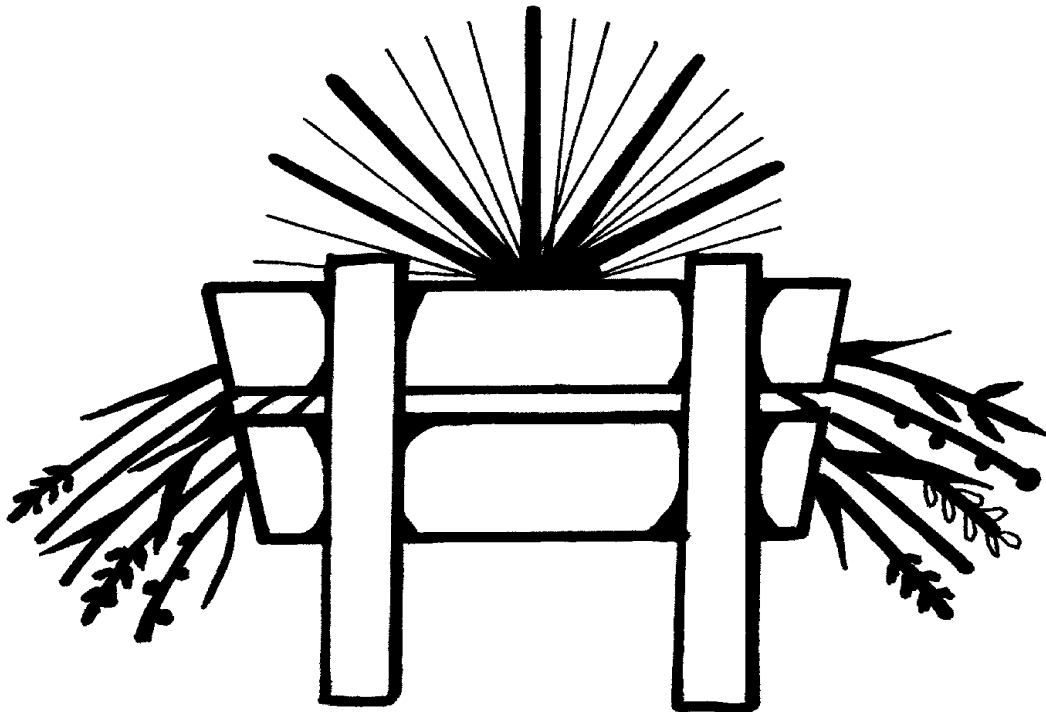


The Nativity of our Lord
December 24, 2022
in the 169th Year of the Parish
Holy Communion, 7 p.m.
St. Mark's Lutheran Church
142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701
stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org
Office (570-323-4619) Fax (570-323-2452)
Rev. Brian D. Vasey, Pastor
bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org

Welcome to Saint Mark's 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.*

Our COVID -19 Guidelines:

Hand sanitizer is provided 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.

*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*
 Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming **arr. Diane Bush**

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY

A READING FROM 1 JOHN: 1 John 4:7-10a

7Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. 10In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us.

***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.

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

(An interactive story of Jesus' birth with congregation participation)

***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.**

***CANDLE LIGHTING**

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 over 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. Please keep your candle upright and lit raising it high on the fourth stanza of
Joy to the World).*

***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 Christ is born! Alleluia!

C **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, 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, Susan Kalabacas, Bunny Ditchfield, Roy and Gloria Meyer, Kathy Eshelman, the people of Ukraine and Eastern Europe, Ezra Buckman, Sheila Brassard, Kevin Rosini, Micah, Ann Kuntz.



***A Blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy
2023 to all!***

Pastor Brian Vasey and Family.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, December 25 and January 1 there will be only one worship time at 9:30 a.m.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26- THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED, BUT EMERGENCY MESSAGES WILL BE RETURNED.

Sunday, January 1, The Holy Name of Jesus (Holy Communion, 9:30 a.m.)
Only one worship time this Sunday. No Sunday Church School

MONDAY, JANUARY 2, 2023, THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED.

WORSHIP LEADERS, 7 p.m.

Lector	Pam Jensen
Communion Assistants	Tim Maggs and Becky Miller
Organist	Sam Robinson
Usher	Matt Fortin
Altar Guild	Bev Hieber and Audrey Albright

Christmas 2022

We Remember and Honor.....

Giving in Honor of Loved Ones

Harold and Joyce Hershberger

By Pam Jensen

Chris and Richard Manny

by Roxie Larson

Shirley Kinney (our Mother)

by Mike and Jackie Kinney

James Zeigler, Anna and Laura Zeigler

By Dan and Diana Zeigler

Our Mothers Ruth and Gloria

Our Children, Riley and Stefan

By Gary and Shelby Weber

My Wife Charlotte

By Dick Reice

Annika, Gabriella and Makensi Wilson, Sr.

Emily Doebler and James and Jane Horner

By Walter and Margie Doebler

Anna Plank

By Dan and Diana Zeigler

Loved Ones

By Susan Newcomer

Giving in Honor of Deceased Loved Ones

Our parents Dorothy Baur and Donald & Barbara Phillips

by Joseph and Christine Baur

In Memory of Betty Ann and Wayne Braden

by Lou Ann and Ralph Zeigler and family

Our Parents

By Ray and Cindy Huff

Fredrick Larson Family

by Roxie Larson

Bill and Prudy Poff

by Herb Poff and Steve and Candy Dewar

Jack and Eleanor Whiting

by Herb Poff, Steve and Candy Dewar

Jack and Marg Dewar

by Steve and Candy Dewar

Bill and Marion Waldeisen

by Family

In Memory of Ralph and Elda Zeigler

by their family

Harry Osbaugh, Dominic Mariano

by Karen Mariano

Ray Kinney (our Father) and Carol Smith (our Mother)

by Mike and Jackie Kinney

Martin Kuntz, Robert and Anna Kuntz

by Chas and Ann Kuntz



Grandparents - Alfred and Lois Johns

Grandparents - Jack and Doris Fortin

by Matt and Wanda Fortin

Josephine and Allen Malick

Phillip and Julia Williams

by Dave and Cheryl Williams

Robert Kuntz and Mark Kuntz (Son)

by Ann L. Kuntz

Joann Zeigler, Leon and Rosena Haines and Kay Walter

by Dan and Diana Zeigler

Jack and Ruth Burkholder

by Anna Plank and Laura

Husband Francis Bigelow

by Ruth Ann Bigelow

Paul Robinson

by Sam Robinson

Eugene and Reba Jacobs

by Linda Rosini, Holly and John Carlson

Memory of our Parents

by P. Thomas

Memory of William Hill

by Shirley Hill

Robert and Shirley Campbell

by Cathy Fenderson

Gift to UCLC Food Pantry

Shirley Hill

P. Thomas

Sam Robinson

Ann L. Kuntz

Matt and Wanda Fortin

Chas and Ann Kuntz

My parents, Don and Helen Ochs by Michael Ochs

Gift for Decorations

P. Thomas

Dick Reice

Matt and Wanda Fortin

Karen Mariano

Susan Newcomer

ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 and JANUARY 1, THERE WILL BE ONLY ONE WORSHIP TIME AT 9:30 AM. JOIN US!

Looking Forward into the New Year

LOOK FORWARD
WITH HOPE,

NOT BACKWARDS
WITH REGRET.

WWW.LIVELIFEHAPPY.COM

Sunday, January 8: The Baptism of Our Lord.

Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 am

Installation of new Congregational Council Members at both services.

Sunday, January 15, The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 am

Sunday Church School, 9:15 am

Sunday, January 22, The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 am

Sunday Church School, 9:15 am

Sunday, January 29, The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 am

Sunday Church School, 9:15 am

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Adult Sunday School Class is currently studying, *Living the Kingdom; Reflections on the Small Catechism*. We meet in the Middle Lounge at 9:15 am. All are welcome.





STAFF OFFICE HOURS

Pastor: The Rev. Brian Vasey

Mon-Thu 9 a.m.-1 p.m., & by appointment

Church Organist: Sam Robinson

Summer Mon 1-3 p.m. & by appointment

Sexton: George Poliska

Bookkeeper: Jackie Baysore

By appointment

Administrative Assistant: Joseph Baur

Tuesday through Friday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.



Welcome back Jackie Baysore

Welcome George Poliska

**A CHILD
HAS BEEN
BORN FOR US
A SON GIVEN
TO US
AUTHORITY RESTS
UPON HIM AND
HE IS NAMED
JESUS**



IN THIS HOLY TIME OF CHRISTMAS WE COMMEMORATE:

Stephen, Deacon and Martyr

Monday, December 26, 2022



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



Tuesday, December 27, 2022

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



The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

Wednesday, December 28, 2022

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.



Name of Jesus

Sunday, January 1, 2023

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.

church,
Monday,
Loehe
Loehe's
in the
and
North
Ukraine.



Johann Konrad Wilhelm Loehe, renewer of the died 1872

January 2, 2023

was a pastor in nineteenth-century Germany. chief concern was that a congregation find its life holy communion, and from that source evangelism social ministries would flow. He sent pastors to America, Australia, New Guinea, Brazil, and