

**The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
October 1, 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."



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

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

PRELUDE

My Lord What A Morning

Roger C Wilson

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

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.

Amen.

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.

Most merciful God,

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.

Brothers and sisters in Christ,
God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.
God's compassion is beyond compare.
In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.
In † Christ, we are already and always forgiven.
Amen.

***HYMN**

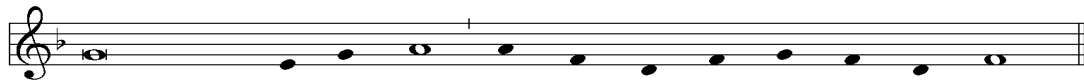
At the Name of Jesus

LBW, "Green", 179

***THE GREETING**

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

***HYMN OF PRAISE**



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



♩ Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:



We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



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



You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



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



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE FIRST READING.....Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? ³As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

²⁵Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 25:1-9

¹To | you, O LORD,

I lift | up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**

³Let none who look to you be | put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your | ways, O LORD,
and teach | me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in your | truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.

⁶**Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,
for they are from | everlasting.**

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth and | my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good-
| ness, O LORD.

⁸**You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**

⁹You lead the low- | ly in justice
and teach the low- | ly your way.

THE SECOND READING.....Philippians 2:1-13

¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself,

taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
8he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

9Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
10so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
11and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

12Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my
presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with
fear and trembling; 13for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will
and to work for his good pleasure.

The word of the Lord.

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 21:23-32**

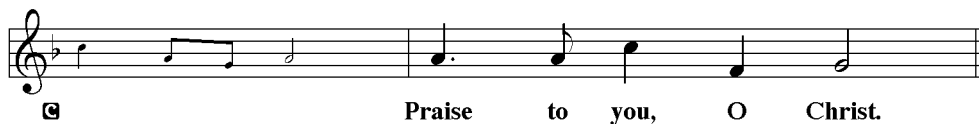


The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 21st chapter

23When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” 24Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. 25Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ 26But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” 27So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

28“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ 29He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. 30The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. 31Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. 32For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

The Gospel of the Lord.



THE SERMON Ray Huff

***HYMN Lord, Keep Us Steadfast In Your Word LBW, “Green”, 230**

***THE APOSTLES' CREED**

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

**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, "Merciful God/Receive our prayer.

***THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

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

***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.

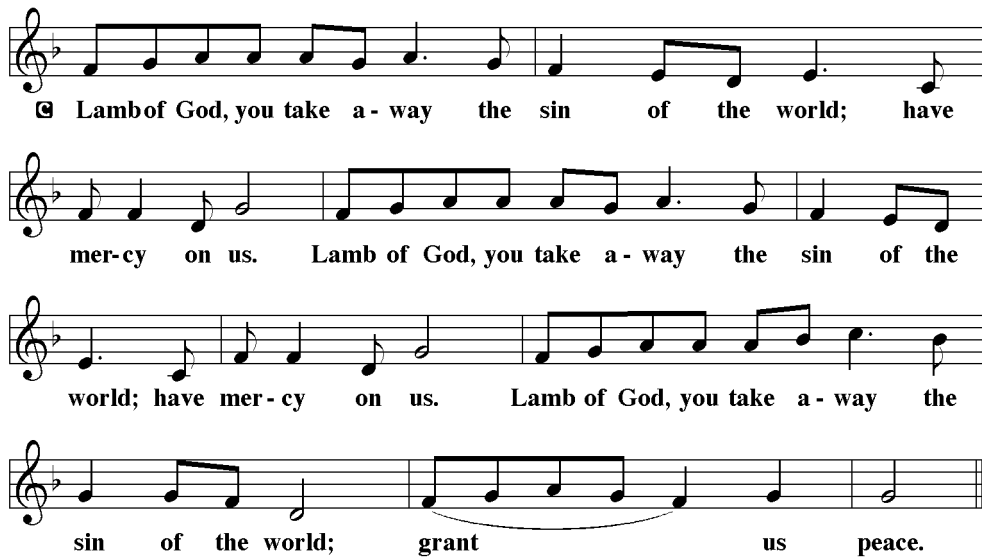
Amen. Come Lord Jesus.

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**

Lord as you have taught us, so now we pray,
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.*

Jesus invites you to his table. Come, eat and live.

Thanks be to God.

THE COMMUNION

*AFTER COMMUNION

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

Amen.

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.
Amen.

***THE BLESSING**

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

***HYMN Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways LBW, "Green", 480**

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, the Lord is with you.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken* Robert J Hughes

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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, 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, Deb Buckman, Linda Rosini, Mary Ann Stiller, Mike Ford, the Family of Shirley Vognet.



WORSHIP LEADERS

October 1, 2023

Lector	8:00 AM	Becky Pryor
	10:30 AM	Brenda Gair
Preacher/Presider		Ray Huff
Communion Assistants	8:00 AM	Brian Jackson
	10:30 AM	Matt and Wanda Fortin
Organist		Sam Robinson
Ushers	8:00 AM	Richard Miller and Herb Poff
	10:30 AM	Carl Albright, captain
		Brenda, Owen and Levi Gair
Altar Guild	October	Bev Heiber and Audrey Albright

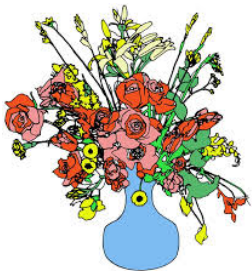


READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY? Faith Formation has temporarily “moved some books” from our church library to the Front Lounge in order to make them more accessible. Stop by the Front Lounge and take a look!



OUR STEWARDSHIP
September 24, 2023

Regular Offering	\$2,260.00
Food Pantry	50.00
Sunday School Offering	9.00
Parish Life	200.00
Family Promise Hosting	75.00
Flower Memorials / Tributes	90.00
Church Bazaar	20.00
Pastor’s Discretionary Fund	50.00
Lutheran World Relief	50.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$2,804.00



Flowers This Week

ALTAR FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God:
 +In Loving Memory of my husband Jim Buckman and parents Mary Jane and Dorsey Ringler and Doris and Sydney Buckman by Deb Buckman and Family.
 +In Loving Memory of parents Myron and Florence Ditchfield, husband Charles Ditchfield and daughter-in-law Mary Ditchfield by Bunny Ditchfield and Family.



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

JOURNEY OF *Faith*

October Faith Study

Please join us on Wednesdays in October (Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25) as we take time to learn and grow in our faith. Our theme will be.....

“Encouraging Spiritual Growth and Discipleship....”

- ~ Through Prayer and Daily Bible Reading
- ~ Through Weekly Worship
- ~ Through Serving In and Beyond the Congregation
- ~ Through Nurturing Relationships

Pastor Vasey will use the book *Real Faith for Real Life* by Michael W. Foss to serve as a starting point for teaching, and just as importantly for discussion. A limited number of copies will be available for those in attendance.

You are invited to bring a brown bag lunch to munch as we meet from 12:10-12:45 in Fellowship Hall. We are excited for this opportunity, and look forward to sharing this time of study and fellowship.

Mother and Child Collection For Saving Grace Shelter

Please consider donating one or more items on this list to help women and children during a difficult time in their lives. Donations may be placed in the tub in the Narthex.



Moisturizing Body Wash, Body Lotion, Bath Poufs, Moisturizing Soap / Dove, Razors, Shaving Cream/Gel, Feminine Hygiene Items/Tampons, Brushes and Combs, Adult Toothpaste, Toothbrushes for Women and Children, Tearless Shampoo, Children's Toothpaste, Children's Body Lotion, Children's Body Wash and Chap Sticks.

October is “Socktober” at Sojourner Truth Ministries



In addition to serving more than 600 meals each week, STM also holds an afterschool program each week. Their after-school program is in need of healthy snacks for the children who attend.

Snacks and juice boxes may be placed on the table in the Narthex closet.

Also, in October new socks for men, women and children are being accepted. Donations of socks may be placed in the tub in the Narthex.

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

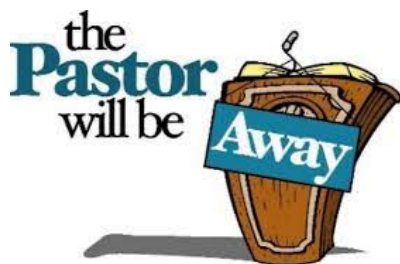
the kids are young, less than 7 years old. I will be contacting the mothers to see what meals they would like to make. We are also responsible for providing the food for breakfasts and lunches. I do that shopping on the Monday of the week based on the conversations with the mothers. If you would like 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).



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.

Checks should be made payable to "CWS/CROP"

To register to walk or donate to our team, you can see Pastor or Brenda Gair or online: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org>. Click: Donate > Find a Participant or team to support. Enter: St. Mark's Lutheran Church Lions and click "Donate Now"

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



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, October 2, -
Sunday, October 8, 2023

Monday, October 2	WCC Rehearsal	7PM
Tuesday, October 3	Pastor's Lunch	1PM
Wednesday, October 4		
Thursday, October 5		
Friday, October 6		
Saturday, October 7		
Sunday, October 8	Holy Communion	8:00 AM
	Holy Communion	10:00 AM

BIRTHDAYS

ANNIVERSARIES

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

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

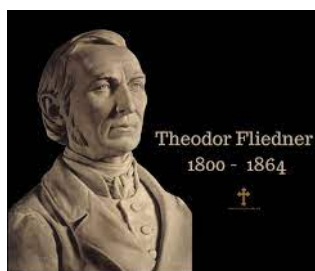
Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church, died 1226



Wednesday, October 4, 2023

Born into the family of a wealthy merchant, Francis gave up his inheritance to serve poor people. He formed the Order of Friars Minor (called Franciscans), who took on poverty and the task of preaching "using words if necessary." Francis had a spirit of gratitude for all of God's creation.

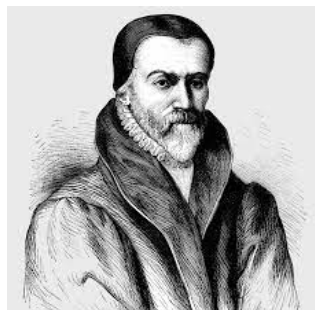
Theodor Fliedner, renewer of society, died 1864



Wednesday, October 4, 2023

Fliedner helped to bring about a revival of the ministry of deaconesses among Lutherans. He was influenced in this by Moravian deaconesses he had met. The motherhouse he founded in Kaiserswerth, Germany, inspired many around the world to take up this ministry.

William Tyndale, translator, martyr, died 1536



Friday, October 6, 2023

Tyndale was ordained in England, and wished to translate the Bible into English. He was opposed in this by King Henry VIII, causing him to flee to Germany. He completed the New Testament in 1525, but before he could finish the Old Testament, he was tried for heresy and burned at the stake.

Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, pastor in North America, died 1787



Saturday, October 7, 2023

Divided Lutherans in America asked leaders in Europe to send someone who could take charge and unite their work. Muhlenberg was sent, and was effective in organizing the American Lutherans. Among other accomplishments, his liturgical principles became the basis for the Common Service of 1888.