

**The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 24, 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)

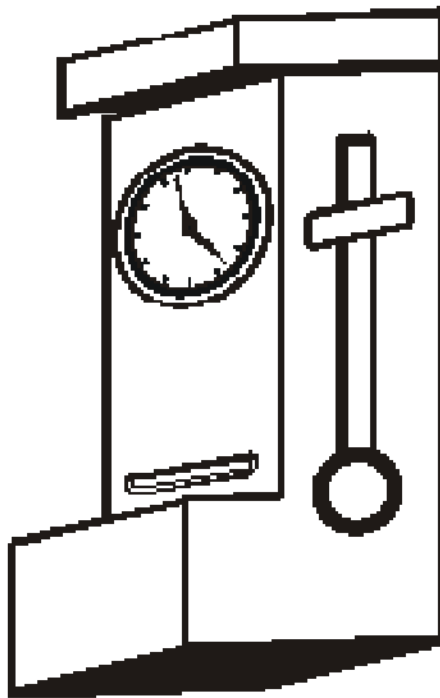
Rev. Brian D. Vasey, Pastor

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."



**THESE
LAST
ONES
WORKED
ONLY
ONE
HOUR !
ARE YOU JEALOUS ?**

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.*

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

PRELUDE

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.

A brief silence

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 \dagger , Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

***HYMN**

As Saints of Old

LBW, "Green", 404

***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:



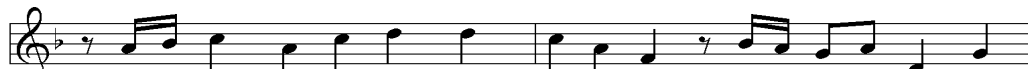
You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



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. Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Grant us grace to rely on your merciful judgment, and embody us with the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

THE FIRST READING.....Jonah 3:10-4:11

¹⁰When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

^{4:1}But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” ⁵Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

⁹But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many

animals?”

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 145:1-8

1I will exalt you, my | God and king,
and bless your name forev- | er and ever.

2Every day | will I bless you
and praise your name forev- | er and ever.

3Great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised!
There is no end | to your greatness.

4One generation shall praise your works | to another
and shall de- | clare your power.

5I will speak of the glorious splendor | of your majesty
and all your | marvelous works.

6They shall tell of the might of your | wondrous acts,
and I will re- | count your greatness.

7They shall publish the remembrance of | your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully | of your righteousness.

8The LORD is gracious and full | of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love.

THE SECOND READING.....Philippians 1:21-30

21For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. **22**If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. **23**I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; **24**but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. **25**Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, **26**so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.


27Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, **28**and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God’s doing. **29**For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of

suffering for him as well—³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

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 20:1-16**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 20th chapter



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

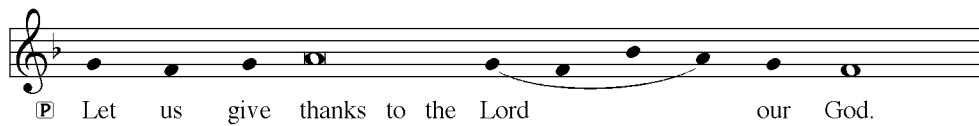
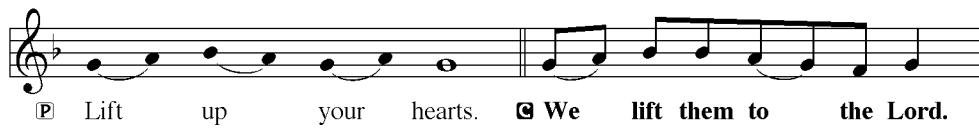
After each petition, "Merciful God/Receive our prayer."

*THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.** *The ministers and congregation greet each other.*

*GREAT THANKSGIVING



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:



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.

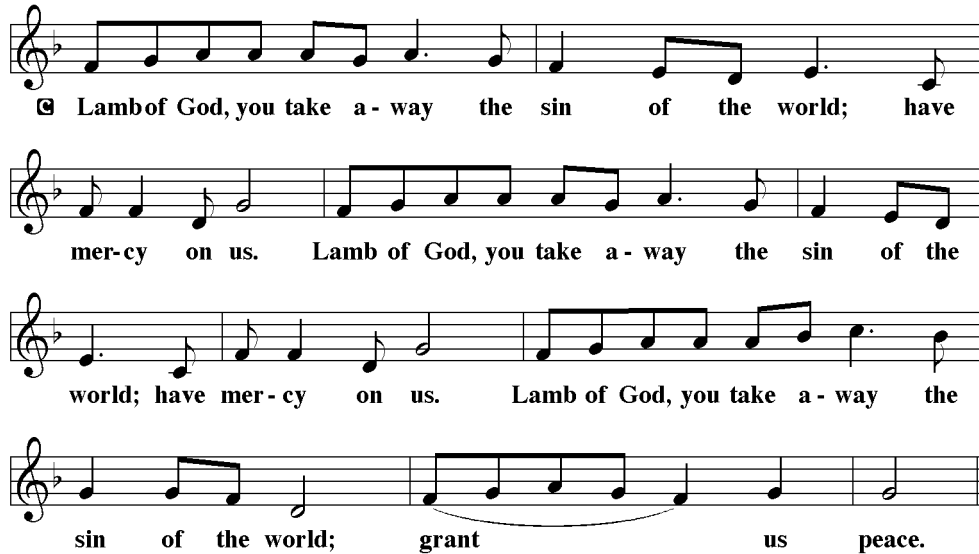
In the night in which he was betrayed
Our Lord Jesus took bread,
gave thanks; broke it,
and gave it to his disciples saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again after supper,
he took the cup,
gave thanks and gave it for all to drink saying:
This cup 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 Jesus invites you to his table. Come, eat and live.

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. Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.

C Amen.

***THE BLESSING**

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

C Amen.

***HYMN**

O Zion Haste

LBW, "Green", 397

***DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace, the Lord is with you.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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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, 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, Deb Buckman, Linda Rosini, Mary Ann Stiller, Mike Ford, The family of Shirley Vognet.



WORSHIP LEADERS
September 24, 2023

Lector	8:00 AM	Nikki Jackson
	10:30 AM	Gary Weber
Communion Assistants	8:00 AM	Becky Pryor
	10:30 AM	Dan Zeigler and Carl Albright
Organist		Sam Robinson
Ushers	8:00 AM	Richard Miller and Herb Poff
	10:30 AM	Matt Fortin, captain Glenn Yaple and Bud Doebler
Altar Guild	September	Connie Shaible, Sally Bjornstad, Sarah Young

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!

HARVEST HOME SUNDAY OCTOBER 15, 2023



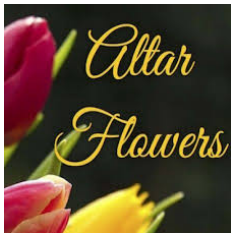
Our congregation will be celebrating a "Day of Thanksgiving" by bringing nonperishable food items for the local United Churches Food Pantry. Items should be brought to the church Sunday October 8th or 15th. Bags will be available October 1. We pray you and your family will be part of this annual celebration as we thank God for what he has given us.



OUR STEWARDSHIP

September 17, 2023

Regular Offering	\$2,348.00
Capital Fund	10.00
Flower Memorials / Tributes	30.00
Synod Benevolence	10.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$2,398.00



ALTAR FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God:
+In Loving Memory of Ralph Zeigler Sr. on his birthday by his family.
+In Loving Memories of Loved Ones by Donna Boston



SHIRLEY VOGNET. In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life we commend Shirley Vognet. Her Memorial Service will take place Wednesday, October 3, 2023, 11 am from our Chapel. Shirley's family remain in our prayers during this difficult time.

Fall Sale Success



Starting with the Lycoming College Women's Basketball team, who brought all the treasures from the basement to Fellowship Hall, to daily work sessions with numerous volunteers unpacking, sorting and organizing the hundreds of donations both in Fellowship Hall and the Crossways Room, to taking a rest on Friday, we were finally ready to open our doors to the public.

This year we decided to not price items but rather accept donations in support of a number of local non-profits in our community. This proved most successful for us. As of today, our profit from this event is \$2,433.00! We are both shocked and humbled by this level of support.

The Women of St. Mark's and the Evangelism and Fellowship Committee thank the congregation for all their donations and to the many, many members who gave of their time to make this event such a success.

There Is Still Time To Help Sojourner Truth Ministries!



STM continues to serve up to 600 meals per week! These meals are a combination of eat in or take a bagged lunch to go. It has been daunting to keep up the demand. We can help support STM's efforts to feed low income and homeless individuals and families. **During September the Evangelism and Fellowship Committee is seeking donations of brown paper lunch bags, rolls of plastic wrap and jars of sweet or dill relish.** Donations may be placed on the tables in the Narthex closet. Thank you for any help you can provide.

Lutheran World Relief



Lutheran World Relief

Thanks to everyone who have already turned in their school kits. There are some school bags still available in the Narthex. All kits must be turned in by October 1 as they need to be to the Synod gathering point by 10/14. Baby kits, personal care kits, and sewing kits are also needed. Directions are in the Narthex also. Please note that the prefolded diapers are only available through Amazon. If you have "leftover" items (ex. 3 pencils) and you do not want to store them until next year, please bring the items to St. Mark's and they will be stored for next year.

Family Promise

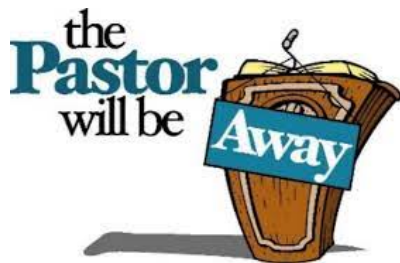


Our next hosting of Family Promise is the week of Oct. 15 through Oct. 21. We will be providing the evening meals. The families like to cook and if you are willing to provide the fixings for a meal that would be great. Currently there are 3 families: a mother with one child, a mother with one child, and a mother with 5 children. All of the kids are young, less than 7 years old. I will be contacting the mothers to see what meals they would like to make. We are also responsible for providing the food for breakfasts and lunches. I do that shopping on the Monday of the week based on the conversations with the mothers. If you would like to provide a meal or make a monetary donation, please see me, Deb Buckman 570-323-1707 Remember the goal of the program is to keep families who have become homeless together. The program provides safe shelter, meals, education and encouragement.

CRAFTING



Do you like to craft? Please join us on Saturday, September 30 for a morning of Fun, Fall Crafting! Our project will involve making some sort of pumpkin ~ ideas are still being generated ~ but all will be super easy and lots of fun to complete! We will meet at 9:30 AM in Fellowship Hall. Coffee and sweets will be provided, along with all craft supplies. If you are planning to join us, please RSVP to Vicki Haussmann at (570) 447-3263 or sign up in the Narthex so we are sure to have enough materials. We look forward to crafting with you!



PASTOR VASEY WILL BE AWAY TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26-MONDAY, OCTOBER 2. SHOULD YOU BE IN NEED OF A PASTOR DURING THIS TIME, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE (570-323-4619) OR THE REVEREND RON MONTGOMERY (570-584-4465 or rgmontgomery527@gmail.com).

Blessing of the Animals



Koree, Molly and Buddy are looking forward to seeing all their fur buddies (and non-fur buddies) later today, Sunday September 24, 2023 for the Blessing of Pets at 2:00 PM in the parking lot of Saint Mark's. All pets are welcome and we hope to see you and your pets there.



Hi friends,

We hope you can join our St. Mark's Lutheran Church Lions team for the CROP Hunger Walk on Sunday, October 8, 2023. We're raising money and awareness to help other people near and far. Of the money we raise, 25% goes to our community and 75% is distributed by Church World Service nationally and internationally to help people

who are hungry.

I'm doing my part to help get us one step closer to ending hunger for good. Will you consider joining our team? You'll find a link to join at the bottom of this email! Thank You, Brenda Gair.

To register enter the URL

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/accept?challenger=brenda-simmons-gair&team=st-marks-lutheran-church-lions> in your browser's address window.

Learn more about 2023 CROP Hunger Walk at

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023?challenger=brenda-simmons-gair&team=st-marks-lutheran-church-lions>.

Check out my page at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023/brenda-simmons-gair>

October School of Religion

The Faith Formation Committee is pleased to once again be offering the opportunity to grow in our faith through the October School of Religion. Please join us Wednesdays in October from 12:10 -12:45 for education and discussion as we look to enhance our faith life. You are invited to bring a brown bag lunch to munch as Pastor Vasey uses this time to teach. Schedule of topics below.

DOSSAL UPDATE



An unfortunate development with the dossal (the panels located behind the altar in the Nave) has led Council to decide to move our Sunday services to the chapel, for the foreseeable future.

Council has been discussing replacing the dossal for many months due to the poor condition of the material. As a part of the discussion Pastor Vasey and members of council were meeting with the contractor who may be performing the work when they observed that one of the panels has shifted to a dangerous and unstable position (see photo). As the organ is located behind these panels and vibrations from the instrument or other natural occurring movement could result in this panel dropping to the ground, prudent safety precautions were deemed necessary.

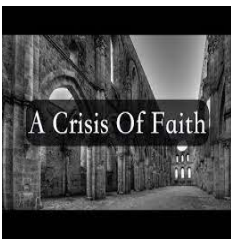
A falling panel would result in injury to the pastor or to the altar or other areas of the chancel. Obviously, it is advisable to take measures to protect life and our facilities. Moving services to the chapel will allow the altar to be covered and protected, while also eliminating the risk of personal injury.

The current dossal was installed in December of 2008. A new material, designed to resist dirt build-up, was applied to replace the material that was installed in 2000 to lighten the area behind the altar. The original red material that had been in place since the church was dedicated in 1960 was removed

after 40 years of service. The 2000 version of the dossal had attracted dirt and looked dingy. The 2008 version has proved to be fragile and, upon close examination, can be seen to be torn and in very poor condition.

A new material that is expected to provide a more durable finish has been identified, but there has been some concern with the installation process. Consultation with a contractor was expected to advance the project. The fortuitous result of that consultation was the discovery of the current dangerous condition.

Discussions are ongoing on how best to remove the panels and to proceed with the replacement project. In the mean time . . . services will occur in the chapel



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). 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. Please direct your intentions whether or not to share this information with our church family



Monday, September 25, -
Sunday, October 1, 2023

Monday, September 25	WCC Rehearsal	7PM
Tuesday, September 26		
Wednesday, September 27	Put together the “Lion” and Mail out	
Thursday, September 28		
Friday, September 29		
Saturday, September 30		
Sunday, October 1	Holy Communion	8:00 AM
	Holy Communion	10:00 AM

BIRTHDAYS

Abbigail Robertson September 26

ANNIVERSARIES

Jackie and Michael Kinney September 25
Jane and Arthur Kline September 27

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@stmarkswilliamsport.org

A Few Early October dates to Plan for.

Sunday, October 1 – Blanket Sunday

Tuesday, October 3 - Vognet Memorial 11AM in the Chapel

City Ministerium at Saint Mark’s 1PM

Property Committee Meeting 6PM

Wednesday, October 4 - Real Faith, Real Life Study 12:10PM

Finance Committee 5:30PM

COMMEMORATIONS

Michael and All Angels

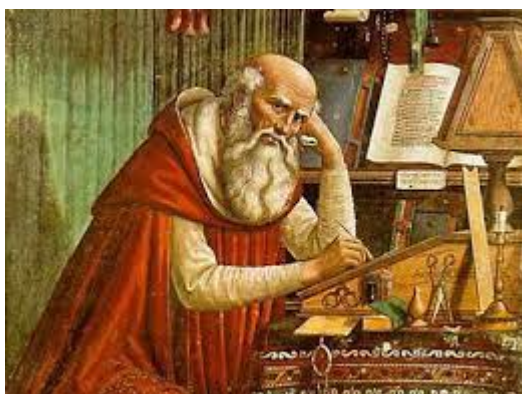
Friday, September 29, 2023



Michael the archangel, captain of the heavenly hosts, is remembered on this day along with the other angels and archangels. The word "angel" means messenger, and in Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, these beings have a fully spiritual nature and no physical body.

Jerome, translator, teacher, died 420

Saturday, September 30, 2023



Jerome was a biblical scholar and translator, but rather than translating the original Hebrew and Greek scriptures into classical Latin, he worked in the commonly-spoken Latin of the day, creating a version called the Vulgate.