

**The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**

**June 25, 2023**

*in the 170<sup>h</sup> Year of the Parish*

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**

142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701

[stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org)

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

Rev. Brian D. Vasey, Pastor

[bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto: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.”**



**Please be aware:**

**Hand sanitizer is available for your use.**

**Face masks are optional.**

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

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

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

*C = Congregation P = Pastor*

## **INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP**

*God does not promise that the path of the disciple will be easy. Jeremiah feels the pain of rejection from those who do not want to hear what he has to say. Jesus declares that his words may bring stark division. Even so, we need not be afraid for God accounts for each hair on our heads. Though we may experience rejection, frustration, division, and death, God's grace and love make us a new creation each day. Marked with the cross and filled with holy food, we are sent from worship to witness to Christ in the world.*

**PRELUDE**      *Air*              JS Bach

## **WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**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.

*Please kneel as able.*

**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 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.**

**P** In the mercy of Almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to 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 Let the Whole Creation Cry LBW, “Green”, 242**

**\*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.


**\*HYMN OF PRAISE**



♩ Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



♩ Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:



♩ We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.




♩ Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



♩ You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



♩ You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



♩ For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



♩ you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



♩ in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P** The Lord be with you.

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

**P** Let us pray. Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

**THE FIRST READING.....Jeremiah 20:7-13**

<sup>7</sup>O LORD, you have enticed me,

and I was enticed;

you have overpowered me,

and you have prevailed.

I have become a laughingstock all day long;

everyone mocks me.

<sup>8</sup>For whenever I speak, I must cry out,

I must shout, "Violence and destruction!"

For the word of the LORD has become for me

a reproach and derision all day long.

<sup>9</sup>If I say, "I will not mention him,

or speak any more in his name,"

then within me there is something like a burning fire

shut up in my bones;

I am weary with holding it in,

and I cannot.

<sup>10</sup>For I hear many whispering:

"Terror is all around!

Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"

All my close friends

are watching for me to stumble.

“Perhaps he can be enticed,  
and we can prevail against him,  
and take our revenge on him.”

11 But the LORD is with me like a dread warrior;  
therefore my persecutors will stumble,  
and they will not prevail.  
They will be greatly shamed,  
for they will not succeed.  
Their eternal dishonor  
will never be forgotten.

12 O LORD of hosts, you test the righteous,  
you see the heart and the mind;  
let me see your retribution upon them,  
for to you I have committed my cause.

13 Sing to the LORD;  
praise the LORD!  
For he has delivered the life of the needy  
from the hands of evildoers.

The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 67:7-10, 16-18**

7 Surely, for your sake I have suf- | fered reproach,  
and shame has cov- | ered my face.

**8 I have become a stranger to | my own kindred,  
an alien to my | mother’s children.**

9 Zeal for your house has eat- | en me up;  
the scorn of those who scorn you has fall- | en upon me.

10 **I humbled my- | self with fasting,  
but that was turned to | my reproach.**

16 Answer me, O LORD, for your | love is kind;  
in your great compassion, | turn to me.

17 **Hide not your face | from your servant;  
be swift and answer me, for I am | in distress.**

18 Draw near to me | and redeem me;

because of my enemies de- | liver me.

**THE SECOND READING.....Romans 6:1b-11**

<sup>1b</sup>Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup>By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? <sup>3</sup>Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? <sup>4</sup>Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

<sup>5</sup>For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. <sup>6</sup>We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. <sup>7</sup>For whoever has died is freed from sin. <sup>8</sup>But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. <sup>9</sup>We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. <sup>10</sup>The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. <sup>11</sup>So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

**\*THE HOLY GOSPEL.....Matthew 10:24-39**

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the twelve:] 24“A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; 25it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

26“So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. 27What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. 28Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. 29Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. 30And even the hairs of your head are all counted. 31So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

32“Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; 33but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

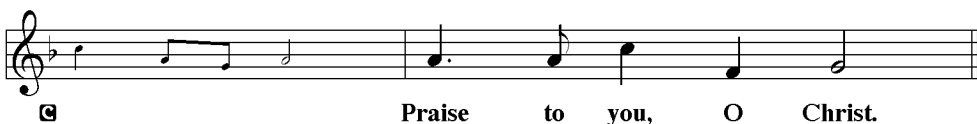
34“Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

35For I have come to set a man against his father,  
and a daughter against her mother,  
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law;

36and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

37Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; 38and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. 39Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

The Gospel of the Lord.



## THE SERMON

**\*HYMN O Master, Let Me Walk with You**

**LBW, “Green”, 492**

## **\*THE APOSTLES' CREED**

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

**C I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
 He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
 and born of the virgin Mary.  
 He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
 was crucified, died, and was buried.  
 He descended into hell.  
 On the third day he rose again.  
 He ascended into heaven,  
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
 He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
 the holy catholic Church,  
 the communion of saints,  
 the forgiveness of sins,  
 the resurrection of the body,  
 and the life everlasting.**

**Amen.**

**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*After each petition, "God 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.*

♩ The Lord be with you. ♪ And also with you.

**\*GREAT  
 THANKSGIVING  
 G**

♩ Lift up your hearts. ♪ We lift them to the Lord.

♩ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

♩ It is right to give him thanks and praise.



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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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.

Blessed are you Lord of heaven and earth.  
 In mercy for our fallen world  
 you gave your only Son,  
 that all those who believe in him  
 should not perish  
 but have eternal life.  
 We give thanks to you for the salvation  
 you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.  
 Send now your Holy Spirit,  
 into our hearts and on these gifts,  
 that we may receive our Lord with a living faith

as he comes to us in this his holy supper.

**C Amen. Come Lord Jesus.**

In the night in which he was betrayed  
Our Lord Jesus took bread,  
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 all people  
for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

**\*OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

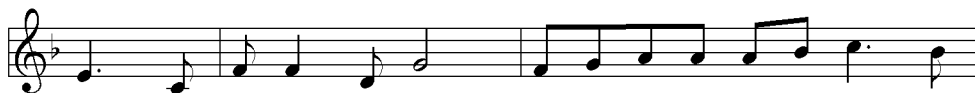
P Lord as you have taught us, so now we pray,  
**C Our Father, who art in heaven,**  
**hallowed be thy name,**  
**thy kingdom come,**  
**thy will be done,**  
**on earth as it is in heaven.**  
**Give us this day our daily bread;**  
**and forgive us our trespasses,**  
**as we forgive those**  
**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, 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.

**\*LAMB OF GOD**

**\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**     *All Are Welcome to Receive.*  
*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.*

**P**     All people are called to Christ's table.

Come, taste and see that the Lord is good.

**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**     Let us pray. We thank you, generous God,  
for the refreshment we have received  
at your banquet table.

Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world,  
through the one who is our dearest treasure,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord;  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

**\*THE BLESSING**

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

C Amen.

**\*HYMN If Thou But Trust in God to Guide You LBW, “Green”, 453**

**\*DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace, share the Good News!

C Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE Rondeau Fanfare J. Mouret**

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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, the people of Ukraine, Eastern Europe and Afghanistan, Ezra Buckman, Sheila Brassard, Kevin Rosini, Kathy Eshelman, Micah, Steve Beiber, Deb Buckman, Linda Rosini.



**June 25, 2023**

Lector	Karen Mariano
Communion Assistants	Wanda Fortin and Becky Pryor
Organist	Sam Robinson
Ushers	Gary Weber, captain Shelby Weber, Dick Reitz
Altar Guild	Deb Buckman and Leah Haussmann

**READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY?** Faith Formation 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 June 18, 2023**

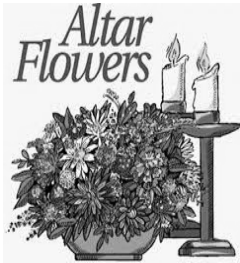
Regular Offering	\$2,930.00
Plate Offering	.01
Capital Fund	10.00
Flower Memorials / Tributes	120.00
Synod Benevolence	20.00

July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration

50.00

**GRAND TOTAL**

**\$3,130.01**



**ALTAR FLOWERS** today are given to the glory of God:

+In Loving Memory of Charles and Helen Clokey by daughter Helen Schramm

+In Loving Memory of Thomas Schramm by wife Helen Schramm

+In Loving Memory of Harold and Joyce Hershberger by Mike, Pam and Sean Jenson



## Family Promise

Our next hosting is the week of July 9 to July 15. We will be providing dinners each night as well as breakfasts and lunches. If you are able to provide a meal or donate money toward purchasing the breakfast and lunch items, please contact Deb Buckman.

**+ When you or a family member are ill, have a crisis of faith, or have a personal concern of which you wish to make the pastor aware, please contact him directly by church office telephone (570-323-4619) or email ([bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org)). Do not assume the pastor will know of your need any other way.**

**+ When you or a loved one has a change of address, telephone number or email, please contact the church office at 570-323-4619 or [stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org). Please direct your intentions**

**whether or not to share this information with our church family.**



## **July Fourth Celebration**

A little more than a week remains until our annual July Fourth Lawn Party and Musical Program. Donations of candy, water, chips, pretzels and other items are still needed. See the June Lion for the complete list. Many more volunteers are also needed for this event. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. Please

consider donating a needed item and some of your time as we celebrate our country's freedoms with each other and the community.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE JULY 4<sup>th</sup> EVENT**

**Please sign up in the Narthex.**



## **United Churches Food Pantry Needs Our Help**



There is no vacation from hunger and no one knows that better than the United Churches Food Pantry. The Pantry is seeing an increase in clients, while funding is being stretched to its limit. We can help. Cereal Sundays will continue on the second Sunday of July and August. But on the other Sundays during the summer,

please consider donating an item or two of these most needed non-perishable foods. Donations may be placed in the Narthex.

*Jars of peanut butter and jelly  
Pasta of all kinds*

*Cake mixes and cans of frosting  
Soup*



## **Summer Hospitality**

The summer months are once again upon us and with them come long, lazy days, swimming, camping, s'mores, suntans, and all sorts of fun, summery things. At St. Mark's, **summer also means a single service beginning at 9:30 AM.**

We look forward to sharing hospitality with each other after the 9:30 service, and ask that you please consider signing up to share a few treats ~ nothing fancy is required! Perhaps find a friend to help make the load just a bit lighter. Sign-up sheets may be found in the "Hospitality Binder" on the "Hospitality Table" in the



Narthex. We look forward to spending a little time together on these Summer Sunday mornings. Thank you for helping!



## MOSES

From the banks of the Nile River to the depths of the Red Sea, MOSES is a spectacular entertainment experience for the whole family!

Set adrift as a baby, Moses is an unlikely hero — until God calls him to lead His people out of Egypt and into the Promised Land. Journey with Moses as he ventures through the wilderness, encounters God at the burning bush, and ascends to the top of Mount Sinai.

A bus trip to see **Moses** at the Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA is being organized by Cheryl Williams. This trip is being planned for **Wednesday, September 20**, the **11:00 AM** show. While the bus will be pulling out around 6:00 AM, the early start will certainly be well worth it!

With only 12 seats left on the bus, the time to sign up for this wonderful experience is now! Payment for this trip will be due by the second week of August. To sign up, please contact Cheryl Williams at (570) 327-1627. We can't wait to hear from you!



Please join us on **Sunday, July 9th** following our worship service, for a church picnic held in Fellowship Hall. This is the best of both worlds as picnic food will be coupled with a bug-free, dry, cool environment! Hotdogs, beverages, and chips will be provided ~ as well as all plates and utensils. **Please bring a dish to share as you are able.**

We would also like to use this time to display any pictures or St. Mark's memorabilia that you may have. It has been noted that many of our members have been coming to St. Mark's for their entire lives (50, 60, 70, 80 years even) and it would be enjoyable for them to share their memories through the years. Tables will be available to display these pieces of St. Mark's history.

If you need a ride, if you have questions, if you have items to display, please be in touch with Vicki Haussmann at (570) 447-3263.

We look forward to sharing time with you on July 9th!



# July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration 2022



**Let's Do it Again this year**



Monday, June 26, - Sunday, July 2, 2023

Monday, June 26  
Tuesday, June 27  
Wednesday, June 28  
Thursday, June 29  
Friday, June 30  
Saturday, July 1  
Sunday, July 2

**Holy Communion 9:30 a.m.**

### **BIRTHDAYS**

George Poliska                      June 28

### **ANNIVERSARY**

Christine and Joseph Baur                      June 26  
Vicki and Andrew Hausmann                      June 28

### **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

No Committee Meetings this week

Please remember to let the administrative assistant know when committee meetings are scheduled, or changed, so it can be included in the bulletin.

If there is anything you would like to include in the “This Week at Our Church” please let the administrative assistant, Joe Baur, know at [jbaur@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:jbaur@stmarkswilliamsport.org)

# COMMEMORATIONS

## **Presentation of the Augsburg Confession, 1530**

*Sunday, June 25, 2023*

On this day in 1530 the German and Latin editions of the Augsburg Confession were presented to the Emperor Charles of the Holy Roman Empire. The Augsburg Confession was written by Philipp Melanchthon and endorsed by Martin Luther, and consists of a brief summary of points in which the reformers saw their teaching as either agreeing with or differing from that of the Roman Catholic Church of the time.



## **Philipp Melanchthon, renewer of the church, died 1560**

*Sunday, June 25, 2023*

Though he died on April 19, Philipp Melanchthon is commemorated today because of his connection with the Augsburg Confession. Colleague and co-reformer with Martin Luther, Melanchthon was a brilliant scholar, known as "the teacher of Germany."



## **Cyril, Bishop of Alexandria, died 444**

*Tuesday, June 27, 2023*

Cyril defended the orthodox teachings about the person of Christ. After a conflict involving all of the major Christian leaders of the time, it was decided that Cyril's interpretation, that Christ's person included both divine and human natures, was correct.



**Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, died around 202**

*Wednesday, June 28, 2023*

This important early church leader tried very hard to hold to the faith handed down by the apostles. An opponent of the movement known as gnosticism (salvation was a matter of secret knowledge and not faith), Irenaeus was one of the first to speak of the church as “catholic”, or linked together.



**Peter and Paul, Apostles**

*Thursday, June 29, 2023*

These two strong-willed apostles are the pillars of the church in the first generation after Christ. Peter was one of the Twelve, one who both offered a glorious confession of faith and later denied knowing Jesus. Paul once led the persecution of Christians, then was converted and helped

bring the faith to non-Jewish people. Peter and Paul remind us that the church is both “catholic” and “evangelical”.



**Catherine Winkworth, died 1878; John Mason Neale, died 1866; hymn translators**

*Saturday, July 1, 2023*

Neale was a pastor from England who specialized in the translation of Latin and Greek hymns into English. Winkworth lived in Manchester, England, and devoted herself to translating German hymns. Almost all English-speaking hymnals include many of their translations.