

**The Sunday after Christmas Day  
December 31, 2023**

**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 seek, "To know Christ and to make Christ known."*



## An Order for Holy Communion 8 am and 10:30 am

### **Please Note:**

**Hand sanitizer is available for your use; face masks are optional; offerings may be received by way of offering plates as you enter or leave.**

**Bold print indicates Congregation.**

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

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

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

*The psalmist calls on the natural world, celestial bodies, fire and earth, creatures, and all humanity, to praise God. The voices of Simeon and 84-year-old Anna join the chorus today, recognizing what God is doing in Jesus, urging us to do the same.*

**PRELUDE**      Angels from the Realms of Glory

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

### **\*BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of cross, the sign marked at baptism, as worship begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
the Word made flesh,  
our life and our salvation.

**Amen.**

Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior,  
let us confess our sin.

*Kneel/Stand*

God of life,

**you promise good news of great joy for all people,  
and call us to be messengers of your peace.**

**We confess that too often we hoard our joy,  
our resources, and our security.**

**We nurture conflict and build barriers.**

**We neglect the needs of our neighbors  
and ignore the groaning of creation.**

**Have mercy on us.  
Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.  
Where we are reluctant, give us courage.  
Where we are cynical, restore our trust.  
Renew us with your grace  
and give us again the hope of eternal life in you.  
Amen.**

Hear the good news:  
We are children of God and heirs of God's promises  
through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.  
In † Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed.  
Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth  
shall know the salvation of God.  
**Amen.**

**\*HYMN                      Of the Father's Love Begotten                      LBW, "Green", 42**

**\*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.**

# \*KYRIE

**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**A** For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**A** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.

**A** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **C** A - men

## \*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. Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**THE FIRST READING.....Isaiah 61:10-62:3**

- 10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
- 11 For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.
- 62:1 For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,  
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,  
and her salvation like a burning torch.
- 2 The nations shall see your vindication,  
and all the kings your glory;  
and you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the LORD will give.
- 3 You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 148**

- 1 Hallelujah! Praise the LORD | from the heavens;  
praise God | in the heights.
- 2 **Praise the LORD, | all you angels;**  
**sing praise, all you | hosts of heaven.**
- 3 Praise the LORD, | sun and moon;  
sing praise, all you | shining stars.
- 4 **Praise the LORD, heav- | en of heavens,**  
**and you waters a- | bove the heavens.**
- 5 Let them praise the name | of the LORD,  
who commanded, and they | were created,
- 6 **who made them stand fast forev- | er and ever,**  
**giving them a law that shall not | pass away.**
- 7 Praise the LORD | from the earth,

you sea monsters | and all deeps;  
**8**fire and hail, | snow and fog,  
 tempestuous wind, do- | ing God's will;  
**9**mountains | and all hills,  
 fruit trees | and all cedars;  
**10**wild beasts | and all cattle,  
 creeping things and | flying birds;  
**11**sovereigns of the earth | and all peoples,  
 princes and all rulers | of the world;  
**12**young | men and maidens,  
 old and | young together.  
**13**Let them praise the name | of the LORD,  
 whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over | earth and heaven.  
**14**The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all | faithful  
 servants,  
 the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. | Hallelujah!

**THE SECOND READING.....Galatians 4:4-7**

**4**When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born  
 under the law, **5**in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might  
 receive adoption as children. **6**And because you are children, God has sent the  
 Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" **7**So you are no longer a  
 slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.  
 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 GOSPEL.....Luke 2:22-40**

The holy gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ according to St. Luke, the  
 second chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.





**\*HYMN**

**Once in Royal David's City    WOV, "Blue", 643**

**\*THE NICENE CREED**

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

**We believe in one God,**

**the Father, the Almighty,**

**maker of heaven and earth,**

**of all there is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,**

**the only Son of God,**

**eternally begotten of the Father,**

**God from God, Light from Light,**

**true God from true God,**

**begotten, not made,**

**of one Being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven;**

**by the power of the Holy Spirit**

**he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,**

**and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;**

**he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again**

**in accordance with the Scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,**

**and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

**With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.**

**He has spoken through the prophets.  
 We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
 We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
 We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
 and the life of the world to come. Amen**

**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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

**\*THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.** *The ministers and congregation greet each other.*

**ANTHEM**            The First Noel            Arr. Dan Forrest

**\*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. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory; that beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. 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.

Holy God, mighty Lord, glorious Father:  
 Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.  
 You have filled all creation with light and life;  
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
 Through Abraham you promised to bless all nations.  
 You rescued your chosen people who were slaves in Egypt.  
 Through prophets you renewed your promise;  
 and at this end of all ages, you sent your Son,  
 who in words and deeds proclaimed your kingdom  
 and was obedient to your will,  
 even to giving his life.  
 In the night in which he was betrayed,  
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.  
 Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
 This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
 shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.  
 For as often we eat this bread

and drink from this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Therefore gracious Father we await his coming in power  
to share with us the promised feast.

**Amen. Come Lord Jesus.**

Send now your Holy Spirit,  
the spirit of our Lord and of his resurrection,  
that we who receive our Lord's body and blood  
may live to the praise of your glory  
and receive our inheritance with all the saints in light.

**Amen. Come Holy Spirit.**

Join our prayers with your servants of every time and place,  
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest  
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

**Amen.**

**\*OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

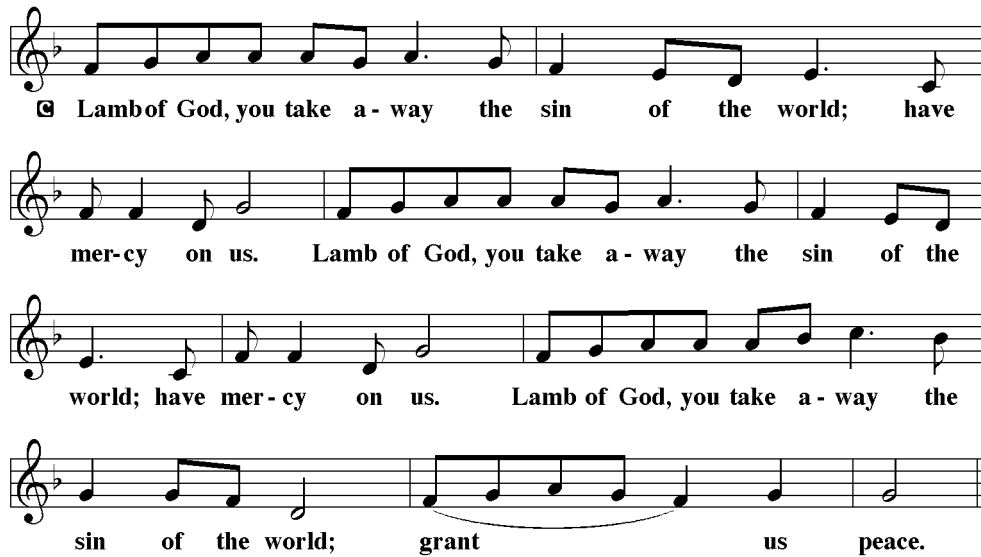
Lord as you have taught us, so now we pray,

**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.*

*\*\*\*Please include the instructions for communion from previous weeks.*

## 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

God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table,  
with gifts of faith, truth and life.

As you have gathered us in joy,  
send us forth as messengers of your peace.

Make us shine with the good news of your glory,  
born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**\*BLESSING**

Almighty God: Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be with you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**\*HYMN**

**Go Tell It on the Mountain**

**LBW, “Green”, 70**

**\*DISMISSAL**

Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace! Proclaim the good news!

**Thanks be to God.**

**\*POSTLUDE**

Adeste Fideles

+++++

*Portions of this service are reprinted with permission from...*

*Lutheran Book of Worship (copyright, 1978)*

*Augsburg-Fortress Publishers (#2562-L).*

*Evangelical Lutheran Worship (copyright 2006)*

*Augsburg-Fortress Publishers, under license #2562-L.*

*sundayandseasons.com (copyright 2019), Augsburg-Fortress. All rights reserved.*

*Augsburg-Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB144818.*

*“One License” A-738528.*

+++++

**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, Deb Buckman, Linda Rosini, Mike Ford, Walt Haussmann, Kristin Rehm, Yvonne and Gerry Myers, Eileen Montgomery.

**WORSHIP LEADERS December 31, 2023**

Preacher/Presider	Ray Huff
Lector	8:00AM Nikki Jackson
	10:30AM Gary Weber
Communion Assistants	8:00AM Jackie Kinney
	10:30AM Carl and Audrey Albright
Organist	Sam Robinson
Ushers	8:00AM Herb Poff & Richard Miller
	10:30AM Gary Weber, captain
	Shelby Weber & Dick Reitz
Altar Guild	December Wanda Fortin & Mindy Wentzel

**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 December 24, 2023**

Regular Offering	\$7,022.00
Plate Offerings	189.00
Christmas and Advent	1,920.00
Initial Offering	10.00
Capital Fund	800.00
Synod Benevolence	800.00
Pastor’s Discretionary Fund	100.00
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$10,841.00</b>

**ALTAR FLOWERS** today are given to the glory of God:  
+In Memory of William Hill from his wife, Shirley  
+In Celebration of our Saint Mark’s Family



## ALTAR FLOWER PRICE INCREASE

Hall's Florist has informed us that as of January 2024 the price will increase for Altar Flowers. Due to increases in the cost of flowers and supplier delivery fees they can no longer make vases at the same price.

The price of Altar Flowers will increase from \$25.00 per vase to \$30.00 per vase and delivery fee will increase to \$5.00 per vase, an increase of \$1.00 per vase. Total cost per vase starting in January 2024 will be \$35.00 per vase.



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.



*Please note that the Church Office will be closed, Monday, January 1, 2024 in celebration of the New Year 2024.*





**PASTOR VASEY ON VACATION,  
DECEMBER 25-JANUARY 1.** Should you  
need a pastor during this time please  
contact Pastor Carol Johnson (570-772-  
6674 [carolandshuman@verizon.net](mailto:carolandshuman@verizon.net)).

### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY ROBIN.**

**Robin Aria Aguirre, daughter of Brandy (Vasey)  
and Steve Aguirre was born on December 28,  
2023, at 11:15 am. Robin weighed 6 pounds/7  
ounces and measured 16 inches long. Robin joins  
a sister Diana at home. Pastor Brian and Joanne  
Vasey are the proud grandparents. Thank you  
for your prayers and well wishes.**



**PLEASE KEEP THE VASEY FAMILY IN YOUR PRAYERS  
AS THEY MOURN THE PASSING OF MRS. ALBERTA  
VASEY (RALEIGH, NC). ALBERTA WAS THE MOTHER  
OF PASTOR BRIAN AND APRIL VASEY. SHE WAS 94  
YEARS OLD AND SADLY, PASSED AWAY ON THURSDAY,  
DECEMBER 28.**





A PERFORMANCE BY THE  
WILLIAMSPORT CHAMBER CHOIR ORCHESTRA

# THE LONG WINTER NIGHT

SAMUEL ROBINSON, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

FEATURING THE VESPERS FROM  
RACHMANINOFF'S ALL-NIGHT VIGIL

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 2024, 7:30PM  
ST. MARKS LUTHERAN CHURCH

ADMISSION:  
\$10 ADULTS  
\$5 STUDENTS

Monday, January 1, -  
Sunday, January 7, 2024



Monday, January 1

Tuesday, January 2

Wednesday, January 3

Thursday, January 4

Friday, January 5

Saturday, January 6

Sunday, January 7



**Holy Communion**  
**Holy Communion**

**8:00AM**  
**10:30AM**

### **BIRTHDAYS**

Shelby Weber

January 1

James Newcomer, Sr.

January 4

### **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](mailto:jbaur@stmarkswilliamsport.org)



# COMMEMORATIONS

## Holy Name of Jesus



*Monday, January 1, 2024*

Joseph and Mary bring Jesus to the temple to be circumcised and name him, Jesus on the “eighth day of Christmas” (Luke 2:21).

## Johann Konrad Wilhelm Loehe, renewer of the church, died 1872



*Tuesday, January 2, 2024*

Loehe was a pastor in nineteenth-century Germany. Loehe's chief concern was that a congregation find its life in the holy communion, and from that source evangelism and social ministries would flow. He sent pastors to North America, Australia, New Guinea, Brazil, and Ukraine.

## The Epiphany of Our Lord (the adoration of the Wise Men)



*Saturday, January 6, 2024*

The Wise Men follow a star to Bethlehem to pay homage to the child, Jesus. According to scripture (Matthew 2:1-12) only the wise men see and follow the star to Bethlehem.