

The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 15, 2023

Harvest Home Sunday

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.*

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP

In Isaiah we are given a vision of the great feast to come, when God will wipe away death forever. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. In our liturgy God spreads a table before us. Even amid anxiety and hardship we rejoice in the peace of God which surpasses all understanding. With great joy we feast at the table of the Lord, and we go forth to share the wonderful invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life of God.

PRELUDE

Clarinet Adagio

WA Mozart

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 † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Son

Amen.

***HYMN**

We Plow the Fields and Scatter

LBW, “Green”, 362

***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**



***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE FIRST READING.....Isaiah 25:1-9

¹O LORD, you are my God;

I will exalt you, I will praise your name;
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

²For you have made the city a heap,

the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of aliens is a city no more,
it will never be rebuilt.

³Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;

cities of ruthless nations will fear you.

⁴For you have been a refuge to the poor,

a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.

When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,

⁵the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
the song of the ruthless was stilled.

⁶On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples

a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

⁷And he will destroy on this mountain

the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;
8he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.

9It will be said on that day,
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23

1The LORD| is my shepherd;
I shall not | be in want.

2**The LORD makes me lie down | in green pastures
and leads me be- | side still waters.**

3You restore my | soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.

4**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall | fear no
evil;**

for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort me.

5You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.

6**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the | LORD forever.**

THE SECOND READING.....Philippians 4:1-9

1My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm
in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

2I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. 3Yes,

and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

4Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. 5Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. 6Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

8Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. 9Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

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.

***THE HOLY GOSPEL.....Matthew 22:1-14**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 22nd chapter

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: 2“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. 3He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. 4Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited:

**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.*

ANTHEM *Ave Verum Corpus* WA Mozart


***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.

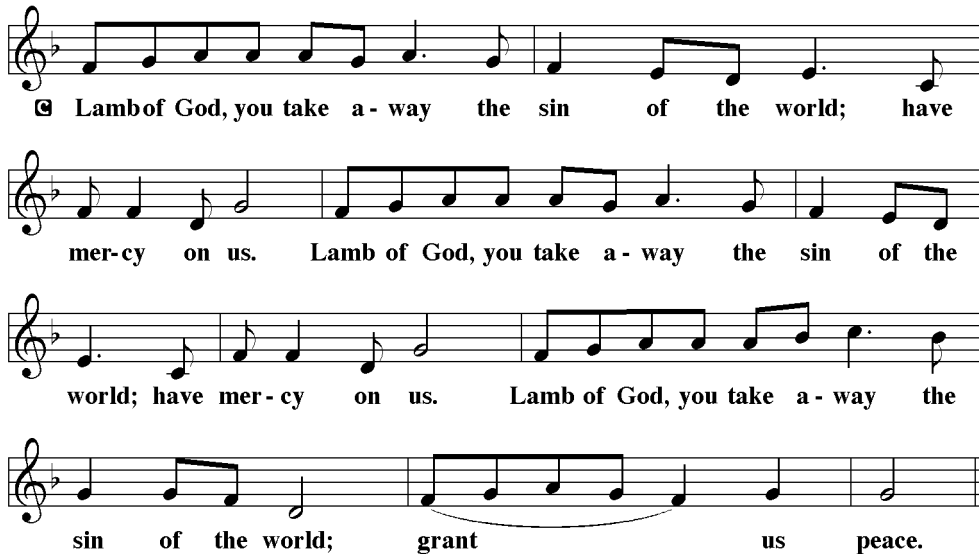
Amen. Come Lord Jesus.

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 Sent Forth by God's Blessing**

LBW, "Green", 221

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, Share in the feast.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Jubilatio Deo*

WA Mozart

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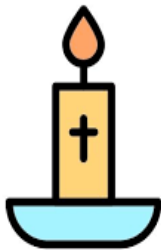
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PRAYER LIST

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, Deb Buckman, Linda Rosini, Evelyn Bastian.



WORSHIP LEADERS

October 15, 2023

Lector	8:00 AM	Drew Haussmann
	10:30 AM	Gary Weber
Communion Assistants	8:00 AM	Drew Haussmann
	10:30 AM	Deb Buckman and Mindy Wentzel
Organist		Sam Robinson
Ushers	8:00 AM	Richard Miller and Herb Poff
	10:30 AM	Gary Weber, Captain Shelby Weber, Dick Reitz
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!



STEWARDSHIP

**OUR STEWARDSHIP
October 8, 2023**

Regular Offering	\$5,415.00
Plate Offerings	5.00
Thanksgiving	10.00
Miscellaneous	25.00
Food Pantry	10.00
Sunday School Offering	4.00
Parish Life	45.00
Operation Christmas Child	100.00
Capital Fund	25.00
Memorials	100.00
Synod Benevolence	10.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$5,749.00



Altar Flowers

ALTAR FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God:
 +In Loving Memory of Nathan Young by his mother Sarah and his siblings, Matt and Jessica.
 +In Loving Memory of Ed and Mary Gair by their children and grandchildren.

JOURNEY OF *Faith*

October Faith Study

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

“Encouraging Spiritual Growth and Discipleship....”

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.

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.

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.



A LITTLE HELP PLEASE.

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee needs the congregation’s help in sending Autumn / Halloween greetings. Next Sunday look for an array of addressed cards in the Narthex. Please take a card or two, include a cherry greeting to a Special Concern person(s,) affix a stamp and mail it in time for Halloween. Thank you for any help you can give.



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



Dear People of St. Mark's,
 Thank you so very much for your gifts and thoughts shared with me on Pastor Appreciation Day. I thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity. May our Lord continue to bless you as together we strive to “Know Christ and to Make Christ Known”.

Grace + Peace,
 Pastor Brian Vasey

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.



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.



In response to the escalating violence in and around Gaza, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton has extended a [letter of support](#) to Bishop Sani-Ibrahim Azar of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy

Land. In it she pledges to accompany and support the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and its ministries. Images in the news are heartbreaking, and we extend our prayers to all those who have lost loved ones and are living in fear and uncertainty.

The ELCA has long-standing relationships with many partners in the region, including the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and Augusta Victoria Hospital, which is operated by the Lutheran World Federation.

The most pressing needs that Lutheran Disaster Response and our partners can address are food, water and medical supplies. Support for hospitals will be another priority as the need for medical assistance continues to grow. Additionally, Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with the Arab and Middle Eastern Ministries desk to provide interfaith emotional and spiritual care support for communities in the United States.

Bishop Eaton's letter also calls us to action:

"I encourage the people of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to unite in prayer for the families of innocent civilians whose lives were lost, as well as pray for healing for all the injured, fearful and traumatized."

Lutheran Disaster Response has a history of providing support for our partners and anticipates answering calls for assistance when the time comes. Gifts to ["Middle East Crisis"](#) will be used to address humanitarian needs in the region. Above all, we pray for peace.





Monday, October 16, -
Sunday, October 22, 2023

Monday, October 16	No Council Meeting		
	Nominating Committee	5:00 PM	Crossways
	Finance Committee	5:30PM	ML
	WCC Board Meeting	6:00 PM	FH
	WCC Rehearsal	7:00 PM	FH
Tuesday, October 17			
Wednesday, October 18	Executive Committee	Noon	ML
	Organ Tuning	Afternoon	
	Property Committee	6:00 PM	ML
Thursday, October 19			
Friday, October 20			
Saturday, October 21			
Sunday, October 22	Holy Communion	8:00 AM	
	Holy Communion	10:00 AM	

BIRTHDAYS

Sean Fenderson October 17 Paige Hanford October 21

ANNIVERSARIES

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Monday, October 16	Nominating Committee	5:00PM	Crossways
	Finance Committee	5:30PM	ML
Wed., October 18	Property Committee	6:00 PM	ML

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

Teresa of Avila, teacher, renewer of the church, died 1582



Sunday, October 15, 2023

Teresa was a mystical writer and reformer of the monastic order (Carmelites) to which she belonged.

Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, martyr, died around 115



Tuesday, October 17, 2023

Ignatius was the second bishop of Antioch in Syria, the city where the name "Christians" originated. Ignatius is known to us from his letters, which encouraged Christians to live in love, yet stand firm in true doctrine.

Luke, Evangelist



Wednesday, October 18, 2023

Identified as the author of both Luke and Acts, Luke was careful to place the events of Jesus' life in their social and religious contexts. His gospel gives us some of the most beloved parables, as well as the songs of Zechariah, Mary, the angels, and Simeon.