

THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 5, 2025

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
(Lutheran Book of Worship, Setting 1)**

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

A little faith goes a long way is Jesus' point in the gospel. A mustard seed's-worth of faith has miraculous potential. The patience, tenacity, and endurance required for the life of faith are the blessings received in holy baptism, holy communion, and the word read and proclaimed in this assembly. Anticipate them. Receive them with thanksgiving.

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING OF BLANKETS

***BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of and ☩ 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 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.

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

Silence for reflection and self-examination

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 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.

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 there declare to 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



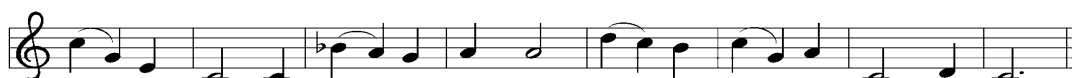
praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure
 need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;
 flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en;
 change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the
 here the cross has cen - tal 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 the preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,
 of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex -
 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 -
 we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

*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



A Glory to God in the highest, 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

***THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Benevolent, merciful God: When we are empty, fill us. When we are weak in faith, strengthen us. When we are cold in love, warm us, that with fervor we may love our neighbors and serve them for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE FIRST READING: Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4

¹ The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw.

² O LORD, how long shall I cry for help,
and you will not listen?

Or cry to you "Violence!"
and you will not save?

³ Why do you make me see wrongdoing
and look at trouble?

Destruction and violence are before me;
strife and contention arise.

⁴ So the law becomes slack,
and justice never prevails.

The wicked surround the righteous;
therefore judgment comes forth perverted.

^{2:1} I will stand at my watchpost
and station myself on the rampart;
I will keep watch to see what he will say to me
and what he will answer concerning my complaint.

² Then the LORD answered me and said:

Write the vision;
make it plain on tablets,
so that a runner may read it.

³ For there is still a vision for the appointed time;
it speaks of the end and does not lie.

If it seems to tarry, wait for it;
it will surely come; it will not delay.

⁴ Look at the proud!
Their spirit is not right in them,
but the righteous live by their faithfulness.

The word of the Lord/**Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 37:1-9

¹ Do not be provoked by | evildoers;
do not be jealous of those | who do wrong.

² **For they shall soon wither | like the grass,
and like the green grass | fade away.**

³ Put your trust in the LORD | and do good;
dwell in the land and | find safe pasture.

⁴ **Take delight | in the LORD,
who shall give you your | heart's desire.**

⁵ Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust | in the LORD,
and see what | God will do.

⁶ **The LORD will make your vindication as clear | as the light
and the justice of your case like the | noonday sun.**

⁷ Be still before the LORD and wait | patiently.

Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in | evil schemes.

⁸ **Refrain from anger, leave | rage alone;
do not be provoked; it leads on- | ly to evil.**

⁹ For evildoers shall | be cut off,
but those who hope in the LORD shall pos- | sess the land.

THE SECOND READING: 2 Timothy 1:1-14

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

² To Timothy, my beloved child:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

³ I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. ⁴ Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵ I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. ⁶ For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands, ⁷ for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

⁸ Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, in the power of God, ⁹ who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace, and this grace was given to us in Christ

Jesus before the ages began, ¹⁰ but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. ¹¹ For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, ¹² and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day the deposit I have entrusted to him. ¹³ Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ Guard the good deposit entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



***THE GOSPEL: Luke 17:5-10**

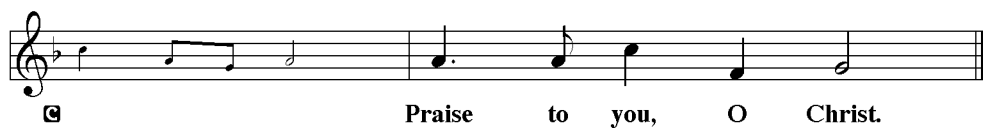
The holy gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ according to St. Luke, the seventeenth chapter.



⁵ The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” ⁶ The Lord replied, “If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.

⁷ “Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, ‘Come here at once and take your place at the table’? ⁸ Would you not rather say to him, ‘Prepare supper for me; put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink’? ⁹ Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? ¹⁰ So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, ‘We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!’ ”

The Gospel of the Lord.



THE SERMON

*HYMN

How Firm a Foundation

LBW, "Green," 507

How Firm a Foundation



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
 3 "When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way shall lie,
 4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove



is laid for your faith in his ex - cel - lent word!
 for I am your God and will still give you aid;
 my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.
 my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can he say than to you he has said
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
 The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
 and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,



who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."
 your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."
 like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt.
 Music: FOUNDATION, early American

***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

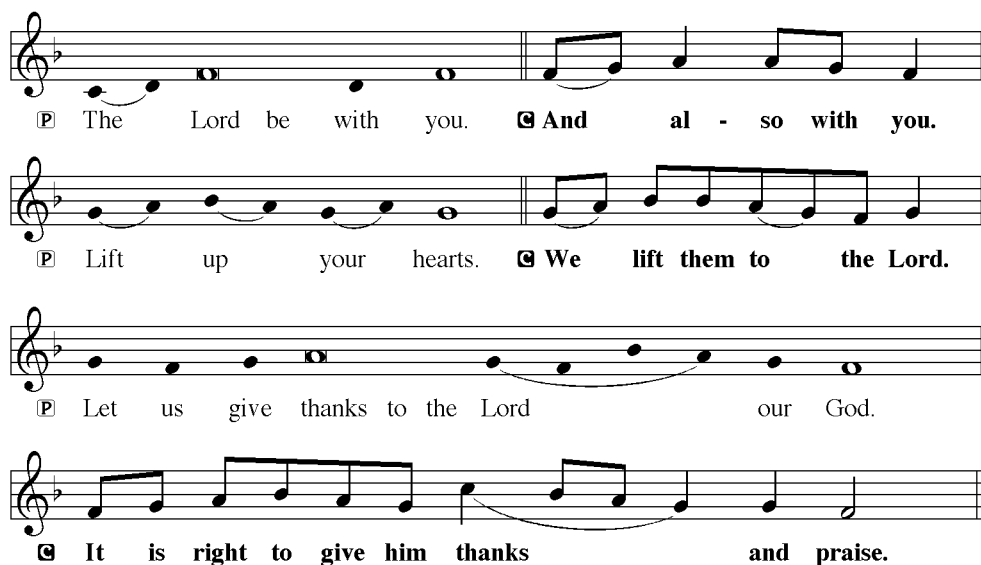


Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your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

*OFFERING PRAYER

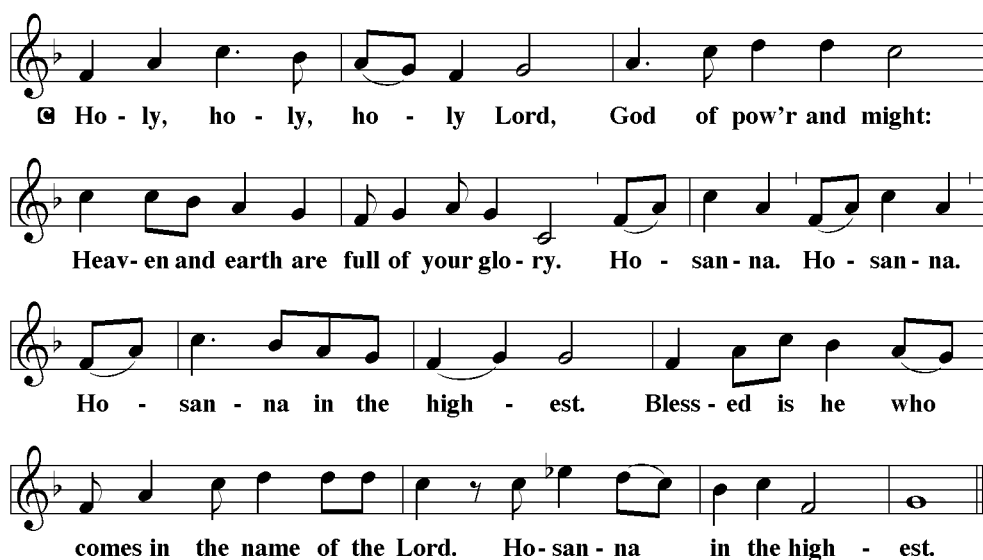
Lord of the harvest,
we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.
Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches,
but on you, who richly provides for us.
Multiply what we have gathered
to bless all who are suffering and in need,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

*THE 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 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'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.

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.

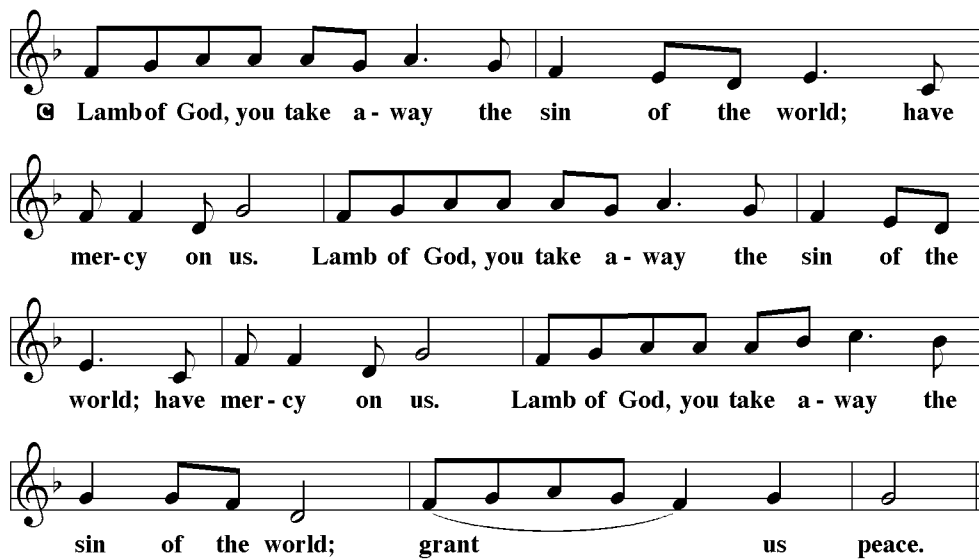
***OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

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**



☐ 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.

***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 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less LBW, "Green," 293**

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less than
 2 When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I
 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus -
 4 When he shall come with trum - pet sound, oh,



Je - sus' blood and righ - teous - ness; no mer - it of my
 rest on his un - chang - ing grace; in ev - 'ry high and
 tain me in the rag - ing flood; when all sup - ports are
 may I then in him be found, clothed in his righ - teous -



own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 storm - y gale my an - chor holds with - in the veil.
 washed a - way, he then is all my hope and stay.
 ness a - lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

Refrain



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart!

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, 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, and Loretta Hawe.

COMMEMORATIONS

William Tyndale, translator, martyr, died

Monday, October 6, 2025

Tyndale was ordained in England, and wished to translate the Bible into English. He was opposed in this by King Henry VIII, causing him to flee to Germany. He completed the New Testament in 1525, but before he could finish the Old Testament, he was tried for heresy and burned at the stake.



Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, pastor in North America, died 1787

Tuesday, October 7, 2025

Divided Lutherans in America asked leaders in Europe to send someone who could take charge and unite their work. Muhlenberg was sent, and was effective in organizing the American Lutherans. Among other accomplishments, his liturgical principles became the basis for the Common Service of 1888 (a forerunner of the SBH, LBW and ELW).



Massie L. Kennard, renewer of the church, died 1986

Friday, October 10, 2025

A native of Chicago, Kennard was a major figure in supporting and working toward ethnic and racial inclusiveness in the former Lutheran Church in America. Ordained in 1958, he served in positions including Director for Minority Concerns of the Division for Mission in North America.



THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Today, October 5	Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 am Sunday School, 9:30 am Blanket Sunday Pet Blessing, 2 pm (Parking Lot)
Monday, October 6	Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm Safety Committee, 11:30 am

Tuesday, October 7	Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm Evangelism and Fellowship, 5:30 pm Property Committee, 6 pm
Wednesday, October 8	Office hours, 9 am – 1 pm Faith Formation, 10:45 am Study, “The Place of Trust”, 12:10 pm, FH Men's Fellowship, 6:15 pm ML
Thursday, October 9	Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm City Pastor's Lunch, 1pm
Friday, October 10	Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm
Saturday, October 11	Office Closed
Sunday, October 12	“Harvest Home Sunday” Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 am Sunday School, 9:15 am CROP Walk, 1 pm

October Bible Study

Please join us Wednesdays in October as we take time to learn and grow in our faith. Pastor Vasey will lead us in a study based on the Beatitudes in the Gospel according to Matthew. Our texts will be scripture and The Place of Trust (an understanding of the Beatitudes from the writings of Martin Luther) by Dr. Martin Marty. Both will be available for use. You are invited to bring a brown bag lunch to munch as we meet from 12:10-12:45 in Fellowship Hall. We are excited for this opportunity, and look forward to sharing this time of study and fellowship.

Pet Blessing

Please join us today, October 5, at 2:00 PM for our annual Pet Blessing! We invite you and your pet to meet in the back parking lot for a short service including the blessing of pets as we remember God’s gift of animals in our lives. Should there be rain, this service will be moved indoors. We hope to see you, your family, and your pets as we celebrate the gift of furry friends in our lives.

Harvest Home

On Sunday, October 12 we will celebrate Harvest Home. There will be empty grocery bags available to take with you after worship on Sunday, October 5. Please fill the bag or bags with nonperishable food items and return them to worship on Sunday, October 12. All items will be donated to the United Churches Food Pantry. Thank you for your generosity.

Reformation Sunday

Reformation Sunday will be celebrated October 26, 2025. Bishop Miller (Upper Susquehanna Synod) will join us in worship at both services. Following our 8 am Service and Hospitality there will be a “question and answer” time with our bishop in Fellowship Hall.

Remember...Reformation Sunday is October 26, 2025. Don't forget to “Wear **Red**” to worship as we celebrate this special day!

OUR STEWARDSHIP for September 28, 2025

Regular Offering	2,064.00
Plate Offerings	40.00
Food Pantry	50.00
Sunday School Offering	10.00
Parish Life	50.00
Operation Christmas Child	150.00
Family Promise Hosting	50.00
Organ Fund	200.00
Grand Total	\$2614.00

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God; and

In loving memory of my husband Jim Buckman and parents Mary Jane & Dorsey Ringler, and Doris & Sydney Buckman by Deb Buckman & Family and;

In loving memory of my parents Myron & Florence Ditchfield, husband Charles Ditchfield and daughter-in-law Mary Ditchfield by Bunny Ditchfield & Family.

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WORSHIP LEADERS for October 5, 2025

Lector	8:00 am	Vicki Hausmann
	10:30 am	Karen Mariano
Communion Assistants	8:00 am	Drew Haussmann
	10:30 am	Ralph & Lou Ann Ziegler
Ushers	8:00 am	Miller/Poff
	10:30 am	Matt F./Glenn Y./Mel W.
Hospitality	8:00 am	Jackie Kinney
Organist		Sam Robinson
Altar Guild (OCTOBER)		Bev Hieber

BIRTHDAYS

Glenn Yaple 10/9

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."



Lutheran
World
Relief

Thanks to all who came and taped/labeled the boxes last Sunday. Kits can still be brought in - needed are baby kits and personal care kits. Loading of my car and delivering of the boxes will be on Sat., Oct. 18. If you can come and help at 9

AM that would be great. If someone would volunteer a truck to do this, it would be helpful as there are a lot of boxes - currently on the stage in fellowship hall.
Thanks – Deb

Family Promise

Right now the program is on hold so we will not be hosting 10/5-10/11. Thanks to all who have helped in the past. Please stay tuned for further information.

Deb B dabuckman65@gmail.com.

Finance

There will be a finance committee meeting on Tuesday, October 15, 2025 at 5pm to work on the budget.

Committee Chairpersons – By now you should have received your budget paperwork. Please return no later than October 13, 2025. Place in my mailbox – Thanks, Deb B.



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

Thanks to your continued generosity, our OCC shoeboxes are just about complete. In fact, they are just about bursting at the seams ~ a great “problem” to have! For the month of October, we will be collecting “Odds N Ends” ~ things that will help us finish each of the 75 (or more) boxes that we will be donating to Samaritan’s Purse. School supplies, combs/brushes, hair accessories, small toys, flashlights, all are welcome! Not a huge fan of shopping? Please consider donating \$10.00 to help cover the cost of shipping our boxes. Thank you again for your continued support of this outreach project. We are excited to see our boxes come together at our **Shoebox Packing Event** which will be held in Fellowship Hall on **November 9th** after the 10:30 service. Would love to see you there!

*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.

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/crophungerwalks/team/st-marks-lutheran-church-lions>

Checks can be made payable to "CWS/CROP"

Blood Drive Success

On September 22, 2025 the Evangelism and Fellowship Committee hosted a Blood Drive in Fellowship Hall. This was our second event, under the direction of Karen Mariano, of 2025. Fellowship Hall saw donors coming and going all day long. **At the conclusion of the drive, 21 pints of blood were collected.**

Please tell your family and friends that our final Blood Drive of 2025 will be Friday, December 7. Give the gift of life. Donate blood.

Soup Sale at Sojourner Truth Ministries

STM is hosting a fall soup sale to benefit their outreach. They are offering homemade Ham Pot Pie, Ham, Potatoes and String Beans and Vegetable Soup. Cost: \$5.00 per pint and \$8.00 per quart. Payment is due at the time of ordering through PayPal or by drop off or mail to STM at 501 High Street, Williamsport. Checks may be made payable to Sojourner Truth Ministries. Orders are due by Friday, October 17, 2025. Pick up is Friday, October 24 and Saturday, October 25 from 9:00 – 1:00.



Urgent Needs At.....

Shepherd of the Streets: Toothbrushes and toothpaste, Women's deodorant, Disposable razors, Laundry pods, Bars of soap, Q-tips and Band-Aids.

United Churches Food Pantry: As you fill a bag for Harvest Home, please take note of these most needed items. They are Flour, Sugar, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Coffee, Hot Chocolate, Pork & Beans, Condiments, Mayo, Salt & Pepper Shakers, Cake Mixes & Frosting, Stuffing Mixes, Cranberry Sauce, Boxed Potatoes, Spaghetti or Alfredo Sauce, Wide Egg Noodles, Canned Pineapple or Mandarin Oranges and Chunky Soups. Any help you can give is greatly appreciated as the need is great.

Meeting

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee will meet Tuesday, October 7 @ 5:30 PM in Middle Lounge. All are welcome.



The Annual Fall Hymn Sing at Old Immanuel Lutheran Church (2633 Lime Bluff Rd, Muncy) will take place today, Sunday, October 5, at 2:30 pm. Old Immanuel is considered to be the "mother church of Lutheranism in Lycoming County". Founded in 1791, the church was an active congregation until its closing in 1920. The public is invited and an offering will be received to help with upkeep and maintenance costs. Please be aware that the building does not have running water or electricity.

Men's Fellowship

We are excited to announce that our Men's Fellowship Group will officially meet on Wednesday, October 8 at 6:00 PM. This month's meeting will focus on a discussion of the life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Pizza will be provided!

Since the Men's Fellowship Group is a new ministry at St. Mark's, the structure and focus for this group is still evolving. A combination of monthly study and activity is being discussed, but most importantly this group hopes to offer fellowship to one another. We encourage all men, both young men and "wise" men, to come be involved in this opportunity. Ideas and input are welcome! We are looking forward to seeing you on October 8th!



Williamsport Chamber Choir & Orchestra present:

REFRAINS OF THE REFORMATION

Samuel Robinson, Artistic Director

"The centerpiece of the concert will be Johann Sebastian Bach's Cantata 80, *Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott* ("A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"), based on Luther's well-known hymn. The program will also include works by Felix Mendelssohn and feature a special collaboration by the Williamsport Youth Choir."

Concert Details:

Friday, November 14, 2025

St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Williamsport, PA

Tickets: \$10 adults/\$5 students at the door.

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