

The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

January 14, 2024

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



**An Order for Holy Communion 8 am and 10:30 am
(Setting One, LBW)**

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

All the baptized have a calling in God's world. God calls not just pastors and deacons but also the youngest child, like Samuel. The story of the calling of Nathanael plays with the idea of place. Nathanael initially dismisses Jesus because he comes from Nazareth. But where we come from isn't important; it's where—or rather whom—we come to. Jesus says he himself is the place where Nathanael and us meet God.

PRELUDE *Air from Water Music* GF Handel

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
creator of darkness and light,
word of truth,
wind sweeping over the waters.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Kneel/Stand

God, our rock and refuge,

we pour out our hearts before you.

We have known you but have not always loved you.

We have wounded one another

and sinned against you.

**We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit
dwelling in each of us.**

Remember your covenant.

Renew your creation.

Restore us,

that we might proclaim your good news to all.

Amen.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.

God has spoken:

The time of grace is now.

In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.

By the authority of ✠ Jesus Christ,

your sins are forgiven.

You are God's beloved.

Amen.

***HYMN Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty LBW, "Green", 250**

***THE GREETING**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, God's Beloved, 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. Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE FIRST READING.....1 Samuel 3:1-10

¹Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the LORD called, “Samuel! Samuel!” and he said, “Here I am!” ⁵and ran to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call; lie down again.” So he went and lay down. ⁶The LORD called again, “Samuel!” Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” But he said, “I did not call, my son; lie down again.” ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, “Here I am, for you called me.” Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, “Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, ‘Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.’” So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

¹⁰Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, “Samuel! Samuel!” And Samuel said, “Speak, for your servant is listening.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 139:1-6, 13-18

¹LORD, you have | searched me out;

O LORD, you | have known me.

²**You know my sitting down and my | rising up;**
you discern my thoughts | from afar.

³You trace my journeys and my | resting-places
and are acquainted with | all my ways.

⁴**Indeed, there is not a word | on my lips,**
but you, O LORD, know it | altogether.

5 You encompass me, behind | and before,
 and lay your | hand upon me.
 6 **Such knowledge is too wonder- | ful for me;
 it is so high that I cannot at- | tain to it.**
 13 For you yourself created my | inmost parts;
 you knit me together in my | mother's womb.
 14 **I will thank you because I am mar- | velously made;
 your works are wonderful, and I | know it well.**
 15 My body was not hid- | den from you,
 while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths | of the earth.
 16 **Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb; all of them were
 written | in your book;
 my days were fashioned before they | came to be.**
 17 How deep I find your | thoughts, O God!
 How great is the | sum of them!
 18 **If I were to count them, they would be more in number | than the sand;
 to count them all, my life span would need to | be like yours.**

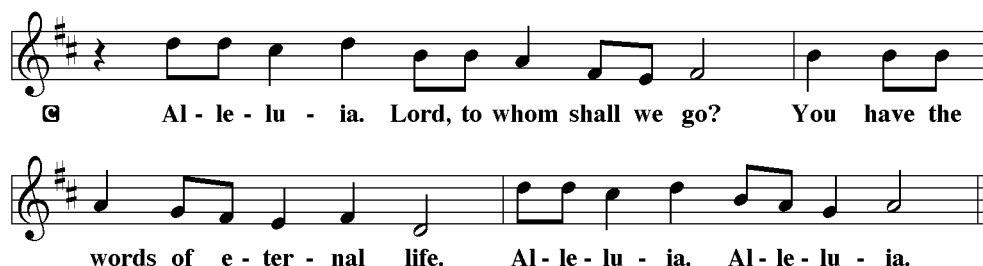
THE SECOND READING.....1 Corinthians 6:12-20

12 "All things are lawful for me," but not all things are beneficial. "All things are
 lawful for me," but I will not be dominated by anything. 13 "Food is meant for the
 stomach and the stomach for food," and God will destroy both one and the other.
 The body is meant not for fornication but for the Lord, and the Lord for the
 body. 14 And God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power. 15 Do you not
 know that your bodies are members of Christ? Should I therefore take the
 members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! 16 Do you not
 know that whoever is united to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For it is
 said, "The two shall be one flesh." 17 But anyone united to the Lord becomes one
 spirit with him. 18 Shun fornication! Every sin that a person commits is outside the
 body; but the fornicator sins against the body itself. 19 Or do you not know that
 your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God,
 and that you are not your own? 20 For you were bought with a price; therefore
 glorify God in your body.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



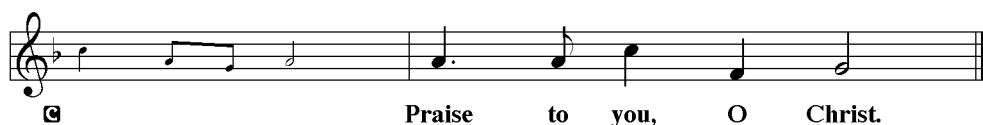
*THE GOSPEL.....John 1:43-51

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



⁴³The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth." ⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." ⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him, he said of him, "Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!" ⁴⁸Nathanael asked him, "Where did you get to know me?" Jesus answered, "I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you." ⁴⁹Nathanael replied, "Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!" ⁵⁰Jesus answered, "Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these." ⁵¹And he said to him, "Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man."

The Gospel of the Lord.



THE SERMON

***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 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.**

INSTALATION OF CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

The following people have been elected to serve as members of our Congregational Council. We give thanks for their willingness to serve. In baptism we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God; we rejoice now that these sisters and brothers will lead us in our common life and our mutual mission as a congregation.

As the names of those to be installed are read, persons are asked to come to the chancel.

A reading from First Corinthians: There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is

given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

You have been elected to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation.

You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith bear witness to God, who gathers us into one together with the whole church.

You are to seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support, so that the mission of Christ is carried out in this congregation, in the wider church, in this community, and in the whole world.

You are to be faithful in your specific area of serving, that the Spirit who empowers you may be glorified.

You are to be examples of faith active in love, fostering peace, harmony, and mutual understanding in this congregation.

To those being installed

On behalf of your sisters and brothers in Christ, I ask you:

Will you accept and faithfully carry out the duties of the Congregational Council to which you have been elected?

(Council Members) I will, and I ask God to help me.

The congregation stands. Those being installed face the congregation.

People of God, I ask you:

Will you support these, your elected leaders,
and will you share in the mutual ministry
that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

(Congregation) We will, and we ask God to help us.

Those being installed face the pastor, who addresses them.

I now declare you installed as council members of this congregation.

Almighty God bless you, and direct your days and your deeds in peace,
that you may be faithful servants of Christ.

Amen.

***THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

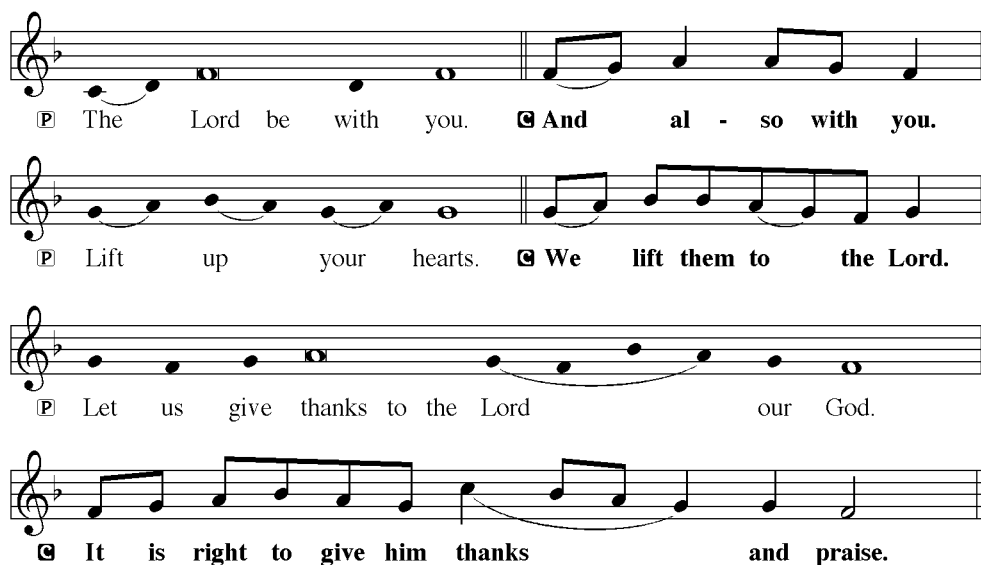
After each petition: God of Grace/Receive our prayer.

***THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

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

*GREAT THANKSGIVING



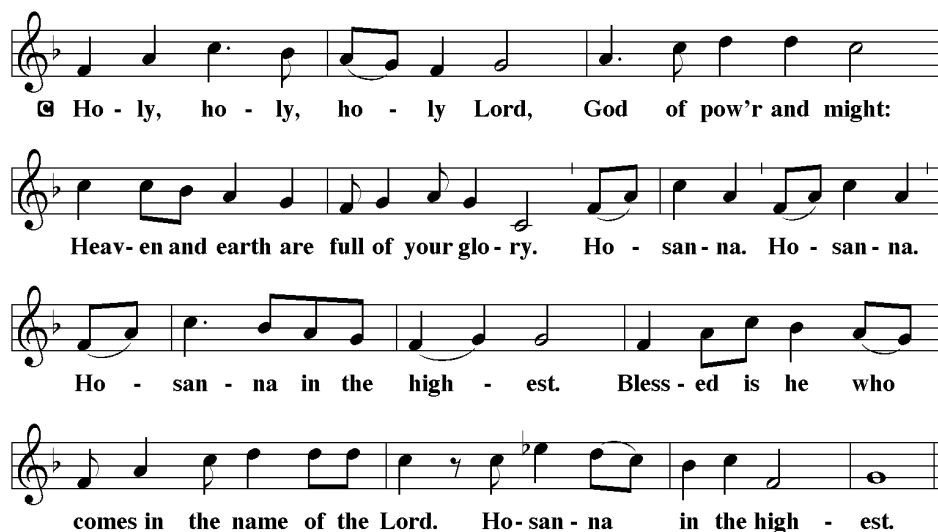
♩ The Lord be with you. ☩ And al - so with you.

♩ 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. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. 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 Son,
that all those who believe in 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 for all people
for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

***OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

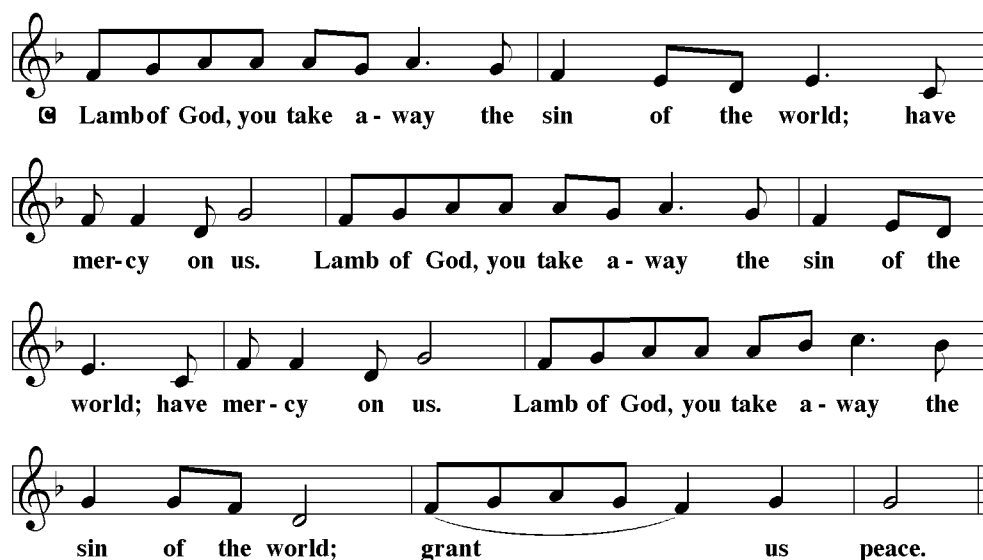
Lord as you have taught us, so now we pray,

**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



*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, 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 from Pastor Vasey.*
- *Once receiving the bread, communicants are asked to 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.*

At Jesus’ table, heaven and earth are joined as one.

Come, taste and see that the Lord is good.

Amen.

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**

Giver of every gift,
Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body.
Raise us to life by your power
for the benefit of all and to your glory,
now and forever. **Amen.**

***BLESSING**

The God who names you, claims you, dwells in you,
Father, Son ✠, and Holy Spirit,
bless you and remain with you always.
Amen.

***HYMN The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve WOV, "Blue", 723**

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, you are God's Beloved
Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE Menuet and Hornpipe from Water Music GF Handel**

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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!

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 (1/14/24)

Lector	8:00 AM	Brian Jackson
	10:30AM	Phil Thomas
Communion Assistants	8:00AM	Nikki Jackson
	10:30AM	Matt and Wanda Fortin
Organist		Sam Robinson
Ushers	8:00AM	Herb Poff and Richard Miller
	10:30AM	Carl Albright, captain Brenda and Levi Gair
Altar Guild	January	Cindy Huff and Linda Rosini

OUR STEWARDSHIP No Service on January 7, 2024

December 31, 2023

Regular Offering	\$3,462.00
Plate Offerings	41.00
Christmas and Advent	170.00
Thanksgiving	20.00
Initial Offering	5.00
World Hunger	75.00
Food Pantry	150.00
Disaster Relief	30.00
Family Promise Hosting	50.00
Capital Fund	20.00
Synod Benevolence	10.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	150.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$4,183.00

ALTAR FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God:

+In Loving Memory of Alice and Gilbert Lloyd by Carl and Beverly Hieber

+In Loving Memory of Joyce Simpson by the Jensen Family

Thank You!



Both the Faith Formation and Evangelism and Fellowship Committees send a HUGE Thank You to the members of St. Mark's for your participation in this year's Reverse Advent Calendar Collection. We recently were able to deliver over two hundred and fifty personal care items to the Williamsport YWCA in support of Wise Options and Liberty House. Diapers,

deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, body wash, lotion, paper products, razors, shaving cream, shampoo, conditioner ~ the list of items received is truly amazing. Thank you for helping to "Make Christ Known" to those in need this New Year!

Go Green for Gifting



Have more Christmas gift bags, new greeting cards and tissue paper than you can use? Donate them to the Evangelism and Fellowship Committee for gifting the ladies of CM-6 and others in 2024. We can also find homes for extra 2024 calendars and day planners. Donated items can be placed in the tub in the Narthex.

P.S. Now is the perfect time to pack up those holiday decorations you no longer need and donate them to the annual Fall Sale. Christmas Clean-Up



Thank You for the Christmas Gifts

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee thanks the congregation for their support of their many December projects. Without your support we could not have been the hands of God at this very special time of year.

During December the Evangelism and Fellowship Committee, with assistance from the congregation, accomplished the following outreach:

- More than one hundred assorted clothing items, fleece throws, coloring books with markers and batteries were donated to the residents of the Danville State Hospital. The committee is grateful for Tracy Fox of Redeemer Lutheran for transporting our items along with Redeemer's gifts to Danville.
- Donations of body wash, slipper socks and pudding cups for the fifteen ladies of CM-6 at the Selinsgrove Center were donated. A snack basket was prepared for their caregivers. Due to ongoing health concerns for a fourth year, we were unable to sing and tell stories to the ladies. The staff was grateful for our gifts and hope 2024 will be the year we can return in person.
- On December 8, 2023 we hosted a Red Cross Blood Drive in Fellowship Hall. Thirteen units of blood were collected.
- Thank you to the members of the congregation who took Christmas cards, added a cheery message and mailed them to our Special Concerns Folks and others we do not see as often as we would like.
- The Christmas ornaments crafted by Lou Ann Zeigler brought joy to many. To date, \$190.00 has been donated. That joy, given as \$15 grocery gift cards, will be shared with clients of the United Churches Food Pantry.
- The Faith Formation and Evangelism and Fellowship Committees thank the congregation for participating in Reverse Advent. The contents of the Advent bags will be sorted and delivered to Liberty House at the YWCA.

These gestures of Christmas spirit given by members of our congregation were certain to comfort the individuals receiving them in Christ's name.

2024 DREAMWEEK

JANUARY 15TH THROUGH JANUARY 20

IT STARTS WITH ME: *Shifting the cultural climate*

January 15

Kids' Dream Week Storytime

For families with children age birth through 2nd grade at the James V. Brown Library
19 E. Fourth Street, Williamsport

10:00 am - 11:15 am | 3rd floor Lowry Room

January 15

STEP AmeriCorps Peace Walk

At the corner of 3rd & Market Street, Williamsport

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Free Parking will be available in the lot behind the James V. Brown Library for the events on January 15.



January 15

Dream Read

For teens & adults at the James V. Brown Library
19 E. Fourth Street, Williamsport

5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

January 17

Poverty Simulation | Dinner & Discussion

Hosted by the Central PA Food Bank & Penn College
209 College Avenue, Williamsport

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm | PCT Field House

January 19

Food Prep Service Project

New Covenant United Church of Christ
202 E. Third Street, Williamsport

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

January 20

Message & A Meal

Sojourner Truth Ministries
501 High Street, Williamsport

10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Service Opportunities!

January 16

YWCA North Central PA

January 15 - 19

Sojourner Truth Ministries

January 15 - 19

Loyalsock Childcare Center /
East Lycoming YMCA



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Monday, January 15, -
Sunday, January 21, 2024



Monday, January 15	Church Office Closed	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
	Church Council Meeting	ML 6PM
	WCC Board Meeting	FH 6PM
	WCC Rehearsal	FH 7PM

Sunday, January 21	Holy Communion	8:00AM
	Holy Communion	10:30AM

BIRTHDAYS

Anna Zeigler	January 15	Laura Zeigler	January 15
Donna Boston	January 17	Beth Miller	January 17
Ruth Rees	January 17	Herbert Poff	January 21

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

COMMEMORATIONS

Martin Luther King Jr., renewer of society, martyr, died 1968



Monday, January 15, 2024

An American prophet of justice among races and nations, King was an eloquent preacher, a leader of the nonviolent resistance to race-segregated society, and recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. Born on this date, he was assassinated on April 4, 1968.

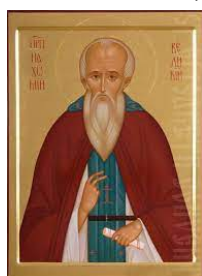
Antony of Egypt, renewer of the church, died around 356



Wednesday, January 17, 2024

One of the earliest of the Egyptian desert fathers, Antony gave away his sizeable inheritance and became a hermit. Later he became leader of a group of monks who devoted themselves to prayer, worship, and labor.

Pachomius, renewer of the church, died 346



Wednesday, January 17, 2024

Born in Egypt, Pachomius became a Christian while a soldier. He became a hermit (a solitary monk) and organized others into a religious community. His rule for monasteries influenced later ones in both the Eastern and Western churches.

Confession of Peter



Thursday, January 18, 2024

Today the church remembers the apostle Peter's great acknowledgement of Jesus as "the Christ, the Son of the living God." This festival serves as a fitting beginning to the week in which we particularly pray that all Christians might be united in faith and witness.

Henry, Bishop of Uppsala, martyr, died 1156



Friday, January 19, 2024

When Erik, King of Sweden, determined to invade Finland for the purpose of converting the people there to Christianity, Henry went with him. Henry is recognized as the patron saint of Finland.