

The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 6, 2023

in the 170^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)

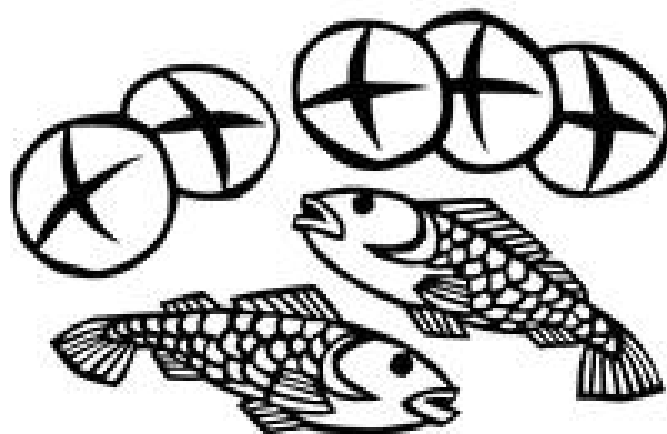
Rev. Brian D. Vasey, Pastor

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."



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

In today's first reading God invites all who are hungry or thirsty to receive food and drink without cost. Jesus feeds the hungry multitude and reveals the abundance of God. At the eucharistic table we remember all who are hungry or poor in our world today. As we share the bread of life, we are sent forth to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry.

PRELUDE *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need - Richard Starr*
arr. Mark Hayes

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 the church 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 \dagger Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.


***HYMN Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray LBW, "Green", 225**

***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. Glorious God, your generosity waters the world with goodness, and you cover creation with abundance. Awaken in us a hunger for the food that satisfies both body and spirit, and with this food fill all the starving world; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

THE FIRST READING.....Isaiah 55-1-5

¹Ho, everyone who thirsts,

come to the waters;

and you that have no money,

come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk

without money and without price.

²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,

and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,

and delight yourselves in rich food.

³Incline your ear, and come to me;

listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,

my steadfast, sure love for David.

⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples,

a leader and commander for the peoples.

⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know,

and nations that do not know you shall run to you,

because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,

for he has glorified you.

The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 145:8-9, 14-21

8The LORD is gracious and full | of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love.

9**LORD, you are | good to all,
and your compassion is over | all your works.**

14The Lord upholds all | those who fall
and lifts up those who | are bowed down.

15**The eyes of all wait upon | you, O LORD,
and you give them their food | in due season.**

16You open | wide your hand
and satisfy the desire of every | living thing.

17**You are righteous in | all your ways
and loving in | all your works.**

18You are near to all who | call upon you,
to all who call up- | on you faithfully.

19**You fulfill the desire of | those who fear you;
you hear their | cry and save them.**

20You watch over all | those who love you,
but all the wicked you | shall destroy.

21**My mouth shall speak the praise | of the LORD;
let all flesh bless God's holy name forev- | er and ever.**

THE SECOND READING.....Romans 9:1-5

1I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit—2I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. 3For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. 4They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; 5to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

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 14:13-21

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 14th chapter

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

¹³Now when Jesus heard [about the beheading of John the Baptist], he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” ¹⁶Jesus said to them, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” ¹⁷They replied, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.” ¹⁸And he said, “Bring them here to me.” ¹⁹Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.
The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

*HYMN

Break Now, the Bread of Life

LBW, “Green”, 235

***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, "Hear us, O God/Your mercy is great."

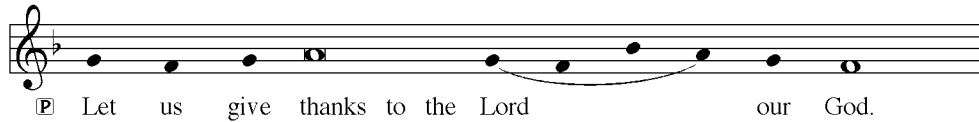
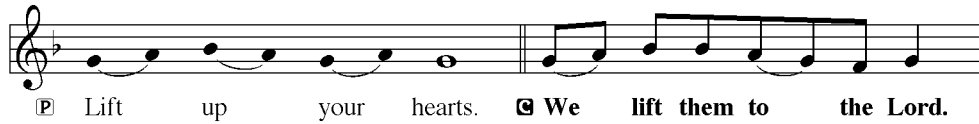
***THE PEACE**

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.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING



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:



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.

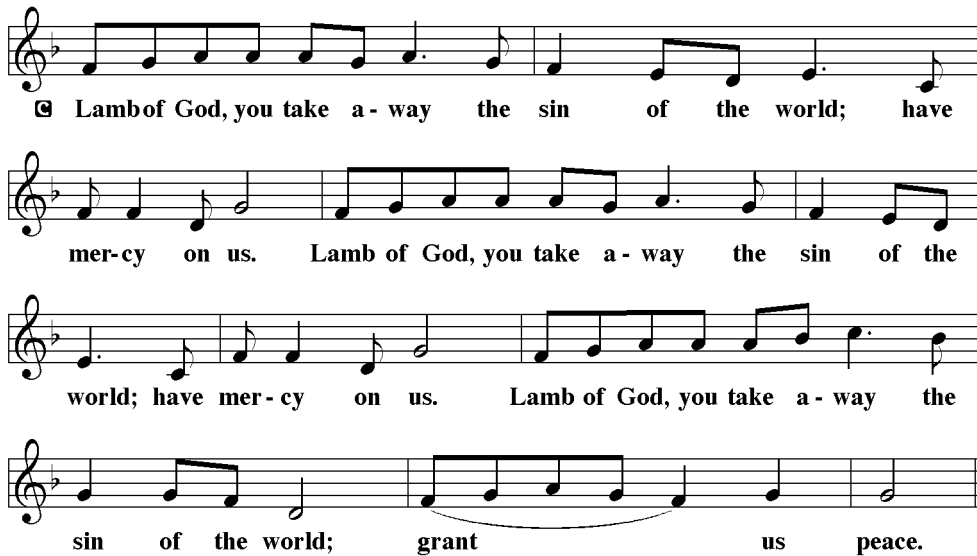
C Amen. Come Lord Jesus.

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



☪ 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 *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 O Living Bread from Heaven LBW, “Green”, 197**

***DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace, share the harvest.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Now Thank We All Our God Johann Crüger

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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, 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, Dick Reitz, Mary Ann Stiller, Charlotte Reitz, Mike Ford.

WORSHIP

WORSHIP LEADERS

August 6, 2023

Lector	Phil Thomas
Communion Assistants	Matt Wanda Fortin
Guest Organist	Rebecca Pritchard
Ushers	Carl Albright, captain Brenda, Owen and Levi Gair
Altar Guild	August Cindy Huff and Linda Rosini



WELCOME REBECCA.

Today we welcome Rebecca Pritchard as our guest organist and thank her for sharing her talents with us. Welcome Rebecca!



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!



Flowers This Week

ALTAR FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God:
+ In Honor of our children by the Wentzels
+ In Loving Memory of Anne Gruber Miller by Bob Miller



OUR STEWARDSHIP
July 30, 2023

Regular Offering	\$1,982.00
Plate Offerings	20.00
World Hunger	100.00
Food Pantry	130.00
Global Mission	100.00
Operation Christmas Child	50.00
Family Promise Hosting	40.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	25.00
Lutheran World Relief	40.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$2,487.00



SIGHT AND SOUND "MOSES"
BUS TRIP, SEPTEMBER 20, 2023

Our bus to see "Moses" at the Sight and Sound Theatre has been filled! The cost of the trip is \$139.00/person and checks should be made payable to Cheryl Williams by

August 13, 2023. The bus departs from Beiter's Parking Lot (540 Montgomery Pike, Williamsport) 6 am on September 20. Please park your car in the West End Parking Lot of Beiter's. Questions may be directed to Mrs. Cheryl Williams (570-327-1627). Checks can be mailed to Cheryl Williams, 249 Johnson Drive, Williamsport, 17702.

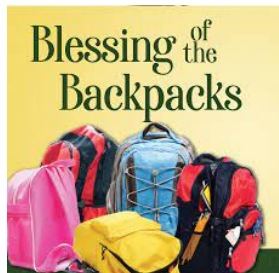


+ When you or a family member are ill, have a crisis of faith, or have a personal concern of which you wish to make the pastor aware, please contact him directly by church office telephone (570-323-4619) or email (bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org). Do not assume the pastor will know of your need any other 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. Please direct your intentions whether or not to share this information with our church family.

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS



Please join us Sunday, August 20th during our 9:30 AM worship service as we bless our backpacks for the upcoming school year. All students, teachers, and educators are encouraged to bring your backpacks as we prayerfully send you into the 2023-23 school year. We pray: Lord bless this backpack and the one who carries it. May they feel your love and protection in all they do. ~ Amen

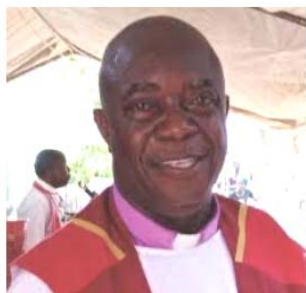
Cereal Sundays



For food insecure families with children there is no vacation from hunger during the summer. In July we helped to ease that burden with our cereal collection. The congregation donated **54 regular-sized boxes** of cereal and **50 single-serve boxes** of cereal!

Our next Cereal Sunday is August 13, 2023.

Can we beat our July collection of 104 boxes of cereal?



All are welcome to come and hear **The Rev. Bishop Victor Padmore** of the Lutheran Church of Liberia. He will be at Zion Lutheran Church (corner of Fifth and Market St. Sunbury) on Saturday, August 12. We will begin with a brief worship at 10:00 a.m. outside in the garden (in the air-conditioned chapel if it rains). Please bring a lawn chair. Following worship there will be Q and A and informal conversation about the current mission and ministry of the LCL. At noon a picnic lunch will be served in the fellowship hall of Zion. We, the Global Team of the Upper Susquehanna Synod, hope you can join us. RSVP by August 7 to annzimmerman@hotmail.com. It will help us in planning the picnic, however, reservations are not required.



United Churches of Lycoming County will be hosting the Annual "**Service of Remembrance**" and prayers for peace in our world this Sunday evening **August 6th at 7 p.m.** The event will be held at the Robert Yasui Peace Tower located on Pine St, Williamsport. The tower is located at the north end of Pine Street United Methodist Church (by the parking lot). Everyone is invited to the yearly gathering on August 6th as we recall the events of August 6th and 9th, 1945 at Hiroshima and Nagasaki and pray for peace in our community and around the world.



Monday, August 7, -
Sunday, August 13, 2023

Monday, August 7
Tuesday, August 8
Wednesday, August 9
Thursday, August 10
Friday, August 11
Saturday, August 12
Sunday, August 13

Holy Communion 9:30 a.m.

BIRTHDAYS

Donna Clark	August 7	Louis Kolb	August 7
Charles Fortin	August 8	Susan Newcomer	August 10
Lynna Robertson	August 10	Gillian Buckman	August 11
Dallas Fortin	August 11	Charles Greevy	August 11

ANNIVERSARY

Karen and Bryan Pelleschi	August 7
Deborah and Timothy Maggs	August 10
Laura and Kenneth Schreckengast	August 10

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Sunday, August 13, 2023 Worship and Music Committee
(after worship)

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

COMMEMORATIONS



Dominic, founder of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), died 1221

Tuesday, August 8, 2023

Dominic was a Spanish priest who saw the wealth of bishops as a stumbling block for the church, so he formed a movement, the Order of Preachers (commonly called Dominicans) devoted to itinerant preaching and living in poverty.



Lawrence, deacon, martyr, died 258

Thursday, August 10, 2023

As one of the seven deacons of the church at Rome, Lawrence was responsible for the church's financial matters and for the care of the poor. Asked by the emperor to gather the church's treasure, he presented a collection of orphans, lepers, and the like. The enraged emperor had him put to death.



Clare, Abbess of San Damiano, died 1253

Friday, August 11, 2023

A contemporary of Francis of Assisi, Clare and a growing number of companions established a women's Franciscan community, called the Order of Poor Ladies, or Poor Clares. She inspired other women to pursue spiritual goals.