

THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 7, 2025

“God's Work/Our Hands Day”

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 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, 8 & 10:30 am
(With One Voice, Setting 5)**

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

Light print = Pastor/Leader. Bold print = Congregation.

**Please stand as you are able.*

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY

Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship, we might be helped by translating Paul's request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of Christ in holy communion and recalling God's grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to "choose life"—to choose life in God as our own.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. By the power of your Holy Spirit, grant that we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Kneel/Stand

Silence for reflection and self-examination

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

With joy I proclaim to you that Almighty God ☩ , rich in mercy, abundant in love, forgives you all your sin and grants you newness of life, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

***HYMN O, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways LBW, “Green,” 480**

Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways



- 1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his stat - utes still!
- 2 Or - der my foot-steps by your word and make my heart sin - cere;
- 3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict - er watch to keep;
- 4 Make me to walk in your com-mands, 'tis a de-light - ful road;



Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!
let sin have no do - min-ion, Lord, but keep my con-science clear.
and should I e'er for - get your way, re - store your wan-d'ring sheep.
nor let my head or heart or hands of - fend a - gainst my God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Music: EVAN, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

***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



☐ Glo- ry to God, glo- ry to God, glo- ry to God in the high - est;



glo- ry to God, glo- ry to God, and peace to God's 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.



☐ Glo- ry to God, glo- ry to God, glo- ry to God in the high - est;



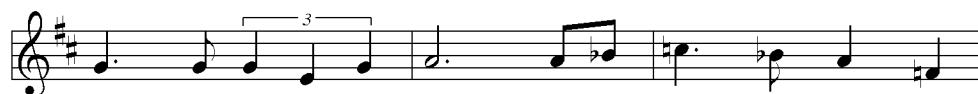
glo- ry to God, glo- ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth.



☐ 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.

*THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy

name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

¹⁵ “See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. ¹⁶ If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. ¹⁷ But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, ¹⁸ I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. ¹⁹ I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, ²⁰ loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 1

¹ Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel | of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats | of the scornful!

² **Their delight is in the law | of the LORD,**
and they meditate on God’s teaching | day and night.

³ They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with
leaves that | do not wither;
everything they | do shall prosper.

⁴ **It is not so | with the wicked;**
they are like chaff which the wind | blows away.

⁵ Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when | judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council | of the righteous.

⁶ **For the LORD knows the way | of the righteous,**
but the way of the wicked shall | be destroyed.

THE SECOND READING: Philemon 1-21

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To our beloved coworker Philemon, ² to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house:

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, ⁵ because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶ I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. ⁷ I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

⁸ For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, ⁹ yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. ¹⁰ I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹ Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. ¹² I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. ¹³ I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, ¹⁴ but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. ¹⁵ Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, ¹⁶ no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸ If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. ¹⁹ I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. ²⁰ Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹ Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*THE GOSPEL: Luke 14:25-33

The holy gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, according to St. Luke, the 14th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁵ Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

*HYMN

God's Work/Our Hands

No Reference Available

**God's work, our hands: working together,
building a future, repairing the world,
raising up homes, planting new gardens,
feeding the hungry and shelt'ring the cold.**

**Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
sharing the good news of your Gospel.**

**God's work, our feet: trav'ling together,
following Jesus to places unknown,
walking as friends, marching for freedom,
running the race with God's future the goal.**

**Bless, God, our feet as we follow your way,
sharing the good news of your Gospel.**

**God's work, our voice: singing together,
praising, proclaiming to all who will hear,
praying for peace, shouting for justice,
claiming God's love for the lost and the least.**

**Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
sharing the good news of your Gospel.**

**God is at work in and around us:
seedlings are sprouting and bread's on the rise!
Washed and set free, humbled and honored,
gifted by grace, we respond in God's love.**

**Bless, God, our lives as we answer your call,
sharing the good news of your Gospel.**

Text: Wayne L. Wold

Tune: EARTH AND ALL STARS

Text © 2019 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

***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/Receive 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.

*** 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 now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,
Lord, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Lord our God, through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts.
Strengthened by them we ourselves to your service
and dedicate our lives to work for the good of all;
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

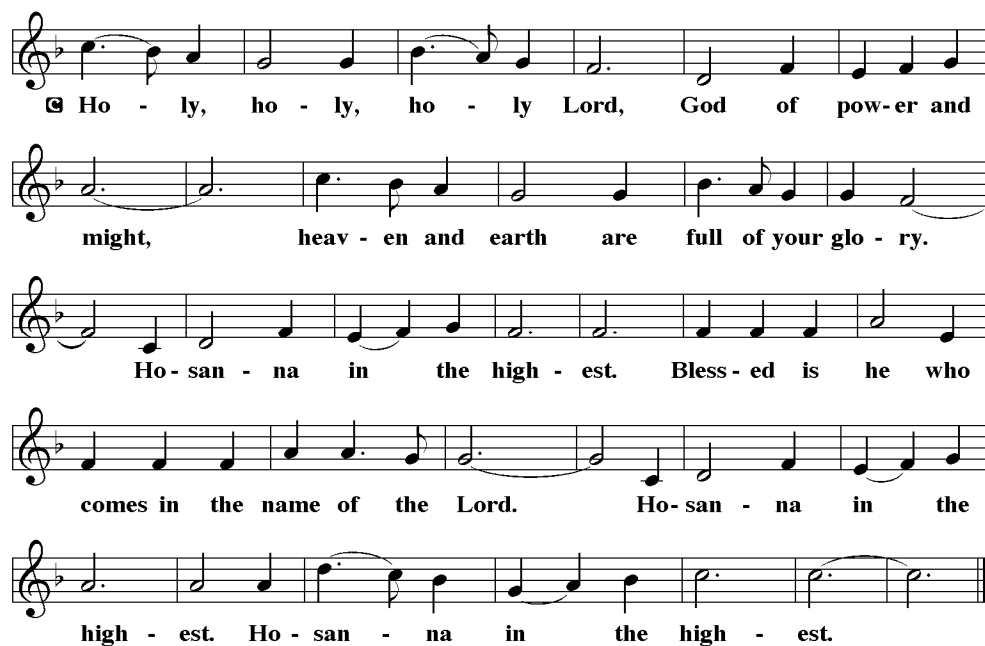
Lift up your hearts.

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:



The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some phrases spanning across bar lines. The lyrics are written below the notes, aligned with the syllables. The text of the hymn is: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est." The score ends with a double bar line.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.



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

♩ 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 COMMUNE

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.
Come to this meal of mercy.
Amen. 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**

O God,
through this meal you have strengthened us
and appointed us to be your servants.
Send us to do good
and to share our possessions with all in need.
We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

***BLESSING**

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

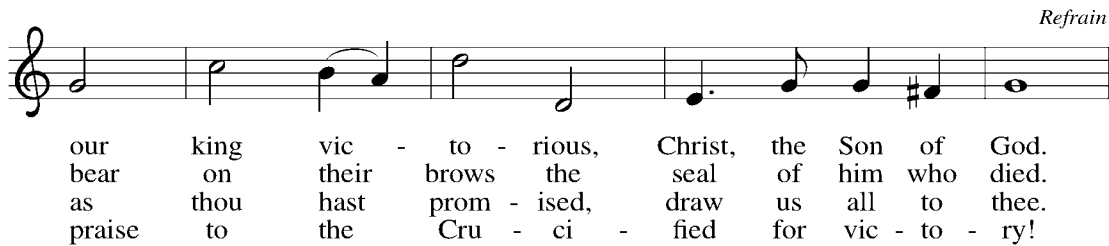
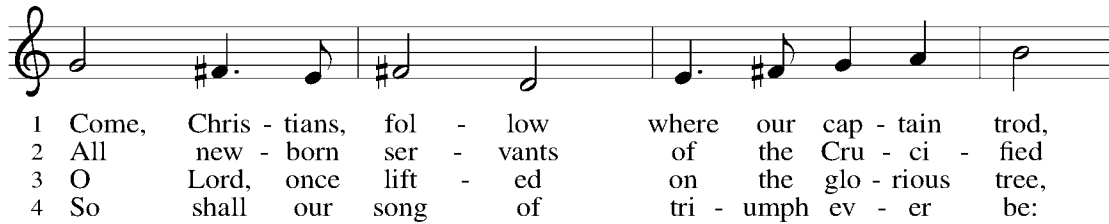
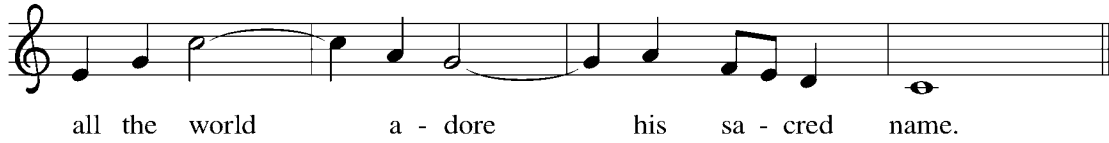
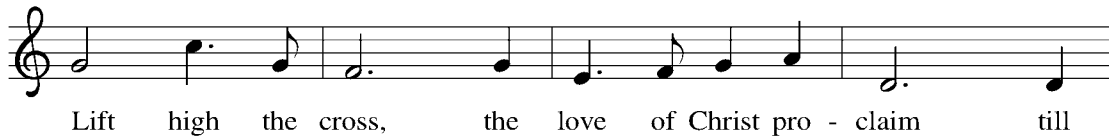
Amen.

***HYMN**

Lift High the Cross

LBW, "Green," 377

Lift High the Cross



Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

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*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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, John and Terry Holohan, Alex & Adaline Day, Loretta Hawe and Christina Aguirre.

COMMEMORATIONS

Peter Claver, pastor, missionary to Colombia, died 1654

Tuesday, September 9, 2025

Born into Spanish nobility, Claver became a Jesuit missionary, and served in present-day Colombia. His ministry was focused on the enslaved people who arrived there. He gave them food and medicine, learned their dialects, and taught them Christianity.



John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, died 407

Saturday, September 13, 2025

John was a pastor in Antioch and an outstanding preacher. His eloquence earned him the nickname "Chrysostom" ("golden mouth"). Appointed bishop of Constantinople, seat of the empire, he criticized corruption in the court. As a result, he was exiled by the empress.



THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Today, September 7	Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 am Assembly of Hygiene Kits, 9:15 am Men's Fellowship Meeting, 9:30 am
Monday, September 8	Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm
Tuesday, September 9	Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm West Branch Conference, 9:30 am (Chapel) Finance Committee Meeting 6:30 pm
Wednesday, September 10	Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm Holy Communion, 2 pm (Williamsport Home)
Thursday, September 11	Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm City Pastors Lunch, 1 pm
Friday, September 12	Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm
Saturday, September 13	Office Closed
Sunday, September 14	“Holy Cross Day” Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 am Sunday School, 9:15 am

OUR STEWARDSHIP for August 31, 2025

General Fund	\$2945.00
Plate Offerings	10.00
Miscellaneous	485.00
Food Pantry	50.00
Grand Total	\$3490.00

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God; and
In loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Gelbert Lloyd by Beverly Hieber & Family and;
In loving memory of my father Glenn Means, and in honor of my mother Pauline Means by Kathy Eshelman and;
In honor of Stefan's 26th birthday by the Webers and;
In loving memory of Bill & Marion Waldeisen by her family.

WORSHIP LEADERS for September 7, 2025

Lector	8:00 am	Drew Haussmann
	10:30 am	Donna Boston
Communion Assistants	8:00 am	Drew Haussmann
	10:30 am	Matt & Wanda Fortin
Ushers	8:00 am	Miller/Williams
	10:30 am	Glenn Yaple, Mel Wentzel
Organist		Sam Robinson
Altar Guild (SEPTEMBER)		Deb Buckman

BIRTHDAYS

Deb Buckman	9/9	Nolan Ott	9/9
Hudson Ott	9/9	Tim Maggs	9/13

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 it may be included in the weekly bulletin and/or the “Lion.”

Special Congregational Meeting

Church Council has voted to hold a special congregational meeting on September 14th. This meeting will take place after both the 8:00 service and the 10:30 service with a suspension of the meeting between services. 30 voting members are required for a quorum.

We are meeting to vote on the updated dossal replacement budget. The church constitution requires congregational approval for expenditures in excess of \$20,000. We estimate the cost of this project to most likely cost between \$25,000 and \$30,000. This includes the purchase of fabric and orphreys (like the sample display in the narthex) from Merhaut Company, Allison Park; panel upholstery by The Barn Fabric Center, Williamsport; and the removal and reinstallation of the panels, as well as general contracting, by Lundy Construction Company, Williamsport.

To date, St. Mark's has received approximately \$13,000.00 in donations toward the dossal project. Due diligence has been given to this project over the past several years, with many discussions held to work out every detail. Please join us on September 14th to cast your vote on the dossal replacement budget. Thank you.



Thank you so much to those persons who have already made kits – school, fabric and personal care. There are still a few school bags left to be filled. Collection will go on throughout Sept. Baby kits are desperately needed in several war torn

countries. These are people who have lost everything. Kits are also being distributed in areas of natural disasters here in the US.

If you do not want to make a kit or buy items toward kits, cash donations are always accepted. Please put ‘LWR kits’ in memo line. Money is needed to ship the kits to their final destinations.

There is a map of the 2024 distributions in the hallway across from the offices.

Thanks again - Deb B dabuckman65@gmail.com

PACK UP DAY will be Sunday, September 28, 2025 after 10:30 am service.

Family Promise

Our next hosting is in October beginning on the 5th. I will be contacting everyone in the middle of September. If you wish to get involved but have not in the past, please talk to me. Our final hosting for the year is Nov. 16 - 22 which is before Thanksgiving. I will be on vacation that week and will need someone to oversee the hosting in the event of a problem (none in the past 3 hostings). Deb B dabuckman65@gmail.com



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

Our red bin has been overflowing all year which is absolutely wonderful! This September we are collecting, **Small Games/Puzzles, and School Supplies.** Not a huge fan of shopping? Please consider a donation of \$10.00 which will be put toward our \$750.00 (or more) shipping costs.

These items (or any others you find) may be placed in our red, OCC bin located in the narthex. Your generosity is very much appreciated! Thank you, thank you, thank you!

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



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.



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.



Please join us as our Sunday School classes resume September 14th beginning at 9:15 AM. Our Adult Class will meet with an overview and study of the Gospel according to St. Matthew. There will be no shortage of discussion, learning and laughter as Pastor leads this dedicated class in study. We look forward to sharing this time of fellowship and study and hope to have you join us! **All are welcome!**

175th Anniversary Celebration

The 175th Anniversary of the founding of St. Mark's Lutheran Church (formed as the First English Evangelical Lutheran Church) will take place in early 2027. This milestone anniversary is worthy of celebration, and we would like to begin planning for this special occasion. In an effort to accomplish this task, a 175th Anniversary Committee is being formed with our first meeting on Sunday, September 14th after late service. This will be a preliminary meeting to begin discussion and brainstorming on how we would like to proceed. We are looking for committee members (and hopefully committee co-chairs). If you are interested please come! If you are interested but can't make this meeting, please reach out to Vicki Haussmann. Looking forward to seeing you there!

CROP Walk

Our Community's annual walk to fight hunger, CROP Hunger Walk, will be held **Sunday, October 12th** at 1:00 PM, on the River Walk in Williamsport. The walk begins here at St. Mark's and you can walk 3, 6 or 9 miles (most of us walk 3 miles).

Join the **St. Mark's Lutheran Church Lions** team to walk or donate. Our goal is \$1,000 (last year we raised \$1,065)! Hungry people in developing countries can walk as many as six miles a day for food and water. We walk because they walk. By walking on a fall afternoon, you create awareness to these issues, raise funds and have fellowship with members of the St. Mark's congregation as well as other congregations.

25% of the funds we raise support local hunger agencies and the other 75% is distributed by Church World Service nationally and internationally. In partnership CROP walks support self-help programs, assist after disasters and help address root causes of poverty by providing water systems and tools to grow the food they need.

To register to walk or donate to our team, you can speak with Brenda Gair (text 570-220-8859) or on-line;

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/team/st-marks-lutheran-church-lions>

Checks can be made payable to "CWS/CROP"



Urgent Needs at Shepherd of the Streets

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee recently received news of an urgent need for specific hygiene products for men and women who come to the Shepherd's office. **Their greatest needs are women's deodorant, toothpaste, baby wipes, bar soap, bodywash, baby bodywash, shampoo and paper towels.** Any assistance you can give to this request is greatly appreciated.

Cereal Sunday

Our final Cereal Sunday of 2025 will be September 14, 2025. To date our congregation has donated 199 boxes of assorted cereal! The Food Pantry is very grateful for our donations.

**Can we finish this project by getting to 225 boxes of cereal or more?
(Any nonperishable food items are also appreciated.)**



Fall Sale

The clock is ticking and in a little more than one week it will be time to prepare for our Fall Bazaar/Sale in Fellowship Hall. Be thinking of how you (men and women) can help with set-up, the sale on September 12 and 13 and clean up. Many hands make for light work. **Be looking for the sign-up sheets in the Narthex.**



Red Cross Blood Drive

Give the gift of life. Donate blood.

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee will hold the second of three Red Cross Blood Drives on Monday, September 22, 2025 from 11:00 – 3:00 in Fellowship Hall. Please consider donating blood yourself or encouraging your friends and family members to donate. In our community, there continues to be a critical need for all blood types. Donors can preregister by calling 1-800-Red Cross.

Pastors' Luncheon

The Parish Life Committee will host the United Churches Pastors' luncheon on September 11 @ 1:00 PM in the Middle Lounge. We are in need of a dessert or monetary donations to assist with the cost of the meal. Checks can be made payable to St. Mark's with the memo line indicating Parish Life. Speak with Becky Miller Pryor if you are able to help.



New Address: Cards and letters are welcome!

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