THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST August 31, 2025

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701
stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org
Office (570-323-4619) Fax (570-323-2452)
Rev.Brian D. Vasey, Pastor
bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org

Welcome to Saint Mark's!
This is Christ's church. There is a place for you here. Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.

Our Mission: "To know Christ and to make Christ known."



Please note:

Hand sanitizer is available for your use.

Offerings may be received by way of offering plates as you enter or leave.

An Order for Holy Communion, 9:30 am (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting 10)

A guide to hymnal use: All hymns are printed in the bulletin and when reference is available the LBW, Green Book; WOV, Blue Book

Light print = Pastor/Leader. **Bold print = Congregation.**

*Please stand as you are able.

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP

Invited and inviting—that is the nature of the church. By God's grace in holy baptism we have a place at Christ's banquet table. When, by the power of that same Spirit, humility and mutual love continue among us, the church can be more inviting still.

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of and + 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 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 for reflection and self-examination

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not 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.

Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, 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 + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

*HYMN

Amen.

All Are Welcome No Reference Available

All Are Welcome

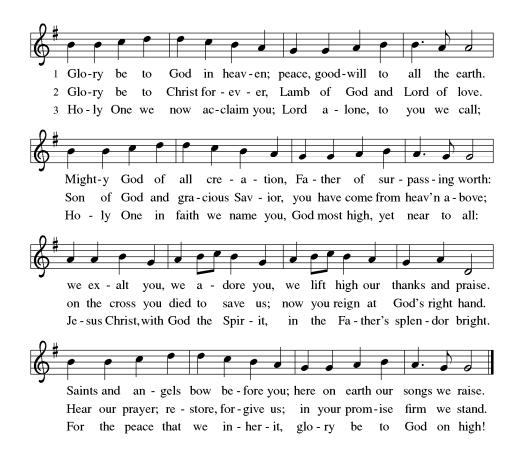


*THE GREETING

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

And also with you.

*HYMN OF PRAISE



*THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE FIRST READING: Proverbs 25:6-7a

- ⁶Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence or stand in the place of the great,
 - ^{7a} for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"

than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 112

- ¹ Hallelujah! Happy are they who | fear the LORD and have great delight in | God's commandments!
- ²Their descendants will be mighty | in the land; the generation of the upright | will be blessed.
- ³ Wealth and riches will be | in their house, and their righteousness will | last forever.
- ⁴ Light shines in the darkness | for the upright; the righteous are merciful and full | of compassion.
- ⁵ It is good for them to be gener- | ous in lending and to manage their af- | fairs with justice.
- ⁶For they will nev- | er be shaken;

the righteous will be kept in everlast- | ing remembrance.

- ⁷ They will not be afraid of any | evil rumors; their heart is steadfast, trusting | in the LORD.
- ⁸Their heart is established and | will not shrink, until they see their desire up- | on their enemies.
- ⁹ They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands | fast forever; they will hold up their | head with honor.
- ¹⁰ The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and | pine away;

the desires of the wick- | ed will perish.

THE SECOND READING: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

¹Let mutual affection continue. ²Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. ³Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. ⁴Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. ⁵Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." ⁶So we can say with confidence,

"The Lord is my helper;

I will not be afraid.

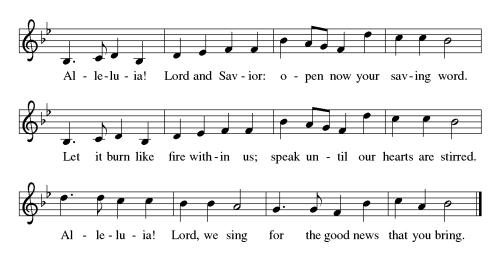
What can anyone do to me?"

⁷Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. ¹⁵ Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. ¹⁶ Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*THE GOSPEL: Luke 14:1, 7-14

The holy gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, according to St. Luke, the 14th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

⁷ When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸ "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, ⁹ and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. ¹¹ For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

¹² He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴ And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

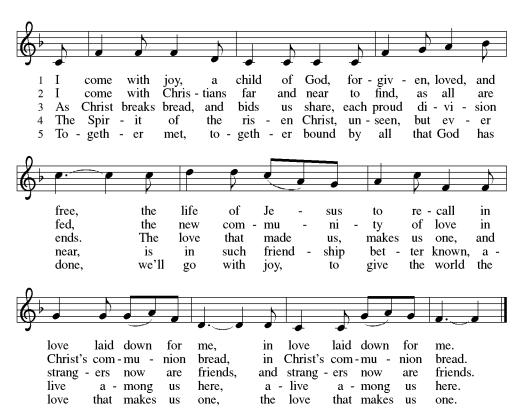
THE SERMON

*HYMN

I Come with Joy

No Reverence Available

I Come with Joy



Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: DOVE OF PEACE, W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835

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*THE APOSTLES' CREED

With all the people of God, we confess our faith: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

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.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

After each petition: Hear us, O God/Your mercy is great.

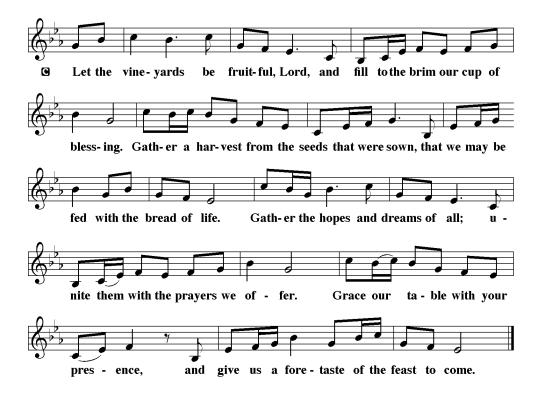
*THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

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

*OFFERING



*OFFERING PRAYER

Creator God,

in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful.

Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

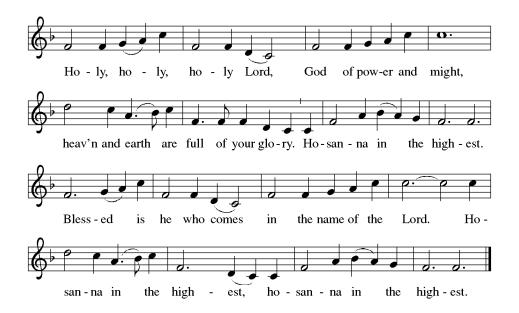
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our 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 Jesus Christ our Lord; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way to eternal life. And so with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Holy, mighty and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In your great love you sent to us Jesus your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached the good news to the poor, and who on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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."

Remembering therefore, his death, resurrection and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us
the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with whom and in whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

*OUR LORD'S PRAYER

Amen.

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



*INVITATION TO COMMUNE

The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice!

Thanks be to God!

All are welcome at our Lord's Table. Use the center aisle to come forward, pick up a small cup on the way. Receive the bread from Pastor Vasey and then proceed to receive the wine from one of two pouring chalices. After communing, please return to your pew by the side aisles. Those not communing are welcome to come forward for a blessing.

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

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

Triune God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.

Amen.

*BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

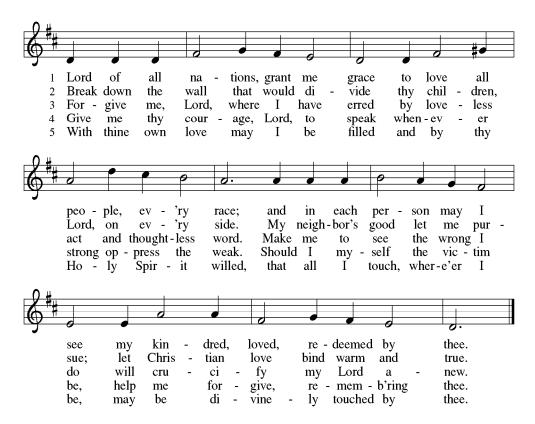
The Lord look upon you with favor and ⊕ give you peace.

Amen.

*HYMN Lord of All Nations Grant Me Grace

LBW, "Green," 419

Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace



Text: Olive Wise Spannaus, b. 1916, alt. Music: BEATUS VIR, Šamotulský Kancionál, 1561 Text © 1969 Concordia Publishing House.

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*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

OUR PRAYER LIST

Liz Ruesskamp, Grace Arner, Vanessa Morgan, Gary Clark, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, Gary Cable, Virginia Pulaskie, Bunny Ditchfield, Judy Fortin, Ezra Buckman, Sheila Brassard, Kevin Rosini, Kathy Eshelman, Micah, Deb Buckman, Linda Rosini, Walt Haussmann, Kristin Rehm, Ariel, John Tartline, Donna Baker, George Poliska, April Clark, Connie Shaible, Ann Kuntz, John and Terry Holohan, Shirley Kinney, Alex & Adaline Day, Loretta Hewe and Christina Aguirre.

COMMEMORATION

Nikolai Frederik Severin Grundtvig, bishop, renewer of the church, died 1872

Tuesday, September 2, 2025

Grundtvig was, with Søren Kierkegaard, one of the two great
Danish theologians of the nineteenth century. As a pastor, he
battled the prevalent idea that Christianity was more a
philosophy than divine revelation. He wrote over a thousand hymns.



THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Today, August 31 Holy Communion, 9:30 am

Monday, September 1 Happy Labor Day!

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, September 2 Office Hours, 9 am - 1 pm

Evangelism and Fellowship, 5:30 pm

Wednesday, September 3 Office Hours, 9 am - 1 pm

Thursday, September 4 Office Hours, 9 am - 1 pm

Friday, September 5 Office Hours, 9 am – 1 pm

Saturday, September 6 Office Closed

Sunday, September 7 (God's Work/Our Hands Day)

Holy Communion, 8 am

Hygiene Kits Assembled, 9:15 am Men's Fellowship Meeting, 9:30 am

Holy Communion, 10:30 am

OUR STEWARDSHIP for August 24, 2025

Regular Offering \$3,027.00 Plate Offerings 52.00 Flower Memorials/Tributes 140.00 **Grand Total** \$3,219.00

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God; and

In honor of our 60th wedding anniversary on August 28th, by the children and grandchildren of Phil & Barb Thomas and;

In loving memory of my wife, Charlotte, by Richard Reitz.

WORSHIP LEADERS for August 24, 2025

9:30 am	Phil Thomas
9:30 am	Lou Ann Zeigler & Cindy Todd
9:30 am	Shelby & Gary Weber
9:30 am	Sam Robinson
	Cindy Huff & Linda Rosini
	9:30 am 9:30 am

BIRTHDAYS

Mindy Wentzel	8/31
Todd Smith	9/3
Valerie Doebler	9/5

ANNIVERSARIES

Happy belated anniversary to Lenny & Ruth Sherlinski 8/27

Ed & Lorraine Barone 9/2

KEEP IN MIND:

- ~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) email (bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org) or his cell phone (272-788-0161). Do not assume the pastor will know of your need any other way.
- ~ When you or a loved one has a change of address, email, or telephone number, please contact the church office at stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org or 570-323-4619. Please direct your intentions whether or not to share this information with our church family, so that in may be included in the weekly bulletin and/or the "Lion."

<u>Calling all men!</u> St. Mark's is "exploring" the idea of a Men's Fellowship Group. If such an idea appeals to you, please join us for a preliminary and organizational meeting determining topics, frequency and location on Sunday, September 7, 9:30 am in our Middle Lounge. All men (teenagers too) are welcome.

St. Mark's returns to our <u>fall schedule</u> on September 7: Holy Communion, 8 am; Holy Communion, 10:30 am. Sunday School begins September 14, 9:15 am.

Special Congregational Meeting

Church Council has voted to hold a special congregational meeting on September 14th. This meeting will take place after both the 8:00 service and the 10:30 service with a suspension of the meeting between services. 30 voting members are required for a quorum.

We are meeting to vote on the updated dossal replacement budget. The church constitution requires congregational approval for expenditures in excess of \$20,000. We estimate the cost of this project to most likely cost between \$25,000 and \$30,000. This includes the purchase of fabric and orphreys (like the sample display in the narthex) from Merhaut Company, Allison Park; panel upholstery by The Barn Fabric Center, Williamsport; and the removal and reinstallation of the panels, as well as general contracting, by Lundy Construction Company, Williamsport.

To date, St. Mark's has received approximately \$13,000.00 in donations toward the dossal project. Due diligence has been given to this project over the past several

years, with many discussions held to work out every detail. Please join us on September 14th to cast your vote on the dossal replacement budget. Thank you.



Don't forget to look for items for all of the types of kits in preparation for the fall. Especially needed are receiving blankets (medium weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn -36" to 52" square (no polar

fleece), baby shirts up to 24 months with no snap crotches, cotton fabric, diapers (flat fold) and items for school kits (we do not need pencils, erasers or bags). For more info please contact Deb Buckman.



A great big THANK YOU to everyone who continues to donate items for our Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes! Never doubt that God is using these seemingly

small items for good. "Our economic condition is very poor, so my parents cannot afford to buy toys for me. When I heard that I would get a gift box, I was so excited! Thank you to all of my foreign friends who sent me the toys and other amazing things."

-Samia, East Asia

Our shoeboxes are getting closer and closer to being filled with just three more months of collecting to go! We bet you might have a good guess as to what August collections might be. Did you say school supplies? Then you are absolutely correct!

~In August we are indeed collecting School Supplies ~ crayons, pencils, pens, erasers, colored pencils, rulers, scissors (both kid and adult sizes).... you get the picture! Keep an eye out for those great sales that have already started! These items (or any others you find) may be placed in our red, OCC bin located in the Narthex. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

*The age ranges for the boxes we fill are 2-4, 5-9, and 10-14 (both boys and girls)



WANT TO EXPLORE WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A LUTHERAN CHRISTIAN? Adults wishing to unite with St. Mark's in church membership are invited to contact PASTOR VASEY at 570-323-4619 or email: stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org.



A bus trip to Stone Gables Estate* in Elizabethtown, PA is being organized by Cheryl Williams. This trip is being planned for Wednesday, November 19, 2025. The bus will be pulling out around 9:00 AM from Beiter's parking lot. The trip will include bus fare, a meal catered by "Food for Thought Catering", a ride on the Santa Express train, and the National Christmas center followed by the Christmas light drive-thru. All are included in the price of \$145.09 per person. If interested, please contact Cheryl at (570) 327-1627.

* Stone Gables Estate is a biblical faith-based ministry/business. Their mission is to donate 100% of net profits to aid abandoned children worldwide.



Please join us as our <u>Sunday School classes resume</u> September 14th beginning at 9:15 AM. Our Adult Class will meet with an overview and study of the Gospel according to St. Matthew. There will be no shortage of discussion, learning and laughter as Pastor leads this dedicated class in study. We look forward to sharing this time of fellowship and study and hope to have you join us! **All are welcome!**

175th Anniversary Celebration

The 175th Anniversary of the founding of St. Mark's Lutheran Church (formed as the First English Evangelical Lutheran Church) will take place in early 2027. This milestone anniversary is worthy of celebration, and we would like to begin planning for this special occasion. In an effort to accomplish this task, a 175th Anniversary Committee is being formed with our first meeting on Sunday, September 14th after late service. This will be a preliminary meeting to begin discussion and brainstorming on how we would like to proceed. We are looking for committee members (and hopefully committee co-chairs). If you are interested please come! If you are interested but can't make this meeting, please reach out to Vicki Haussmann. Looking forward to seeing you there!



Urgent Needs at Shepherd of the Streets

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee recently received news of an urgent need for specific hygiene products for men and women who come to the Shepherd's office. Their greatest needs are women's deodorant, toothpaste, baby wipes, bar soap, bodywash, baby bodywash, shampoo and paper towels. Any assistance you can give to this request is greatly appreciated.

Cereal Sunday

Our final Cereal Sunday of 2025 will be September 14, 2025. To date our congregation has donated 199 boxes of assorted cereal! The Food Pantry is very grateful for our donations.

Can we finish this project by getting to 225 boxes of cereal or more? (Any nonperishable food items are also appreciated.)



The clock is ticking and in a little more than one week it will be time to prepare for our Fall Bazaar/Sale in Fellowship Hall. Be thinking of how you (men and women) can help with set-up, the sale on September 12 and 13 and clean up. Many hands make for light work. Be looking for the sign-up sheets in the Narthex.



Red Cross Blood Drive Give the gift of life. Donate blood.

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee will hold the second of three Red Cross Blood Drives on Monday, September 22, 2025 from 11:00 – 3:00 in Fellowship Hall. Please consider donating blood yourself or encouraging your

friends and family members to donate. In our community, there continues to be a critical need for all blood types. Donors can preregister by calling 1-800-Red Cross.

Pastors' Luncheon

The Parish Life Committee will host the United Churches Pastors' luncheon on September 11 @ 1:00 PM in the Middle Lounge. We are in need of a dessert or monetary donations to assist with the cost of the meal. Checks can be made payable to St. Mark's with the memo line indicating Parish Life. Speak with Becky Miller Pryor if you are able to help.

Meeting

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee will meet Tuesday, September 2, 2025 @ 5:30 PM in the Middle Lounge. We wish to expand our membership. All are welcome to attend.



New Address:

Jane Kline 3900 Medical Center Drive Apartment 144 Fayetteville, NY 13066

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