

**THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 20, 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 *Adagio from Sonata No. 1 in F minor* F. Mendelssohn Bartholdy

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP

Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.

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.

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 † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

***HYMN Praise to the Lord, the Almighty**

LBW “Green,” 543



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing
3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de - fend you;
4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!
and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.
sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.
All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,
Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been
Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do
Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.



join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!
sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?
if with his love he be - friend you.
Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

LOBE DEN HERREN

*THE GREETING

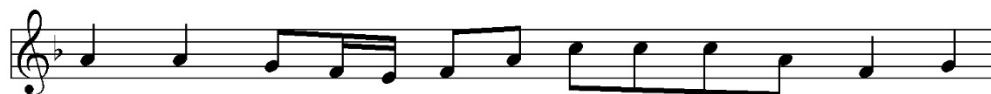
The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

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.

Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE FIRST READING: Jonah 3:10--4:11

¹⁰ When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them, and he did not do it.

^{4:1} But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ² He prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning, for I knew that you are a gracious and merciful God, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ³ And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” ⁴ And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?”

⁵ Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶ The LORD God appointed a bush and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort, so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷ But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

⁹ But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” ¹⁰ Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹ And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left and also many animals?”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 145:1-8

¹ I will exalt you, my ¹ God and king,
and bless your name forev- ¹ er and ever.

² **Every day ¹ will I bless you
and praise your name forev- ¹ er and ever.**

³ Great is the LORD and greatly ¹ to be praised!
There is no end ¹ to your greatness.

⁴ **One generation shall praise your works ¹ to another
and shall de- ¹ clare your power.**

⁵ I will speak of the glorious splendor ¹ of your majesty
and all your ¹ marvelous works.

⁶ **They shall tell of the might of your ¹ wondrous acts,
and I will re- ¹ count your greatness.**

⁷ They shall publish the remembrance of ¹ your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully ¹ of your righteousness.

⁸ **The LORD is gracious and full ¹ of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in ¹ steadfast love.**

THE SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30

²¹ For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me, yet I cannot say which I will choose. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better, ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that, by my presence again with you, your boast might abound in Christ Jesus because of me.

²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ and in no way frightened by those opposing you. For them, this is evidence of their destruction but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ but of suffering for him as well, ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*THE GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16 (Parable of the Vineyard Workers)

The holy gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew, the 20th chapter.



[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ² After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. ³ When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, ⁴ and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵ When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶ And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received a denarius. ¹⁰ Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. ¹¹ And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹² saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? ¹⁴ Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵ Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me?

Or are you envious because I am generous?’¹⁶ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

The gospel of the Lord.



THE SERMON

***HYMN As Saints of Old**

LBW “Green,” 404



1 As saints of old their first-fruits brought of or - chard, flock, and field
2 A world in need now sum-mons us to la - bor, love, and give;
3 In grat - i - tude and hum - ble trust we bring our best to - day



to God, the giv - er of all good, the source of boun-teous yield;
to make our life an of - fer - ing to God, that all may live.
to serve your cause and share your love with all a - long life's way.



so we to - day first-fruits would bring, the wealth of this good land,
The church of Christ is call - ing us to make the dream come true:
O God, who gave your-self to us in Je - sus Christ your Son,



of farm and mar - ket, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.
a world re-deemed by Christ-like love; all life in Christ made new.
teach us to give our-selves each day un - til life's work is done.

REGWAL

***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.

ANTHEM *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* Maurice Bevan

*OFFERING

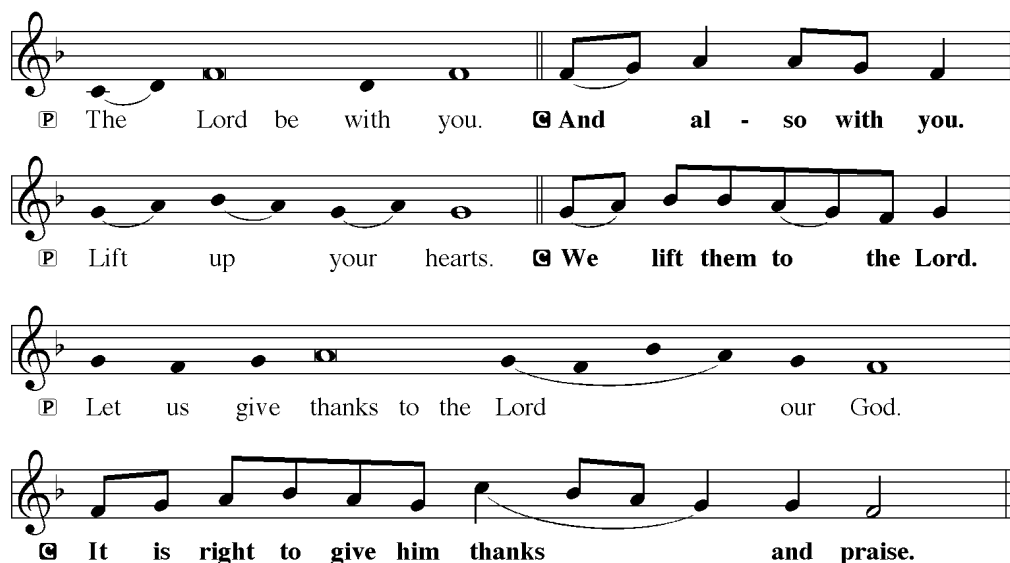


Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your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

*OFFERING PRAYER

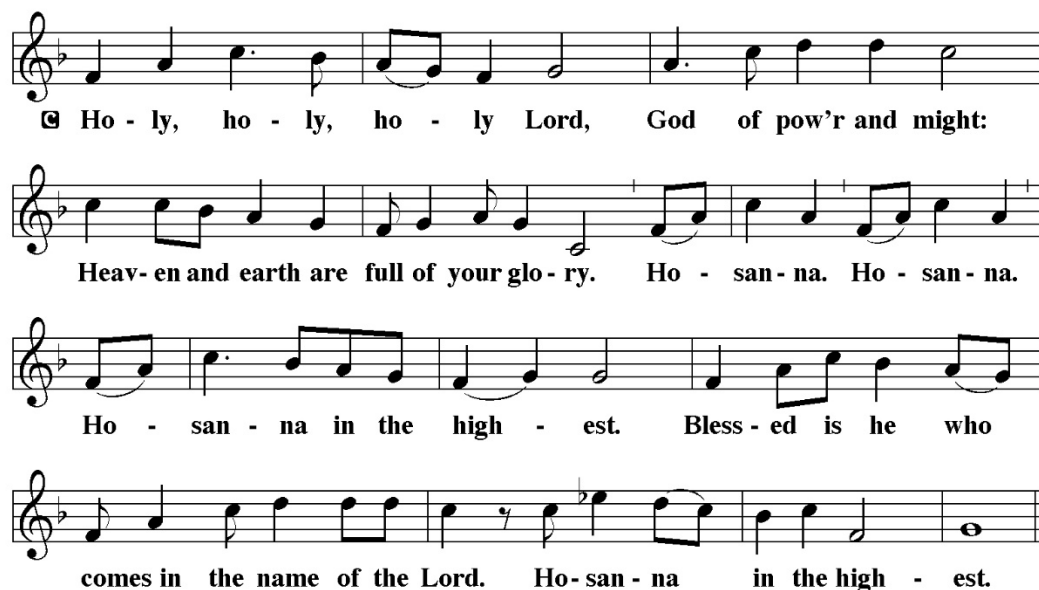
God of creation,
you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.
All blessings are from you;
make us generous with what we have.
Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts
in service to you and in love to our neighbors,
today and always.
Amen.

*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.

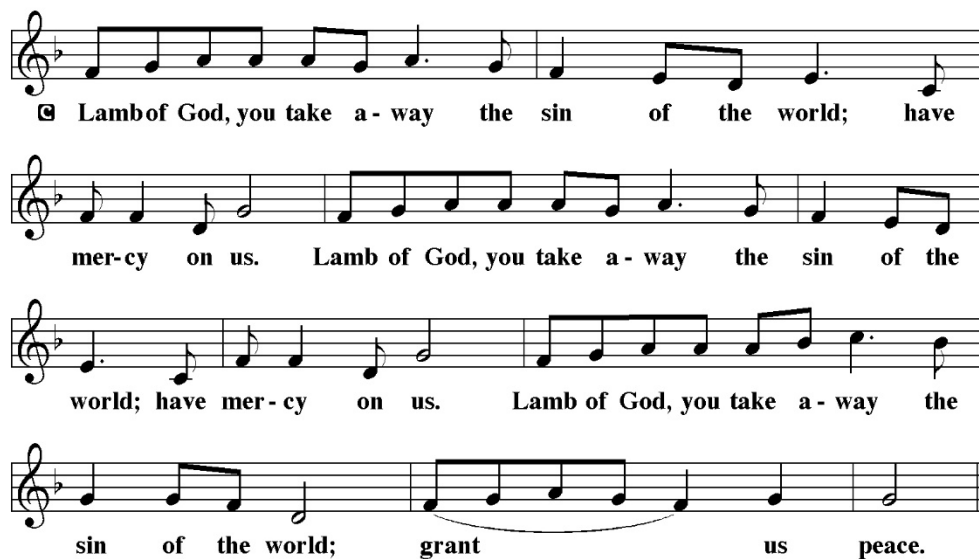
Amen.

***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 God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending LBW “Green,” 408**



- 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.

RUSTINGTON

***DISMISSAL**

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Finale from Sonata No. 6 in D minor* F. Mendelssohn Bartholdy

Summary: Jesus tells of workers hired at different times who all receive the same wage, revealing God's generosity beyond human ideas of fairness.

Theme: God's extravagant grace; the kingdom of heaven; generosity rather than merit.

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

Nelson Wesley Trout, bishop, died 1996

Sunday, September 20, 2026

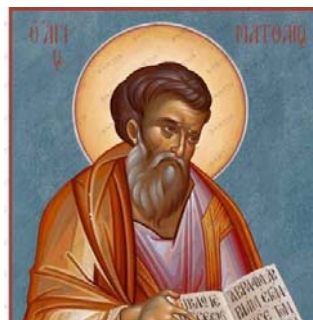
A native of Ohio, Trout served parishes in several parts of the United States before being elected bishop of the South Pacific District of the American Lutheran Church, the first African American Lutheran to serve in such a capacity.



Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

Monday, September 21, 2026

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.



THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Today, September 20

**Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost
Holy Communion, 9:30 am
Pastor Ron Montgomery
preaching and presiding**

Monday, September 21

Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm

Tuesday September 22

Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm

Wednesday, September 23	Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm
Thursday, September 24	Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm
Friday, September 25	Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm
Saturday, September 26	Office Closed
Sunday, September 27	Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost Holy Communion, 9:30 am Ray Huff preaching and presiding

OUR STEWARDSHIP for September 6, 2026

Regular Offering	\$2,465.00
Parish Life	50.00
Flower Memorials/Tributes	35.00
Grand Total	\$2,550.00

OUR STEWARDSHIP for September 13, 2026

Regular Offering	\$4,388.00
Plate Offerings	20.00
World Hunger	50.00
Food Pantry	50.00
Global Mission	60.00
Flower Memorials/Tributes	140.00
Evangelism & Fellowship	50.00
Grand Total	\$4,758.00

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 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

WORSHIP LEADERS for September 27, 2026

Preacher/Celebrant	9:30 am	Ray Huff
Lector	9:30 am	Megan Cartwright
Communion Assistants	9:30 am	Mindy Wentzel & Deb Buckman
Ushers	9:30 am	Mel Wentzel & Glenn Yapple
Offering Collection	9:30 am	Donna Clark
Organist		Sam Robinson
Altar Guild		Sally Bjornstad & Vicki Haussmsann

ANNIVERSARIES

Mike & Jackie Kinney 9/25

BIRTHDAYS

Ron Arner 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 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 in may be included in the weekly bulletin and/or the "Lion."



Sunday, Oct. 4 is blanket Sunday. Blankets donated will be sent to Lutheran World Relief with our other kits. Blankets should be 60x80 in. max and no polar fleece is accepted. Please continue collecting for the other kits. There are a few empty school kit bags in the narthex along with bags that are partially filled - a note on the bag tells what is still needed. An example of a personal care kit and a baby kit are in the narthex. For fabric kits, please make sure to look at the dimensions for fabric. Fabric is available at Walmart and Hobby Lobby. Acceptable fabrics are cotton and cotton/polyester blends. All kits should be in by Oct. 4 but will accept through the

packing party on Tuesday, Oct. 13 at noon - lunch provided. God bless your generosity. Deb B

FINANCE

Committee chairpersons please turn in you 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. **The Shepherd's office continues to need 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: Our Worship and Music Committee is collecting non-perishable food items for our **Harvest Home Celebration** on October 4. Please consider filling a bag and returning it by September 27.

Sandwich Needs: We continue to accept monetary donations. These donations assist with bread, rolls, meat, cheese, individual condiment packages and sandwich bags. Checks may be made payable to St. Mark's with the memo line stating Parish Life. Thank you for any help you can give.

Final Cereal Sunday

WE HIT IT OUT OF THE PARK!

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee is thrilled to announce that during our final month of Cereal Sundays, the congregation donated **105 regular-sized boxes**

of cereal and 48 individual boxes of cereal for a record monthly total of 153 boxes of cereal!!!! This makes for a record sum of 357 assorted boxes of cereal for the summer of 2026!!!!

This committee heartily thanks all who participated. The folks at the United Churches Food Pantry and the Blessing Boxes are in awe of the congregation's efforts.



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.



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.





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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