

THE NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

**JULY 26, 2026**

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**

**142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701**

**[stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org)**

**Office (570-323-4619) Fax (570-323-2452)**

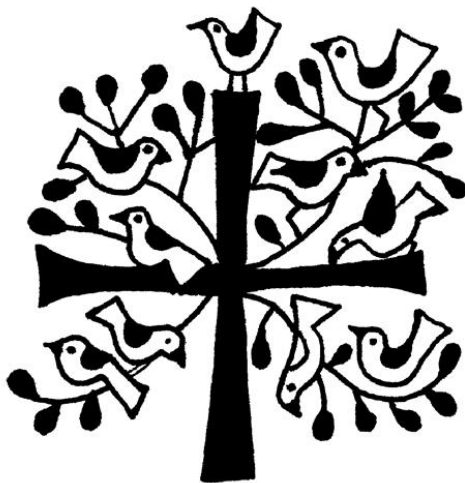
**Rev. Brian D. Vasey, Pastor**

**[bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto: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; Setting Ten, Evangelical Lutheran Worship**

***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.***

## **PRELUDE**

## **INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP**

*As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith. In today's gospel Jesus offers everyday images that reveal to us the reign of God: a tree that becomes a sheltering home, yeast that penetrates and expands, a treasured pearl, a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!*

## **WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ 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 our 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.

**Amen.**

*(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 therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the  $\dagger$ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**\*HYMN**

**God is Here!**

**WOV “Blue,” 719**



1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer  
2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long  
3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's  
4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of



praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure  
need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;  
flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,  
change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the  
here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -  
Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants  
help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's



world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts  
ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,  
of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore  
ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;



wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.  
here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.  
what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.  
we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

### **\*THE GREETING**

The grace of the 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



- 1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.  
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.  
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:  
Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;  
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.  
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.  
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.  
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.  
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

## \*THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

**Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

## THE FIRST READING: 1 Kings 3:5-12

<sup>5</sup> At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I should give you." <sup>6</sup> And Solomon said, "You have shown great and

steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. <sup>7</sup> And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. <sup>8</sup> And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. <sup>9</sup> Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?"

<sup>10</sup> It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. <sup>11</sup> God said to him, "Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, <sup>12</sup> I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you."

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM 119:129-136**

<sup>129</sup> Your de- | crees are wonderful;  
therefore I obey them with | all my heart.

<sup>130</sup> **When your word is opened | it gives light;  
it gives understanding | to the simple.**

<sup>131</sup> I open my | mouth and pant  
because I long for | your commandments.

<sup>132</sup> **Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me,  
as you always do to those who | love your name.**

<sup>133</sup> Order my footsteps | in your word;  
let no iniquity have dominion | over me.

<sup>134</sup> **Rescue me from those | who oppress me,  
and I will keep | your commandments.**  
<sup>135</sup> Let your face shine up- | on your servant and  
teach | me your statutes.  
<sup>136</sup> **My eyes shed | streams of tears,  
because people do not | keep your teaching.**

**THE SECOND READING: Romans 8:26-39**

<sup>26</sup> The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. <sup>27</sup> And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

<sup>28</sup> We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. <sup>30</sup> And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

<sup>31</sup> What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he not with him also give us everything else? <sup>33</sup> Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. <sup>35</sup> Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all day long;  
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.”

<sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav-ing word.



Let it burn like fire with-in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

## \*THE GOSPEL: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

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

### Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>31</sup> [Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; <sup>32</sup> it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

<sup>33</sup> He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

<sup>44</sup> “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

<sup>45</sup> “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; <sup>46</sup> on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

<sup>47</sup> “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; <sup>48</sup> when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. <sup>49</sup> So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous <sup>50</sup> and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

<sup>51</sup> “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” <sup>52</sup> And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **THE SERMON**

### **DEDICATION OF THE DOSSAL**

#### **Introduction**

#### **Presentation**

#### **Dedication**

Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**The maker of heaven and earth.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Gracious and loving God, you have moved your people throughout history to beautify the places where your name is honored. We give you thanks today for the gift of this new dossal, given to adorn this space and to direct our eyes and hearts toward the mystery of your presence in our worship.

**Bless this dossal, O Lord, and bless all who look upon it. May it's presence remind us of your majesty, your beauty, and the great cloud of witnesses who surround us.**

We pray for those who crafted this work, for those who donated it, and for all who will gather in this sanctuary to offer their prayers and praises. Strengthen our faith, that as we behold your glory in this place, we may be equipped to be your living presence in the world. This we pray in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**\*HYMN**

**How Great Thou Art**

**LBW “Green,” 532**



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe - some won - der con - sid - er  
2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der, I hear the  
3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing, sent him to  
4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion, and take me



all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might-y  
birds sing sweet-ly in the trees; when I look down from loft - y moun-tain  
die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my bur - den glad - ly  
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum-ble ad - o -



thun - der, thy pow'r through-out the u - ni - verse dis - played;  
gran - deur and hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;  
bear - ing he bled and died to take a - way my sin;  
ra - tion and there pro - claim, "My God, how great thou art!"

*Refrain*



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to thee, how great thou



art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to



thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

Text: Carl G. Boberg, 1859–1940; tr. and adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1899–1989  
Music: O STORE GUD, Swedish folk tune; adapt. Stuart K. Hine  
Text and music © 1953 S. K. Hine, assigned to Manna Music, Inc., 35255 Brooten Road,  
Pacific City OR 97135 (ASCAP). Renewed 1981. All rights reserved.

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

## **\*THE APOSTLES' CREED**

With all the church, 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/Hear 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 or gestures.*

#### **OFFERTORY**

#### **\*OFFERING PRAYER**

Loving God,  
we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.  
Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,  
so that all creation can taste your abundance.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus,  
through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.  
**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 of eternal life. And so with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

**Amen.**

### **\*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**



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

### **\*INVITATION TO COMMUNE**

Heaven has come near.  
Come, share in the feast!  
**Thanks be to God!**

*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.*

## **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**

Compassionate God,  
through the gifts of bread and wine  
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.  
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,  
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus,  
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

**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      All My Hope on God is Founded      WOV “Blue,” 782**

1 Sing to the Lord of har - vest, sing songs of love and praise;  
 2 God makes the clouds drop fat - ness, the des - erts bloom and spring,  
 3 Bring to this sa - cred al - tar the gifts his good-ness gave,  
 with joy - ful hearts and voic - es your al - le - lu - ias raise.  
 the hills leap up in glad - ness, the val - leys laugh and sing.  
 the gold - en sheaves of har - vest, the souls Christ died to save.  
 By him the roll - ing sea - sons in fruit - ful or - der move;  
 God fills them with his full - ness, all things with large in - crease;  
 Your hearts lay down be - fore him when at his feet you fall,  
 sing to the Lord of har - vest a joy - ous song of love.  
 he crowns the year with good - ness, with plen - ty and with peace.  
 and with your lives a - dore him who gave his life for all.

## \*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

\*\*\*\*\*

## OUR PRAYER LIST

Grace Arner, Vanessa Morgan, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, Gary Cable, Virginia Pulaskie, Bunny Ditchfield, Ezra Buckman, Claire Brassard, Kevin Rosini, Kathy Eshelman, Micah, Deb Buckman, Linda Rosini, Walt & Leah Haussmann, Kristin Rehm, Ariel, John Tartline, George Poliska, Connie Shaible, John Holohan, Loretta Hawe, Donna Baker, Ann Kuntz, Ann & Charles Kuntz, Dave Williams, Bud Doebler, Shirley Hill, Ruth Osbaugh, Pam Osbaugh, Becky Pryor, Hannah Hausmann, Ellis Reed, and Stephen Boone.

## COMMEMORATIONS

**Johann Sebastian Bach, died 1750; Heinrich Schütz, died 1672; George Frederick Handel, died 1759; musicians**

*Tuesday, July 28, 2026*

These three German-born musicians have done much to enrich the life of the church. Schütz was an early master who focused on settings of biblical texts. Bach wrote over 300 cantatas along with works for organ and instrumental pieces, and has been called the "fifth evangelist" for the way he proclaimed the gospel in music. Handel's great work, *Messiah*, is a setting of scriptural texts.



**Mary, Martha, and Lazarus of Bethany**

*Wednesday, July 29, 2026*

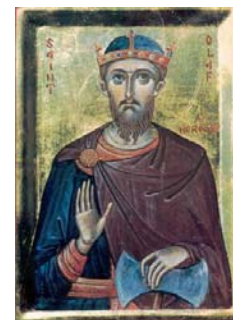
Friends of Jesus, Mary and Martha are remembered for the hospitality of their home that they offered him—Martha focused on serving their guest, and Mary on listening to him. Their brother Lazarus was raised from the dead as a sign of the greater resurrection to come.



**Olaf, King of Norway, martyr, died 1030**

*Wednesday, July 29, 2026*

Considered the patron saint of Norway, Olaf went from a life of piracy to becoming Christian and declaring himself king of Norway. He revised the laws and tried to administer them fairly. Driven from Norway in a rebellion, he was killed in battle trying to regain his kingdom.



## THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

**Today, July 26**

**Ninth Sunday After Pentecost  
Holy Communion, 9:30 am  
Dossal Dedication**

**Monday, July 27**

**Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm**

|                           |                                                                                           |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Tuesday, July 28</b>   | <b>Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm</b>                                                           |
| <b>Wednesday, July 29</b> | <b>Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm</b>                                                           |
| <b>Thursday, July 30</b>  | <b>Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm</b>                                                           |
| <b>Friday, July 31</b>    | <b>Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm</b>                                                           |
| <b>Saturday, August 1</b> | <b>Office Closed</b>                                                                      |
| <b>Sunday, August 2</b>   | <b>Tenth Eleventh After Pentecost<br/>Holy Communion, 9:30 am<br/>Retirement Luncheon</b> |

**OUR STEWARDSHIP for July 19, 2026**

|                           |                   |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Regular Offering          | \$2,145.00        |
| Plate Offerings           | 1.00              |
| Miscellaneous             | 170.00            |
| Flower Memorials/Tributes | 105.00            |
| <b>Grand Total</b>        | <b>\$2,421.00</b> |

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the Glory of God; and  
 In loving memory of Frank Doeblor, and in honor of Marie Lou Doeblor, by Karen Mariano; and  
 In honor of my son, Robb Millikan, on his birthday, by Sally Bjornstad.

**WORSHIP LEADERS for July 26, 2026**

|                      |         |                             |
|----------------------|---------|-----------------------------|
| Lector               | 9:30 am | Deb Buckman                 |
| Communion Assistants | 9:30 am | Deb Buckman & Mindy Wentzel |
| Ushers               | 9:30 am | Gary & Shelby Weber         |
| Hospitality          | 9:30 am | Becky Pryor                 |
| Organist             |         | Megan Cartwright            |
| Altar Guild (JULY)   |         | Mel & Mindy Wentzel         |

**WORSHIP LEADERS for August 2, 2026**

|                      |         |                                                    |
|----------------------|---------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Lector               | 9:30 am | Ralph Zeigler                                      |
| Communion Assistants | 9:30 am | Ralph & Lou Ann Zeigler                            |
| Ushers               | 9:30 am | Mel Wentzel & Glenn Yaple                          |
| Organist             |         | Megan Cartwright                                   |
| Altar Guild (AUGUST) |         | Lou Ann Ziegler, Theresa Furman, and<br>Cindy Todd |

## **BIRTHDAYS**

|                     |      |
|---------------------|------|
| Ann Kuntz (of Avis) | 7/27 |
| Matt Fortin         | 7/29 |
| Stephen Dewar       | 7/31 |
| Ryan Kane           | 7/31 |

## **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 it may be included in the weekly bulletin and/or the "Lion."



Believe it or not, practically a full year has passed since we collected kits for Lutheran World Relief. School items will go on sale this month so you can start snapping them up - remember, 70-80 sheet notebook (no composition books), pencils, blue/black pens, pencil sharpeners, erasers and a ruler with English and metric units. There is a poster in the parish hall way that shows where some items went. Directions and bags will be available the first week of August or go to [lwr.org](http://lwr.org) and click on "get involved". Thanks and God bless – Deb

**Family Promise** is no longer functioning. Thanks to all of you who helped with Family Promise over the years. Our church was one of the founding members. Our members have been very generous. Please keep up God's work. In Christ's name - thanks - Deb B



**Become  
Part of  
Our  
Church  
Family**

## **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](mailto:stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org).



### **Most Needed At.....**

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee thanks you for any assistance you can give.

**Shepherd of the Streets:** Needed are Laundry Pods, Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Tissues, Band Aids, Women's Deodorant, Q-tips, Combs, Sunscreen, Children's Toothbrushes and Toothpaste and Adult Toothpaste.

**Sojourner Truth Ministries (STM):** Needed are Individual Snacks/Breakfast Bars, Large, Brown Lunch Bags Napkins, Mayonnaise, Sugar, Snack-Size Ziplock Bags and Pine Sol or Lysol Cleaner.

**United Churches Food Pantry:** Mid-Month Food Pantry Needs are Canned Mandarin Oranges, Pineapple, White Potatoes and Pork & Beans, Wide Egg Noodles, Ramen Noodles, and Condiments (Ketchup, Mustard, BBQ Sauce, Mayonnaise and Relish.) The Pantry still needs plastic grocery bags and 12-count egg cartons.

**Sandwich Needs:** The Parish Life Committee is filled with gratitude for the dozens of tuna salad and chicken salad packets donated so far this summer. They will definitely stretch our sandwich budget and add to the variety of sandwiches we can offer the folks who visit the Blessing Boxes. Thank you to all who contributed to this outreach.

During times of extreme summer heat, we are relying on these donations, along with Peanut Butter and Jelly to keep the Blessing Boxes full with safe sandwiches.

**Cereal Sunday : We Are on A Roll!**  
**96 Boxes of Cereal and Counting!**

Our next Cereal Sunday is August 9, 2026. Can we beat July's donations of 56 boxes of cereal?

P.S. Cereal can be dropped off anytime between now and August 9<sup>th</sup>.

**VBS Update**

Jackie Kinney and Becky Pryor, along with many extra donations from the Faith Formation Committee, prepared a perfect supper for the VBS crowd. More than 50 children and adult leaders enjoyed hot dogs, chips, applesauce and pudding for the snack later in the evening.

One leader remarked she finally got a St. Mark's hot dog since we did not have our July Fourth Celebration.

**August Desserts for Redeemer's Community Dinner**

Thank you to the Newcomer's for providing festive brownies for Redeemer's July dinner. This month the Evangelism and Fellowship Committee is accepting boxes of TastyKake Cupcakes in any flavor. Donations may be placed on the table in the Narthex. All donations are due by August 9, 2026. Thank you for any help you can give.

**Happy Birthday Ann Kuntz!**

Ann Kuntz, wife of Charles, joins the ranks of several lovely ladies in our congregation who have reached the age of ninety or beyond. Please take a moment to send birthday wishes to Ann on her special day. Her address is .....

Ann Kuntz  
119 Clinton Street  
Avis, PA 17703



A bus trip to see “**JOSHUA**” at Sight & Sound is scheduled for Wednesday, 9-23-2026. Meet at the west end of Beiter’s parking lot at 6am. The price for the trip is \$178.00 per adult and \$109.08 for children 12 and under, which includes the ticket to the show, the bus, and a meal at Hershey Farm Inn. To purchase tickets or with any questions please contact Cheryl Williams at (570) 327-1627.

### BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS

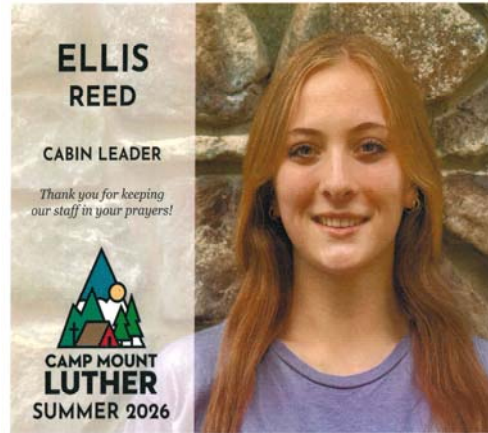
From the banks of the Jordan River to the towering walls of Jericho, JOSHUA is a miraculous adventure for the whole family. Journey alongside the people of Israel as they navigate their new-found freedom in an unforgiving wilderness. When Joshua is called to replace Moses as their faithful leader, tensions mount in the midst of dwindling supplies and approaching armies. With one last fortified city standing between the Israelites and the Promised Land, unexpected hell emerges from behind enemy lines and Joshua’s trust in God’s plan is put to the ultimate test.

### Synod Trip to Germany

A trip to Germany is being planned by our Synod 10/10-10/18 (with an option to stay through 10/21), 2026. There is a flyer with more details available, if you are interested please see the church office. Those wishing to go should keep these dates open.



**Camp Mount Luther** has requested that each congregation in our Synod pray for a member of the Summer Camp Staff. Our Staff Member is Cabin Leader Ellis Reed. Please pray for Ellis and the campers assigned to her.



### **Young Adults in Global Mission**

Hannah Haussmann has felt called to join Young Adults in Global Mission, an ELCA ministry that invites young adults ages 21-35 into a year of international service. Hannah will "walk" alongside global companions in ministries of justice, education, health and community development. Rooted in the Lutheran value of accompaniment, YAGM emphasizes mutuality, listening and transformation through relationships and countering the harms of colonial Christianity. Volunteers are shaped by the witness of their neighbors and return with a deeper understanding of God's work in the world and their own faith.

Hannah has been assigned to Cambodia. Her work at present is still unknown as that will be determined when she learns where she will be located.

### **Pastor Vasey's Retirement Celebration**

**August 2, 2026, 9:30 am**

**The Clock is Ticking**

The invitations for the meal following worship have been sent. Please take a moment to learn of the details, check your calendar for your availability to attend, and **please return your reservation as soon as possible**. If, by chance, you did not receive an invitation, please call the church office at 570-323-4619.

---

# YAGM HOW TO GIVE

---

## YAGM VOLUNTEER & GIVING CODE: **Hannah Haussmann: GCS3621**

---

Your gifts to Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) make a difference!

The YAGM program provides ELCA young adults, ages 21-35, with a life-changing year of service around the world. As the volunteers walk alongside their host communities, they are transformed, engaging in relationships of mutuality, interdependence, solidarity, and trust.

Your donation to an individual YAGM helps support this program. Your gift helps make it possible for our young adults to be formed and informed by our companions and provides an opportunity for young adults to walk with our siblings in Christ around the world every year.

---

Make checks payable to the "ELCA" with "YAGM" on the memo line. To have your gift designated to an individual YAGM, please include their Giving Code on the memo line and send to

**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America  
P.O. Box 1809  
Merrifield, VA  
22116-8009**

## WITH A CHECK

0001  
Date March 16 20 24  
PAY TO THE ORDER OF ELCA \$ 2,000.00  
Two Thousand and 00/100 DOLLARS  
For YAGM and Giving Code Donor Signature  
005552222 00555222222 0001

---

## WITH A CREDIT CARD

Visit [www.elca.org/yagm/give](http://www.elca.org/yagm/give) to donate with a credit card. Select a donation amount and a volunteer's name from the dropdown menu or make a general gift to YAGM.

Call **800-638-3522** to donate with a credit card. Operators are ready to assist you Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Central Time.

Visit [www.elca.org/yagmsupport](http://www.elca.org/yagmsupport) and click **Donate** on the top right of the page. Search for a YAGM by name to visit their individual Peer-to-Peer fundraising page, click **Donate Now**, and follow the giving instructions.



\*\*\*\*\*  
*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*  
\*\*\*\*\*