

The First Sunday of Advent
November 28, 2021
in the 168th 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 Lutheran Church!

Our Mission: "To know Christ and to make Christ known."

***This is Christ's church. There is a place for you here.
We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace.
Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person—questions,
complexities and all. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the
life of the world.***

Please Note: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has provided revised guidelines with regard to mask wearing. Following these guidelines, and the specific recommendations of our bishop (Bishop Collins of the Upper Susquehanna Synod) Church Council strongly recommends that masks be worn, social distancing followed, and to speak and sing in very low tones when worshipping in St. Mark's church building. Thank You!

***An Order for Holy Communion, 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., With One Voice,
Setting Five (WOV, "Blue Book")***

****Please stand as you are able.***

PRELUDE *Celebration*

Charles Callahan

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY

***BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

The pastor leads the congregation in the invocation, the sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

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.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

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 loved 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 forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare unto you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

***HYMN Wake, Awake for Night Is Flying (LBW, "Green" 31)**

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying



1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men
2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and all her
3 Glo - ri - a! Let heav'n a - dore you! Let saints and



on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.
heart with joy is spring-ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.
an - gels sing be - fore you, with harp and cym-bal's clear-est tone.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es, and at the
Her dear friend comes down, all glo - rious, the strong in
Gates of pearl, twelve por - tals gleam - ing, lead us to



thrill-ing cry re - joic - es: "Come forth, you maid-ens! Night is past.
grace, in truth vic - to - rious: her star is ris'n; her light is come.
bliss be - yond all dream - ing, with an - gel choirs a - round your throne.



The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!"
Now come, O Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.
No eye has caught the light, no ear the thun-d'ring might



Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and pre - pare the feast to share;
Sing ho - san - na! Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,
of such glo - ry. There we will go: what joy we'll know!



go, meet the bride - groom, who draws near.
and fol - low to the ban - quet hall.
There sweet de - light will ev - er flow.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608; tr. composite
Music: WACHET AUF, Philipp Nicolai
Text © 1999 Augsburg Fortress

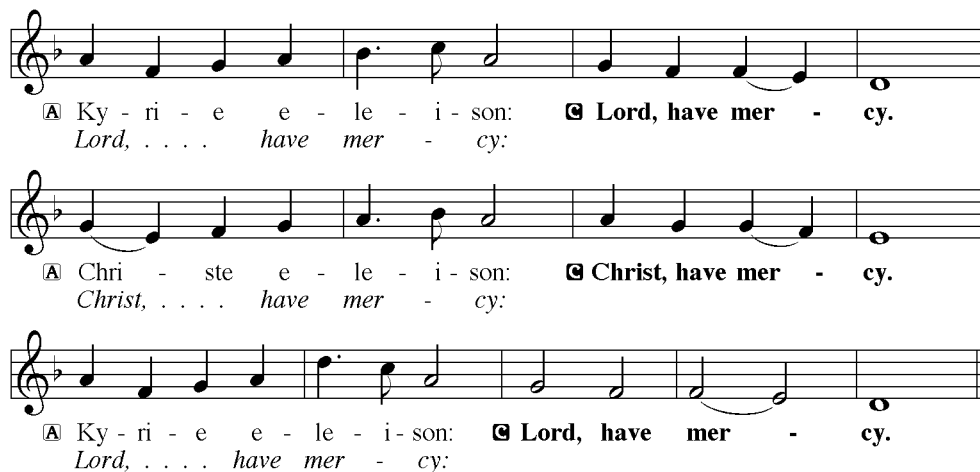
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*THE GREETING

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.

*KYRIE



A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **G** Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:

A Chri - ste e - le - i - son: **G** Christ, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy:

A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **G** Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:

*LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH ---- Light One Candle (stanza 1)

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep - herd, gent - ly lead them home - ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate - way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954
Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune
Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S READINGS

Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Jesus’ contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.

THE FIRST LESSON.....Jeremiah 33:14-16

14The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 15In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. 16In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”

The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 25 (1-10)

1To | you, O LORD,
I lift | up my soul.

**2My 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.**

5 Lead 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.**

7 Remember 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.**

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

**10 All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast | love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your | testimonies.**

THE SECOND LESSON.....1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

9 How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel
before our God because of you? 10 Night and day we pray most earnestly that
we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

11 Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our
way to you. 12 And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for
one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. 13 And may he so
strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God
and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



***THE HOLY GOSPEL.....Luke 21:25-36**

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-first chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

P [Jesus said:] 25“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. 26People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. 27Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. 28Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

29Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; 30as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. 31So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. 32Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. 33Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

34“Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, 35like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. 36Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE SERMON

***HYMN Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending (LBW, "Green" 27)**

Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending



1 Lo! He comes with clouds de - scend - ing,
 2 Ev - 'ry eye shall now be - hold him
 3 Those dear to - kens of his pas - sion
 4 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore thee,



once for fa - vored sin - ners slain;
 robed in glo - rious maj - es - ty;
 still his daz - zling bod - y bears,
 high on thine e - ter - nal throne;



thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing
 those who set at nought and sold him,
 cause of end - less ex - ul - ta - tion
 Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,



swell the tri - umph of his train:
 pierced and nailed him to the tree,
 to his ran - somed wor - ship - ers.
 claim the king - dom as thine own.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
 deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing,
 With what rap - ture, with what rap - ture,
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
 deep - ly wail - ing, shall their true Mes - si - ah see.
 with what rap - ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
 al - le - lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone!

***THE NICENE CREED**

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

C We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that 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**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

The ministers and congregation greet one another with these or similar words, and/or gestures of peace, limiting physical touch and contact with one another.

ANTHEM *Drop Down, Ye Heavens* George Alexander
Macfarren(1813-1887)

Drop down, ye heavens, from above,
And let the skies pour down righteousness:
Let the earth open,
And let them bring forth salvation.
Amen.

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

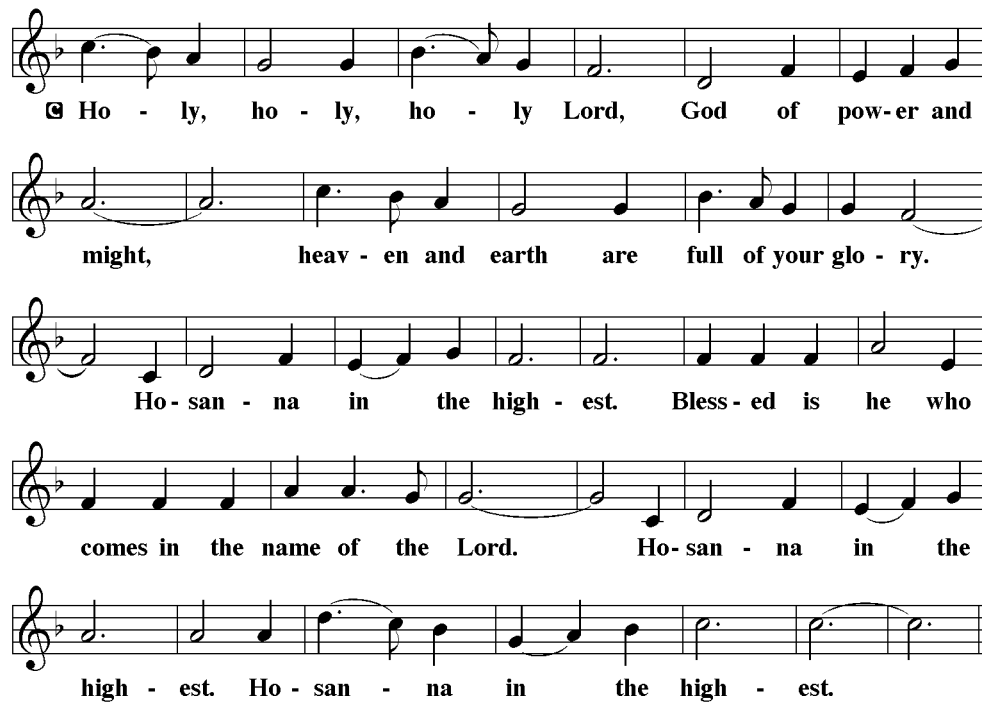
C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P 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, almighty and ever-living God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. 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-er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

P 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.

*OUR LORD'S PRAYER

P Let us pray in the words our Savior gave us:

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, grant us peace.

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Persons may come forward to the chancel to receive Holy Communion. This format will be more “continuous” noting the following procedure:

- *Communicants, masked and observing social distancing, are asked to come forward as directed by ushers by way of the center aisle, take a cup from the tray provided and receive the bread from Pastor Vasey.*
- *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.*

Please do not kneel at the rail. Kneeling at the rail will return at a time to be determined by pastor and Church Council.

P A feast of love is offered here
for you and for all the saints.

C **Thanks be to God.**

THE COMMUNION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P Most High God,
you have come among us at this table.
By the Spirit’s power, form us to be bearers of your word,
sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all,
through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

C **Amen.**

***THE BLESSING**

P The God of hope
fill us with all joy and peace in believing,
so that we may abound in hope

by the power of the Holy Spirit,
 through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.
C Amen.

***HYMN Fling Wide the Door (LBW, "Green" 32)**

Fling Wide the Door



1 Fling wide the door, un - bar the gate; the King of glo - ry
 2 He is the rock of our be - lief, the heart of mer - cy's
 3 Oh, hap - py towns and bless - ed lands that live by their true
 4 Come, Lord, our Sav - ior, Je - sus Christ; our hearts are o - pen



comes in state; the Lord of lords and King of kings, the
 gen - tle self. His king - ly crown is ho - li - ness; his
 king's com - mands. And bless - ed be the hearts he rules, the
 wide in trust. Oh, show us now your love - ly grace, up -



Sav - ior of the world who brings his great sal - va - tion
 scep - ter is his love - li - ness; he brings our sor - rows
 hum - ble plac - es where he dwells. He is the right - ful
 on our sor - rows shine your face, and let your Ho - ly



to the earth. So raise a shout of ho - ly mirth and
 to an end. Now glad - ly praise our king and friend, and
 Son of bliss who fills our lives and makes us his, cre -
 Spir - it guide our jour - ney in your grace so wide. We



praise our God and Lord, Cre - a - tor, Spir - it, Word.
 wor - ship him with song for sav - ing us from wrong.
 a - tor of the world, our on - ly strength for good.
 praise your ho - ly name, from age to age the same!

Text: Georg Weissel, 1590–1635; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943
 Music: MACHT HOCH DIE TÜR, J. A. Freylinghausen, *Geistreiches Gesangbuch*, 1704
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

***DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace, Christ is near.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *Rejoicing*

Charles Callahan

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Prayer List: Victims of COVID-19 and their families, Liz Ruesskamp, Grace Arner, Diane Damaska, Vanessa Morgan, Gary Clark, Doris Brown, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Patricia Alexander, Joann Zeigler, Diana Zeigler, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, April Clark, Lenny Sherlinski, Ruth Sherlinski, Gary Cable, Elsie Sechler, Virginia Pulaskie, Bernadette Jones, Susan Kalabacas, Kay Poliska, Bunny Ditchfield, Judy Fortin, Roy and Gloria Meyer, Mary Lou Doebler, Walt Haussmann, Lou and Linda DeSeau.

WORSHIP LEADERS (11/28/21)

Lector 8 a.m. Candy Dewar

10:30 a.m. Linda Rosini

Cantor/Song-leader (10:30) Deb Buckman

Communion Assistants

8 a.m. Drew Haussmann

10:30 a.m. Matt & Wanda Fortin

Organist Sam Robinson

USHERS:

8 a.m. Dick Miller/Herb Poff

10:30 a.m. Tim Maggs, Captain. Carl Hieber and Charlie Fortin

COVID CONTACT: Please note that your attendance at worship will be recorded. This serves as a precaution in case contact-tracing due to the pandemic is warranted. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY : begins on Wednesday, December 1, 12:15 pm. This year a Bible study during the noon hour replaces the traditional mid-week Service of the Word. Our study will be the traditional themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love associated with the Advent Season, and the schedule will be as follows:

- +HOPE: Luke 21:5-19, December 1
- +PEACE: Luke 1:57-79, December 8
- +JOY: Luke 1:39-56, December 15
- +LOVE: John 3:16-21, December 21

We will meet in Fellowship Hall 12:15-12:45 pm. No meal will be served but feel free to bring a “bag lunch” if you so desire. Coffee, water and tea will be provided. All are welcome!

GIFTING FOR DANVILLE STATE HOSPITAL. As we have done in years past, we will be collecting Christmas gifts for the residents of Danville State Hospital. Please consider providing a modest gift to ensure all residents will have gifts to open on Christmas morning. We supply general gifts that can be used where they are most needed. This need is greatest for those residents who arrive at the hospital in November or December.

Items being requested this year for both men and women include socks, hats, gloves, scarves, PJ’s, nightgowns, packs of batteries (size AA and AAA), inexpensive wallets and watches. Clothing in sizes large and up are needed for both men and women.

Body wash, shampoo, conditioner and body lotion in regular sizes are also requested.

All donations should be left unwrapped and placed in the tub in the Narthex. Thank you for any assistance you can give to this outreach.

Donations for Danville State Hospital are due Sunday, December 5, 2021.

CONCERT AT ST. MARK’S. West Branch Chorale presents *Beautiful Savior* – Brian Scott, Director and Kristin Ivers, Pianist. The concert will be Monday, December 6 at 7 p.m. in the nave. Masks are required and a free-will offering will be taken.

Our **ANNUAL MEETING** will take place on Sunday, December 12 immediately following 9:30 a.m. Holy Communion. There will be one worship time on this Sunday. By action of our Church Council St. Mark's will host one annual meeting and not two as in previous years. The business of the meeting will be to vote on our annual 2022 budget, members of Church Council, and special projects of the congregation. Hope to see you there!

READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY? Faith and Fellowship 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

Regular Offering	\$ 3,671.00
Plate Offering	\$ 25.00
Bulletin Sponsor	\$ 10.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 100.00
World Hunger	\$ 65.00
Food Pantry	\$ 50.00
Global Mission	\$ 50.00
Flower Memorials/Tributes	\$ 30.00
Sunday School Offering	\$ 11.00
Thankoffering	\$ 271.00
Christmas Flowers	\$ 298.00
Grand Total	\$ 4,581.00

ALTAR FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God:

+ In honor of our 25th wedding anniversary on November 30. Melvin and Melinda Wentzel.

+In Celebration of our St. Mark's Family.

BULLETIN SPONSOR : Shirley Miller. Thank you Shirley!

COMMEMORATIONS

Andrew, Apostle

Tuesday, November 30, 2021

The first of the disciples to be called by Jesus, Andrew quickly began to bring others to the Savior, including Simon Peter. The Bible also shows him leading some Greeks to meet Jesus, and he brought forward the boy with five loaves and two fish, with which Jesus fed thousands.

Francis Xavier, missionary to Asia, died 1552

Friday, December 3, 2021

A native of the Basque region of Spain, Xavier became a missionary to India, Southeast Asia, Japan, and the Philippines. He also helped to found the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).

John of Damascus, theologian and hymnwriter, died around 749

Saturday, December 4, 2021

A monk in an abbey near Jerusalem, John wrote many hymns as well as theological works. One of his works, *The Fount of Wisdom*, remained influential for centuries.