

Christ the King

The Last Sunday after Pentecost

November 20, 2022

in the 169^h Year of the Parish

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701

stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org

Office (570-323-4619) Fax (570-323-2452)

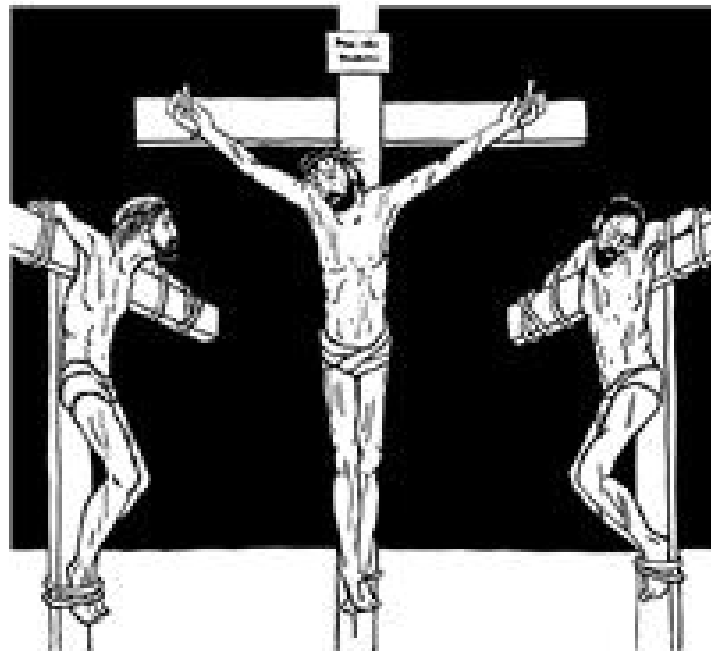
Rev. Brian D. Vasey, Pastor

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.”



Our COVID-19 Guidelines:

Hand sanitizer is available for your use.

Face masks are optional.

Offerings may be received by way of baskets as you enter or leave.

Please continue to observe social distancing when passing the peace.

A guide to hymnal use: LBW, Green Book; WOV, Blue Book

**Please stand as you are able.*

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

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

C **Amen.**

P 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.

C **Amen.**

P 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.

Silence for reflection and self-examination. The congregation may kneel.

P Most merciful God,

C **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.**

The pastor stands and gives words of assurance.

P 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 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.

C Amen.

***HYMN Lord Christ, When You First Came to Earth LBW, “Green”, 421**

***THE GREETING**

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

C And also with you.



*KYRIE



Ⓐ In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Ⓞ Lord, have mer - cy.



Ⓐ For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-va-tion, let us pray to the Lord.



Ⓞ Lord, have mer - cy.



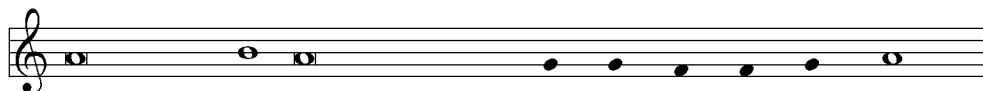
Ⓐ For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Ⓞ Lord, have mer - cy.



Ⓐ For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Ⓞ Lord, have mer - cy.



Ⓐ Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. Ⓞ A - men

*THIS IS THE FEAST



Ⓐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



Ⓑ Wor- thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow- er and rich - es and wis- dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. O God, our true life, to serve you is freedom, and to know you is unending joy. We worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your

great glory. Abide with us, reign in us, and make this world into a fit habitation for your divine majesty, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S READINGS

Jeremiah's promise of the execution of "justice and righteousness in the land" finds ironic fulfillment in the execution of Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. This victory appears for all the world as humiliating defeat. Yet through the gate of death Jesus opens the door to paradise.

THE FIRST LESSON.....Jeremiah 23:1-6

1 Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. 2 Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. 3 Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. 4 I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.

5 The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. 6 In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 46

1 God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.

**2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

3 though its waters rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

**4 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.**

5 God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken;

God shall help it at the | break of day.

6The nations rage, and the | kingdoms shake;

God speaks, and the earth | melts away.

7The LORD of | hosts is with us;

the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.

8Come now, regard the works | of the LORD,

what desolations God has brought up- | on the earth;

9behold the one who makes war to cease in | all the world;

who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the | shields with fire.

10“Be still, then, and know that | I am God;

I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted | in the earth.”

11The LORD of | hosts is with us;

the God of Jacob | is our stronghold.

THE SECOND LESSON.....Colossians 1:11-20

11May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully 12giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. 13He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, 14in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

15He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; 16for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. 17He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. 18He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. 19For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, 20and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

The word of the Lord.

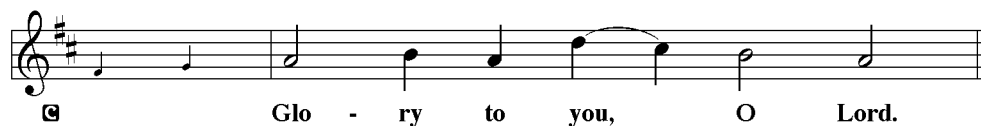
C Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



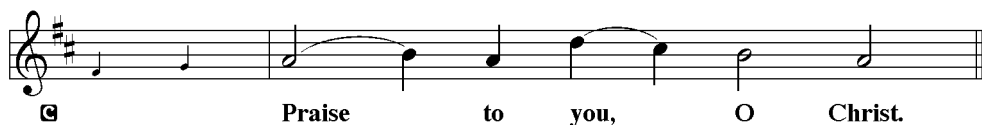
***THE HOLY GOSPEL.....Luke 21:5-19**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-third chapter.



33When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. 34Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” And they cast lots to divide his clothing. 35And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!” 36The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, 37and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” 38There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

39One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” 40But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? 41And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.” 42Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” 43He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”
The gospel of the Lord.



THE SERMON

***HYMN**

The Strife Is O'er

LBW, “Green”, 135

***THE NICENE CREED**

P Living together in trust and hope, we affirm our faith:

C We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth,

of all that is, seen and unseen.

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

(after each petition; Lord in your Mercy/**Receive our prayer**)

*THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

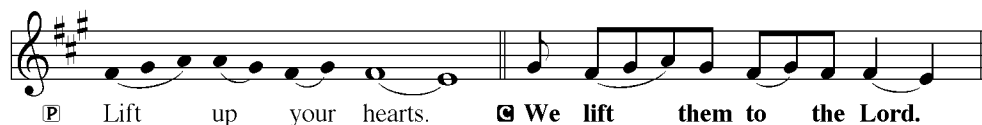
C **And also with you.**

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 him thanks and praise.

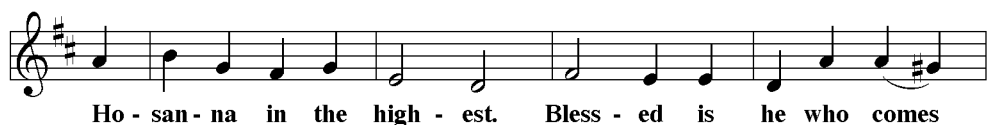
P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ; who enthroned forever at your right hand, intercedes for us as our great high priest. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r 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.

P You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God;
You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
that whoever believes in him may not perish
but have eternal life.

Having come into the world, he fulfilled for us
your holy will and accomplished our salvation.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
his life-giving Passion and death,
his glorious resurrection and ascension,
his promise to come again, we give thanks to you,
Lord God Almighty,
not as we ought but as we are able;
and we implore you mercifully to
accept our praise and thanksgiving,
and, with your Word and Holy Spirit,
to bless us, your servants,
and these gifts of bread and wine;
that we and all who share in the body and blood
of your Son may be filled with heavenly peace
and joy, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may
be sanctified in soul and body, and have our

portion with all your saints.

All honor and glory are yours,
O God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, in your holy Church,
now and forever.

C Amen.

***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, 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 as directed by ushers are asked to come forward by way of the center aisle, take a cup from the tray provided and receive the bread.*
- *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.

P Come and dine with the King of Kings!

C **Thanks be to God.**

THE COMMUNION

***AFTER COMMUNION**

P The body and blood of Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen.**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P Let us pray. O God, we give you thanks that you have fed us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

***THE BLESSING**

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

C **Amen.**

***HYMN** **Crown Him With Many Crowns**

LBW, “Green”, 170

***DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace! Be the Church!

C Amen. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Prayer List: Victims of COVID-19 and their families, Liz Ruesskamp, Grace Arner, Diane Damaska, Vanessa Morgan, Gary Clark, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Patricia Alexander, Diana Zeigler, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, April Clark, Lenny Sherlinski, Ruth Sherlinski, Gary Cable, Elsie Sechler, Virginia Pulaskie, Susan Kalabacas, Bunny Ditchfield, Judy Fortin, Roy and Gloria Meyer, Mary Lou Doebler, the people of Ukraine and Eastern Europe, Storm and Hurricane Victims, Ezra Buckman, Sheila Brassard, Kevin Rosini, Kathy Eshelman, Micah, Connie Shiable, Family of Eleanor Dancho.



WORSHIP LEADERS (11/20/22)

Lector	8:00 a.m.	Candy Dewar
	10:30 a.m.	Gary Weber
Communion Assistants	8:00 a.m.	Becky Pryor or Drew Haussmann or Jackie Kinney
	10:30 a.m.	Wanda and Matt Fortin
Organist		Sam Robinson
Ushers	8:00 a.m.	Richard Miller, Herb Poff
	10:30 a.m.	Mike Jensen – Captain, Gary Weber, Sean Jensen, Shelby Weber



READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY? Faith and Fellowship has temporarily “moved some books” from our church library to the Front Lounge in order to make them more accessible. Stop by the Front Lounge and take a look!

OUR STEWARDSHIP (11/13/22)

Regular Offering	\$3,150.00
Plate Offering	15.00
Bulletin Sponsor	10.00
World Hunger	50.00
Food Pantry	100.00
Global Mission	50.00
Sunday School Offering	9.00
Operation Christmas Child	170.00
Flower Memorials / Tributes	30.00
Synod Benevolence	75.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$3,659.00



BULLETIN SPONSOR Thank You Ann and Charles Kuntz for sponsoring this week’s bulletin.



ALTAR FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God:

+In Honor of Harold Hershberger's Birthday by Mike, Pam and Stan Jensen.

+In Memory of my mother, Dorothy Baur by Joseph and Christine Baur, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

UPCOMING CONCERT SCHEDULE



- Williamsport Chamber Choir and Orchestra, **Haydn's "Mass of Saint Nicholas"**, directed by Sam Robinson, St. Mark's Director of Music, Friday, December 2 at 7:30 p.m. (*New Time*)
- West Branch Chorale, **"Poems and Prayers for Christmas"**, Sunday, December 11 at 3 p.m.



EARLY DECORATIONS???

You may have noticed that Christmas came a little early this year ~ at least to the Narthex!

Please know that we are not rushing the season or forgetting about the importance of Thanksgiving. Rather, St.

Mark's was host to the Billtown

Brass concert yesterday as part of Williamsport's Victorian Christmas celebration. This decorating was to help welcome both our musicians and the guests who came through our doors to enjoy their concert. We hope you enjoy these decorations in the spirit of Victorian Christmas too.

ST. MARK'S
LUTHERAN
CHURCH



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING is scheduled for **Sunday, December 4, 2022, immediately following the 9:30 a.m. single service of worship.** In case of an emergency

cancellation of the worship service that day (due to weather or other cause), the Annual Congregational Meeting will be moved to the following Sunday, December 11.

Among the items to be presented, discussed, and/or voted upon are

- Annual Report of Committees to the Congregation
- Election of five Council members
- Adoption of the 2023 budget to support the ministry of St. Mark's
- Ratification of the changes and amendments to St. Mark's Constitution and By-Laws previously voted upon and approved by the congregation in July
- Any other business that needs to be addressed

Five members of the congregation were nominated to serve on Council beginning in 2023 –

Debra Buckman, Vicki Haussmann, Nicki Jackson, Helen Schramm, and Ralph Zeigler. Additional nominations may be made from the floor and require a second to the motion. As a courtesy, however, please confirm with the person being nominated their willingness to serve in that capacity should they be elected to a Council position.

Please mark your calendars and plan to participate in this Annual Congregational Meeting. If you need additional information or have items that you would like to discuss, please contact one of the Council officers: Ralph Zeigler, president; Melvin Wentzel, vice-president; Vicki Haussmann, secretary; or Pamela Jensen, treasurer. Thank you!



Mark your calendar and plan to join Lutherans from around the state for a day of worship, learning and advocacy on April 27, 2023. Plan to stay for a dinner celebration of advocates at the Harrisburg Hilton. Tell your friends and watch here for more information and registration.



Look for the Christmas Flower Order envelope in this week's bulletin. The order form will also be in next week's bulletin. Deadline for orders is Wednesday, December 4, 2022. Extra Copies of the order form will be in the office. Return orders to Carl Huff or drop them off at the office.

MID-WEEK ADVENT SERVICES



On Wednesday in Advent beginning, November 30 and concluding December 21. Join us in worship in our chapel from 12:15 - 12:45 p.m. as we explore the theme of "Advent Saints"

November 30, Andrew, Apostle

December 7, Ambrose of Milan, pastor and Hymnwriter

December 14, John of the Cross, Renewer of the Church

December 21, Katharina von Bora Luther, Renewer of the Church

ALL ARE WELCOME!



SAINT NICHOLAS VISITS ST. MARK'S

Saint Nicholas, the Fourth Century Bishop of Myra upon whom the legend of Santa Claus is based, will visit St. Mark's Lutheran Church in worship on **Sunday, December 4, at 9:30 am**. Bishop Nicholas will share his story and witness as to how he became associated with the birth of Jesus and the Christmas Season. The event will include a blessing of children and a small Christmas Gift for all in attendance. All are welcome! St. Mark's is located at 142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA. The telephone number is 570-323-4619. Church Office Hours are 9 am – 1 pm Monday through Friday.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Deadline for the December Newsletter is November 22, 2022

COMMEMORATIONS

Clement, Bishop of Rome, died around 100

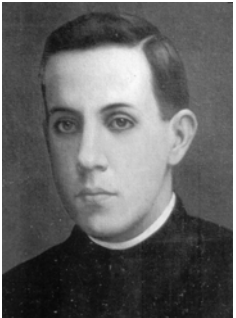
Wednesday, November 23, 2022



Clement was the third bishop of Rome. He is best remembered for a letter he wrote to the congregation in Corinth, still struggling with the same problems that led to Paul's letters to them. As did Paul, he focused on the need for love among Christians.

Miguel Agustín Pro, martyr, died 1927

Wednesday, November 23, 2022



Pro grew up in a time when the Mexican revolutionaries accused the church of siding with the wealthy. He became a Jesuit priest, and worked on behalf of the poor and homeless. Falsely accused of throwing a bomb at a government official, he was executed, but not before crying out "Long live Christ the King!"



Falckner



Jones

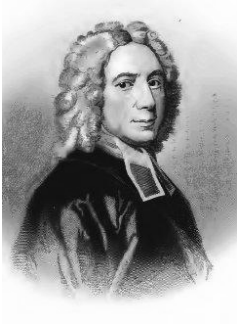


Passavant

Justus Falckner, died 1723; Jehu Jones, died 1852; William Passavant, died 1894; pastors in North America

Thursday, November 24, 2022

Not only was Falckner the first Lutheran ordained in North America, but he published a catechism which was the first Lutheran book published on the continent. Jones was the Lutheran church's first African American pastor and carried out missionary work in Philadelphia which led to the formation there of the first African American Lutheran congregation (St. Paul's). William Passavant helped to establish hospitals and orphanages in a number of cities and was the first to introduce deaconesses to the work of hospitals in the United States.



Isaac Watts, hymnwriter, died 1748

Friday, November 25, 2022

Thought by many to be the greatest hymnwriter in the English language, Watts as a youth was critical of the quality of the metrical psalter of the time. He wrote about 600 hymns—many based on the psalms.

