

**The Nativity of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
December 25, 2022**

In the 169th Year of the Parish

A Hymn Setting of the Eucharist for Christmastide

9:30 a.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 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 pesce.

A guide to hymnal use: WOV “Blue” Hymnal; LBW “Green” Hymnal.

**Please stand as you are able.*

PRELUDE *I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day* arr. Loras Kendall

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the Word made flesh,
our life and our salvation.

C **Amen.**

P Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior,
let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection. The congregation may kneel.

P God of life,

C you promise good news of great joy for all people,
and call us to be messengers of your peace.

**We confess that too often we hoard our joy,
our resources, and our security.**

We nurture conflict and build barriers.

**We neglect the needs of our neighbors
and ignore the groaning of creation.**

Have mercy on us.

Where we are self-centered, open our hearts.

Where we are reluctant, give us courage.

Where we are cynical, restore our trust.

Renew us with your grace

and give us again the hope of eternal life in you.

C Amen.

P Hear the good news:

We are children of God and heirs of God's promises
through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

In † Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed.

Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth
shall know the salvation of God.

C Amen.

***HYMN The First Noel**

LBW, "Green", 56

***GREETING**

**P Christ is born! Alleluia! 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.

***KYRIE (Sung)**

**C Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy
Upon us.**

**Christ have mercy. Christ have mercy. Christ have mercy
Upon us.**

**God the Father, with the Spirit, gave us Christ to
love and save us.**

Lord have mercy upon us. Lord have mercy upon us.

Tune *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

Words BDV and others, 2017

***HYMN OF PRAISE Angels We Have Heard on High (LBW "Green" 71)
(stanza 1 with refrain)**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

**P Let us pray. All-powerful and unseen God, the coming of your light into our
world has brightened weary hearts with peace. Call us out of darkness, and
empower us to proclaim the birth of your Son, 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

As on the first day of creation, on this Christmas Day the Word illumines the world, shining forth to bring all things into being. Today we celebrate the incarnate Word, God becoming flesh to live among us in the person of Jesus Christ then and now. Emboldened by the good news of Messiah's birth, and all witnesses to the light of Christ, we declare to the world that we have indeed seen and been transformed by the arrival of "the salvation of our God"!

THE FIRST READING.....Isaiah 52:7-10

7How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

8Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.

9Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.

10The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

The word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 98

1Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done | marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have | won the victory.

**2O LORD, you have made | known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight | of the nations.**

3You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the | house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory | of our God.

**4 Shout with joy to the LORD, | all you lands;
lift up your voice, re- | joice, and sing.**

5 Sing to the LORD | with the harp,
with the harp and the | voice of song.

**6 With trumpets and the sound | of the horn
shout with joy before the | king, the LORD.**

7 Let the sea roar, and | all that fills it,
the world and those who | dwell therein.

**8 Let the rivers | clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to | judge
the earth.**

9 The LORD will judge the | world with righteousness
and the peo- | ples with equity.

THE SECOND READING.....Hebrews 11:1-4

1 Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. 3 He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4 having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

The word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (sung)**

**Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo; Gloria, in excelsis Deo. (GLORIA)**

***THE GOSPEL.....John 1:1-14**

P The holy gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

6There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

10He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

14And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

***HYMN God Rest You Merry Gentlemen**

1. God rest ye mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may, re -
 2. From God, our heav'n - ly fa - ther, a bles - sed an - gel came, and
 3. "Fear not, then" said the an - gel, "Let noth - ing you af - fright. This
 4. Now to the Lord sing prais - ses, all you with - in this place, and

mem - ber Christ our Sav - iour was born on Christ - mas day to save us all from
 un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought ti - dings of the same: how that in Beth - le -
 day is born a Sav - iour of a pure vir - gin bright to free all those who
 with true love and broth - er - hood each oth - er now em brace. This ho - ly tide of

Sa - tan's power when we were gone a stray. O ti - dings of com - fort and
 hem was born the Son of God by name. O ti - dings of com - fort and
 trust in Him from Sa - tan's pow'r and might. O ti - dings of com - fort and
 Christ - mas doth bring re - deem - ing grace.

joy, com - fort and joy, O ti - dings of com - fort and joy!

***THE NICENE CREED**

P Living together in trust and hope, we confess 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.**

***THE PRAYERS**

(after each petition: Merciful God/Hear our prayer.)

***THE PEACE**

P The peace of the Lord be always with you.
C And also with you.

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

(Sung responsively to IN DULCI JUBILO, “Good Christian Friends Rejoice”)

P O may the good Lord be with you,
C And may the Lord be with you too.
P Lift your hearts and voice in praise,

C To the Lord our voices raise.

P Christ comes down from God above,

C To share with us the Father's love

**P & C Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!**

(Spoken)

P It is indeed right, salutary and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful
God through our Savior Jesus Christ.
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 love the God whom
we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with
the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(Sung)

**P & C Holy, Holy, Holy Lord
God of power and might adored!
Heaven and earth reflect your bliss,
For your Word is in our midst,
Blessed be the One who comes,
In God's name, Hosanna.
Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!**

(Spoken)

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.”

(Sung)

**P & C Christ is born today!
Christ is born today!**

***OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

P Rejoicing in Christ who has come among us, let pray as our Savior taught 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**

**C Lord Jesus Christ the Lamb of God who takes away
the sin of the world,
Redeemer sweet who brings God's peace,
the babe, the son of Mary.
This, this is the Lamb of God
who takes away the world's great sin.
This, this is the Child mild, the babe, the son of Mary.**

Tune GREENSLEVES

Words Suggested by the Liturgy of St. James

***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 Joy to the world! The Lord is come!
Come to the Christmas Feast!

C **Amen. Thanks be to God!**

THE COMMUNION

***AFTER COMMUNION**

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

C **Amen.**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P Let us pray. Emmanuel, God with us,
you grace us with life and breath
and give us bread for the journey.
Send us out in service to this world that you love,
telling the amazing news of your coming
to be Savior and Lord of all.

C **Amen.**

***THE BLESSING**

P May Christ, who by his incarnation
has filled us with grace and truth,
give you peace this Christmas and always.
Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

C **Amen.**

***HYMN Hark! The Herald Angels Sing LBW, “Green”, 60**

***DISMISSAL**

P Christ the Savior is born!
Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *I Saw Three Ships* arr. Kent Schissel

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

WORSHIP LEADERS

Lector Ralph Zeigler

Communion Assistants Dan Zeigler

Organist Sam Robinson

Ushers Carl Albright, Captain, Brenda, Owen and Levi Gair

Altar Guild Bev Hieber and Audrey Albright



A Blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy 2023 to all!
Pastor Brian Vasey and Family.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, January 1 there will be only one worship time at 9:30 am.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 26- 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.

Please complete the communion card and give it to an usher before coming forward for holy communion. Thank you.



ALTAR FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God:
 +In Loving Memory of William Hill by his wife, Shirley Hill.
 +In Loving Memory of Cora and Clement Campbell by their grandchildren.
 +In Loving Memory of Shirley Miller by her children and grandchildren.

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

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.

THANK YOU

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee thanks the congregation for their support of their many December projects. Without your support we could not have been the hands of God at this very special time of year.

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

By appointment

Bookkeeper: Jackie Baysore

By appointment

Administrative Assistant: Joseph Baur

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



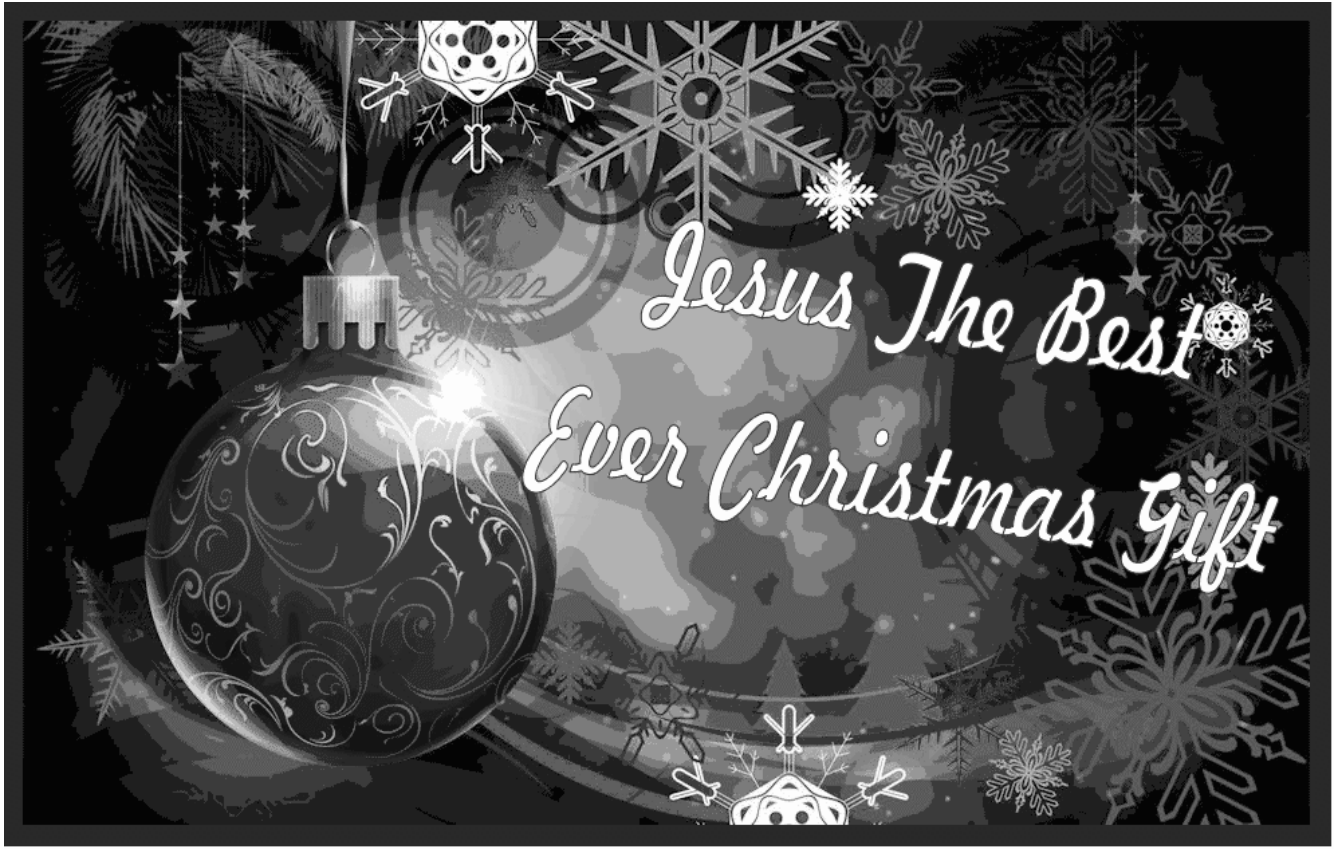
Welcome back Jackie Baysore

Welcome George Poliska

OUR STEWARDSHIP (Week of 12/12/2022 – 12/18/2022)

Regular Offering	\$3,895.00
Plate Offering	55.00
Christmas and Advent	20.00
Bulletin Sponsor	10.00
World Hunger	50.00
Food Pantry	50.00
Global Mission	50.00
Sunday School Offering	3.00
Capital Fund	75.00

Synod Benevolence	25.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	180.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$4,413.00



COMMEMORATIONS IN THIS HOLY TIDE OF CHRISTMAS



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. Stephen's preaching angered the temple authorities, and they ordered him to be put to death by stoning, with Saul (later Paul) as one of the

observers. As he died he witnessed to his faith and spoke of a vision from heaven.



John, Apostle and Evangelist

Monday, December 27, 2021

John, the son of Zebedee, was a fisherman and one of the Twelve. John, his brother James and Peter were the three who witnessed the transfiguration.

Tradition has attributed authorship of the Gospel according to John, three epistles and Revelation to this apostle.



The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

Tuesday, December 28, 2021

The infant martyrs commemorated on this day are the children of Bethlehem, two years and younger, who were murdered by Herod, who worried that his reign was threatened by the birth of “the new king”, Jesus. (Matthew 2:16-18).



Holy Name of Jesus

Saturday, January 1, 2022

Joseph and Mary bring Jesus to the temple to be circumcised and named (Luke 2:21).