THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST September 21, 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, 8 & 10:30 am (With One Voice, Setting 5)

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

As we are invited today to consider what it means to be managers (rather than owners) of all that we have, it is crucial to recognize that, "Christ Jesus, himself human, . . . gave himself a ransom for all." Apart from the generosity of God we have nothing—we are nothing. By grace we have everything we need.

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.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. By the power of your Holy Spirit, grant that we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Kneel/Stand

Silence for reflection and self-examination

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

With joy I proclaim to you that Almighty God +, rich in mercy, abundant in love, forgives you all your sin and grants you newness of life, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

*HYMN Son of God, Eternal Savior

LBW, "Green," 364

Son of God, Eternal Savior



- 1 Son of God, e ter nal Sav ior, source of life and truth and grace,
- 2 As you, Lord, have lived for oth ers, so may we for oth ers live.
- 3 Come, O Christ, and reign a mong us, King of love and Prince of peace;
- 4 Son of God, e ter nal Sav ior, source of life and truth and grace,



Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race, Free - ly have your gifts been grant-ed; free - ly may your ser - vants give. hush the storm of strife and pas-sion, bid its cru-el dis - cords cease. Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us hal - lows all our hu - man race:



you our head, who, throned in glo-ry, for your own will ev - er plead: Yours the gold and yours the sil-ver, yours the wealth of land and sea; By your pa-tient years of toil-ing, by your si-lent hours of pain, by your pray-ing, by your will-ing that your peo-ple should be one,



fill us with your love and pit - y, heal our wrong, and help our need. we but stew-ards of your boun-ty held in sol - emn trust will be. quench our fe-vered thirst of plea-sure, stem our self - ish greed of gain. grant, oh, grant our hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

Text: Somerset C. Lowry, 1855-1932

Music: IN BABILONE, Oude en Nieuwe Hollantse Boerenlities en Contradansen, 1710

*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. God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

THE FIRST READING: Amos 8:4-7

⁴Hear this, you who trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land, ⁵ saying, "When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain,

and the Sabbath,

so that we may offer wheat for sale?

We will make the ephah smaller and the shekel heavier and practice deceit with false balances,

⁶ buying the poor for silver

and the needy for a pair of sandals and selling the sweepings of the wheat."

⁷ The LORD has sworn by the pride of Jacob:

Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 113

¹ Hallelujah! Give praise, you servants | of the LORD; praise the name | of the LORD.

² Let the name of the | LORD be blessed, from this time forth for- | evermore.

³ From the rising of the sun to its | going down let the name of the | LORD be praised.

⁴The LORD is high a- | bove all nations; God's glory a- | bove the heavens.

⁵ Who is like the | LORD our God, who sits en- | throned on high,

6 but stoops | to behold

the heavens | and the earth?

⁷ The LORD takes up the weak out | of the dust and lifts up the poor | from the ashes,

*enthroning them | with the rulers, with the rulers | of the people.

⁹ The LORD makes the woman of a | childless house to be a joyful mother of children. | Hallelujah!

THE SECOND READING: 1 Timothy 2:1-7

¹First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³This is right and acceptable before God our Savior, ⁴ who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

⁵For there is one God;

there is also one mediator between God and humankind,

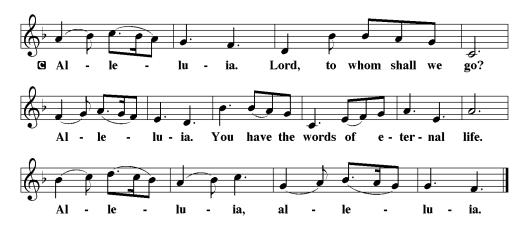
Christ Jesus, himself human,

- ⁶ who gave himself a ransom for all
- —this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth; I am not lying), a teacher of the gentiles in faith and truth.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*THE GOSPEL: Luke 16:1-13

The holy gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, according to St. Luke, the 16th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ² So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.' ³ Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴ I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' ⁵ So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' ⁶ He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' ⁷ Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' ⁸ And his master commended the dishonest manager because he

had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹ And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

¹⁰ "Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹ If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹² And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³ No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

THE SERMON

*HYMN God Whose Giving Knows No Ending LBW, "Green," 408

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending



- 1 God, whose giv-ing knows no end-ing, from your rich and end-less store:
- 2 Skills and time are ours for press-ing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
- 3 Trea-sure, too, you have en-trust-ed, gain through pow'rs your grace con-ferred;



na-ture's won-der, Je - sus' wis-dom, cost-ly cross, grave's shat - tered door, all at peace in health and free-dom, rac - es joined, the church made one. ours to use for home and kin-dred, and to spread the gos - pel word.



gift - ed by you, we turn to you, of - f'ring up our - selves in praise; Now di - rect our dai - ly la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone; O - pen wide our hands in shar-ing, as we heed Christ's age-less call,



thank-ful song shall rise for - ev - er, gra-cious do - nor of our days. born with tal - ents, make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne. heal - ing, teach-ing, and re - claim-ing, serv-ing you by lov-ing all.

*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: God of grace/Receive our prayer.

*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.

*OFFERING



*OFFERING PRAYER

Lord our God, through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. Strengthened by them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

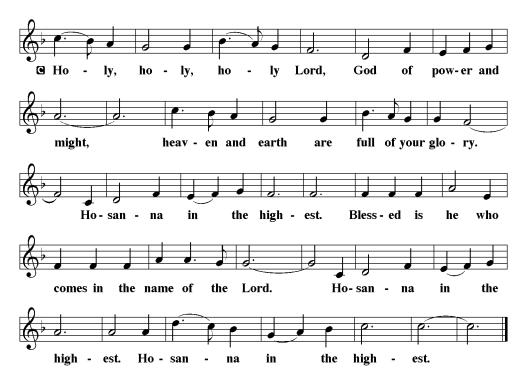
Lift up your hearts.

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:



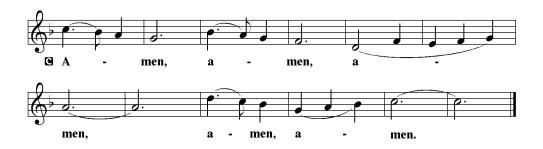
Holy, mighty and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In your great love you sent to us Jesus your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached the good news to the poor, and who on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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

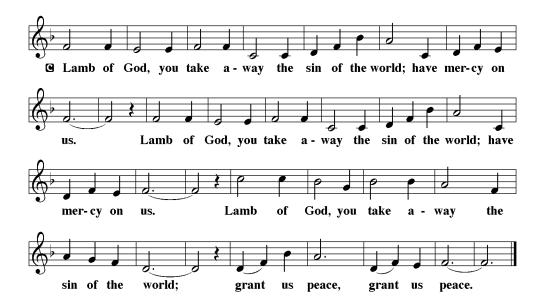
Lord as you have taught us, so now we pray:

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

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.

Come to this meal of mercy.

Amen. 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

O God,

through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants.

Send us to do good

and to share our possessions with all in need.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

*BLESSING

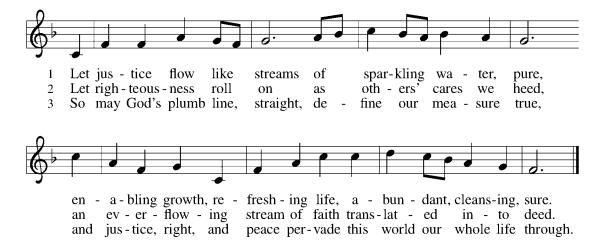
Almighty God, Father, + Son and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

*HYMN **Let Justice Flow Like Streams**

WOV, "Blue," 763

Let Justice Flow like Streams



Text: Jane Parker Huber, b. 1926

Music: ST. THOMAS, Aaron Williams, 1731–1776 Text © 1984 Jane Parker Huber, admin. Westminster John Knox Press

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

OUR PRAYER LIST

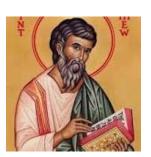
Liz Ruesskamp, Grace Arner, Vanessa Morgan, Gary Clark, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, Gary Cable, Virginia Pulaskie, Bunny Ditchfield, the family of Judy Fortin, Ezra Buckman, Sheila Brassard, Kevin Rosini, Kathy Eshelman, Micah, Deb Buckman, Linda Rosini, Walt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

COMMEMORATION

Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

Sunday, September 21, 2025

Matthew (or Levi) was a tax collector in Capernaum for the Roman government. Tax collectors were frequently despised for dishonesty and for assisting the occupiers. Jesus nevertheless showed love for them, and chose Matthew to be a disciple. It is believed Levi was his given name and Matthew (gift of God) the name given to him by Jesus.



THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Today, September 21 Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 am

Men's Fellowship, 9:15 am Sunday School, 9:30 am

Monday, September 22 Office Hours, 9 am - 1 pm

Blood Drive, 11 am - 3 pm

Tuesday, September 23 Office Hours, 9 am - 1 pm

Wednesday, September 24 Office Hours, 9 am - 1 pm

Sight & Sound, "Noah"

Thursday, September 25 Office Hours, 9 am - 1 pm

Friday, September 26 Office Hours, 9 am - 1 pm

Saturday, September 27 Office Closed

Sunday, September 28 Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 am

Sunday School, 9:15 am

OUR STEWARDSHIP for September 14, 2025

Regular Offering	2,069.00
Plate Offerings	40.00
Miscellaneous	51.00
World Hunger	50.00
Food Pantry	50.00
Global Mission	50.00
Sunday School Offering	28.00
Parish Life	53.00
Operation Christmas Child	50.00
Flower Memorials/Tributes	s 105.00
Capital Fund	25.00
Grand Total	\$2,571.00

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God; and In loving memory of Luella Bair's birthday by her children and; In loving memory of my husband on his birthday by Sally Bjornstad.

WORSHIP LEADERS for September 21, 2025

Lector	8:00 am	Brian Jackson
	10:30 am	Deb Buckman
Communion Assistants	8:00 am	Brian Jackson
	10:30 am	Ralph & Lou Ann Zeigler
Ushers	8:00 am	Miller/Poff
	10:30 am	Tim & Deb Maggs, Dick Reitz
Hospitality	8:00 am	The Haussmann Family
Organist		Sam Robinson
Altar Guild (SEPTEMB)	ER)	Deb Buckman

BULLETIN SPONSORS for September 7, 2025

Richard Reitz; and Deb Buckman

ANNIVERSARIES

Mike & Jackie Kinney 9/25

BIRTHDAYS

Ronald Aner	9/22
Brittany Dewar	9/22
Abby Robertson	9/26

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."

Lutheran ~Pack-up for the kits will be Sunday, Sept. 28 after the 10:30 World am service. We need to secure the boxes and pack the remaining items.

~Blanket Sunday is Oct. 5. Remember, Blankets need to be 60x80" and cotton - please no fleece. Quilts are really appreciated.

~Kits will be delivered to the Synod on Sat. Oct. 18 so I will need help to put all the boxes in my car. The Boy Scouts will unload them at the Synod location so that is not a problem.

Family Promise

Our next hosting is coming up soon. All dates are open except Tuesday, Oct. 7. We need coverage for Sun. Oct. 5, Mon. Oct. 6, Wed. Oct. 8, Thurs. Oct. 9 and Fri. Oct. 10. Please see me as to which date you would like and if you know your menu, thank would be great. Deb B <u>dabuckman65@gmail.com</u>.

Finance

There will be a finance committee meeting on Tuesday, October 15, 2025 at 5pm to work on the budget.

Committee Chairpersons – By now you should have received your budget paperwork. Please return no later than October 13, 2025. Place in my mailbox – Thanks, Deb B.



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 red bin has been overflowing all year which is absolutely wonderful! This September we are collecting, **Small Games/Puzzles**, and **School Supplies**. Not a huge fan of shopping? Please consider a donation of \$10.00 which will be put toward our \$750.00 (or more) shipping costs.
- ~These items (or any others you find) may be placed in our red, OCC bin located in the narthex. Your generosity is very much appreciated! 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.

New Ecumenical Youth Group

All interested youth (grades 6-12) are asked to gather for pizza, games and brainstorming at Trinity Episcopal Church, Williamsport, on Sunday, September 28 from 6-8pm. Hope to see you there!



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.

CROP Walk

Our Community's annual walk to fight hunger, CROP Hunger Walk, will be held **Sunday, October 12th** at 1:00 PM, on the River Walk in Williamsport. The walk begins here at St. Mark's and you can walk 3, 6 or 9 miles (most of us walk 3 miles).

Join the **St. Mark's Lutheran Church Lions** team to walk or donate. Our goal is \$1,000 (last year we raised \$1,065)! Hungry people in developing countries can walk as many as six miles a day for food and water. We walk because they walk. By walking on a fall afternoon, you create awareness to these issues, raise funds and have fellowship with members of the St. Mark's congregation as well as other congregations.

25% of the funds we raise support local hunger agencies and the other 75% is distributed by Church World Service nationally and internationally. In partnership CROP walks support self-help programs, assist after disasters and help address root causes of poverty by providing water systems and tools to grow the food they need.

To register to walk or donate to our team, you can speak with Brenda Gair (text 570-220-8859) or on-line;

https://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/team/st-marks-lutheran-church-lions

Checks can be made payable to "CWS/CROP"



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.



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.

A Concert in SOUND and SIGHT – The Seipp/Fickley Trumpet/Organ Duo VIDEO illustrating MUSIC

From Copland's Fanfare for the Common Man, to the 1917 silent film Teddy at the Throttle, to Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue, enjoy unprecedented entertaining and musical heights through all styles of specialized arrangements synchronized to captivating and moving videos. An entertaining and engaging program for all ages.

Covenant Central Presbyterian Church 807 West Fourth Street, Williamsport Saturday, October 4, 3 p.m.

No tickets, but donations welcome to benefit veterans



The <u>Annual Fall Hymn Sing</u> at Old Immanuel Lutheran Church (2633 Lime Bluff Rd, Muncy) will take place on Sunday, October 5, 2:30 pm. Old Immanuel is considered to be the "mother church of Lutheranism in Lycoming County". Founded in 1791, the church was an active congregation until its closing in 1920. The public is invited and an offering will be received to help with upkeep and maintenance costs. Please be aware that the building does not have running water or electricity.



Our **Pet Blessing** will be on 10/5/2025 at 2pm in our Parking Lot.

Portions of this service are reprinted with permission from...

Lutheran Book of Worship (copyright, 1978)

Augsburg-Fortress Publishers (#2562-L).

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (copyright 2006)

Augsburg-Fortress Publishers, under license #2562-L.

sundayandseasons.com (copyright 2019), Augsburg-Fortress.

All rights reserved.

Augsburg-Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB144818. "One License" A-738528