

**THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 13, 2026**

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church
142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701
stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org
Office (570-323-4619) Fax (570-323-2452)**

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 One, Lutheran Book of 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 *Prelude on New Britain* Peter Stearns

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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.

(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.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ is given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your sins. To those of you who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

***HYMN Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing LBW “Green,” 499**



1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
 2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";
 3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.
 and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
 let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end-less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
 Je - sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-d'ring from the fold of God;
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good-ness prove.
 he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter - posed his pre-cious blood.
 Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

NETTLETON

*THE GREETING

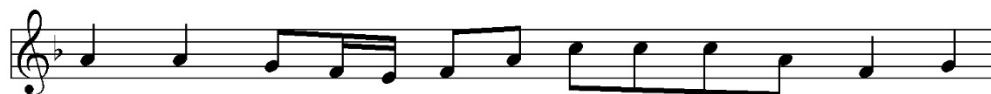
The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

*HYMN OF PRAISE



A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



B Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:



We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men

***THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness.

Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 103: 1-13

¹ Bless the LORD, | O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's | holy name.
² **Bless the LORD, | O my soul,**
and forget not | all God's benefits—
³ who forgives | all your sins
and heals all | your diseases;
⁴ **who redeems your life | from the grave**
and crowns you with steadfast | love and mercy;
⁵ who satisfies your desires | with good things
so that your youth is renewed | like an eagle's.

⁶ **O LORD, you provide | vindication
and justice for all who | are oppressed.**

⁷ You made known your | ways to Moses
and your works to the chil- | dren of Israel.

⁸ **LORD, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love;**

⁹ you will not al- | ways accuse us,
nor will you keep your an- | ger forever.

¹⁰ **You have not dealt with us according | to our sins,
nor repaid us according to | our iniquities.**

¹¹ For as the heavens are high a- | bove the earth,
so great is your steadfast love for | those who fear you.

¹² **As far as the east is | from the west,
so far have you removed our transgres- | sions from us.**

¹³ As a father has compassion | for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear | you, O LORD.

THE SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written,
“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,

and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



***THE GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35 (Parable of the Unforgiving Servant)**

The holy gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew, the 18th chapter.



²¹ Peter came and said to [Jesus,] “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³ “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will

pay you.’ ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”
The gospel of the Lord.



THE SERMON

*HYMN Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive LBW “Green,” 307



1 "For - give our sins as we for - give," you taught us, Lord, to pray;
2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for - giv - ing heart
3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew:
4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls and bid re - sent - ment cease;



but you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
that broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
how tri - fling oth - ers' debts to us; how great our debt to you!
then, by your mer - cy rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

DETROIT

*THE APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church, let us 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 or gestures.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Deb Buckman

You Are Mine

*OFFERING

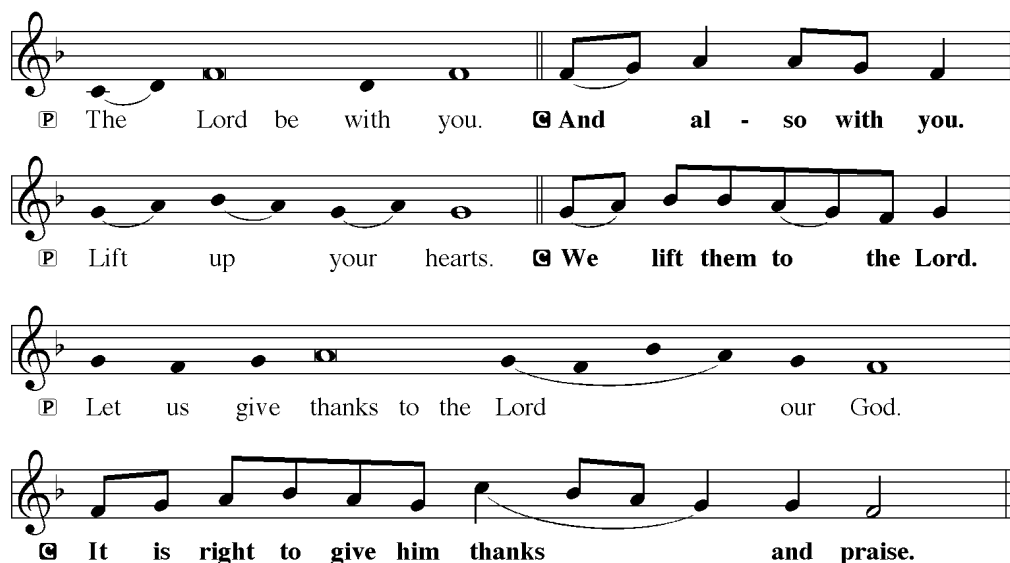


Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

*OFFERING PRAYER

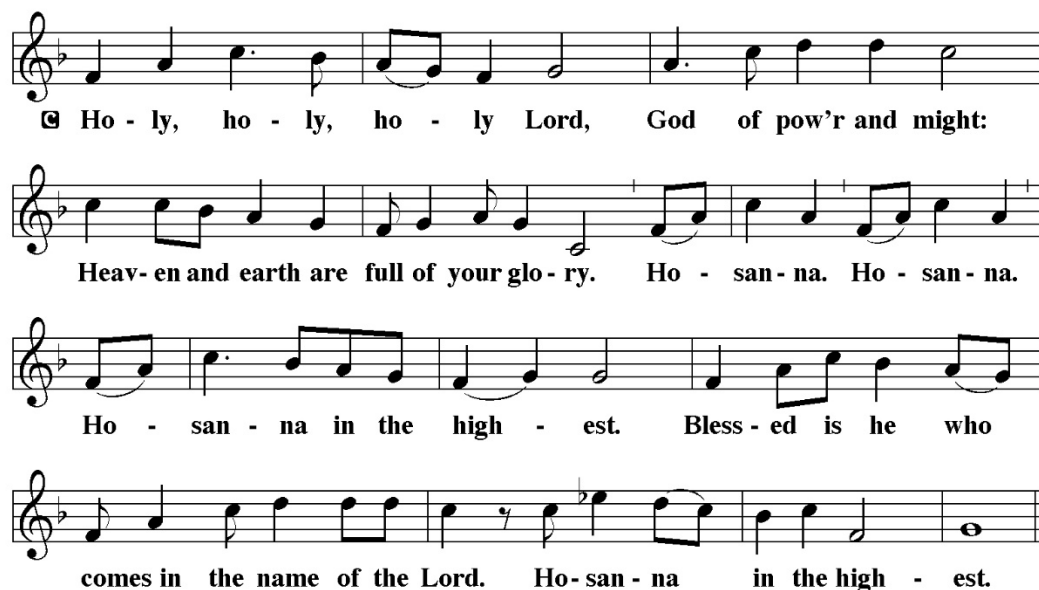
God of creation,
you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.
All blessings are from you;
make us generous with what we have.
Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts
in service to you and in love to our neighbors,
today and always.
Amen.

*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 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'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, 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.

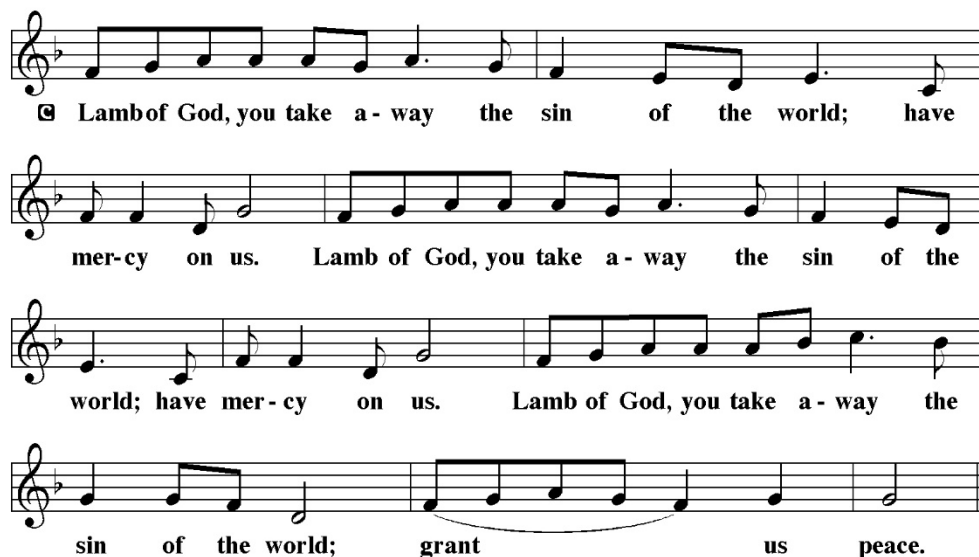
Amen.

***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**



***INVITATION TO COMMUNE**

Christ invites you to this table.
 All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!
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**

Sustaining God,

with this bread and cup,

you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.

By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.

Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love,

following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

***BLESSING**

The God of love

draw you into full accord and one mind,

in the body of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope

grant you strength and joy in all circumstances

through the interceding of the Spirit.

Amen.

The God of grace

✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

***HYMN Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound LBW “Green,” 448**

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and

now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.

NEW BRITIAN

***DISMISSAL**

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Prospect for Southern Harmony Anonymous

Summary: Jesus teaches Peter to forgive without limit, telling of a servant whose enormous debt is forgiven but refuses to forgive another.

Theme: God's limitless forgiveness; mercy; extending to others the grace we have received.

Music notes

Today's Gospel finds Jesus teaching Peter that forgiveness has no ceiling — not "seven times," but seventy times seven — through the parable of a servant whose enormous debt is forgiven, yet who refuses to forgive another. Our hymns trace this theme from gratitude to petition to testimony. We open with "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" (NETTLETON), Robert Robinson's classic acknowledgment that we are all debtors to grace, its "streams of mercy, never ceasing" echoing the

boundless mercy shown to the servant at the story's start. We continue with "Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive" (DETROIT), Rosamond Herklots' text drawn directly from the Lord's Prayer petition that Jesus is unpacking in this passage; sung to the plaintive, folk-like DETROIT tune, it turns the parable into an honest prayer for the grace to forgive "the sins we find so hard to bear." We close with "Amazing Grace" (NEW BRITAIN), John Newton's testimony to a debt he knew he could never repay — much like the servant's staggering ten thousand talents — reminding us that grace freely received is grace meant to be freely given.

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, Stephen Boone, Joshua Garverick, Jane Kline and David Martinez.

COMMEMORATIONS

**John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople,
died 407**

Sunday, September 13, 2026

John was a priest in Antioch and an outstanding preacher. His eloquence earned him the nickname "Chrysostom" ("golden mouth"). Appointed bishop of Constantinople, seat of the empire, he criticized corruption in the court. As a result, he was exiled by the empress.



Holy Cross Day

Monday, September 14, 2026

Helena, mother of Constantine, made a pilgrimage to The Holy Land and found what may be the actual site of Jesus' crucifixion. Her son built two churches there, and the dedication of one of them gave rise to this celebration of our Lord's victory on the cross.



Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, martyr, died around 258

Wednesday, September 16, 2026

Cyprian served as a bishop during a time of great persecution of Christians. He insisted on receiving back those who had left the faith under duress. He also provided medical care during a severe epidemic.



Hildegard, Abbess of Bingen, died 1179

Thursday, September 17, 2026

A mystic who was widely influential within the church, Hildegard advised and reproved kings and popes, wrote poems and hymns, and produced treatises in medicine, theology, and natural history. She was also a musician and artist.



Dag Hammarskjöld, renewer of society, died 1961

Friday, September 18, 2026

A Swedish diplomat, Hammarskjöld served as the second Secretary General of the United Nations until his death in a plane crash while trying to negotiate peace in present-day Zambia. His journal, published as *Markings*, revealed the depth of his Christian faith.



THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Today, September 13

**Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Holy Communion, 9:30 am
Janet Stroble preaching and
presiding**

Monday, September 14	Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm Finance Meeting, 6 pm
Tuesday September 15	Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm
Wednesday, September 16	Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm
Thursday, September 17	Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm
Friday, September 18	Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm
Saturday, September 19	Office Closed
Sunday, September 20	Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost Holy Communion, 9:30 am Pastor Montgomery preaching and presiding

OUR STEWARDSHIP for September 6, 2026

Count unavailable at this time.

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God; and
In Celebration of our St. Mark's Family; and
To the Glory of God, by Steve & Karen Mariano.

WORSHIP LEADERS for September 13, 2026

Preacher/Celebrant	9:30 am	Janet Stroble
Lector	9:30 am	Scott Seyler
Communion Assistants	9:30 am	Gary & Shelby Weber
Ushers	9:30 am	Tim & Deb Maggs/Dick Reitz
Offering Collection	9:30 am	Lou Ann Zeigler/Cindy Todd
Organist		Sam Robinson
Altar Guild		Sally Bjornstad & Vicki Haussmann

WORSHIP LEADERS for September 20, 2026

Preacher/Celebrant	9:30 am	Pastor Ron Montgomery
Lector	9:30 am	Shawn Cartwright
Communion Assistants	9:30 am	Ralph & Lou Ann Zeigler
Ushers	9:30 am	Gary & Shelby Weber
Offering Collection	9:30 am	Donna Clark
Organist		Sam Robinson
Altar Guild		Sally Bjornstad & Vicki Haussmann

BIRTHDAYS

Tim Maggs	9/13
Stefan Weber	9/13

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 the church office telephone (570-323-4619) or email: stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org.

~ 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."



Thank you so much for those that have donated school kits, personal care kits, fabric kits and baby kits. We are close to our goal of 70 school kits. I will be pulling the school kit items from the table this week and putting out other items. There are baby kit items in the narthex including diapers - each kit requires 4. Items for the personal care kits will be available next week. The final day to bring items in will be Oct. 4. There will be a **packing party on Tues. Oct. 13 at noon** to be ready for taking the items to Lewisburg on Sat. Oct. 17. All helpers are welcome. God bless – Deb

FINANCE

Finance committee will meet Monday, Sept. 14 at 6 PM in the middle lounge. Committee chairpersons please turn in your budget requests by Monday, Oct. 5. Next finance committee meeting is Monday, Oct. 12



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, Shampoo, Body Wash, Hand Soap, Children's Toothbrushes and Toothpaste. **Of urgent need are paper towels and shampoo for women and men.**

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: Food Pantry needs are Sugar, Canned Mandarin Oranges, Pineapple, "Ritz" Crackers, White Potatoes and Pork & Beans, Wide Egg Noodles, Ramen Noodles, Chicken Noodle Soup and Condiments (Ketchup, Mustard, BBQ Sauce, Mayonnaise and Relish.) The Pantry still needs plastic grocery bags and 12-count egg cartons.

This week's BEST DEAL/Bonus Buy at Giant: Until September 10th, Giant's brand of pasta and Nissin/Ramen Noodles are just \$.77 each! The Pantry needs all kinds of pasta except elbow and spaghetti, while the Blessing Boxes can use the Ramen noodles. If you shop at Giant, please consider adding these items to your shopping list.

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

We continue to accept monetary donations. These donations assist with bread, rolls, meat, cheese, individual condiment packages and sandwich bags.

Final Cereal Sunday
Sunday, September 13, 2026
WE ARE ON A ROLL!

A quick count last Sunday revealed members of the congregation had already donated 68 boxes of assorted cereal. Cereal may be placed in the Narthex anytime up to September 13th.



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.



A bus trip to **Stone Gables Estate* in Elizabethtown, PA** is being organized by Cheryl Williams. This trip is being planned for Wednesday, November 18, 2026. The bus will be pulling out around 10:30 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 \$151.00 per adult, children are \$107.00. If interested, please contact Cheryl at (570) 327-1627, **reservations are due by October 5, 2026.**

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



Harvest Home Sunday will be celebrated **October 4, 2026**. Please pick-up a paper bag in the narthex marked for this event and fill it with non-perishable food items. Our donations will be shared with the United Churches of Lycoming County Food Pantry. Please return bags by Sunday, September 27, 2026 so they can be displayed in the Nave on Harvest Home Sunday.



Dear St. Mark's Family,

Thank you so much for your cards and notes after my surgery. I really appreciate your kindness and prayers.

I've been moved to a physical therapy floor. While I'm making progress, I realize healing takes time.

Thank you again for your love and concern.

Jane Kline



St. Mark's is hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive on Monday, September 21 from 11A-3P. There is a critical need for blood! Here's how you can help:

1. Scan the QR code below or go to www.redcrossblood.org to sign up to donate blood.
2. Encourage friends and family members to donate.
3. Provide \$10 gift cards to Sheetz, Wawa, Dunkin, or Wegmans to be used as incentives for college students to donate blood. Please drop these off in the office or give to Karen Mariano by Wednesday, September 16.



**THANKFUL
FOR OUR
CHURCH
FAMILY**

We would like to thank our church family for your help and prayers during our recent flooding. The outpouring of support with prayers, calls, financial aide and food was overwhelming. Because of all your support in many ways, we were able to stay in our home and not be displaced. We will forever be grateful and are truly blessed. ~ Michele, Devin, and Dawson Owen



Our Community's annual walk to fight hunger, CROP Hunger Walk, will be held **Sunday, October 11th** 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 \$1,157.00)! 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/chw/team/st-marks-lutheran-church-lions>, click the orange "Make a Donation".

Checks can be made payable to "CWS/CROP"



Old Immanuel Lutheran Church Annual Hymn Sing

Mr. Stuart Hague, Certified Lay Pastor in the Presbyterian Church (USA) will be leading the Annual Hymn Sing at Old Immanuel Lutheran Church, 2633 Lime Bluff Road, Muncy, Pa, on Sunday, **October 11, 2026**, at 2:30 pm. The theme of the service this year is “God’s Grace,” and the music, hymns, and teachings will center around that topic. Joy Barto and Jeff Harvey will provide organ music on the church’s antique pump organ, and the Chancel Choir of St. Andrew Lutheran in Muncy will present “Grace Us, O Lord,” by Joseph M. Martin.

Recently, the church’s roof has received a new coat of paint. In addition, the church’s belltower has been renovated and refurbished, and all the shutters have been repaired and repainted. Further projects include restoration of the windows, walls, and ceiling. A free-will offering will be taken to help offset the cost of these and other on-going expenses.

The church will be decorated for fall, and the weather should be ideal for touring the church and walking the historic cemetery. Light refreshments will be served on the church lawn after the service. Please note that the church does not have running water or electricity, and is not fully handicap accessible. For more information, or to follow Old Immanuel more closely, “Like” “Old Immanuel Lutheran Church” on FaceBook!!!

Church Fuel Co-Op 2026-2027 Heating Season

United Churches of Lycoming County is pleased to announce that the winner of the 2026-2027 heating season Church Fuel Co-Op bid is R W Dittmar Plumbing, Heating, and Oil Company of Muncy. As a participating member of the Co-Op, our church members can receive the following discount:

Current wagon price minus \$.15/gal discount if paid within 10 days. Additional \$.05/gal will be applied if payment is made the day of delivery for a total of \$.20/gal.

Discounts apply during normal business hours Monday through Friday and they would like 24 hours notice for scheduling deliveries.

A credit/debit card can also be put on file for automatically charging the payments.

There is a \$3 fuel charge on all delivery tickets.

LIHEAP Crisis funds cannot be used with the discount.

Minimum delivery is 125 gallons.

Co-op discounts will not apply if the customer has not paid for their last delivery.

Does not apply to propane or for pump sales at the gas station in Jersey Shore.

If you are interested in using R W Dittmar Plumbing, Heating, and Oil Company of Muncy for your home heating oil needs, please contact them at 570.546.2746 to schedule an initial inspection and set-up.

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