

**The First Sunday after the Epiphany
January 7, 2024**

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



**An Order for Holy Communion 8 am and 10:30 am
(Setting One, LBW)**

Please Note:

Hand sanitizer is available for your use; face masks are optional; offerings may be received by way of offering plates as you enter or leave.

Bold print indicates Congregation.

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

**Please stand as you are able.*

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP

Our re-creation in baptism is an image of the Genesis creation, where the Spirit of God moved over the waters. Both our gospel for today and the story in Acts make clear that the Spirit's movement distinguishes Jesus' baptism from John's. The Spirit has come upon us calling us God's beloved children, empowering us to re-create the world in the image of God's vision of justice and peace.

PRELUDE *Air from Water Music* 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.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
creator of darkness and light,
word of truth,
wind sweeping over the waters.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Kneel/Stand

God, our rock and refuge,
we pour out our hearts before you.

We have known you but have not always loved you.

**We have wounded one another
and sinned against you.**

We have not always recognized the Holy Spirit

dwelling in each of us.
Remember your covenant.
Renew your creation.
Restore us,
that we might proclaim your good news to all.
Amen.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters.
 God has spoken:
 The time of grace is now.
 In Jesus, the reign of God has come near.
 By the authority of † Jesus Christ,
 your sins are forgiven.
 You are God's beloved.
Amen.

***HYMN Crashing Waters at Creation BELOW**

***THE GREETING**

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, God's Beloved, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Crashing Waters at Creation



1 Crash - ing wa - ters at cre - a - tion, or - dered by the Spir - it's breath,
 2 Part - ing wa - ter stood and trem - bled as the cap - tives passed on through,
 3 Cleans - ing wa - ter once at Jor - dan closed a - round the one fore - told,
 4 Liv - ing wa - ter, nev - er end - ing, quench the thirst and flood the soul.

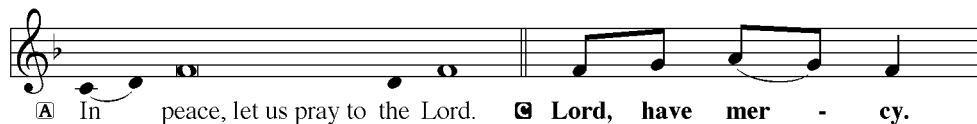


first to wit - ness day's be - gin - ning from the bright - ness of night's death.
 wash - ing off the chains of bond - age — chan - nel to a life made new.
 o - pened to re - veal the glo - ry ev - er new and ev - er old.
 Well - spring, source of life e - ter - nal, drench our dry - ness, make us whole.

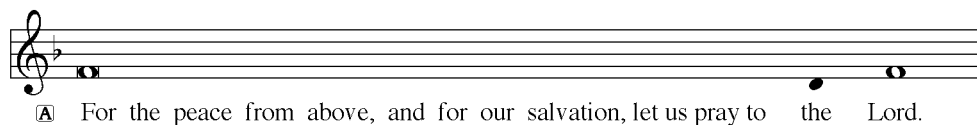
Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993
 Music: STUTTGART, attr. Christian F. Witt, 1660–1716; adapt. Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876
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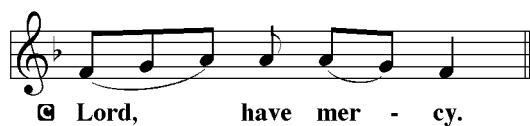
*KYRIE



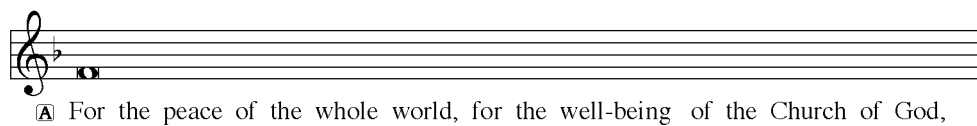
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mer - cy.



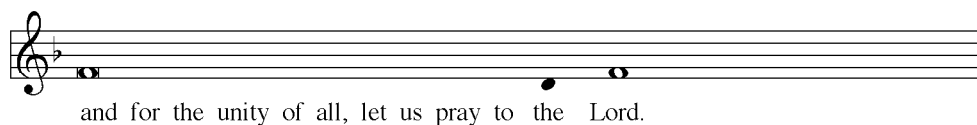
A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



G Lord, have mer - cy.



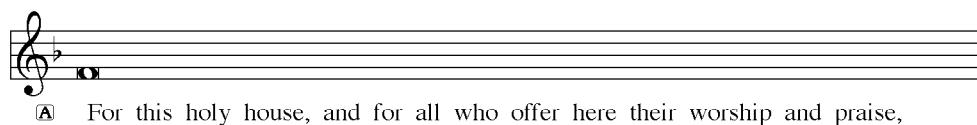
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



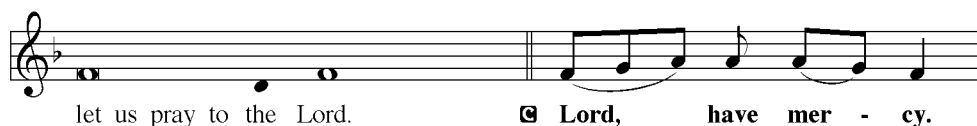
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



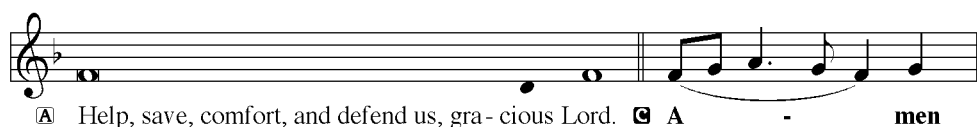
G Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



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



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

*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

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, 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.....Genesis 1:1-5

1In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, 2the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. 3Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. 4And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. 5God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 29

1Ascribe to the | LORD, you gods,

ascribe to the LORD glo- | ry and strength.

2Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due God’s name;

worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness.

3The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of | glory thunders;

the LORD is upon the | mighty waters.

4The voice of the LORD is a pow- | erful voice;

the voice of the LORD is a | voice of splendor.

5The voice of the LORD breaks the | cedar trees;

the LORD breaks the ce- | dars of Lebanon;

6the LORD makes Lebanon skip | like a calf,

and Mount Hermon like a | young wild ox.

7The voice | of the LORD

bursts forth in | lightning flashes.

8The voice of the LORD | shakes the wilderness;

the LORD shakes the wilder- | ness of Kadesh.

9The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe and strips the | forests bare.

And in the temple of the LORD all are | crying, “Glory!”

10The LORD sits enthroned a- | bove the flood;

the LORD sits enthroned as king for- | evermore.

11O LORD, give strength | to your people;

give them, O LORD, the bless- | ings of peace.

THE SECOND READING.....Acts 19:1-7

1While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. 2He said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?” They replied, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” 3Then he said, “Into what then were you

baptized?” They answered, “Into John’s baptism.” ⁴Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.” ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—⁷altogether there were about twelve of them.

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 GOSPEL.....Mark 1:4-11**

The holy gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ according to St. Mark, the first chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

***HYMN When Jesus Came to Jordan WOV, “Blue”, 647**

***CONGREGATIONAL AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM**

Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism as we come before God to make public affirmation of baptism into Christ.

Let us pray. Merciful God, we thank you that you have made us your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called us to yourself, enlightened us with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished us in the community of faith. Uphold us and all your servants in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ.

Amen.

I ask you, people of God, to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God,
the powers of this world that rebel against God,
and the ways of sin that draw you from God?

I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,

to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper,

to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,

to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,

and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

The congregation is seated.

INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Dear Christian friends: Baptized into the priesthood of Christ, we all are called to offer ourselves to the Lord of the Church in Thanksgiving for what he has done and continues to do for us. It is our privilege to recognize and support those who have been elected to serve God through the ministry of our Congregational Council. The following persons, having been elected are asked to come forward as your names are read.

Names are shared

The Apostle Paul writes: There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives to everyone ability for particular service (1 Cor. 12:47).

(To Elected Members of Council). You have been elected to positions of leadership and trust in this congregation. You are to see that the words and deeds of this household of faith reflect Christ in whose name we gather. You are to work together with other members to see that the worship and work of our Lord are

done in this congregation and that God's will is done in this community and in the whole world. You are to be diligent in your specific area of serving, that the one Lord who empowers you is glorified. You are to be examples of faith active in love, to help maintain the life and harmony of this congregation. Are you ready to accept and faithfully execute the duties of the ministry of the Congregational Council of St. Mark's Lutheran Church?

(Council Members) Yes, by the help of God.

People of God, will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

Yes, by the help of God.

I now declare you installed as members of this Congregational Council. God bless you with his Holy Spirit, that you may prove faithful servants of Christ.

Amen.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**


After each petition, "God of grace/Receive 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. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. 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.

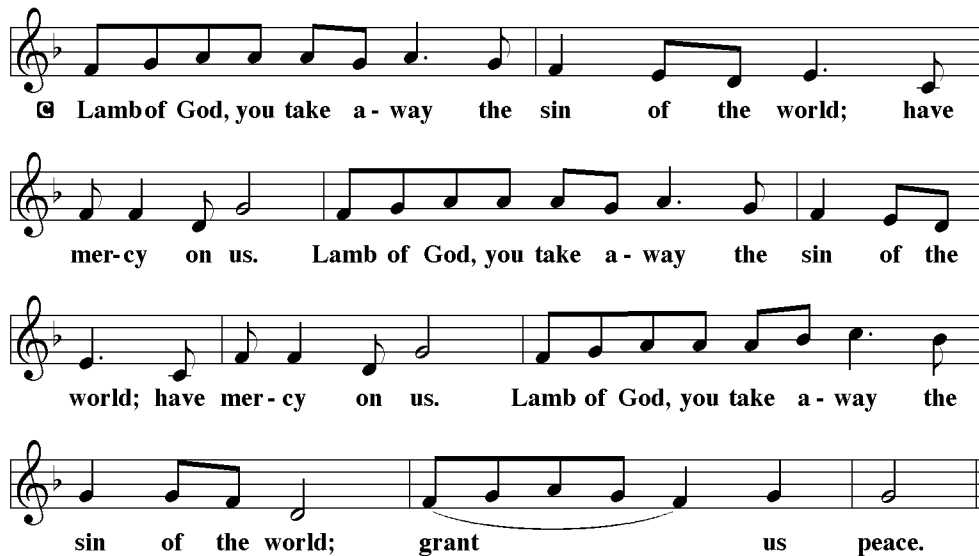
Blessed are you Lord of heaven and earth.
 In mercy for our fallen world you gave your Son,
 that all those who believe in should not perish but have eternal life.
 We give thanks to you for the salvation
 you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.
 Send now your Holy Spirit
 into our hearts and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

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

*****Please include the instructions for communion from previous weeks.**

At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one.

Come, taste and see that the Lord is good.

Amen.

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

Giver of every gift,

Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body.

Raise us to life by your power
for the benefit of all and to your glory,
now and forever. **Amen.**

*BLESSING

The God who names you, claims you, dwells in you,

Father, Son +, and Holy Spirit,

bless you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

***HYMN**

God, Whose Almighty Word

LBW, "Green", 400

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, you are God's Beloved
Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE**

Menuet and Hornpipe from Water Music

GF Handel

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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, 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, Yvonne and Gerry Myers, Eileen Montgomery, Jane Kline, the family of Patricia Alexander.

WORSHIP LEADERS

January 7, 2024



Lector	8:00AM	Becky Pryor
	10:30AM	Karen Mariano
Communion Assistants	8:00AM	Drew Haussmann
	10:30AM	Walt Doebler and Gary Weber
Guest Organist		Sam Robinson
Ushers	8:00AM	Herb Poff and Richard Miller
	10:30AM	Matt Fortin, captain
		Glenn Yaple and Bud Doebler
Altar Guild	January	Cindy Huff and Linda Rosini



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!



ALTAR FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God:
 +In Loving Memory of Margaret and Forrest Klinger by their daughter Donna Baker and Family
 +In Loving Memory of Jennie and Walter Belles and Carl, Lois and Jeanne Belles by the Family

OUR STEWARDSHIP

December 31, 2023

Regular Offering	\$3,462.00
Plate Offerings	41.00
Christmas and Advent	170.00
Thanksgiving	20.00
Initial Offering	5.00
World Hunger	75.00
Food Pantry	150.00
Disaster Relief	30.00
Family Promise Hosting	50.00
Capital Fund	20.00
Synod Benevolence	10.00
Pastor’s Discretionary Fund	150.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$4,183.00

Thank You for the Christmas Gifts



The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee thanks the congregation for their support of their many December projects. Without your support we could not have been the hands of God at this very special time of year.

During December the Evangelism and Fellowship Committee, with assistance from the congregation, accomplished the following outreach:

- More than one hundred assorted clothing items, fleece throws, coloring books with markers and batteries were donated to the residents of the Danville State Hospital. The committee is grateful for Tracy Fox of Redeemer Lutheran for transporting our items along with Redeemer's gifts to Danville.
- Donations of body wash, slipper socks and pudding cups for the fifteen ladies of CM-6 at the Selinsgrove Center were donated. A snack basket was prepared for their caregivers. Due to ongoing health concerns for a fourth year, we were unable to sing and tell stories to the ladies. The staff was grateful for our gifts and hope 2024 will be the year we can return in person.
- On December 8, 2023 we hosted a Red Cross Blood Drive in Fellowship Hall. Thirteen units of blood were collected.
- Thank you to the members of the congregation who took Christmas cards, added a cheery message and mailed them to our Special Concerns Folks and others we do not see as often as we would like.
- The Christmas ornaments crafted by Lou Ann Zeigler brought joy to many. To date, \$190.00 has been donated. That joy, given as \$15 grocery gift cards, will be shared with clients of the United Churches Food Pantry.
- The Faith Formation and Evangelism and Fellowship Committees thank the congregation for participating in Reverse Advent. The contents of the Advent bags will be sorted and delivered to Liberty House at the YWCA.

These gestures of Christmas spirit given by members of our congregation were certain to comfort the individuals receiving them in Christ's name.

Go Green for Gifting



Have more Christmas gift bags, new greeting cards and tissue paper than you can use? Donate them to the Evangelism and Fellowship Committee for gifting the ladies of CM-6 and others in 2024. We can also find homes for extra 2024 calendars and day planners. Donated items can be placed in the tub in the Narthex.

P.S. Now is the perfect time to pack up those holiday decorations you no longer need and donate them to the annual Fall Sale.

Christmas Clean-Up

Christmas “Undecorate”



As beautiful as St. Mark’s Christmas decorations are, the season of Christmas has come to an end. Please come help us “undecorate” the Nave, Narthex and Front Lounge on Saturday, January 13th. We will meet at 10:00 in Fellowship Hall ~ with some coffee to start things off right! All hands are welcome. We look forward to seeing you there!



Monday, January 8, -
 Sunday, January 14, 2024



Monday, January 8	Little Lambs Meeting WCC Rehearsal	ML FH	12:15PM 7:00PM
Wednesday, January 10	Property committee	ML	6PM
Sunday, January 14	Holy Communion Holy Communion		8:00AM 10:30AM

BIRTHDAYS

Andrew Zeigler	January 10	Peter Zeigler	January 10
Kathy Kolb	January 12	Matthew Reitz	January 12
Jackie Kinney	January 13	Riley Weber	January 14

ANNIVERSARIES

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

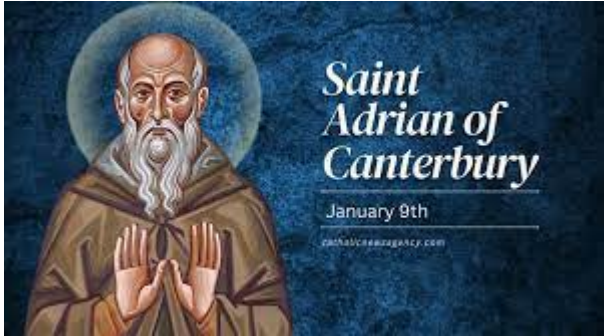
Wednesday, January 10	Property committee	ML	6PM
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Please remember to let the administrative assistant know when committee meetings are scheduled, or changed, so it can be included in the bulletin.

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

Adrian of Canterbury, teacher, died around 710



Tuesday, January 9, 2024

African by birth, Adrian (or Hadrian) worked with Theodore, archbishop of Canterbury, in developing the church in England. He was director of a school at which church leaders were trained.