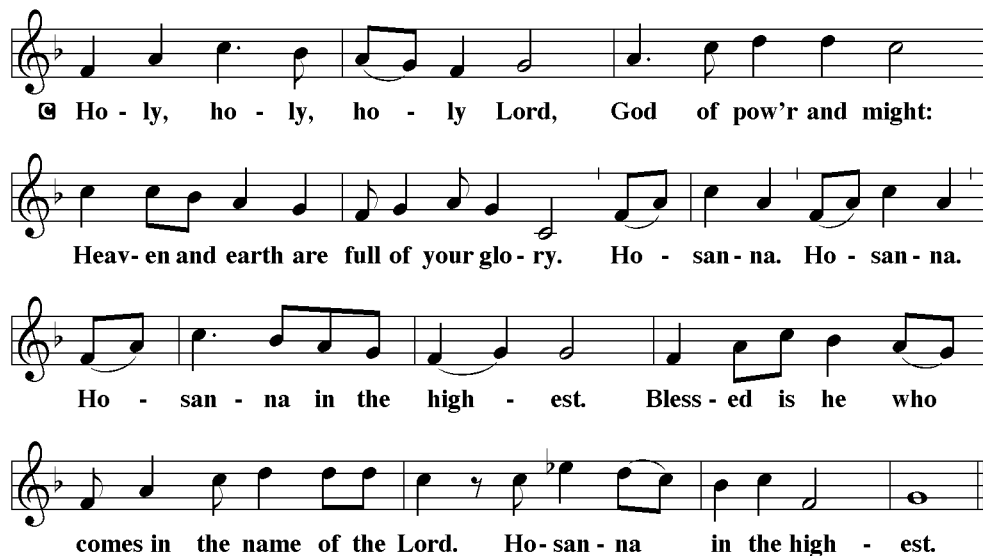
Ⓟ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



☩ 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





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.

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:

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.*

L    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**

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

C    **Amen.**

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

L    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**

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

C    **Amen.**

**\*HYMN            O Savior, Precious Savior**

**LBW, “Green”, 514**

**\*DISMISSAL**

**L     Go in peace, share the harvest.**

**C     Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE    *Toccata in Seven*            John Rutter**

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**Prayer List:** Liz Ruesskamp, Grace Arner, Diane Damaska, Vanessa Morgan, Gary Clark, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Patricia Alexander, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, April Clark, Lenny Sherlinski, Ruth Sherlinski, Gary Cable, Elsie Sechler, Virginia Pulaskie, Susan Kalabacas, Bunny Ditchfield, Judy Fortin, Ezra Buckman, Sheila Brassard, Kevin

Rosini, Kathy Eshelman, Micah, Steve Beiber, Linda Rosini, Dick Reitz, Mary Ann Stiller, Charlotte Reitz, Mike Ford, Alex Mazzante. the victims and survivors of the Maui fire.



**WORSHIP LEADERS**

**August 27, 2023**

*Preacher/Presider*

*Donna Batschelet*

*(Synod Authorized Lay Worship Leader)*

Lector

Brenda Gair

Communion Assistants

Deb Buckman and Mindy Wentzel

Organist

Sam Robinson

Ushers Matt Fortin, captain  
 Glenn Yaple, Bud Doebler  
 Altar Guild August Cindy Huff and Linda Rosini



**WELCOME!** Today we welcome Donna Batschelet (Synod Authorized Lay Worship Leader) as our Preacher/Presider. Thank you Donna for your willingness to serve Christ and his church.

**PASTOR ON VACATION.** Tuesday, August 22-Monday, August 28 Pastor Vasey will be on vacation. Should you need a pastor during his absence please contact either the church office (570-323-4619) or Pastor Ronald Montgomery (570-584-4465).



**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!



**OUR STEWARDSHIP**

**August 20, 2023**

Regular Offering	\$2,760.00
World Hunger	50.00
Food Pantry	50.00
Global Mission	60.00
Disaster Relief (Maui)	110.00
Flower Memorial / Tributes	90.00
Synod Benevolence	10.00
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,130.00</b>



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

+ In honor of Shirley Kinney’s birthday by Mike and Jackie Kinney

+In loving Memory of Pastor Duana Nelson (brother of Leah Haussmann) by the Haussmann



## Cereal Sunday in September

Our final Cereal Sunday will be September 3, 2023. To date we have collected 211 boxes of assorted cereals. With September's collection can we get to 300? Going away that weekend? Bring your cereal in to church ahead of Cereal Sunday.

## Got Stuff?



If you have items that you wish to donate to our Fall Sale, they now can be placed on the stage in Fellowship Hall. Please place your items in front of the stage curtains.

Please also be thinking as to when you can help get our sale ready. From September 10-September 16 we will need help. Join the fun and say “yes” to helping. Here is a quick time line.

- Sunday, September 10: Arranging tables and bringing donations from the basement.
- Monday, September 11 – Friday, September 15 from 9:15 - Noon: Unpack and arrange all the treasures. (We can have an evening session for those who work during the day.)
- Friday, September 15: Late day selling to the public from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- Saturday, September 16: Selling from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Saturday, September 16: Clean-up starting at 1:00 p.m. followed by American Rescue Worker's pick up of leftovers.

## Looking Ahead

### Redeemer's Community Dinner

For Redeemer's dinner on Thursday, September 14, the Evangelism and Fellowship Committee needs the congregation's help. We will be donating boxes of TastyKake cupcakes. We

are in need of 20 boxes to be able to provide 120 individual packets to folks receiving a meal. The cupcakes can be any type as long as there are six packets per box. Our local supermarkets offer sales regularly. Thank you in advance for any

help you can give.



Monday, August 28, -  
Sunday, September 3, 2023

Monday, August 28	WCC Rehearsal	7PM
Tuesday, August 29		
Wednesday, August 30		
Thursday, August 31		
Friday, September 1		
Saturday, September 2		
Sunday, September 3		

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

### **BIRTHDAYS**

Jonah Schreckengast	August 28	Shirley Kinney	August 29
Aston Ott	August 29	Lorraine Barone	August 30
Lou Ann Zeigler	August 30	Melinda Wentzel	August 31
Todd Smith	September 3		

### **ANNIVERSARY**

Barbara and Philip Thomas	August 28
Valerie Doebler and Thomas Waffenschmidt	August 30
Lorraine and Edward Barone	September 2
Grace and Ronald Arner	September 3

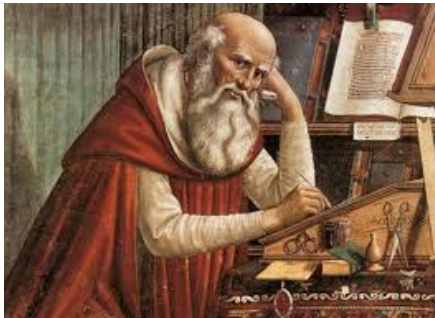


## COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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@stmarkswilliamspar](mailto:jbaur@stmarkswilliamspar)

## COMMEMORATIONS



**Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, died 430**

*Monday, August 28, 2023*

Augustine was one of the greatest theologians of the Western church. A native of North Africa, he recovered from a debauched young adulthood through the influence of his mother, Monica, and Bishop Ambrose of Milan. Besides writing influential theological books, he served as bishop of Hippo, in present-day Algeria. Martin Luther was an “Augustinian Monk” and was heavily influenced by Augustine's teachings.



**Moses the Black, monk, martyr, died around 400**

*Monday, August 28, 2023*

Converted from life as a thief and a robber to Christianity, Moses was an Ethiopian who became a desert monk at Skete. The change in his heart and life had a profound impact on his native country. He was murdered when Berber bandits attacked his monastery.



**Nikolai Frederik Severin Grundtvig, bishop, renewer of the church, died 1872**

*Saturday, September 2, 2023*

Grundtvig was, with Søren Kierkegaard, one of the two great Danish theologians of the nineteenth century. As a pastor, he



battled the prevalent idea that Christianity was more a philosophy than divine revelation. He wrote over a thousand hymns.