

THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

OCTOBER 4, 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

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP

In today's gospel reading, Jesus tells a vineyard parable, which serves as an image of Israel, the prophets' mission, and Christ's death. For Christians, the vineyard also speaks of God's love poured out in the blood of Christ, given to us for the forgiveness of sin. Grafted onto Christ the vine at baptism, we are nourished with wine and bread so that we may share Christ's sufferings and know the power of his resurrection.

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 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross LBW “Green,” 482**



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a



prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that
love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and
trib - ute far too small; love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all!

ROCKINGHAM OLD

*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.

Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE FIRST READING: Isaiah 5:1-7

¹ I will sing for my beloved
my love song concerning his vineyard:

My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.

² He dug it and cleared it of stones
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watchtower in the midst of it
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded rotten grapes.

³ And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,
judge between me
and my vineyard.

⁴ What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?
When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield rotten grapes?

⁵ And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.
I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;
I will break down its wall,

and it shall be trampled down.

⁶ I will make it a wasteland;

it shall not be pruned or hoed,

and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;

I will also command the clouds

that they rain no rain upon it.

⁷ For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts

is the house of Israel,

and the people of Judah

are his cherished garden;

he expected justice

but saw bloodshed;

righteousness

but heard a cry!

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 80:7-15

⁷ Restore us, O ¹ God of hosts;

let your face shine upon us, and we ¹ shall be saved.

⁸ **You have brought a vine ¹ out of Egypt;**

you cast out the nations and ¹ planted it.

⁹ You cleared the ¹ ground for it;

it took root and ¹ filled the land.

¹⁰ **The mountains were covered ¹ by its shadow**

and the towering cedar trees ¹ by its boughs.

¹¹ You stretched out its tendrils ¹ to the sea

and its branches ¹ to the river.

¹² **Why have you broken ¹ down its wall,**

so that all who pass by pluck ¹ off its grapes?

¹³ The wild boar of the forest has ¹ ravaged it,

and the beasts of the field have ¹ grazed upon it.

¹⁴ **Turn now, O ¹ God of hosts,**

look ¹ down from heaven;

¹⁵ behold and | tend this vine;
preserve what your right | hand has planted.

THE SECOND READING: Philippians 3:4b-14

[Paul writes:] ^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal, but I press on to lay hold of that for which Christ has laid hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider that I have laid hold of it, but one thing I have laid hold of: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal, toward the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



***THE GOSPEL: Matthew 21:33-46 (The Parable of the Wicked Tenants)**

The holy gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew, the 21th chapter.



[Jesus said:] ³³ “Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went away. ³⁴ When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. ³⁵ But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. ³⁶ Again he sent other slaves, more than the first, and they treated them in the same way. ³⁷ Then he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ ³⁹ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. ⁴⁰ Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” ⁴¹ They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

⁴² Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected

has become the cornerstone;

this was the Lord’s doing,

and it is amazing in our eyes’?

⁴³ “Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits. ⁴⁴ The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. ⁴⁶ They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

The gospel of the Lord.



THE SERMON

*HYMN Built On a Rock

LBW "Green," 365



1 Built on a rock the church shall stand, e - ven when stee - ples are
 2 Not in our tem - ples made with hands God, the Al - might - y, is
 3 We are God's house of liv - ing stones, built for his own hab - i -
 4 Yet in this house, an earth - ly frame, Je - sus the chil - dren is
 5 Through all the pass - ing years, O Lord, grant that, when church bells are



fall - ing; crum - bled have spires in ev - 'ry land, bells still are
 dwell - ing; high in the heav'ns his tem - ple stands, all earth - ly
 ta - tion; he fills our hearts, his hum - ble thrones, grant - ing us
 bless - ing; hith - er we come to praise his name, faith in our
 ring - ing, man - y may come to hear God's Word where he this



chim - ing and call - ing— call - ing the young and old to rest, call - ing the
 tem - ples ex - cel - ling. Yet he who dwells in heav'n a - bove deigns to a -
 life and sal - va - tion. Were two or three to seek his face, he in their
 Sav - ior con - fess - ing. Je - sus to us his Spir - it sent, mak - ing with
 prom - ise is bring - ing: I know my own, my own know me; you, not the



souls of those dis - tressed, long - ing for life ev - er - last - ing.
 bide with us in love, mak - ing our bod - ies his tem - ple.
 midst would show his grace, bless - ings up - on them be - stow - ing.
 us his cov - e - nant, grant - ing his chil - dren the king - dom.
 world, my face shall see; my peace I leave with you. A - men

KIRKEN DEN ER ET GAMMELT HUS

*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.

*OFFERING

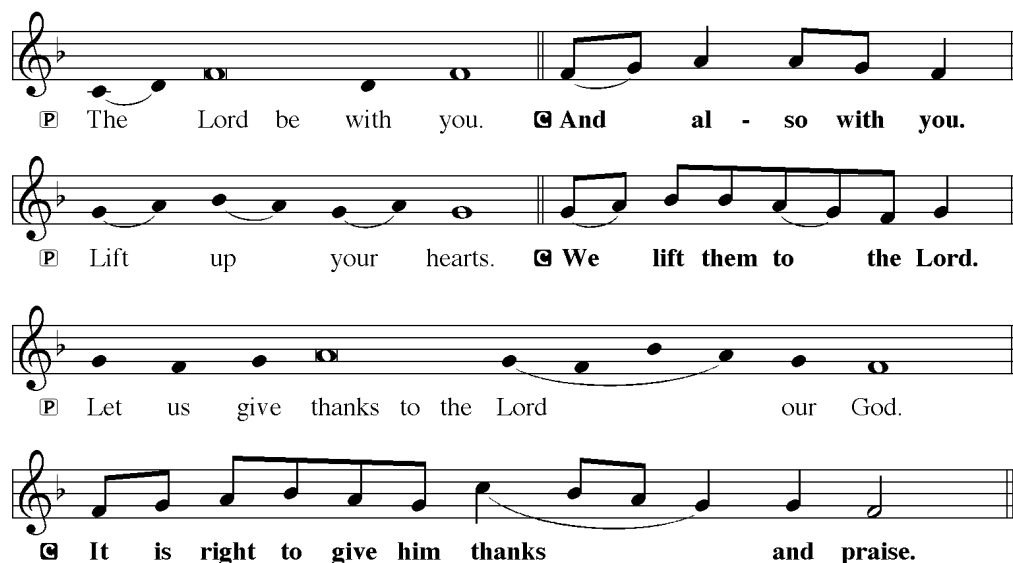


Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your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

*OFFERING PRAYER

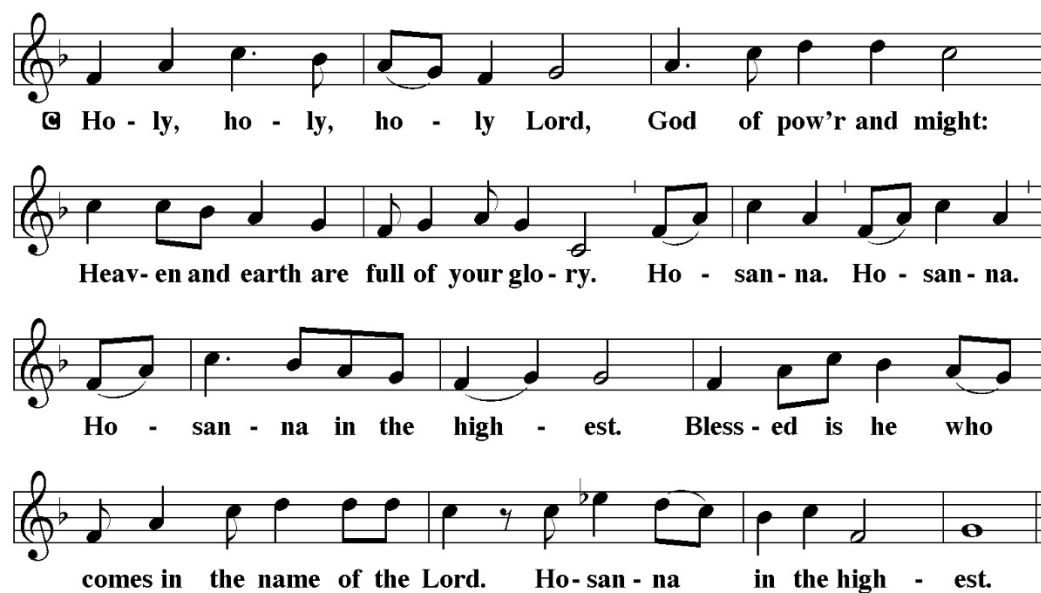
God of creation,
you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly.
All blessings are from you;
make us generous with what we have.
Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts
in service to you and in love to our neighbors,
today and always.
Amen.

*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**

☐ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

The musical notation is written on four staves in a single system. The first staff begins with a square neume symbol. The melody is in a single key with one flat (B-flat) and uses a mix of eighth and quarter notes. The lyrics are aligned under the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

***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.

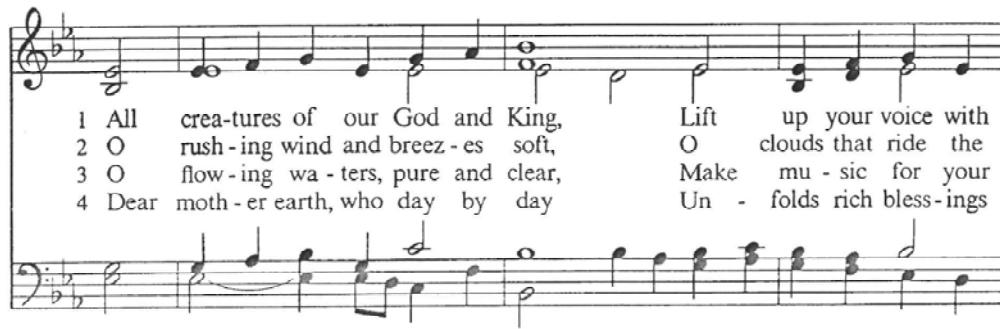
Amen.

The God of grace

✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

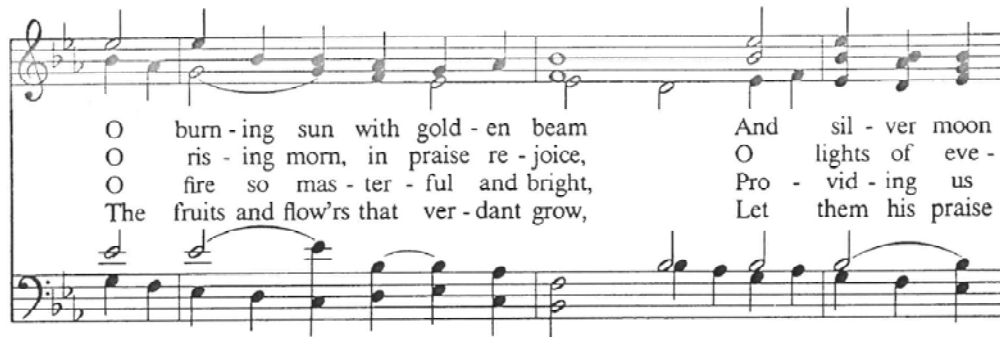
***HYMN All Creatures of Our God and King LBW "Green," 527**



1 All crea-tures of our God and King, Lift up your voice with
2 O rush-ing wind and breez-es soft, O clouds that ride the
3 O flow-ing wa-ters, pure and clear, Make mu-sic for your
4 Dear moth-er earth, who day by day Un-folds rich bless-ings



us and sing: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!
winds a-loft: Oh, . . praise him! Al-le-lu-ia!
Lord to hear. Oh, . . praise him! Al-le-lu-ia!
on our way, Oh, . . praise him! Al-le-lu-ia!



O burn-ing sun with gold-en beam And sil-ver moon
O ris-ing morn, in praise re-joyce, O lights of eve-
O fire so mas-ter-ful and bright, Pro-vid-ing us
The fruits and flow'rs that ver-dant grow, Let them his praise



Refrain
with soft-er gleam:
ning, find a voice. Oh, praise him! Oh, praise him!
with warmth and light,
a-bun-dant show.



- 5 O ev'ryone of tender heart,
 Forgiving others, take your part,
 Oh, praise him! Alleluia!
 All you who pain and sorrow bear,
 Praise God and lay on him your care. *Refrain*
- 6 And you, most kind and gentle death,
 Waiting to hush our final breath,
 Oh, praise him! Alleluia!
 You lead to heav'n the child of God,
 Where Christ our Lord the way has trod. *Refrain*
- 7 Let all things their Creator bless
 And worship God in humbleness.
 Oh, praise him! Alleluia!
 Oh, praise the Father, praise the Son,
 And praise the Spirit, Three in One, *Refrain*

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

***DISMISSAL**

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Summary: Jesus tells of tenants who reject the landowner's servants and son, pointing to the rejection of God's messengers and Christ.

Theme: Faithfulness to God; rejection and judgement; Christ as the cornerstone.

Music notes:

Today's Gospel (Matthew 21:33–46) tells of tenants who reject the landowner's servants and ultimately his son, a parable pointing to the rejection

of God's messengers and of Christ himself, and to Christ as the cornerstone the builders refused. This week's hymns speak directly to that theme of faithfulness, rejection, and the sure foundation we're given instead. We begin with "When I survey the wondrous cross" (ROCKINGHAM OLD), turning our eyes to the cost of that rejection, the cross itself, as the starting point for reflecting on what it means to receive Christ rather than reject him. "Built on a rock" (KIRKEN DEN ER ET GAMMELT HUS) picks up the cornerstone imagery of the parable directly, reminding us that the church stands not on human structures but on the sure foundation Christ provides. We close with "All creatures of our God and King" (LASST UNS ERFREUEN), widening our view from judgment to praise, a fitting response of faithfulness after being confronted with the parable's warning.

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

Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church, died 1226

Sunday, October 4, 2026

Born into the family of a wealthy merchant, Francis gave up his inheritance to serve poor people. He formed the Order of Friars Minor (called Franciscans), who took on poverty and the task of preaching "using words if necessary." Francis had a spirit of gratitude for all of God's creation.



Theodor Fliedner, renewer of society, died 1864

Sunday, October 4, 2026

Fliedner helped to bring about a revival of the ministry of deaconesses among Lutherans. He was influenced in this by Moravian deaconesses he had met. The motherhouse he founded in Kaiserswerth, Germany, inspired many around the world to take up this ministry.



William Tyndale, translator, martyr, died 1536

Tuesday, October 6, 2026

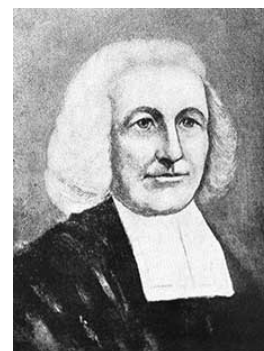
Tyndale was ordained a priest in England, and wished to translate the Bible into English. He was opposed in this by King Henry VIII, causing him to flee to Germany. He completed the New Testament in 1525, but before he could finish the Old Testament, he was tried for heresy and burned at the stake.



Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, pastor in North America, died 1787

Wednesday, October 7, 2026

Divided Lutherans in America asked leaders in Europe to send someone who could take charge and unite their work. Muhlenberg was sent, and was effective in organizing the American Lutherans. Among other accomplishments, his liturgical principles became the basis for the Common Service of 1888.



Massie L. Kennard, renewer of the church, died 1986

Saturday, October 10, 2026

A native of Chicago, Kennard was a major figure in supporting and working toward ethnic and racial inclusiveness in the former Lutheran Church in America. Ordained in 1958, he served in positions including Director for Minority Concerns of the Division for Mission in North America. (no photo available)

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Today, October 4	Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost Holy Communion, 9:30 am Ray Huff preaching and presiding Harvest Home Blanket Sunday Pet Blessing, 2 pm
Monday, October 5	Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm
Tuesday, October 6	Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm Evangelism & Fellowship, 5:30 pm
Wednesday, October 7	Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm Book Group, 12:10 pm Men's Fellowship, 6 pm Redeemer Community Dinner, 5 pm
Thursday, October 8	Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm
Friday, October 9	Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm
Saturday, October 10	Office Closed
Sunday, October 11	Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost Holy Communion, 9:30 am Janet Stroble preaching and presiding

OUR STEWARDSHIP for September 27, 2026

Regular Offering	\$2,430.00
Miscellaneous	40.00
Parish Life	100.00
Operation Christmas Child	200.00
Roof Replacement Fund	200.00
Organ Fund	230.00
Capital Fund	10.00
Synod Benevolence	10.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund	100.00
Grand Total	\$3,370.00

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God; and
In loving memory of my husband, Jim Buckman, and parents Mary Jane &
Dorsey Ringer, and Doris & Sydney Buckman, by Deb Buckman & Family;
and
In loving memory of parents Myron & Florence Ditchfield, husband Charles
Ditchfield, and daughter-in-law Mary Ditchfield, by Bunny Ditchfield &
Family.

WORSHIP LEADERS for October 4, 2026

Preacher/Celebrant	9:30 am	Ray Huff
Lector	9:30 am	Donna Clark
Communion Assistants	9:30 am	Brian & Nikki Jackson
Ushers	9:30 am	Brenda, Ed, & Levi Gair
Hospitality	9:30 am	Candy Dewar
Offering Collection	9:30 am	Donna Clark
Organist		Megan Cartwright
Altar Guild		Cindy Huff & Linda Rosini

WORSHIP LEADERS for October 11, 2026

Preacher/Celebrant	9:30 am	Janet Stroble
Lector	9:30 am	Donna Boston
Communion Assistants	9:30 am	Ralph & Lou Ann Zeigler
Ushers	9:30 am	Tim & Deb Maggs/Dick Reitz
Offering Collection	9:30 am	Donna Clark
Organist		Sam Robinson
Altar Guild		Cindy Huff & Linda Rosini

BIRTHDAYS

Glenn Yapple 10/9

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.”



Today, 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

FINANCE

Committee chairpersons please turn in your budget requests by Monday, Oct. 5. Next finance committee meeting is Monday, Oct. 12

Well it will be officially Fall this week and with that the St. Mark's finance committee begins to think about the budget for 2027. To do that we have to think Stewardship Campaign which will begin Sunday, Oct. 11 with temple talks and then will conclude Sunday, November 1 with the collection of the pledges. Between today and the conclusion of the campaign you need to think about and pray about what your financial commitment will be. Please read your Bible about what God says about giving and then pray that you will be able to meet God's plan.



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 collected non-perishable food items for our **Harvest Home Celebration** today. If you forgot to bring groceries, please consider bringing them next week. They may be placed in the Narthex.

Blessing Boxes at New Covenant UCC: Snack items, microwave, single serve food and travel size hygiene items.

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 the donations we have already received.

FYI

Redeemer's Community Dinner: Is on Thursday, October 8, 2026 beginning at 5:00 PM until all meals are distributed. This is a take-out meal available at the curb. All are welcome.

Desserts for the Community Dinner: Jim and Susan Newcomer will provide Halloween brownies. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Evangelism and Fellowship Committee: Upcoming Events

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee needs help from the congregation. Please see our list of activities and needs.

- **Sunday, October 11 from 2:00 – 4:00:** Synod Youth Meeting at St. Mark's. We need some help with refreshments for approximately 20 youth from around the area. Items in need are individual bags of chips, 2-liters of soda (regular and diet) fruit snacks, cookies or brownies and individually wrapped candy.

- **Friday, October 30 in the morning:** We will join Little Lambs for their annual Fall/Halloween Celebration: We are in need of fruit snacks, mini-Rice Krispie Treats and individually wrapped candy.

Speak with a committee member if you can provide an item on our list.

Thank you for any help you can give.

Next Evangelism and Fellowship Committee Meeting: Tuesday, October 6 at 5:30 in Middle Lounge. From now through December, we have many activities scheduled. Extra hands are always welcome. Please consider joining us

Did You Know?

- If you are experiencing a health event and need medical equipment, St. Mark's has a supply of walkers, canes, port-a-potties, shower chairs, crutches and a medical bed. Call the church office for additional information.
- If you provide altar flowers, you may take them home to enjoy after the Sunday service. Mache flower bowls are available in the Pastor's sacristy for your convenience.



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.



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”



Pet Blessing

Please join us TODAY, Sunday, October 4 at 2:00 PM for our annual Pet Blessing! We invite you and your pet to meet in the back parking lot for a short service including the blessing of pets as we remember God’s gift of animals in our lives. Should there be rain, this service will be moved indoors. We hope to see you, your family, and your pets as we celebrate the gift of furry friends in our lives.



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.

You're invited!

October Wednesdays' Book Study, reading Kelly Fryer's "Reclaiming the C Word: Daring to be Church Again", meets at 12:10pm to 12:50pm starting October 7th in the Middle Lounge. Copies are in the Narthex or give your name to Michele in the church office. Please join us!!!!



There will be a memorial service for Fred Simpson, brother of Joyce Hershberger, and his wife, Ann, on Friday, October 23, 2026 at the Santa Monica Church in Berwyn, PA. Fred passed away in 2024, and Ann passed away earlier this year. All are welcome to attend.

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