

The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

July 17, 2022

in the 169^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 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.



Our COVID-19 Guidelines:

Hand sanitizer is available for your use.

Face masks are optional.

Offerings may be received by way of baskets as you enter or leave.

Please continue to observe social distancing and our directives as to where to sit.

An Order for Holy Communion, 9:30 a.m., Lutheran Book of Worship, Setting Two, (LBW, “Green Book”)

**Please stand as you are able.*

PRELUDE *Voluntary in A Major* J. Leybach

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY

***BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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. The congregation may kneel.

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 God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become children of God and bestows upon them the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

***HYMN Jesus, the Very Thought of You LBW 316, "Green"**

***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.

***GLORY TO GOD**



Ⓐ Glo-ry to God in the high-est, 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**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Eternal God, you draw near to us in Christ, and you make yourself our guest. Amid the cares of our lives, make us attentive to your presence, that we may treasure your word above all else, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S READINGS

Perhaps the church, at its best, is “all ears.” God urges the faithful, again and again, to “listen up!”—to heed the word that gives life. So it was with Abraham and Sarah, Mary and Martha, and the early church at Colossae. So it is today as we join the assembly to hear the word of God, the word of life.

THE FIRST LESSON.....Genesis 18:1-10a

1The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. 2He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. 3He said, “My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. 4Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. 5Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” 6And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, “Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.” 7Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. 8Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

9They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.” 10aThen one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.”

The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 15

1LORD, who may dwell in your | tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your | holy hill?

**2Those who lead a blameless life and do | what is right,
who speak the truth | from their heart;**

3they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil | to their friends;
they do not cast discredit up- | on a neighbor.

**4In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who | fear
the LORD.**

**They have sworn upon their health and do not take | back their
word.**

5They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes a-
| gainst the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be | overthrown.

THE SECOND LESSON.....Colossians 1:15-28

15[Christ Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; 16for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. 17He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. 19For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

21And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, 22he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him—23provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel.

24I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. 25I became its servant according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, 26the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. 27To them God chose to make known how

great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. 28It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

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.

***THE HOLY GOSPEL.....Luke 10:38-42**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the tenth chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

38Now as [Jesus and his disciples] went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. 39She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. 40But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." 41But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; 42there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

***HYMN You Satisfy the Hungry Heart WOV 711, “Blue”**

***THE APOSTLES' CREED**

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

**C I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

After each petition, “God of Grace/Hear our prayer.”

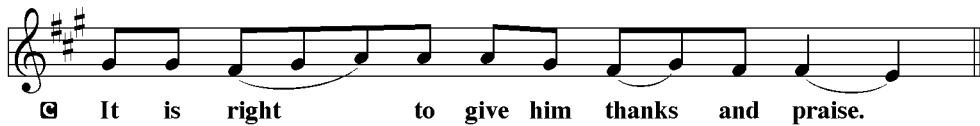
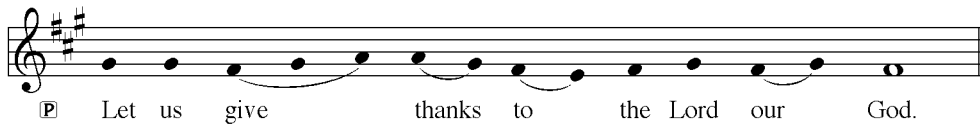
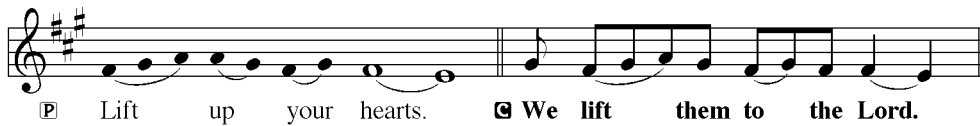
***THE PEACE**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

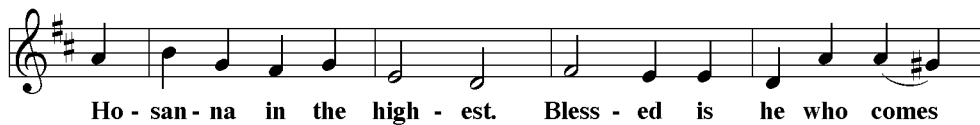
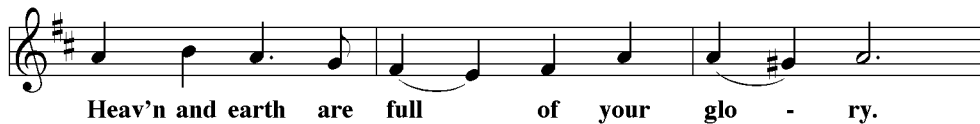
C And also with you.

*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.*

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



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, 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:



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:

***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 In Christ's presence there is fulness of joy! Come to the banquet!

C **Thanks be to God.**

THE COMMUNION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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

C **Amen.**

P Let us pray. Life-giving God,
through this meal you have bandaged our wounds
and fed us with your mercy.

Now send us forth to live for others,
both friend and stranger,
that all may come to know your love.

This we pray in the name of Jesus.

C **Amen.**

***THE BLESSING**

P The God of peace,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you, comfort you,
and show the path of life,
this day and always.

C Amen.

***HYMN Oh Jesus I Have Promised LBW 503, “Green”**

***DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace, love your neighbor.

C Amen. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Grave in A Minor V. Klauss

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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, Diana Zeigler, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, April Clark, Lenny Sherlinski, Ruth Sherlinski, Gary Cable, Elsie Sechler, Virginia Pulaskie, Susan Kalabacas, Bunny Ditchfield, Judy Fortin, Roy and Gloria Meyer, Mary Lou Doebler, Walt Haussmann, Jeremy Splain, Ryan Dancho, Ezra Buckman, Sheila Brassard, Kevin Rosini, the people of Ukraine and Eastern Europe

WORSHIP LEADERS (7/17/22)

Lector	Donna Boston
Communion Assistants	Gregg and Kathy Dancho
Organist	Sam Robinson
USHERS:	Captain Carl Albright, Brenda, Owen and Levi Gair



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 7/10/22)

Regular Offering	2,230.00
Plate Offerings	40.00
World Hunger	50.00
Food Pantry	50.00
Global Mission	50.00
Family Promise Hosting	160.00
Flower Memorials / Tributes	120.00
Synod Benevolence	20.00
Youth Camps	25.00
GRAND TOTAL	2,745.00



ALTAR FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God:
+In Loving memory of Anna Mae and William Goertz (parents) and my husband, Robert O. Miller by Shirley Miller
+Remembering loved ones by Lou Ann and Ralph Zeigler
+In Loving memory of our father, Eugene Jacobs on his 105th birthday and of our mother, Reba Jacobs on her 100th birthday by Linda Rosini and John and Holly Carlson

PASTOR VACATION

Rev. Brian Vasey will be on vacation from July 14 through July 23. The Rev. Ron Montgomery will be on call during this time. His contact information is 570-584-3490 or 570-584-4465.

Today, Ray Huff, Synod Authorized Lay Worship Leader, will preach and preside at St. Mark's.



BUS TRIP TO SIGHT AND SOUND

DEADLINE TO SIGN UP IS APPROACHING

Master Poet. Fearless Warrior. Anointed King. From still waters to shadowed valleys, David's ascent to the throne is filled with towering giants, wild animals, and Philistine soldiers.



There is still a little room on the bus to see David at Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA. The bus will be leaving from the Beiter's parking lot at 6:30 AM on Sept. 14th. The cost of the trip will be **\$139.00 per person** made payable to Cheryl Williams. **Payment needs to be made no later than**

August 1. A huge thank you to Cheryl for coordinating this trip and making all the arrangements with the bus company. If there are any questions, please reach out to Cheryl at (570) 327-1627.

Checks may be made payable to and mailed to: Cheryl Williams, 249 Johnson Dr., S. Williamsport, PA 17702

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Pastor's Vacation	July 14-24
Ray Huff Preaching	Sunday, July 17
Church in the Courtyard and Picnic	Sunday, July 24
Special Congregational Assembly	Sunday, July 24 after service
Koffee Klatch with Pastor Seyenkulo	Wednesday, July 27 at 10:30 a.m.
Blessings of the Backpacks	Sunday, August 21



AUGUST "Lion" Deadline

The deadline for the August newsletter is July 18, 2022. Thank you all for submissions and help.

July Fourth Thank You

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee thank all members of the congregation who contributed their time, talents and resources to the success of this event. After an absence of almost three years, we were back on our front lawn welcoming the community.

Approximately 200 people joined us for fun, food and fireworks. Donations totaling \$287.61 were divided equally to the Shepherd of the Streets and the United Churches Food Pantry.



Blood Drive Update

Our summer blood drive was held on Friday, July 8, 2022. It was a busy day with a full schedule of donors that included Matt and Wanda Fortin and Karen Mariano. At the end of the day 22 units of blood were collected. Our winter blood drive will be Friday, December 9, 2022.

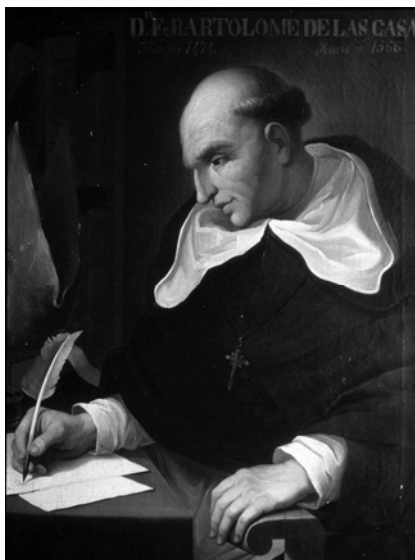


Missionary Visit

Please join the Evangelism and Fellowship Committee in welcoming Pastor Linda Johnson Seyenkulo from Liberia on Wednesday, July 27, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. She will discuss her ministry in Liberia and how the country has been affected by the pandemic. Light refreshments will be served.



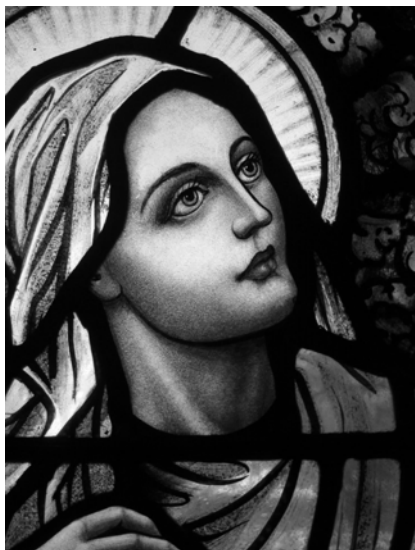
COMMEMORATIONS



Bartolomé de Las Casas, missionary to the Indies, died 1566

Sunday, July 17, 2022

A native of Spain, Las Casas first came to the Western hemisphere while serving in the military. Upon arriving in the West, Las Casas was granted a large estate with Indigenous enslaved people whom he freed after he was ordained. He worked in the Caribbean and Central America to improve the lives of the native peoples.



Mary Magdalene, Apostle

Friday, July 22, 2022

Sometimes called "the apostle to the apostles" because she told them of her encounter with the risen Lord, Mary was a woman of Galilee who followed Jesus throughout his ministry. She was present at Jesus' crucifixion and his burial, as well as a witness to his resurrection.



Birgitta of Sweden, renewer of the church, died 1373

Saturday, July 23, 2022

Birgitta married at age thirteen and had four daughters. Widowed at age thirty-eight, she gave all that she owned to the poor, and founded a community of monks and nuns led by a woman. Her work is continued today by the Society of St. Birgitta.



"It may be more 'green,' but I prefer the older steeple."

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