

**The Nativity of our Lord**

**December 24, 2021**

*in the 168<sup>th</sup> Year of the Parish*

Holy Communion, 7 p.m.

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**

142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701

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***Welcome to Saint Mark's Lutheran Church!***

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

***This is Christ's church. There is a place for you here.***

***We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace.***

***Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person—questions, complexities and all. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.***

**Please Note: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has provided revised guidelines with regard to mask wearing. Following these guidelines, and the specific recommendations of our bishop (Bishop Collins of the Upper Susquehanna Synod) Church Council strongly recommends that masks be worn, social distancing followed, and to speak and sing in very low tones when worshipping in St. Mark's church building. Thank You!**

***An Order for Holy Communion specifically for Families and Children (adapted from “Setting One”, Lutheran Book of Worship, “Green Hymnal”).***

***\*Please stand as you are able.***

**PRELUDE** *It Came Upon The Midnight Clear* arr. L. Schissel

## **WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY**

### **\*THE CHRISTMAS STORY: Luke 2:1-20**

*God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the “good news of great joy” and proclaim God's blessing of peace.*

1In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3All went to their own towns to be registered. 4Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. 5He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. 6While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 7And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

8In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over

their flock by night. 9Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” 13And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

14“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

15When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” 16So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. 17When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; 18and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. 19But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. 20The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**\*HYMN                    Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful                    (LBW, “Green” 45)**

**\*GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** Alleluia! Christ is born! May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray. Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus’ presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

**A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE: “The Candy Cane”**

**\*HYMN                    Away in a Manger                    (LBW, “Green” 67)**

**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*After each petition, “Lord, in your mercy/Hear our prayer.”*

## \*THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

*The ministers and congregation greet one another with these or similar words, and/or gestures of peace, limiting physical touch and contact with one another.*

## \*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory; that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to the love of God whom we cannot see. 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.

P In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

**\*OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

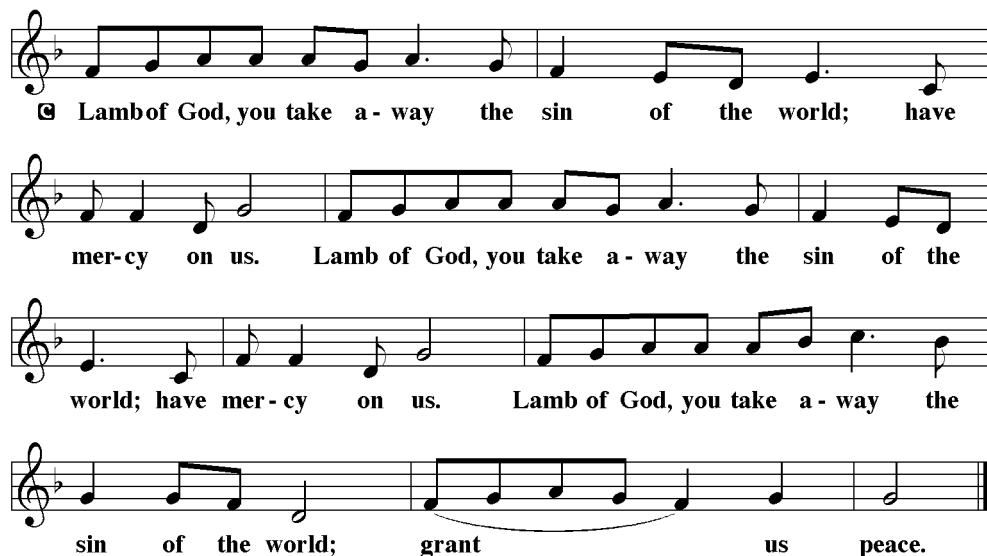
P Let us pray in the words our Savior gave us:

**C Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen**

## \*LAMB OF GOD



☞ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## \*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*Persons may come forward to the chancel to receive Holy Communion. This format will be more “continuous” noting the following procedure:*

- *Communicants, masked and observing social distancing, are asked to come forward as directed by ushers by way of the center aisle, take a cup from the tray provided and receive the bread from Pastor Vasey.*
- *Once receiving the bread, communicants will proceed to one of two stations (left or right) to receive wine from the pouring chalice.*
- *After receiving wine, communicants will place the empty cup in the designated tray and return to their pew by way of the side aisles.*

*Please do not kneel at the rail. Kneeling at the rail will return at a time to be determined by pastor and Church Council.*

**P** In Christ’s manger, at Christ’s table,  
come, see what God makes known for you.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## **THE COMMUNION**

Please join in singing the following as we commune:

O Little Town of Bethlehem (LBW "Green" 41)  
It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (LBW "Green" 54)  
The First Noel (LBW "Green" 56)

### **\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**P** We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus,  
God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine.  
As we have shared this feast of love,  
strengthen us to share your love with all the world.  
In Jesus' name we pray.

**C** Amen.

### **\*CANDLELIGHTING**

**P** Arise and shine, you people of God, for your Light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold darkness shall cover the earth and a thick darkness the people; but the Lord will rise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you.

*(Please exercise caution and tilt only unlit candles to receive the light from your neighbor).*

**\*HYMN**            **Silent Night, Holy Night**            **(LBW, "Green" 65)**

### **\*THE BLESSING**

**P** Grace from God's own heart, peace from the ✝ Child in the manger, and strength from the Spirit of Life be blessings for you today and forever.

**C** Amen.

**\*HYMN**            **Joy to the World**            **(LBW, "Green" 39)**

**\*DISMISSAL**

**P** Go in peace, Christ is near.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE** *Toccata* from Symphony V Charles-Marie Widor

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**Prayer List:** Victims of COVID-19 and their families, Liz Ruesskamp, Grace Arner, Diane Damaska, Vanessa Morgan, Gary Clark, Doris Brown, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Patricia Alexander, Diana Zeigler, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, April Clark, Lenny Sherlinski, Ruth Sherlinski, Gary Cable, Elsie Sechler, Virginia Pulaskie, Bernadette Jones, Susan Kalabacas, Bunny Ditchfield, Judy Fortin, Roy and Gloria Meyer, Mary Lou Doebler, Walt Haussmann, Lou DeSeau and the family of Ray Doebler.

**WORSHIP LEADERS, 7 p.m.**

**Communion Assistants** Ray Huff & Gregg Dancho

**Organist** Sam Robinson

**USHERS:** Tim Maggs, Captain. Carl Hieber and Charlie Fortin

**COVID CONTACT:** Please note that your attendance at worship will be recorded. This serves as a precaution in case contact-tracing due to the pandemic is warranted. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.





**Christmas 2021**

**We Remember and Honor.....**

**White Poinsettias given in Loving Memory of:**

Ann Miller, loving wife, by Robert Miller

**Red and White Poinsettias given:**

In memory of Jim Buckman and in honor of Ren Buckman Holahan by Debra  
Buckman

In memory of our father, Ray Kinney, our mother, Carol Smith and our sister,  
Peggy Watkins by Mike and Jackie Kinney

In memory of Allen and Josephine Malick and Julia and Phillip Williams by Cheryl  
and David Williams

In honor of our children, Ben, Hannah and Elizabeth by Drew and Vicki Hausmann

**Red Poinsettias given:**

In memory of William Hill by Shirley Hill

In memory of Clair and Countess Miller by Robert Miller

In memory of our parents by Gary and Donna Clark

In memory of our mother and father, Reba and Eugene Jacobs by John and Holly  
Carson and Linda Rosini

In memory of Ed and Mary Gair by the Gair family

In memory of husband, James Doane and son, Larry Doane by Ernestine Doane

In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Harry E. Priest and daughter, Elizabeth from grandson  
and niece

In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Lloyd Beisel from son and wife, Roberta

In memory of Bob and Shirley Campbell by their children

In memory of Raymond Stiller by Mary Ann Stiller

In memory of loved ones by Lou Ann and Ralph Zeigler

In memory of Ralph and Elda Zeigler by the Zeigler family

In memory of Jack and Eleanor Whiting by (family) Herb Poff and Candy and Steve  
Dewar

In memory of Bill and Prudy Poff By (family) Herb Poff and Candy and Steve Dewar

In memory of our parents by Ray and Cindy Huff

In memory of our grandparents, Rosena and Leon Haines and Joann Zeigler by  
Anna and Laura Zeigler

In memory of Ruth and Jack Burkholder and Anna Plank by Dan, Diana, Anna and  
Laura Zeigler

In memory of Linda Kay Walter by Dan, Diana, Anna and Laura Zeigler

In honor of our daughters, Anna and Laura by Dan and Diana Zeigler

In honor of our children, Riley and Stefan and in honor of our mothers, Ruth and  
Gloria by Gary and Shelby Weber

In honor of our children and grandchildren by Phil and Barb Thomas

In honor of our grandchildren, Shay, Smith and Nolan by Kathy and Gregg Dancho

### **Hunger Offerings given:**

In memory of Don and Helen Ochs by Mike Ochs

In memory of Forrest and Margaret Klinger by Ron and Donna Baker

**ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26, THERE WILL BE ONLY ONE WORSHIP  
TIME AT 9:30 AM**

**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY, DECEMBER  
27, 2021. IT WILL “RE-OPEN” ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2021 AT 9  
a.m.**

**BEST WISHES FOR A BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND  
HEALTHY 2022! PASTOR VASEY AND FAMILY!**

### **COMMEMORATIONS**

**Stephen, Deacon and Martyr**

*Sunday, December 26, 2021*

Stephen was a deacon and the first martyr of the church. He was one of those seven upon whom the apostles laid hands after they had been chosen to serve widows and others in need. Later, Stephen's preaching angered the temple authorities, and they ordered him to be put to death by stoning.

## **John, Apostle and Evangelist**

*Monday, December 27, 2021*

The son of Zebedee and brother of James, John was one of the twelve disciples and witness to the transfiguration. Tradition has named him also the writer of the Gospel, John, the three New Testament letters bearing his name, as well as Revelation.

## **The Holy Innocents, Martyrs**

*Tuesday, December 28, 2021*

This day commemorates the young children killed by Herod in Bethlehem in his jealous attempt to murder the baby Jesus, a sobering reminder of the evil that led Christ to be born for our salvation.

## **Holy Name of Jesus**

*Saturday, January 1, 2022*

By Jewish law, every baby boy was circumcised and named on the eighth day of life, so on the eighth day of Christmas the church celebrates this event in Jesus' life. The keeping of the covenant as well as Jesus' name are signs of God's salvation given to us through him.

## **The Epiphany of Our Lord (the adoration of the Wise Men)**

*Thursday, January 6, 2022*

*Epiphany Sunday will be celebrated Sunday, January 2, 2022.*