

The Second Sunday of Easter

April 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, *Lutheran Book of Worship*)

Please Note:

Hand sanitizer is available for your use. 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

The Easter season is a week of weeks, seven Sundays when we play in the mystery of Christ's presence, mostly through Gospel according to John. Today we gather with the disciples on the first Easter, and Jesus breathes the Spirit on us. With Thomas we ask for a sign, and Jesus offers us his wounded self. From frightened individuals we are transformed into a community of open doors, peace, forgiveness, and material sharing such that no one among us is in need.

PRELUDE *Prelude in a Classic Style* Gordon Young

WELCOME

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS

***THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM** (8 am)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the wellspring of grace,
our Easter and our joy.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

Immersed in the promises of baptism,

let us give thanks for what God has done for us.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning
your voice thundered over the deep

and water became the essence of life.

Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.

The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.

Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land.

In a desert pool an Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people.

We rejoice with glad hearts,
giving all honor and praise to you,
through the risen Christ, our source of living water,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Look, here is water!

Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

***THE ORDER FOR HOLY BAPTISM** (10:30 am)

In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

Sponsors present the candidate:

I present Alba Paige Hanford for baptism.

The pastor addresses parents, sponsors and candidate

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to

have Alba Paige baptized into Christ?

Parents and Sponsors: *I do.*

As you bring Alba Paige to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with her among God's faithful people,
bring her to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach her the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in her hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture her in faith and prayer,
so that she may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help her grow in the Christian faith and life?

Parents and Sponsors: *I do.*

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Alba Paige in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Sponsors: We do.

The pastor addresses the congregation:

People of God, do you promise to support Alba Paige and pray for her new life in Christ?

We do.

Let us profess our 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?

We do.

Do you believe in God?

**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, God's only Son, our Lord.

Do you believe in God, the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit.

Thanksgiving at the Font

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that she who is washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Baptism

Alba Paige is baptized in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Alba Paige you belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized.

Alleluia!

Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain Alba Paige with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear

of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

The pastor marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of Alba with oil from the Chrism Mass.

Alba Paige, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

Welcome

A lighted candle is presented to Alba

Let your light so shine before others
that they may see your good works
and glorify your Father in heaven.

Amen.

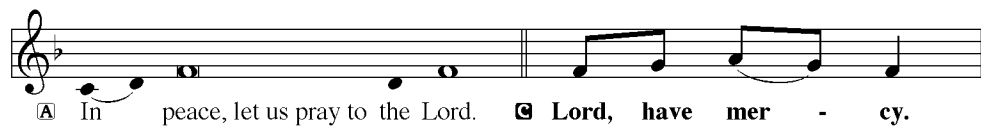
Let us welcome our new sister in Christ:

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

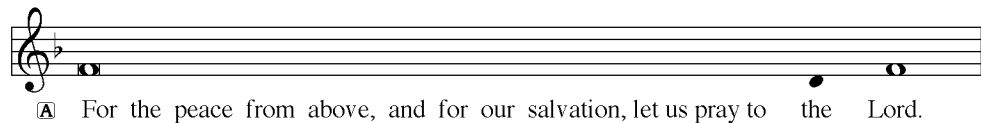
***HYMN Now the Green Blade Rises LBW, "Green", 148 (8 am)**

***HYMN I Was to Hear Your Borning Cry WOV, "Blue", 770 (10:30 am)**

*KYRIE



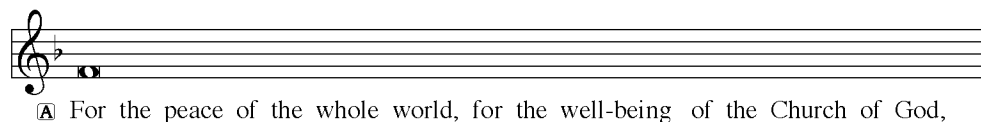
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mer - cy.



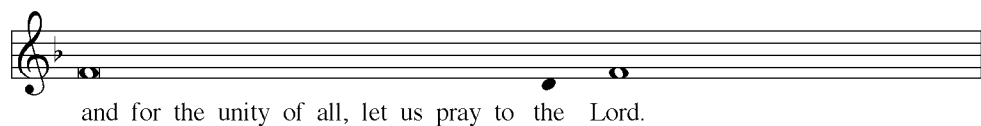
A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



G Lord, have mer - cy.



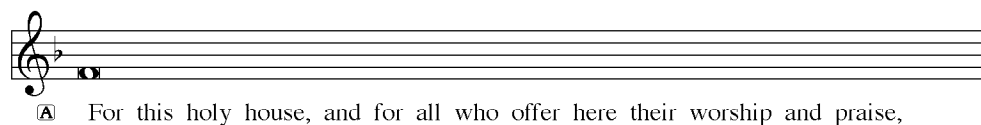
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



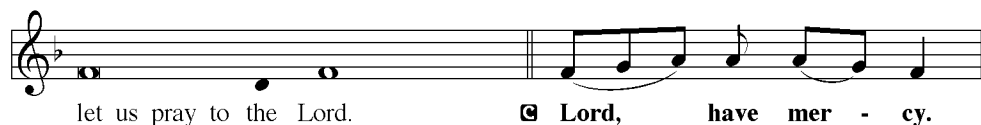
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



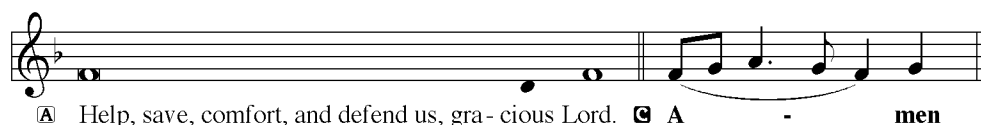
G Lord, have mer - cy.



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

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. 1. Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was
 slain, whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. 2. Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and
 strength, and hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his.
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. 3. Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and
 join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing, hon-or, 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. Al-le-lu-ia,
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. 4. For the Lamb who was
 slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.
 Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Almighty God, with joy we celebrate the day of our Lord’s resurrection. By the grace of Christ among us, enable us to show the power of the resurrection in all that we say and do, 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.....Acts 4:32-35

32Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. 33With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. 34There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. 35They laid it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 133

1How good and how pleasant it is,
when kindred live together in unity!

**2It is like fine oil upon the head, flowing down upon the beard,
upon the beard of Aaron, flowing down upon the collar of his robe.**

3It is like the dew of Hermon flowing down upon the hills of Zion.

For there the LORD has commanded the blessing: life forevermore.

THE SECOND READING.....1 John 1:1-2:2

1We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—2this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—3we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. 4We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

5This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. 6If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; 7but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. 8If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

2:1My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; 2and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

***THE 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.....John 20:19-31**

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 20th chapter

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

19When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” 20After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. 21Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” 22When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them,

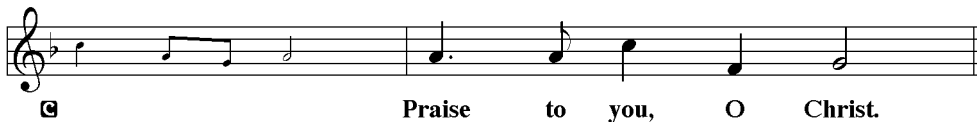
“Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

The Gospel of the Lord



THE SERMON

***HYMN I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light WOV, “Blue”, 649**

***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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and 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,
who with the Father and the Son 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.**

***THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:** *After each petition, “God of Grace/Hear our prayer”.*

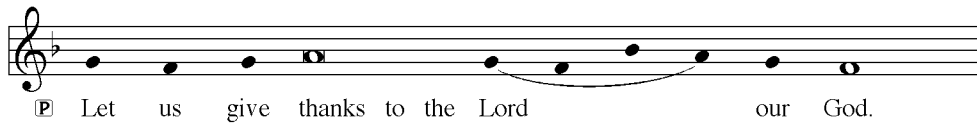
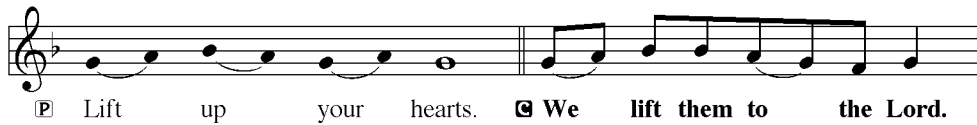
*THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

All may greet one another with these or similar words and/or gestures of peace.

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death, and by his rising has brought us to eternal life. And so with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels, archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory. Through Abraham you promised to bless all nations and made for yourself a chosen people. Through the prophets you renewed your promise; and, at this end of all the ages, you sent your Son, who in words and deeds proclaimed your kingdom and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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 which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to 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."

For as often as we eat this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Therefore, gracious Father, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, the spirit of our Lord and of his resurrection, that we who receive the Lord's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your saints of every time and place, and unite them with ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

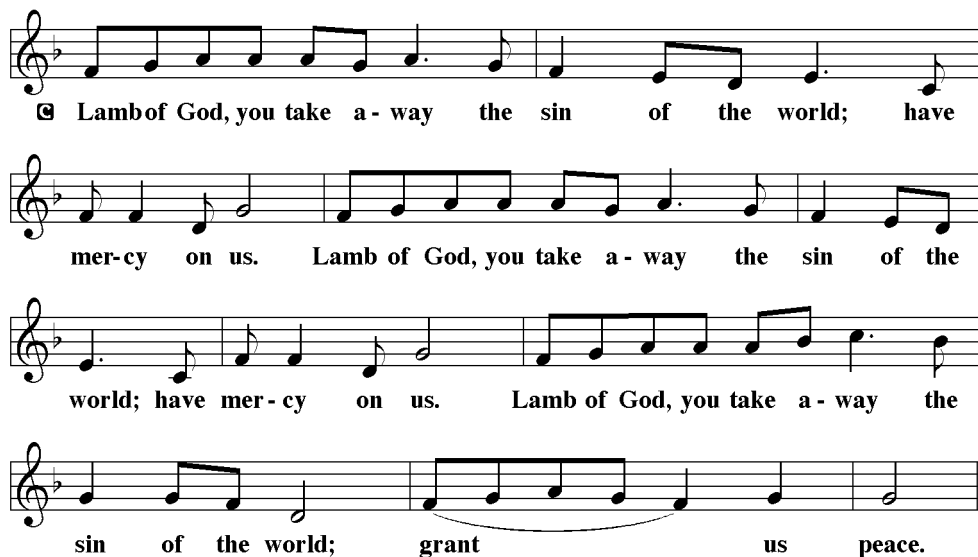
© Through him, with him, in him, in the u - ni - ty of the
Ho - ly Spir - it, all hon - or and glo - ry is yours, al -
might - y Fa - ther, now and for - ev - er. A - men

***OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to 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**

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come, share in the meal of resurrection.

COMMUNION

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Use the center aisle, pick up a small glass on the way. Receive the bread and then proceed to receive the wine by way of a pouring chalice. After communing return to your pew using a side aisle. Those not communing may come forward for a blessing.

Know that the crucified and risen Christ gives himself to you in his supper. If you cannot eat bread, drink only the wine. If you cannot drink wine, eat only the bread

***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**

God of resurrection and new life,
you have prepared a table before us
and nourished us with your love.

Send us forth from this banquet
to proclaim your goodness
and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,
our redeemer and friend.

Amen.

***BLESSING**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

The God of resurrection power, unending joy and Easter hope:
Father, Son ✠ and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

***HYMN**

We Walk By Faith

WOV, "Blue", 675

***DISMISSAL**

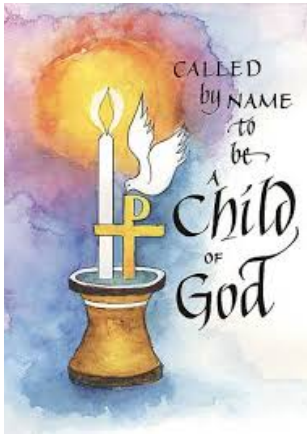
Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

THE POSTLUDE

Festive Trumpet Tune

David German



WELCOME ALBA PAIGE HANFORD.

Today at 10:30 we welcome Alba Paige Hanford to the Family of God through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Alba is the daughter of Addison and Paige Hanford of Hughesville, PA. Please keep Alba and her family in your prayers on this her special day.



Liz Ruesskamp, Grace Arner, Vanessa Morgan, Gary Clark, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, April Clark, Gary Cable, Elsie Sechler, Virginia Pulaskie, 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, Ariel, John Bower

OUR STEWARDSHIP **March 31, 2024**



Regular Offering	\$2,410.00
Plate Offerings	100.00
Easter	295.00
Lent	321.80
Organ Fund	25.00
Initial Offering	5.00
Easter Flowers	86.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	60.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$3,277.80

The Bus Trip to see "Daniel" at Sight & Sound Theatre



Wednesday, September 11, 2024. The cost of the trip, which includes the show, meal and bus fare is \$153.00/person. We will depart from the lower west end of Beiter's Parking Lot (Williamsport) at 6 am sharp. Please contact Cheryl Williams (570) 327-1627 to reserve space and to answer any questions concerning the trip.

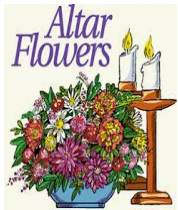


WORSHIP LEADERS

April 7, 2024

Lector	8:00AM	Drew Haussmann
	10:30AM	Linda Rosini
Communion Assistants	8:00AM	Drew Haussmann
	10:30AM	Dan Ziegler
Organist		Sam Robinson
Ushers:	8:00AM	Herb Poff and Richard Miller
	10:30AM	Carl Albright, captain
		Brenda and Levi Gair
Altar Guild	March	Deb Buckman & Leah Haussmann

ALTAR FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God:



- + In Loving Memory of Russell and Catherine Goertz by the Family
- + In Loving Memory of my daughter, Sally Ann Millikan by Sally Bjornstad

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!

Soles4Souls Information Workshop

Hosted by the Women of Messiah Lutheran Church



South Williamsport, PA

Saturday, April 13 from 8:30 am-11:30 am

Members of St. Mark’s are cordially invited to join others for a morning of learning about this nonprofit that was established in 2006. The speaker will be Abby Yorks from Middleburg, PA. A continental breakfast will be served. Although there is no cost to attend, a

free will offering will be taken. Donations will also be accepted of SHOES of all styles, sizes and genders that still have “life” in them and not in need of repair.

Reservations are needed by April 1, 2024. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex along with a tub for shoe donations. More information is in this month’s Lion or speak with Becky Miller Pryor



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.



Submit your email address to:

jbaur@stmarkswilliamsport.org and say you want to receive the monthly “Lion” by email.

Thanks

THANK YOU!

Dear St. Mark's Family,

Thank you so very much for the Easter cards, wishes, prayers, gifts and goodies you shared with the Vasey Family leading up to and during the Holy Triduum (the evening of Maundy Thursday-Easter Morning). Everything was “egg-ceptional” and very much appreciated. May the joy and triumph of the resurrection be yours as you continue to celebrate the great 50 days of the Easter Season.

The Vasey Family.



UPCOMING CONCERTS

Seipp/Sheets Trumpet and Organ Duo Concert

Sunday April 7, 2024 4:00 PM

Covenant Central Presbyterian Church

807 W 4th St

Concert donations to benefit, a fully volunteer group.

The concert is free (Donations not required but appreciated!)



29th Annual Dialysis Benefit Concert



The will be Sunday April 28 at 4 PM. The

concert will be at St. Luke Lutheran. The

concert will be to celebrate the life of Dick

Lakey. Donations are accepted. For more

information see the letter on the bulletin board

in the Parish Hall.

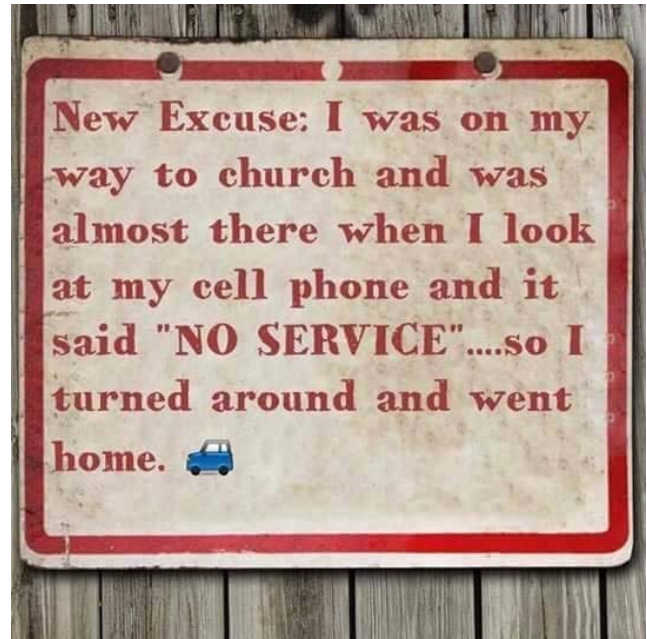


Williamsport Civic Chorus

Songs for the Soul

Sunday April 21, 3:00 PM

Here at St Marks. Reception to follow.



Our Parking Lot is filling up on weekdays we only have a few spots left. If you know anyone who needs a parking place during the weekdays, please have them contact jbaur@stmarkswilliamsport.org Or call 570-323-4619

April “Lion” QR Code



Thank You Elizabeth Ruesskamy



Monday, April 8, -
 Sunday, April 14, 2024



Monday, April 8	WCC Rehearsal	FH 7:00PM
Tuesday, April 9		
Wednesday, April 10		
Thursday, April 11		
Friday, April 12		
Saturday, April 13		
Sunday, April 14		

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

BIRTHDAYS

Sadie Wentzel	April 10	Taylor Wentzel	April 10
Robert Clouser	April 11	Michael Ochs	April 13
	Ezra Buckman	April 14	

ANNIVERSARIES

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 email jbaur@stmarkswilliamsport.org

COMMEMORATIONS

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian, died 1945



Tuesday, April 9, 2024

Bonhoeffer was a German theologian and Lutheran pastor who wrote profoundly, yet in an accessible manner. In the Second World War, he became a leader of the Confessing Church in Germany that resisted the Nazi movement. Linked to a plot to kill Hitler, he was hanged shortly before the end of the war.

Mikael Agricola, Bishop of Turku, died 1557



Wednesday, April 10, 2024

Consecrated bishop of Turku, Finland, without the approval of other bishops, Agricola began a reform along Lutheran lines. In only three years, he translated the New Testament and worship texts into Finnish, in the process establishing the rules of Finnish writing that are still used today.