

Christmastide
January 1, 2023
Holy Name of Jesus
in the 170^h Year of the Parish
St. Mark's Lutheran Church
142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701
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Office (570-323-4619) Fax (570-323-2452)
Rev. Brian D. Vasey, Pastor
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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 *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* F. Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

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.
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.
Amen.

***HYMN** **Once in Royal David's City** **WOV, "Blue", 643**

***THE GREETING**

P Alleluia, Christ is born! 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**

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)**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray. Eternal Father, you gave your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be a sign of our salvation. Plant in every heart the love of the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S READINGS

From the beginning, through baptism, we are called Christian. We are “Christened” at the font. Bearing Christ’s name, we share the same Father and are invited to address this parent intimately: Abba! Jesus bears our sins in humble obedience to the will of God. Today we pray that the mind of Christ, whose name we bear, would be our own. It is a good way to begin, again, another calendar year.

THE FIRST READING.....Numbers 6:22-27

22The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: 23Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the Israelites: You shall say to them,

24The LORD bless you and keep you;

25the LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;

26the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

27So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 8

1O | LORD our Lord,

how majestic is your name in | all the earth!—

2you whose glory is chanted above the heavens out of the mouths of in- | fants and children;

you have set up a fortress against your enemies, to silence the foe | and avenger.

3When I consider your heavens, the work | of your fingers,
the moon and the stars you have set | in their courses,

**4what are mere mortals that you should be mind- | ful of them,
human beings that you should | care for them?**

5Yet you have made them little less | than divine;

with glory and hon- | or you crown them.

**6You have made them rule over the works | of your hands;
you have put all things un- | der their feet:**

7all | flocks and cattle,
even the wild beasts | of the field,

**8the birds of the air, the fish | of the sea,
and whatever passes along the paths | of the sea.**

9O | LORD our Lord,
how majestic is your name in | all the earth!

THE SECOND READING.....Galatians 4:4-7

4When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. 6And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” 7So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**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 HOLY GOSPEL.....Luke 2:15-21**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

C Glory to you O Lord.

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.

21After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was

called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.
The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

***HYMN**

At the Name of Jesus

LBW, “Green”, 179

***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.**

***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**

(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 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**

**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 Glory to God in the highest!
Come to the table of peace.
C **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 God our redeemer,
you have fed us at this table
with gifts of grace, truth, and life.
As you have gathered us in joy,
send us forth as messengers of your peace.
Make us shine with the good news of your glory,
born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
C **Amen.**

***THE BLESSING**

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give
✠ you peace.
C **Amen.**

***HYMN** **Go Tell It on the Mountain** **LBW, “Green”, 70**

***DISMISSAL**

P Christ the Savior is born!
Go in peace. Proclaim this good news.
C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE *Adeste Fideles* arr. R. Matthews

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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, the people of Ukraine and Eastern Europe, Storm and Hurricane Victims, Ezra Buckman, Sheila Brassard, Kevin Rosini, Kathy Eshelman, Micah, Ann Kuntz.

WORSHIP LEADERS (1/1/23) One Service 9:30 a.m.

Lector Gary Weber

Communion Assistants Carl and Audrey Albright

Organist Sam Robinson

Ushers Tim Maggs, captain, Carl Hieber and Charles Kuntz

Altar Guild Deb Buckman and Leah Haussmann

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 (12/25/22)

Regular Offering	\$6,172.00
Plate Offerings	147.00
Christmas and Advent	2,485.00
Thanksgiving	50.00
Miscellaneous	100.00
World Hunger	20.00
Disaster Relief	90.00
Family Promise Hosting	130.00
Capital Fund	800.00
Flower Memorials / Tributes	90.00
Synod Benevolence	800.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	100.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$10,984.00



ALTAR FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God:
+In Loving Memory of Margaret and Forrest Klinger by their daughter Donna Baker and family.
+In loving Memory of Jennie and Walter Belles and Carl, Lois and Jeanne Belles Family by their Families

BULLETIN SPONSOR Thank you Charles and Ann Kuntz for sponsoring this week's bulletin.

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 a.m. All are welcome.



THANK YOU

Thank You to all who shared well wishes, cards and gifts with the Vasey Family this Christmas Season! All of us in the Vasey House wish all of you, the hope, peace, joy and love of Christ and blessings for 2023!

Pastor Vasey and Family.



Monday, January 2:

**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
THIS DAY.**

Sunday, January 8: The Baptism of Our Lord.

Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 a.m.

Installation of new Congregational Council Members at both services.

Sunday, January 15, The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Church School, 9:15 a.m.

Sunday, January 22, The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Church School, 9:15 a.m.

Sunday, January 29, The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Church School, 9:15 a.m.

NEXT MONTH

February 19, The Transfiguration of Our Lord

Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Church School, 9:15 a.m.

February 21, *Shrove Tuesday.*

February 22, Ash Wednesday

Holy Communion, 12:15 a.m. (Chapel)

Holy Communion, 7 pm (Nave)



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

We look forward to continuing the outreach ministry of Operation Christmas Child in 2023, and have set a goal to pack 75 beautiful boxes! These shoeboxes will then be sent to kids around the world toward the end of the year. Monthly collections make this process a little less daunting come November, and we very much appreciate your generous donations throughout the year. In January, we are collecting: **Fun Pads (small, activity pads) Journals/Small Notebooks Knit Hats T-shirts* ("Cute" or plain white. Either is fine!) Socks/Undies*** These items may be placed in our red, OCC bin located in the Narthex. Thank you for your continued support in helping spread the good news of God's love! *Just a note ~ the age ranges for the boxes we fill are 2-4, 5-9, and 10-14 for both boys and girls. This may help with clothing sizes.

A Look Ahead to February



The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee needs the congregation's help in sending lovely Valentine's Day greetings to our Special Concern folks and others we do not see as often as we would like.

Cards will be available in the Narthex on Sunday, February 5, 2023 after each service. Please add a cheery message, affix a stamp and mail in time for Valentine's Day. Thank you for any assistance you can provide.



Christmas Clean-Up

As beautiful as St. Mark's Christmas decorations are, the season of Christmas has come to an end. Please come help us "undecorate" the Nave, Narthex and Front Lounge on Saturday, January 7th. We will meet at 10:00 in Fellowship Hall ~ with some coffee to start things off right! All hands are welcome. We look forward to seeing you there!



**HAPPY NEW YEAR
2023!**

COMMEMORATIONS



Name of Jesus

Today, 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.



Johann Konrad Wilhelm Loehe, renewer of the church, died 1872

Monday, January 2, 2023

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