

**The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 31, 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

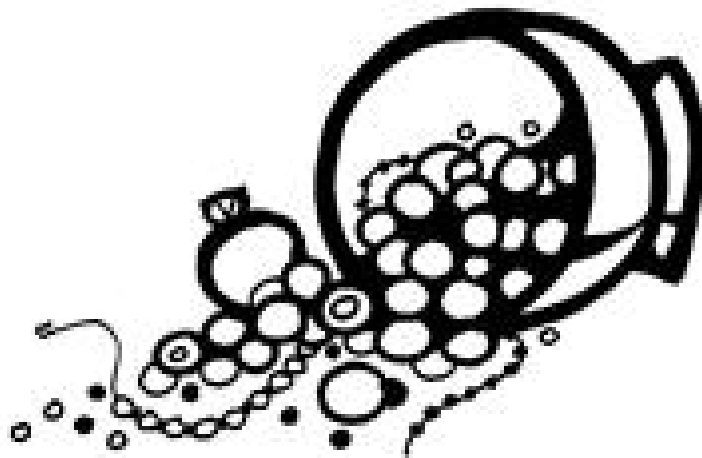
Welcome to Saint Mark's Lutheran Church!

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 *My Lord what a morning* Roger Wilson

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.

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 Glories of Your Name Are Spoken LBW, “Green”, 358**

***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**

A Glo-ry to God in the high-est, 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 Benevolent God, you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives. Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord

C **Amen.**

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S READINGS

Today's texts offer instruction and encouragement for all who are occasionally overwhelmed by the "unhappy business" of life. Jesus urges us to take care and be on guard against all kinds of greed. We who have died with Christ in holy baptism have also been raised with him and are encouraged to elevate our thinking, seeking the "things that are above." To that end we seek the sustenance of the Lord's supper and the encouragement of God's word.

THE FIRST LESSON.....Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14, 2:18-23

2Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher,
vanity of vanities! All is vanity.

12I, the Teacher, when king over Israel in Jerusalem, 13applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to human beings to be busy with. 14I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun; and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind.

2:18I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to those who come after me 19—and who knows whether they will be wise or foolish? Yet they will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. 20So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labors under the sun, 21because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. 22What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? 23For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 49:1-12

1Hear this, | all you peoples;
give ear, all you who dwell | in the world,
**2you of high de- | gree and low,
rich and | poor together.**
3My mouth shall | speak of wisdom,
and my heart shall meditate on | understanding.
**4I will incline my ear | to a proverb
and set forth my riddle up- | on the harp.**
5Why should I be afraid in | evil days,
when the wickedness of those at my | heels surrounds me,
**6the wickedness of those who put their trust in | their own prowess,
and boast of | their great riches?**
7One can never re- | deem another,
or give to God the ransom for an- | other's life;
**8for the ransom of a life | is so great
that there would never be e- | nough to pay it,**
9in order to live forev- | er and ever
and never | see the grave.
**10For we see that the wise die also; like the dull and stu- | pid they perish
and leave their wealth to those who come | after them.**
11Their graves shall be their homes forever, their dwelling places from generation
to | generation,
though they had named lands af- | ter themselves.
**12Even though honored, they cannot | live forever;
they are like the | beasts that perish.**

THE SECOND LESSON.....Colossians 3:1-11

1So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, 3for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. 4When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

5Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). 6On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. 7These are the ways you also

once followed, when you were living that life. 8But now you must get rid of all such things—anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. 9Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices 10and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. 11In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

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.

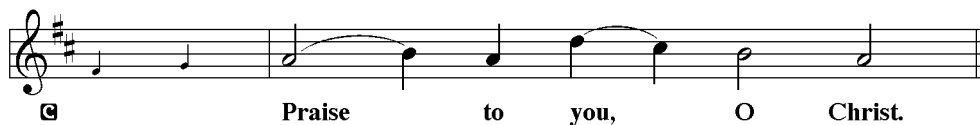
***THE HOLY GOSPEL.....Luke 12:13-21**

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

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

13Someone in the crowd said to [Jesus,] “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me.” 14But he said to him, “Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?” 15And he said to them, “Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of possessions.” 16Then he told them a parable: “The land of a rich man produced abundantly. 17And he thought to himself, ‘What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?’ 18Then he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. 19And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ 20But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ 21So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God.”

The Gospel of the Lord.



THE SERMON

***HYMN**

All

Depends on Our Possessing LBW, "Green" 447

PUBLIC AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Richard and Charlotte Reitz

P Richard and Charlotte, you desire to make public affirmation of your baptism and to therefore, to unite with this congregation. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Richard and Charlotte I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

P People of God, do you promise to support this sister and brother in Christ and pray for them in their life in Christ?

C We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

P Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life.

C Amen.

P Let us rejoice with our sister and brother in Christ!

C We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world. Amen.

P Now it is our joy to welcome Richard and Charlotte to St. Mark's!

***THE APOSTLES' CREED**

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

**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, “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 one another with these or similar words,
 and/or gestures of peace, limiting physical touch and contact with one another.*

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so 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 him 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, 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, Lord God of pow'r and might:
 Heav'n 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.

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 In Christ's presence there is fullness 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 Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God**

WOV, "Blue", 783

***DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace, love your neighbor.

C Amen. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Glorious things of Thee are spoken* Robert Hughes

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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, Kathy Eshelman, the people of Ukraine and Eastern Europe.

WORSHIP LEADERS (7/31/22)

Lector	Mel Wentzel
Communion Assistants	Ralph and Lou Ann Zeigler
Organist	Sam Robertson

USHERS:	Captain Mike Jensen, Gary Weber, Sean Jensen, Shelby Weber
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WELCOME RICHARD AND CHARLOTTE. We welcome Richard and Charlotte Reitz to our St. Mark's

family as they unite with our congregation. Charlotte and Dick come to St. Mark's by way of Letters of Transfer from New Covenant UCC, Williamsport.



ALTAR FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God:
+In Celebration of our St. Mark's Family by the Flower Fund

OUR STEWARDSHIP 7/24/22)

Regular Offering	2,915.00
Plate Offering	25.01
Operation Christmas Child	50.00
Flower Memorials / Tributes	30.00
GRAND TOTAL	3,020.01



Situation Report: Ukraine and Eastern Europe More than four months after Russian troops invaded Ukraine, fighting continues to intensify and humanitarian conditions continue to deteriorate. The United Nations estimates that at least 24 million people — more than half of Ukraine's population — will need humanitarian assistance in the coming months. In addition to

continuing to meet the immediate needs of arriving refugees, our partners in the region support those fleeing the violence in Ukraine and provide assistance in psychosocial care, pastoral care, housing, job searches, language study, school admission, legal services, cash assistance and other key integration support for individuals and families. Read the full situation report from Lutheran Disaster Response at blogs.elca.org/disasterresponse/.



Stewardship Kaleidoscope — Register Today

The 2022 Stewardship Kaleidoscope conference will be held in person in Savannah, Ga., Sept. 26-28, with a live streamed participation option as well. Stewardship

Kaleidoscope explores stewardship in its many colorful dimensions! This annual conference offers plenary speakers, workshops, worship experiences and networking opportunities for all who are passionate about stewardship and generosity. [Register today](https://www.stewardshipkaleidoscope.org) for the best rate. Group pricing and special discounts for first-call pastors attending in person are available. Visit [StewardshipKaleidoscope.org](https://www.stewardshipkaleidoscope.org) to learn more.



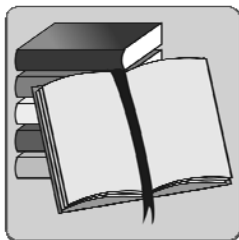
Journal of Lutheran Ethics Behind on your summer reading? *Journal of Lutheran Ethics* (JLE) book reviewers provide brief essays that help you stay up to date with what’s being published. learn.elca.org/jle/category/book-review/

Recent books reviewed include the novel *Crossroads* by Jonathan Franzen; *Amending the Christian Story: The Natural Sciences as a Window Into Grounded Faith and Sustainable Living* by Ron Rude; *I Never Thought of It That Way: How to Have Fearlessly Curious Conversations in Dangerously Divided Times* by Monica Guzman — to tickle your curiosity with just a few. [Visit JLE](http://www.elca.org/jle), a place for seminary and university students, pastors and bishops, theologically informed lay people, advocates, and activists. (www.elca.org/jle)



BATTER UP!

On Sunday August 14, 2022 the Crosscutters will host “All Faiths Night” at Muncy Bank Ballpark starting at 4:05 p.m. \$10.00 per person and includes Stadium Reserve Seating, \$5.00 Cutters Cash per guest and a video Board Welcome for our group. A Sign-up is available in the Narthex. Interest parties can also contact Joe Baur in the office at 570-323-4619 or jbaur@stmarkswilliamsport.org. Deadline to sign up is August 11th, 2022.



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!



2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly meets under the theme “Embody the Word”

CHICAGO (July 18, 2022) — Members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) will gather for the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly Aug. 8-12 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in Columbus, Ohio. Meeting under the theme “Embody the Word,” the assembly will participate in plenary discussions to make decisions about the work of this church. They will also spend time in worship and Bible study.

The triennial gathering — the highest legislative body of the denomination — will be composed of more than 900 voting members serving on behalf of the 3.3 million members of the ELCA.

Ray Huff, Authorized Synod Lay Worship Leader, Secretary of the Upper Susquehanna Assembly, and member of St. Mark's, will attend as a voting member. Please keep Ray, all voting members, as well as all who preside and lead legislative and worship sessions at Churchwide Assembly in your prayers.



COMMEMORATIONS

Monday, August 8, 2022

Dominic was a Spanish pastor who saw the wealth of the clergy as a stumbling block for the church, so he formed a movement, the Order of Preachers (commonly called Dominicans) devoted to itinerant preaching and living in poverty.



