

**The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**  
**October 8, 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.\**

**C = Congregation    P = Pastor**

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

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

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

*In today's gospel reading, Jesus tells of a vineyard, which serves as an image of Israel, the prophets' mission, and his own death. For Christians, the vineyard also speaks of God's love poured out in the blood of Christ, given to us for the forgiveness of sin. Grafted onto Christ the vine at baptism, we are nourished with wine and bread so that we may share Christ's sufferings and know the power of his resurrection.*

**PRELUDE**        *Salvation is Created*                      Pavel Chesnokov

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

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

In the name of the Father, and of the Son ✠, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

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.

**Amen.**

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.

*A brief silence.*

Most merciful God,

**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.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake, has forgiven 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 your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the  $\text{✝}$  Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**\*HYMN**

**My Song is Love Unknown**

**LBW, "Green", 94**

**\*THE GREETING**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE**



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



**B** 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**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**THE FIRST READING.....Isaiah 5:1-7**

1Let me sing for my beloved  
my love-song concerning his vineyard:

My beloved had a vineyard  
on a very fertile hill.

2He dug it and cleared it of stones,  
and planted it with choice vines;  
he built a watchtower in the midst of it,  
and hewed out a wine vat in it;  
he expected it to yield grapes,  
but it yielded wild grapes.

3And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem  
and people of Judah,  
judge between me  
and my vineyard.

4What more was there to do for my vineyard  
that I have not done in it?  
When I expected it to yield grapes,  
why did it yield wild grapes?

5And now I will tell you  
what I will do to my vineyard.  
I will remove its hedge,  
and it shall be devoured;  
I will break down its wall,  
and it shall be trampled down.

6I will make it a waste;  
it shall not be pruned or hoed,  
and it shall be overgrown with briers and thorns;  
I will also command the clouds  
that they rain no rain upon it.  
7For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts  
is the house of Israel,  
and the people of Judah  
are his pleasant planting;  
he expected justice,  
but saw bloodshed;  
righteousness,  
but heard a cry!  
The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM 80:7-15**

7Restore us, O | God of hosts;  
let your face shine upon us, and we | shall be saved.  
8**You have brought a vine | out of Egypt;**  
**you cast out the nations and | planted it.**  
9You cleared the | ground for it;  
it took root and | filled the land.  
10**The mountains were covered | by its shadow**  
**and the towering cedar trees | by its boughs.**  
11You stretched out its tendrils | to the sea  
and its branches | to the river.  
12**Why have you broken | down its wall,**  
**so that all who pass by pluck | off its grapes?**  
13The wild boar of the forest has | ravaged it,  
and the beasts of the field have | grazed upon it.  
14**Turn now, O | God of hosts,**  
**look | down from heaven;**

15 behold and | tend this vine;  
preserve what your right | hand has planted.

**THE SECOND READING.....Philippians 3:4b-14**

[Paul writes:] 4b If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: 5 circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

7 Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. 8 More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. 10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, 11 if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

12 Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. 13 Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.  
The word of the Lord.

**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 21:33-43**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 21<sup>st</sup> chapter



Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

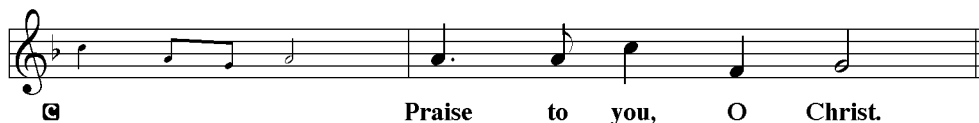
[Jesus said to the people:] 33“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. 34When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. 35But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. 36Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. 37Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ 38But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ 39So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. 40Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” 41They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

42Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:  
‘The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone;  
this was the Lord’s doing,  
and it is amazing in our eyes’?”

43Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. 44The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

45When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. 46They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

The Gospel of the Lord.



## THE SERMON

**\*HYMN Lord Christ, When You First Came to Earth LBW, “Green”, 421**

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

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

**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 of Grace/Hear Our Prayer”*

**\*THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.** *The ministers and congregation greet each other.*

**\*GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Ⓟ The Lord be with you. ☩ And al - so with you.

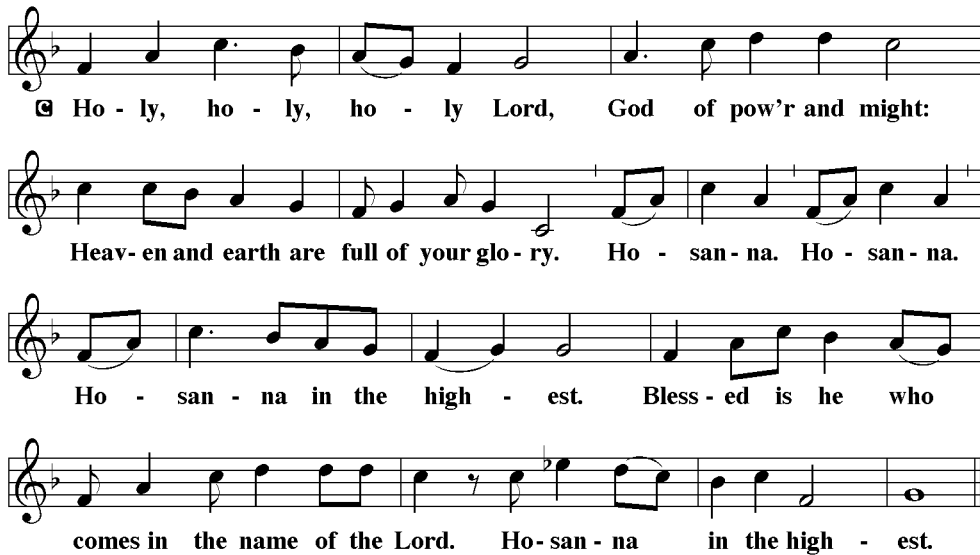
Ⓟ Lift up your hearts. ☩ We lift them to the Lord.

Ⓟ 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.

**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**

Lord as you have taught us, so now we pray,  
**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.*

Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **THE COMMUNION**

### **\*AFTER COMMUNION**

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

**Amen.**

### **\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Blessed be your name, O God,  
for we have feasted on your Word,  
Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.  
Strengthened by this food,  
send us to gather the world to your banquet,  
where none are left out and all are satisfied.  
In Jesus’ name we pray.

**Amen.**

### **\*THE BLESSING**

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

**Amen.**

**\*HYMN**    **Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways LBW, “Green”, 480**

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, God is at work in you.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**                      *Thee I sing*                      Pavel Chesnokov

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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, Ezra Buckman, Sheila Brassard, Kevin Rosini, Kathy Eshelman, Micah, Steve Beiber, Deb Buckman, Linda Rosini, Mary Ann Stiller, Richard Bates.



## WORSHIP LEADERS

October 8, 2023

Lector	8:00AM	Brian Jackson
	10:30 AM	Linda Rosini
Communion Assistants	8:00 AM	Jackie Kinney
	10:30AM	Carl and Audrey Albright
Organist		Sam Robinson
Ushers	8:00AM	Richard Miller and Herb Poff
	10:30 AM	Tim Maggs, captain
		Carl Heiber, Charles Kuntz
Altar Guild	October	Bev Hieber and Audrey Albright



**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

October 1, 2023

Regular Offering	\$3,345.00
Plate Offerings	20.00
Operation Christmas Child	1,044.12
Family Promise Hosting	130.00
Flower Memorials / Tributes	60.00
Synod Benevolence	25.00
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,624.12</b>



Flowers This Week

**ALTAR FLOWERS** today are given to the glory of God:  
+In Loving Memory of our parents Phillip K. and Mary Louise Thomas and Donald and Dorothy Robbins by Phil and Barb Thomas.  
+In Loving Memory of my daughter Sally Ann Millikan on her birthday by Sally Bjornstad.

# JOURNEY OF *Faith*

## October Faith Study

Please join us Wednesdays in October (Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25) as we take time to learn and grow in our faith. Our theme will be.....

### “Encouraging Spiritual Growth and Discipleship....”

- ~ Through Prayer and Daily Bible Reading
- ~ Through Weekly Worship
- ~ Through Serving In and Beyond the Congregation
- ~ Through Nurturing Relationships

Pastor Vasey will use the book *Real Faith for Real Life* by Michael W. Foss to serve as a starting point for teaching, and just as importantly for discussion. A limited number of copies will be available for those in attendance.

You are invited to bring a brown bag lunch to munch as we meet from 12:10-12:45 in Fellowship Hall. We are excited for this opportunity, and look forward to sharing this time of study and fellowship.

## **HARVEST HOME SUNDAY SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2023**



Our congregation will be celebrating a “Day of Thanksgiving” by bringing nonperishable food items for local United Churches Food Pantry. Items should be brought to church now through October 15th 2022. Bags will be available Sunday, October 2nd. People are given a three day supply of food. We pray you and your family will be part of this annual celebration as we thank God for what he has given us through both our offering of food and returning of our 2023 pledges.

## **Mother and Child Collection For Saving Grace Shelter**



Please consider donating one or more items on this list to help women and children during a difficult time in their lives. Donations may be placed in the tub in the Narthex.

Moisturizing Body Wash, Body Lotion, Bath Poufs, Moisturizing Soap / Dove, Razors, Shaving Cream/Gel, Feminine Hygiene Items/Tampons, Brushes and Combs, Adult Toothpaste, Toothbrushes for Women and Children, Tearless Shampoo, Children’s Toothpaste, Children’s Body Lotion, Children’s Body Wash and Chap Sticks.

## Sojourner Truth Ministries



In addition to serving more than 600 meals each week, STM also holds an afterschool program each week. Their after-school program is in need of healthy snacks for the children who attend.

Snacks and juice boxes may be placed on the table in the Narthex closet.

Also, in October new socks for men, women and children are being accepted. Donations of socks may be placed in the tub in the Narthex.

## Family Promise



Our next hosting of Family Promise is the week of Oct. 15 through Oct. 21. We will be providing the evening meals. The families like to cook and if you are willing to provide the fixings for a meal that would be great. Currently there are 3 families: a mother with one child, a mother with one child, and a mother with 5 children. All of the kids are young, less than 7 years old. I will be contacting the mothers to see what meals they would like to make. We are also responsible for

providing the food for breakfasts and lunches. I do that shopping on the Monday of the week based on the conversations with the mothers. If you would like to provide a meal or make a monetary donation, please see me, Deb Buckman 570-323-1707 Remember the goal of the program is to keep families who have become homeless together. The program provides safe shelter, meals, education and encouragement.

## SPECIAL REQUEST FROM THE MONEY COUNTERS



Please remember to use the MEMO line to indicate where the funds are to be deposited. This helps them make sure the funds are directed to the proper accounts.

They thank you very much in advance.





**FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES WILL BE HELD SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15 AND SUNDAY OCTOBER 22, 9:30 AM (THIS IS A TWO WEEK CLASS). ANY CHILD KINDERGARTEN- GRADE THREE WHO HAS NOT HAD FIRST COMMUNION INSTRUCTION BUT WOULD LIKE TO IS ASKED TO CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE BY SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1. OLDER CHILDREN, YOUTH AND ADULTS WISHING TO HAVE FIRST COMMUNION INSTRUCTION SHOULD CONTACT PASTOR VASEY.**



**CONFIRMATION CLASSES (CATECHISM) BEGIN SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 9:30 AM. THIS IS A TWO YEAR CLASS AND MEETS A TOTAL OF 16 SESSIONS (8 PER YEAR). ANY YOUTH WHO HAS COMPLETED GRADE 6 IS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND. CONFIRMATION SUNDAY WILL TAKE PLACE ON SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 2025. ADULTS WISHING TO UNITE WITH ST. MARK'S IN CHURCH MEMBERSHIP SHOULD CONTACT PASTOR VASEY.**

## PUMPKIN CARVING



On Saturday, October 21, 2023 we will gather in Fellowship Hall for a good old fashion “Pumpkin Carving Party”. Fun, Fellowship, Creativity and Candy Corn will be the order of the evening. Pizza will fuel your creative juices to take a pumpkin from plain to amazing. The carving will begin at 5:00 PM. Some pumpkins will be available but please feel free to bring a few to share.



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



Monday, October 9, -  
Sunday, October 15, 2023

Monday, October 9	Indigenous People Day/Columbus Day	
	WCC Rehearsal	7PM
Tuesday, October 10		
Wednesday, October 11		
Thursday, October 12	Faith Formation	10:45AM Middle Lounge
Friday, October 13		
Saturday, October 15	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>8:00 AM</b>
Sunday, October 16	<b>Holy Communion</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b>

**BIRTHDAYS**

Glenn Yaple	October 9	Jane Zimmerer	October 9
	Gary Christman	October 14	

**ANNIVERSARIES**

**COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

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

**Massie L. Kennard, renewer of the church, died 1996**

*Tuesday, October 10, 2023*

A native of Chicago, Kennard was a major figure in supporting and working toward ethnic and racial inclusiveness in the former Lutheran Church in America. Ordained in 1958, he served in positions including Director for Minority Concerns of the Division for Mission in North America.

