

# **The Last Sunday after Pentecost**

*Christ the King*

**November 26, 2023**

## **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 seek, "To know Christ and to make Christ known."*



## An Order for Holy Communion (Setting Two, LBW)

8 and 10:30 am

### **Please Note:**

**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**

*We gather this day, the final Sunday of the Church Year, to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, as we await the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.*

**PRELUDE**      *Saraband*    GF Handel

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

#### **\*BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the pastor begins.*

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.

*Kneel/Stand. Silence is kept for reflection.*

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 you with our whole heart; we have not loved 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, God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I 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.

**Amen.**

**\*HYMN      Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing      LBW, "Green", 363**

**\*THE GREETING**

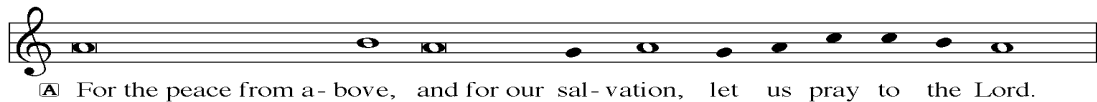
The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**\*KYRIE**



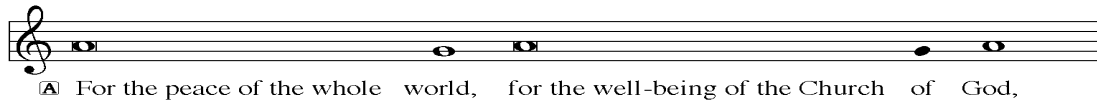
**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord.      **G** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



**G** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**G** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.      **G** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.      **G** A - men

## \*THIS IS THE FEAST



**A** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



**B** Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.** Let us pray. O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is of Christ and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**THE FIRST READING.....Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24**

<sup>11</sup>Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. <sup>12</sup>As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. <sup>13</sup>I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. <sup>14</sup>I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. <sup>15</sup>I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. <sup>16</sup>I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

<sup>20</sup>Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. <sup>21</sup>Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, <sup>22</sup>I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

<sup>23</sup>I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. <sup>24</sup>And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken. The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 95:1-7a**

<sup>1</sup>Come, let us sing | to the LORD;

let us shout for joy to the rock of | our salvation.

**2Let us come before God's presence | with thanksgiving  
and raise a loud shout to the | LORD with psalms.**

3For you, LORD, | are a great God,  
and a great ruler a- | bove all gods.

**4In your hand are the caverns | of the earth;  
the heights of the hills are | also yours.**

5The sea is yours, | for you made it,  
and your hands have molded | the dry land.

**6Come, let us worship | and bow down,  
let us kneel before the | LORD our maker.**

7aFor the LORD| is our God,  
and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep | of God's hand.

**THE SECOND READING.....Ephesians 1:15-23**

15I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason 16I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. 17I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, 18so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, 19and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. 20God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. 22And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, 23which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all. The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

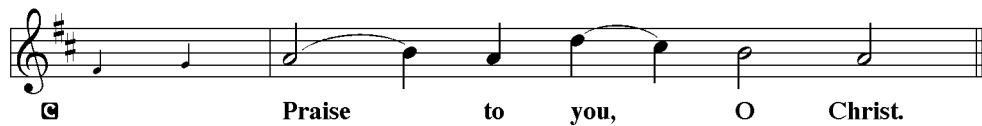
Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

## \*THE HOLY GOSPEL.....Matthew 25:31-46 The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 25<sup>th</sup> chapter

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>31</sup>“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. <sup>32</sup>All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, <sup>33</sup>and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. <sup>34</sup>Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; <sup>35</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ <sup>37</sup>Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? <sup>38</sup>And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup>And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ <sup>40</sup>And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family you did it to me.’ <sup>41</sup>Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; <sup>42</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup>I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ <sup>44</sup>Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ <sup>45</sup>Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did

not do it to me.’<sup>46</sup> And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”  
The Gospel of the Lord.



## THE SERMON

**\*HYMN**

**Jesus Shall Reign**

**LBW, “Green”, 530**

**\*THE NICENE CREED**

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

**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, "Hear us, O God/Your Mercy is Great"*

**\*THE PEACE**


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

**ANTHEM**      *Jubilate Deo*


**\*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 whose 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, Lord God of pow'r and might:  
 Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
 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 you thanks  
 for the salvation you have prepared  
 for us through Jesus Christ.  
 Send now your Holy Spirit  
 into our hearts,  
 and upon these gifts,  
 that we may receive our Lord  
 with a living faith  
 as he comes to us in his holy supper.

**Amen. Come Lord Jesus.**

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.

**\*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



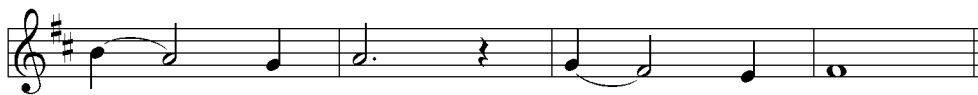
☩ Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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, 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.*

Come and feast at the Table of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

**Amen. 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**

Lord Jesus,  
in this simple meal you have set a banquet.  
Sustain us on the journey,  
strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children,  
and give us glad and generous hearts  
as we meet you on the way.  
**Amen.**

**\*THE BLESSING**

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

**\*HYMN                      Crown Him with Many Crowns                      LBW, “Green”, 170**

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE                      Rondea                      Henry Purcell**

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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, Deb Buckman, Linda Rosini, Mike Ford, Walt Haussmann, Kristin Rehm.

**WORSHIP LEADERS November 26, 2023**

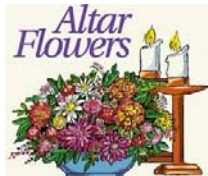
Lector	8:00AM	Brian Jackson	
	10:30AM	Karen Marino	
Communion Assistants	8:00AM	Nikki Jackson	
	10:30AM	Ralph and Lou Ann Zeigler	
Organist		Sam Robinson	
Ushers	8:00AM	Herb Poff and Richard Miller	
	10:30AM	Carl Albright, captain Brenda, Owen and Levi Gair	
Altar Guild	November	Deb Buckman & Leah Haussmann	



**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 November 19, 2023**

Regular Offering	\$2,257.00
Plate Offerings	50.00
Thanksgiving	95.00
World Hunger	50.00
Food Pantry	50.00
Global Mission	50.00
Operation Christmas Child	100.00
Christmas Flowers	88.00
Flower Memorials / Tributes	60.00
Selinsgrove Christmas Party	50.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	50.00
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,900.00</b>



**ALTAR FLOWERS** today are given to the glory of God:  
 +In Honor of our Wedding Anniversary on November 30, by Mel Wentzel.  
 +In Loving Memory of Shirley Miller on her birthday by her children and grandchildren.



Please join us on Sunday, December 3, for our annual Advent Wreath-making event. We will gather in Fellowship Hall during the Sunday School hour (9:15 ish) and create an Advent Wreath for your family to use at home during the Advent season. We will be making our wreaths in a variety of vessels and containers, using wet floral foam to keep the greens fresh throughout the Advent season. All materials will be provided! Please sign up in the Narthex or RSVP by contacting Vicki Haussmann at (570) 447-3263. We look forward to seeing you there!

## Reverse Advent Calendar

The Faith Formation and Evangelism and Fellowship Committees are once again giving congregation members an alternative to the traditional chocolate Advent calendars. And instead of *receiving* something each day of Advent, we are counting down to Christmas by *giving* something each day of Advent.



This year we would really like to focus our efforts on collecting hygiene products for Wise Options and Liberty House shelters. At any point in time these shelters may be housing up to 80 individuals, and hygiene products for women and children are in high demand. Please take a holiday bag from the Narthex and each day of Advent place a hygiene product in your bag. Soap/body wash, shampoo, shaving cream, toothbrushes, toothpaste, loofahs, deodorant, etc. may be found at any of the “Dollar Stores” and would be perfect donations. Please pray that these small items might be a blessing to those who receive them. Return your filled bag on Christmas Eve or New’s Year Eve. Even sometime in January would be fine! All items will be sorted and delivered to the YWCA. We hope that this Reverse Calendar will be a blessing to your Advent preparations. Thank you for your generosity!

## A Look Ahead to December



Thanksgiving is past and Advent is soon to begin. The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee has several projects planned for this special time of year. Be looking for more information in the December Lion. Starting next Sunday there will be tubs in the Narthex for your donations.

We are collecting items for .....

- The Ladies of CM-6 at the Selinsgrove Center: Body wash, slipper socks and pudding cups.
- Residents of Danville State Hospital: Clothing, socks and underwear for men and women in sizes large and up, slippers, inexpensive watches and wallets.
- Check out the December Lion for information about our Habitat Faith Build Luncheon and the sending of Christmas cards.



# ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

## Congregational Meeting

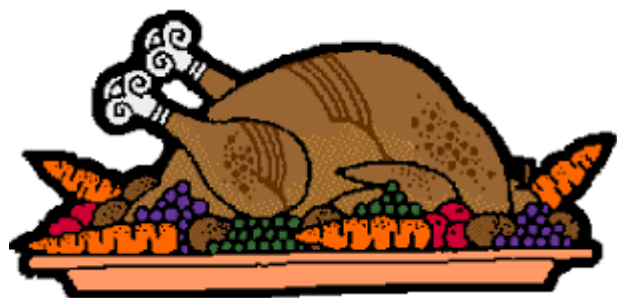


The **ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** is scheduled for **Sunday, December 10, 2023, immediately following the 9:30 a.m. single service of worship.** In case of an emergency cancelation of the worship service that day (due to weather or other cause), the Annual Congregational Meeting will be moved to the following Sunday, December 17.

Among the items to be presented, discussed, and/or voted upon are

- Annual Report of Committees to the Congregation
- Election of four Council members
- Adoption of the 2024 budget to support the ministry of St. Mark's
- Any other business that needs to be addressed

Please mark your calendars and plan to participate in this Annual Congregational Meeting. If you need additional information or have items that you would like to discuss, please contact one of the Council officers: Ralph Zeigler, president; Melvin Wentzel, vice-president; Vicki Haussmann, secretary; or Debra Buckman, treasurer. Thank you!



## **Turkey and all the Fixings.**

Following after the Congregational meeting there will be a luncheon served to celebrate the start of our new year and the successful conclusion of this past year. A chance to celebrate those elected to council and bid a great thank you to those

leaving the council (for now).

*See the insert to make a reservation.*



## FAMILY SUPPORT

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



A heartfelt thank you to all who participated in our Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Packing event. Thank you to our “new” packers and our seasoned veterans. Thank you to the set-up and clean-up crews. Thank you to those who shared food for our light lunch. And thank you to all who contributed to our monthly collections throughout the year. This was truly a joint effort on the part of St. Mark’s congregation. We are so pleased to announce that we filled **83 boxes** with all sorts of gifts to be sent to boys and girls throughout the world. God is Good!

Please find in today’s bulletin two inserts

- 1 – Christmas Flower Order Form
  - 2 – Reservations for the Turkey Dinner after the Congregation Meeting
- Extras in the Nave or Office*



## Monday, November 27, - Sunday, December 3, 2023

Monday, November 27  
Tuesday, November 28

WCC Board Meeting 6:0PM FH  
Putting the "Lion" Together

Sunday, December 3

**Holy Communion 8:00 AM and 10:30AM**

### **BIRTHDAYS**

Shelly Clokey  
Rob Ott

November 27  
December 2

Katlin Jensen  
Robert Miller

November 27  
December 3

### **ANNIVERSARIES**

Melinda and Melvin Wentzel November 30

### **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

### Andrew, Apostle



*Thursday, November 30, 2023*

The first of the apostles to be called by Jesus, Andrew quickly began to bring others to the Savior, including Simon Peter. The Bible also shows him leading some Greeks to meet Jesus, and he brought forward the boy with five loaves and two fish, with which Jesus fed thousands. According to tradition Andrew was executed on this day dying on an X shaped cross.