

The Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 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

This image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life.

PRELUDE Voluntary in C: Largo John Alcock

WELCOME

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS

***THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

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.

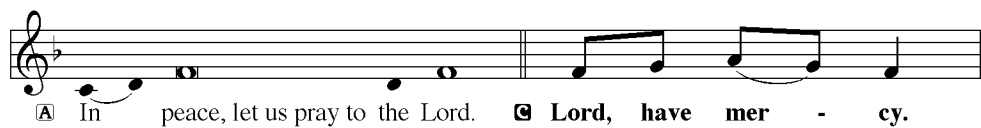
Amen.

Look, here is water!

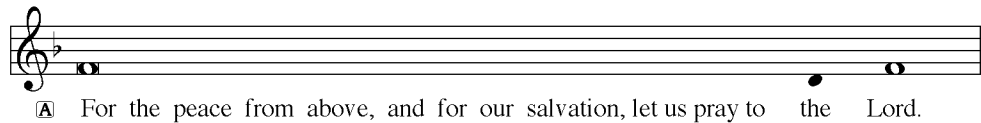
Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

***HYMN We Know That Christ Is Raised LBW, "Green", 189**

*KYRIE



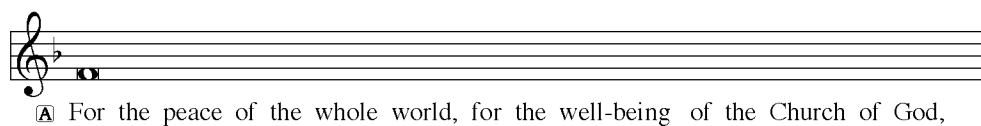
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mer - cy.



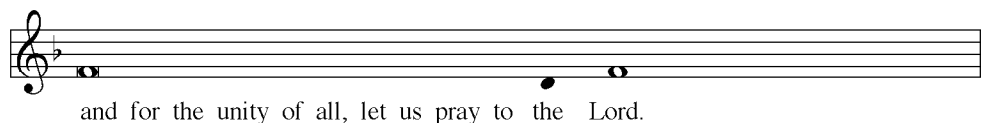
A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



G Lord, have mer - cy.



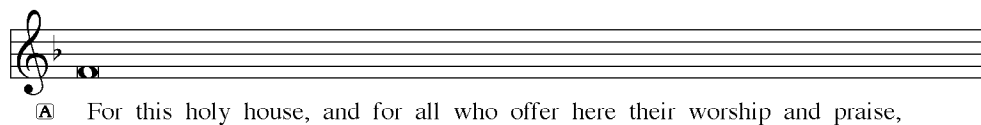
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



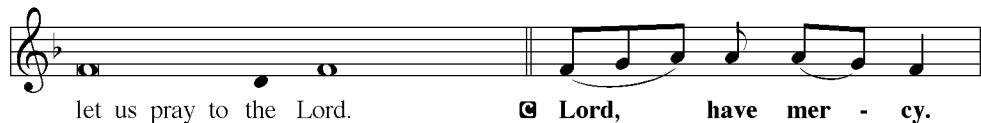
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



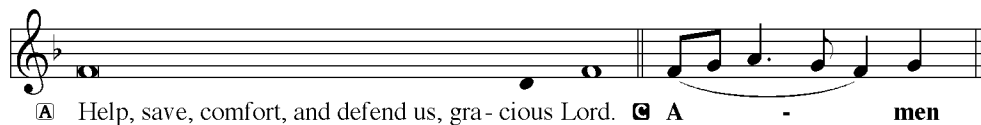
G Lord, have mer - cy.



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.

***THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, 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 8:26-40

26An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) 27So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship 28and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. 29Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” 30So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” 31He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. 32Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

33In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

34The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” 35Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. 36As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” 38He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. 39When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. 40But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 22:25-31

25From you comes my praise in the | great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who | fear the LORD.

26**The poor shall eat | and be satisfied,**

Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts | live forever!

27All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn | to the LORD;

all the families of nations shall bow | before God.

28**For dominion belongs | to the LORD,**

who rules o- | ver the nations.

29Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow | down in worship;

all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel be- | fore
the LORD.

30**Their descendants shall | serve the LORD,**

whom they shall proclaim to genera- | tions to come.

31They shall proclaim God’s deliverance to a people | yet unborn,

saying to them, “The | LORD has acted!”

THE SECOND READING.....1 John 4:7-21

7Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. 8Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. 9God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. 10In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. 11Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. 12No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

13By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. 14And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. 15God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. 16So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. 17Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. 18There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. 19We love because he first loved

us. 20Those who say, “I love God,” and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. 21The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

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 15:1-8**

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 15th chapter

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] 1“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. 2He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. 3You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. 4Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. 5I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. 6Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. 7If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.” The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

***HYMN**

O Blessed Spring

WOV, “Blue”, 695

***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**

Ⓟ 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 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:

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.

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.

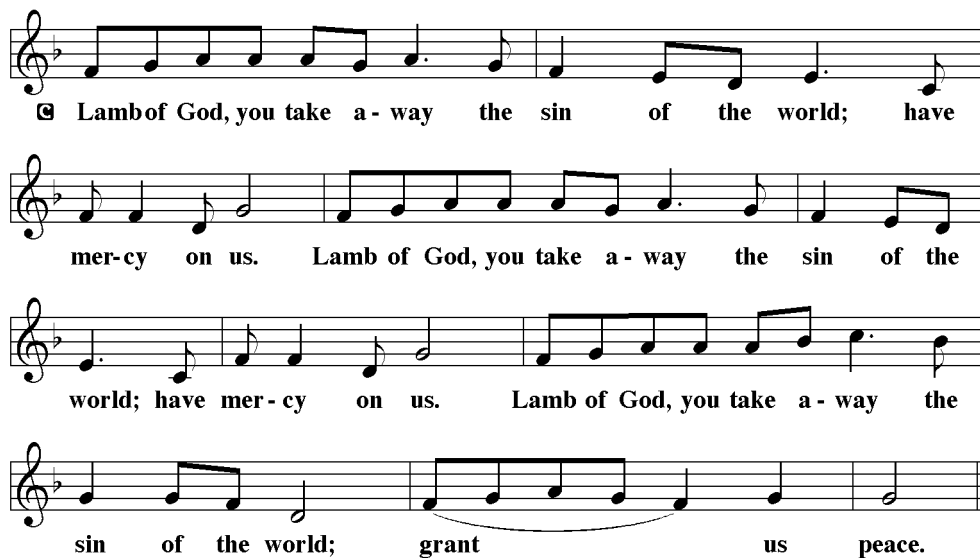
Through him, with him, in him, in the u - ni - ty of the
 Ho - ly Spir - it, all hon - or and glo - ry is yours, al -
 might - y Fa - ther, now and for - ev - er. A - men

***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**

Awake, O Sleeper

WOV, “Blue”, 745

***DISMISSAL**

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

THE POSTLUDE

Voluntary in C: Allegro

Alcock



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,
Joseph Baur

OUR STEWARDSHIP April 21, 2024



Regular Offering	\$1,822.00
Easter	800.00
Food Pantry	25.00
Parish Life	50.00
Operation Christmas Child	25.00
Capital Fund	800.00
Synod Benevolence	800.00
Camp Mount Luther	50.00
GRAND TOTAL	\$4,372.00



WORSHIP LEADERS

April 28, 2024

Lector	8:00AM	Vicki Haussmann
	10:30AM	Shelby Weber
Communion Assistants	8:00AM	Brian Jackson
	10:30AM	Gary Weber
Organist		Sam Robinson
Ushers:	8:00AM	Richard Miller and Herb Poff
	10:30AM	Matt Fortin, captain Glenn Yaple and Dick Reitz
Altar Guild	April 9	Deb Buckman & Leah Haussmann

ALTAR FLOWERS today are given to the glory of God:



+In Honor of Edwin Jackson by Brian Jackson
+In Loving Memory of Prudence and William Waldeisen and Margaret and Herbert Poff by the family.

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!



May Bible Study

The Faith Formation Committee is pleased to once again be offering the opportunity to grow in our faith through a 4 week study focusing on women of the Bible. Which women you ask? You will have to join us Wednesdays in May from 12:10 -12:45 for the answer to that question! We look forward to our time together, and hope you will join us.

UPCOMING CONCERT

29th Annual Dialysis Benefit Concert

Is today, Sunday April 28 at 4 PM. The concert is at St. Luke Lutheran, and will celebrate the life of Dick Lakey. Donations are appreciated. For more information see the letter on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall.



Senior Voice Recital: Alanna Ramos

Sunday, May 26 at 2pm
St. Mark's Lutheran Church

The Bus Trip to see "Daniel" at Sight and 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.

Summer Hospitality!

The summer months are once again upon us and with them come long, lazy days, swimming, camping, smores, suntans, and all sorts of fun, summery things. At St. Mark's, summer also means a single service beginning at 9:30 AM.

We look forward to sharing hospitality with each other after the 9:30 service, and ask that you please consider signing up to share a few treats ~ nothing fancy is required! Perhaps find a friend to help make the load just a bit lighter. Sign-up sheets may be found in the "Hospitality Binder" on the "Hospitality Table" in the Narthex. We look forward to spending a little



time together on these Summer Sunday mornings. Thank you for helping!

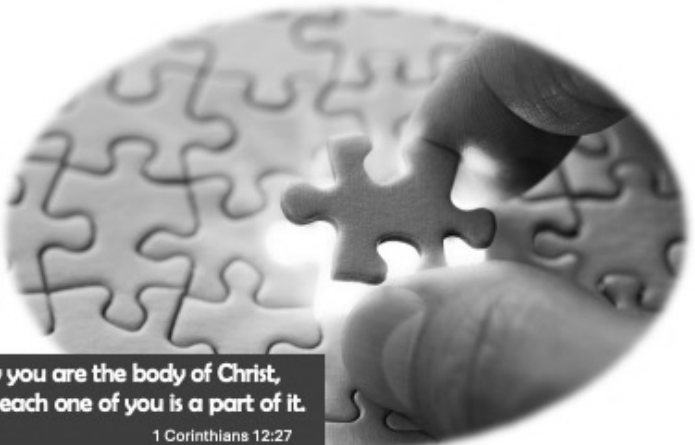
A Variety of Gifts!

Join us for a day of learning and fellowship!

Saturday, May 4, 2024

9am-3pm
(lunch included)

St. John's Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall
300 Queen Street
Northumberland, PA



**Now you are the body of Christ,
and each one of you is a part of it.**

1 Corinthians 12:27

Keynote: Meetings that Matter

Workshops include:

Worship Planning Record Keeping/Archiving
Home Communion Using Your Gifts for God's Mission

Cost is \$10 per person to cover cost of meal.

Pre-register by contacting the Synod Office
at [\(570\) 524-9778](tel:5705249778) by 4/26/24.

Worship Service to Commission our new Authorized Lay Worship
Leaders at 2:15 pm in the sanctuary.

Sponsored by the Lay Ministry Institute of the Upper Susquehanna Synod.

Spring Cleaning? Got Stuff?



The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee and the Women of St. Mark's need donations for our annual Fall Sale. We will need many more donations than we currently have if we are to have a sale in 2024.

We are accepting holiday decorations, housewares, linens, toys, small working electronics, gadgets, dishes, jewelry, lamps, art work and the list goes on. If you don't want it, we probably can sell it. Not certain we can use it, speak to Becky Miller Pryor before bringing it.

Please place your donations in boxes small enough for us to lift and place them in the Bazaar Room in the basement. If you cannot get to the basement, leaving them on the second landing in the back stairwell is helpful.

A SPECIAL NOTE



Sometimes you get good news and sometimes not so good news. The biggest difference in dealing with the news, is the love and support you get when the news is not so good. I can't imagine working anywhere else and getting the news that I have Liver cancer. Everyone here has been so supportive and caring. As I discover what will happen to Fred (I call the cancer Fred) I know the thoughts and prayers I am getting from everyone here is going to help me evict Fred and move on. The blessing of working here has brought so much goodness to my life. Thank You all and I look forward to working here for a few more years, if not even many more.

Peace and Love, Joe Baur



Submit your email address to:

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

Or fill out the form below and drop it off in the collection plate, or Administrative Assistant’s Office (Joe’s Office)

Name _____

Email _____

Signups are coming in fast, make sure you get on the list.



Family Promise - Hi - our next hosting begins on May 19 and runs to May 25. Please think about donating a dinner one day during that week - it can be something you make, something you have delivered or ingredients to make a meal. If you can help, please let me know - Deb Buckman,

dabuckman65@gmail.com, 570-323-1707

Monday, April 29, -
 Sunday, May 5, 2024



Monday, April 29	Little Lambs Liaison Meeting	ML	12:15PM
	Personnel Committee Meeting	ML	6:00P
	WCC Rehearsal	FH	6:30PM
Tuesday, April 30			
Wednesday, May 1	Bible Study	FH	12:10PM
Thursday, May 2			
Friday, May 3			
Saturday, May 4			
Sunday, May 5	Holy Communion		8:00AM
	Holy Communion		10:30AM
	West Branch Conference Assembly		
	Messiah Lutheran		3:00PM

BIRTHDAYS

Ruth Ditchfield	April 29	Mel Wentzel	May 1
Jerod Barone	May 2	Robert Clokey	May 2
Jacob Schreckengast	May 2	Grace Schreckengast	May 5

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



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

COMMEMORATIONS:

Catherine of Siena, theologian, died 1380

Monday, April 29, 2024

This theologian was the first woman in the Church to receive the title "Doctor [teacher]". Catherine was a Dominican sister known for her mystical visions as well as her work on behalf of people who were poor and imprisoned.



Philip and James, Apostles

Wednesday, May 1, 2024

Philip was one of the first disciples of Jesus, and called Nathanael to "come and see." Little is known of James, the son of Alphaeus, called "the Less" to distinguish him from another apostle named James.



Athanasius, Bishop of Alexandria, died 373

Thursday, May 2, 2024

Best remembered for defending the teaching that Christ was fully God against those who taught otherwise, Athanasius was an influential church leader around the time of the Council of Nicea. He was banished from Alexandria five times for his forthright views. *The Athanasian Creed* (found on pp. 54-55 of our Lutheran Book of Worship) is believed to be a summation of his

thought.



Monica, mother of Augustine, died 387

Saturday, May 4, 2024

Monica was married to a pagan husband who was ill-tempered and unfaithful, but whom she helped bring into the Christian faith. She repeated the influence on her son Augustine, who went on to become one of the greatest church teachers.

