

# **THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**July 13, 2025**

**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 do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.*

**Our Mission: “To know Christ and to make Christ known.”**



**Please note:**

**Hand sanitizer is available for your use.**

**Offerings may be received by way of offering plates as you enter or leave.**

**An Order for Holy Communion, 9:30 am  
(Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting 10)**

*A guide to hymnal use: All hymns are printed in the bulletin and when reference is available the LBW, Green Book; WOV, Blue Book*

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

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

*To love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind is to reflect God's mercy in responding to one's neighbor. That mercy found its most profound expression in the "gospel that has come to you"—namely the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. That gospel mercy comes to us again today: at the font, at the table, and from the pulpit. It is very near to us.*

**PRELUDE**

*Gather Us In*

John A. Behnke

## **WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of 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.

**Amen.**

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.

*(Kneel/Stand)*

Most merciful God,  
**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 neighbor 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.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God 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.  
**Amen.**

**\*HYMN**

**God Is Here**

**WOV, “Blue,” 719**

# God Is Here!



1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer  
2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long  
3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's  
4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of



praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure  
need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;  
flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,  
change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the  
here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -  
Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants  
help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's



world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts  
ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,  
of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore  
ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;



wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.  
here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.  
what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.  
we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991

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## \*THE GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## \*HYMN OF PRAISE



- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
- 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
- 3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:  
Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;  
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.  
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.  
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

## \*THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. O Lord God, your mercy delights us, and the world longs for your loving care. Hear the cries of everyone in need, and turn our hearts to love our neighbors with the love of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## THE FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 30:9-14

<sup>9</sup>The LORD your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all your undertakings, in the fruit of your body, in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your soil. For the LORD will again take delight in prospering you, just as he

delighted in prospering your ancestors, <sup>10</sup> when you obey the LORD your God by observing his commandments and decrees that are written in this book of the law, because you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.

<sup>11</sup> “Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. <sup>12</sup> It is not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will go up to heaven for us and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?’ <sup>13</sup> Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?’ <sup>14</sup> No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM 25:1-10**

<sup>1</sup> To | you, O LORD,

I lift | up my soul.

<sup>2</sup> **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**

<sup>3</sup> Let none who look to you be | put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup> **Show me your | ways, O LORD,  
and teach | me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup> 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.

<sup>6</sup> **Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,  
for they are from | everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup> 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.

<sup>8</sup> **You are gracious and up- | right, O LORD;  
therefore you teach sinners | in your way.**

<sup>9</sup> You lead the low- | ly in justice  
and teach the low- | ly your way.

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

### **THE SECOND READING: Colossians 1:1-14**

<sup>1</sup> Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

<sup>2</sup> To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

<sup>3</sup> In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>4</sup> for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, <sup>5</sup> because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel <sup>6</sup> that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. <sup>7</sup> This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on our behalf, <sup>8</sup> and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

<sup>9</sup> For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, <sup>10</sup> so that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. <sup>11</sup> May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully <sup>12</sup> giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. <sup>13</sup> He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, <sup>14</sup> in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



## **\*THE GOSPEL: Luke 10:25-37**

The holy gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, according to St. Luke, the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>25</sup> An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” <sup>26</sup> He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” <sup>27</sup> He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>28</sup> And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

<sup>29</sup> But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” <sup>30</sup> Jesus replied, “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup> Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup> So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. <sup>34</sup> He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ <sup>36</sup> Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?” <sup>37</sup> He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **THE SERMON**


**\*HYMN    Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love**

**WOV, “Blue,” 765**



## Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love


*Refrain*



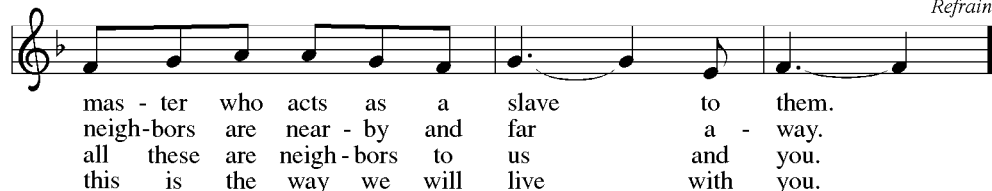
Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show



us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.



1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their feet,  
2 Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor, var - ied in col - or and race,  
3 These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;  
4 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash-ing their feet:



*Refrain*

mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.  
neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way.  
all these are neigh - bors to us and you.  
this is the way we will live with you.

Text: Tom Colvin, 1925–2000, alt.  
Music: CHEREPONI, Ghanaian folk tune, adapt. Tom Colvin  
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### \*THE APOSTLES' CREED

With all the people of God, 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 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**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*People may greet one another with these or similar words and/or gestures of peace.*

### **\*OFFERING**



☐ Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be  
fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -  
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

## **\*OFFERING PRAYER**

Creator God,  
in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good  
and the harvest is plentiful.  
Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth  
and our labor,  
that we may work for the good of all;  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.  
**Amen.**

## **\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

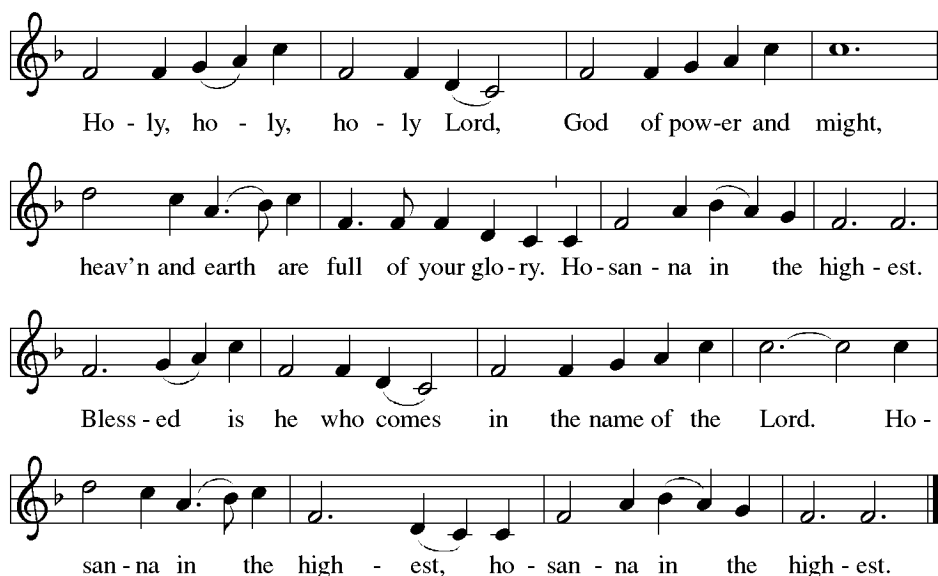
Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our 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 Jesus Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way to eternal 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, God of pow-er 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy, mighty and merciful Lord,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
In your great love you sent to us Jesus your Son,  
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
who preached the good news to the poor,  
and who on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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."

Remembering therefore,  
his death, resurrection and ascension,  
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us  
the Spirit of your love, O Lord,  
unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,  
the body and blood of Christ, our Lord;  
to whom, with whom and in whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

**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**



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

## **\*INVITATION TO COMMUNE**

The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice!  
**Thanks be to God!**

*All are welcome at our Lord's Table. Use the center aisle to come forward, pick up a small cup on the way. Receive the bread from Pastor Vasey and then proceed to receive the wine from one of two pouring chalices. After communing, please*

*return to your pew by the side aisles. Those not communing are welcome to come forward for a blessing.*

*Know that the crucified and risen Christ gives himself to you in his holy supper. If you cannot drink wine, eat only bread. If you cannot eat bread, drink only wine.*

## **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**

Triune God,  
you gathered us to your table  
and we drank deeply of your grace.  
Send us out by your Spirit  
to love our neighbors as ourselves  
and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

### **\*BLESSING**

The God of love, Father, ☩ Son and Holy Spirit, who gives to us the gift of freedom, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**\*HYMN                      Lead On, O King Eternal                      LBW, "Green," 495**

## Lead On, O King Eternal!



1 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal! The day of march has come;  
2 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,  
3 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal: we fol - low, not with fears,



hence-forth in fields of con - quest your tents will be our home.  
and ho - li - ness shall whis - per the sweet a - men of peace;  
for glad-ness breaks like morn - ing wher - e'er your face ap - pears.



Through days of prep - a - ra - tion your grace has made us strong;  
for not with swords loud clash - ing, nor roll of stir-ring drums,  
Your cross is lift - ed o'er us; we jour - ney in its light;



and now, O King e - ter - nal, we lift our bat - tle song.  
but deeds of love and mer - cy the heav'n - ly king - dom comes.  
the crown a - waits the con - quest; lead on, O God of might!

Text: Ernest W. Shurtleff, 1862–1917

Music: LANCASHIRE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

### \*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit!

**Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE

*A Joyous Acclamation*

Lani Smith

\*\*\*\*\*

### OUR PRAYER LIST

Liz Ruesskamp, Grace Arner, Vanessa Morgan, Gary Clark, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, Gary Cable, Virginia Pulaskie, Bunny Ditchfield, Judy Fortin, Ezra Buckman, Sheila Brassard, Kevin Rosini, Kathy Eshelman, Micah, Deb Buckman, Linda Rosini, Walt Haussmann, Kristin Rehm, Ariel, John Tartline, Donna Baker, George Poliska, April Clark, Connie Shaible, Ann Kuntz, Michael Reitz, Becky Pryor and Shirley Kinney.

**WELCOME! Today we welcome Carol Waltz as a guest organist and thank her for sharing her talents with us. Welcome Carol!**

**THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S**

Today, July 13	Holy Communion, 9:30 am Church Picnic in Fellowship Hall
Monday, July 14	Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm
Tuesday, July 15	Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm
Wednesday, July 16	Office Hours, 9 am – 1pm Williamsport Home, 2 pm, Holy Communion
Thursday, July 17	Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm
Friday, July 18	Office Hours, 9am – 1pm
Saturday, July 19	Office Closed
Sunday, July 20	Holy Communion, 9:30 am

**OUR STEWARDSHIP for July 6, 2025**

Regular Offering	\$3335.00
Lent	20.00
Theological Fund	10.00
Miscellaneous	388.00
Donated from July 4 <sup>th</sup> Celebration	
194.00 Shepherd of the Streets	
194.00 United Churches Food Pantry	
Organ Fund	50.00
Synod Benevolence	10.00
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$3813.00</b>



**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the Glory of God; and  
 In loving memory of Forrest & Margaret Klinger by their daughter,  
 Donna Baker & Family; and  
 In loving memory of Bill & Prudy Poff by Herb Poff and Candy Dewar; and  
 In loving memory of Flight 800 & their families by Ray & Cindy Huff.

### **WORSHIP LEADERS for July 13, 2025**

Lector	9:30 am	Vicki Haussmann
Communion Assistants	9:30 am	Gary & Shelby Weber
Ushers	9:30 am	Fortin, Yapple, Wentzel
Hospitality	9:30 am	Church Picnic
Organist		Sam Robinson
Altar Guild (JULY)	Lou Ann Ziegler, Cindy Todd, Theresa Furman	

### **BIRTHDAYS**

Levi Gair	7/13
Vicki Haussmann	7/15
Brenda Bower	7/18

### **KEEP IN MIND:**

~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) email (bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org) or his cell phone (272-788-0161). Do not assume the pastor will know of your need any other way.

~ When you or a loved one has a change of address, email, or telephone number, please contact the church office at stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org or 570-323-4619. Please direct your intentions whether or not to share this information with our church family, so that in may be included in the weekly bulletin and/or the "Lion."

**Summer Camp brochures** are available in the church office or contact Camp Mount Luther at 570-922-1587 or at cml@campmountluther.org.



Don't forget to look for items for all of the types of kits in preparation for the fall. Especially needed are receiving blankets (medium weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn – 36” to 52” square (no polar fleece), baby shirts up to 24 months with no snap crotches, cotton fabric, diapers (flat fold) and items for school kits (we do not need pencils, erasers or bags). For more info please contact Deb Buckman.



A great big THANK YOU to everyone who continues to donate items for our Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes! Never doubt that God is using these seemingly small items for good. **“Our economic condition is very poor, so my parents cannot afford to buy toys for me. When I heard that I would get a gift box, I was so excited! Thank you to all of my foreign friends who sent me the toys and other amazing things.”**  
–Samia, East Asia

It's "Christmas in July" for our Operation Christmas Child Ministry! On our Christmas Wish List this year is ... monetary donations (we are more like teenagers than toddlers I guess!). Monetary donations will be put toward one of two items: shipping costs to help defray the expense of shipping our 60 (or more) shoeboxes *or* soccer balls and pumps. Soccer balls are a wonderful **“WOW”** item to include in our shoeboxes. Shoebox recipients share that a soccer ball can also be a gift for an entire village when everyone gathers to play on the pitch. Monetary donations may be placed in the offering plate earmarked for Operation Christmas Child.

School supplies will also be making their entrance onto the scene within the next couple of weeks so crayons, pencils, pencil sharpeners, erasers, and pens are also wonderful donations.

These items (or any others you find) may be placed in our red, OCC bin located in the Narthex. We thank you for your continued generosity! “Merry Christmas in July!”

\*The age ranges for the boxes we fill are 2-4, 5-9, and 10-14 (both boys and girls)

### **Blessing Box Needs**

With the hot temperatures of summer, it is difficult to provide our usual meat and cheese sandwiches. The Parish Life and Evangelism and Fellowship Committees are asking for two specific donations. They are **Star-Kist Tuna Creations: Deli Style Tuna Salad** and **Star-Kist Chicken Creations: Chicken Salad**. These items do not need refrigeration and resist spoiling due to extreme temperatures. A container is available in the Narthex for these specific items.

**P.S.:** We will be collecting these packets throughout the summer.



A bus trip to Stone Gables Estate\* in Elizabethtown, PA is being organized by Cheryl Williams. This trip is being planned for Wednesday, November 19, 2025. The bus will be pulling out around 9:00 AM from Beiter's parking lot. The trip will include bus fare, a meal catered by "Food for Thought Catering", a ride on the Santa Express train, and the National Christmas center followed by the Christmas light drive-thru. All are included in the price of \$145.09 per person. If interested, please contact Cheryl at (570) 327-1627.

\* Stone Gables Estate is a biblical faith-based ministry/business. Their mission is to donate 100% of net profits to aid abandoned children worldwide.



**Become  
Part of  
Our  
Church  
Family**

**WANT TO EXPLORE WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A LUTHERAN CHRISTIAN?** Adults wishing to unite with St. Mark's in church membership are invited to contact PASTOR VASEY at 570-323-4619 or email [stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org).

### **July Fourth Thank You**

Pastor Vasey and the Evangelism and Fellowship Committee thank the members of the congregation and Sam Robinson for contributing their time, talents and resources to the success of this celebration. We could not have welcomed the hundreds of people who joined us without your assistance.

Donations collected from the community totaled \$388.00. These will be shared equally between the Shepherd of the Streets and the United Churches Food Pantry.



Dear church,

Our hearts break anew with each update about the catastrophic flash floods in South Central Texas. We join the Rev. Sue Briner, bishop of the Southwestern Texas Synod, in her call to “**pray, pray, pray** for those who are still lost as well as the families of those who are lost, who have died, or who have experienced loss of home or property.” Merciful God, hear our prayer.

**As ever and with your support, the ELCA, through Lutheran Disaster Response, stands ready to walk with our neighbors in the Texas hill country as the floodwaters recede and communities begin to navigate life on the other side of this horrific flood.** May we be bearers of the hope found in Christ alone and help shoulder the burden for those who grieve unimaginable loss. Thank you to those who have already joined us through your prayers and support for this work.

**Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response ensure that our neighbors are not alone on the long road to recovery after disasters like the floods in Texas.**

Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with the Southwestern Texas Synod and will work with other partners as well to respond to urgent needs, provide emotional and spiritual care, and support cleanup and long-term recovery.

**Can our neighbors recovering from disasters count on your support?**

Through these disasters and others in the United States and around the world, Lutheran Disaster Response accompanies communities throughout the recovery process, walking with them for as long as it takes. **Together, as a church, we follow Christ’s call to share hope and healing with our neighbors in need.**

In prayer together,  
The Rev. John Eggen  
Senior Director, Annual Giving  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

## **Vacation Bible School Supper**

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee will host a light supper at 5:30 PM on one evening the week of July 13-17 for the children attending the United Churches' VBS program at St. John's-Newberry UMC. Although our menu or the number of children attending is not confirmed at this time, we would be grateful for monetary donations to purchase food items for the evening. Checks can be made payable to St. Mark's with the memo line indicating the Evangelism and Fellowship Committee. Thank you for any help you can give.

### **COMMEMORATION**

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

*Thursday, July 17, 2025*

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 a pastor. He worked in the Caribbean and Central America to improve the lives of the native peoples.



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