

REFORMATION SUNDAY
OCTOBER 25, 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

Festive Intrada in C

Paul Fey

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS

TEMPLE TALK – Brian Jackson

*"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood,
a holy nation, God's own people"*

– 1 Peter 2:9

God's mercy comes to you in countless ways. Our Lord Jesus is chief among these. It is through the love and forgiveness that is ours in our Lord Jesus that we can boldly claim to be God's own people – not because of what we have done, but because of what God has done for us through his only Son.

God's mercy also comes to you in many other ways. Among these are the material possessions you enjoy. They are gifts from God, but more than this,

they are entrusted to you by God. The Bible teaches us that everything belongs to God. To be a steward is to be entrusted to care for some of what God owns in this world. That steward is you, entrusted to care for all that God has placed in your hands.

Because of God's great mercy, we marvel at all we have received. Because of God's great mercy, we think about how we will respond.

***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 A Might Fortress is Our God LBW “Green,” 229**



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
 vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

EIN FESTE BURG

***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

☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. I Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was
 slain, whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.
 ☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. II Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and
 strength, and hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his.
 ☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. III Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and
 join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing, hon-or, glo-ry, and
 might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.
 ☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. IV For the Lamb who was
 slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.
 ☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.
 Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

***THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 46

¹ God is our ref- | uge and strength,
a very present | help in trouble.

² **Therefore we will not fear, though the | earth be moved,
and though the mountains shake in the depths | of the sea;**

³ though its waters | rage and foam,
and though the mountains tremble | with its tumult.

⁴ **There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- | y of God,
the holy habitation of | the Most High.**

- ⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall [|] not be shaken;
God shall help it at the [|] break of day.
- ⁶ **The nations rage, and the [|] kingdoms shake;**
God speaks, and the earth [|] melts away.
- ⁷ The LORD of [|] hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob [|] is our stronghold.
- ⁸ **Come now, regard the works [|] of the LORD,**
what desolations God has brought up- [|] on the earth;
- ⁹ behold the one who makes war to cease in [|] all the world;
who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the [|] shields with
fire.
- ¹⁰ **“Be still, then, and know that [|] I am God;**
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted [|] in the earth.”
- ¹¹ The LORD of [|] hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob [|] is our stronghold.

THE SECOND READING: Romans 3:19-28

¹⁹ Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*THE GOSPEL: John 8:31-36 (The Truth Will Make You Free)

The holy gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ according to St. John, the 8th chapter.



³¹ Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ³³ They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

The gospel of the Lord.



THE SERMON

***HYMN**

O God of Light

LBW "Green," 237



1 O God of light, your word, a lamp un - fail - ing,
2 From days of old, through blind and will - ful a - ges,
3 Un - dimmed by time, those words are still re - veal - ing
4 To all the world your sum - mons you are send - ing,



shall pierce the dark - ness of our earth - bound way
though we re - belled, you gent - ly sought a - gain,
to sin - ful hearts your jus - tice and your grace;
through all the earth, to ev - 'ry land and race,



and show your grace, your plan for us un - veil - ing,
and spoke through saints, a - pos - tles, proph - ets, sa - ges,
and quest - ing spir - its, long - ing for your heal - ing,
that myr - iad tongues, in one great an - them blend - ing,



and guide our foot - steps to the per - fect day.
who wrote with ea - ger or re - luc - tant pen.
see your com - pas - sion in the Sav - ior's face.
may praise and cel - e - brate your gift of grace.

ATKINSON

***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 *Meine Seele Dürstet Nach Gott* Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

*Meine seele dürstet nach Gott,
nach dem lebendigen Gotte.
Wann werde ich dahin kommen,
dass ich Gottes Angesicht schaue?*

My soul thirsts for God,
for the living God.
When shall I reach the place
where I will behold God's countenance?

*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.

The first part of the musical score consists of four staves. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff contains the lyrics 'The Lord be with you.' followed by 'And al - so with you.' The second staff contains 'Lift up your hearts.' followed by 'We lift them to the Lord.' The third staff contains 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.' The fourth staff contains 'It is right to give him thanks and praise.' The music is written in a simple, melodic style with various note values and rests.

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.

The second part of the musical score consists of four staves. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff contains the lyrics 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:'. The second staff contains 'Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.' The third staff contains 'Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who'. The fourth staff contains 'comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.' The music is written in a simple, melodic style with various note values and rests.

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.

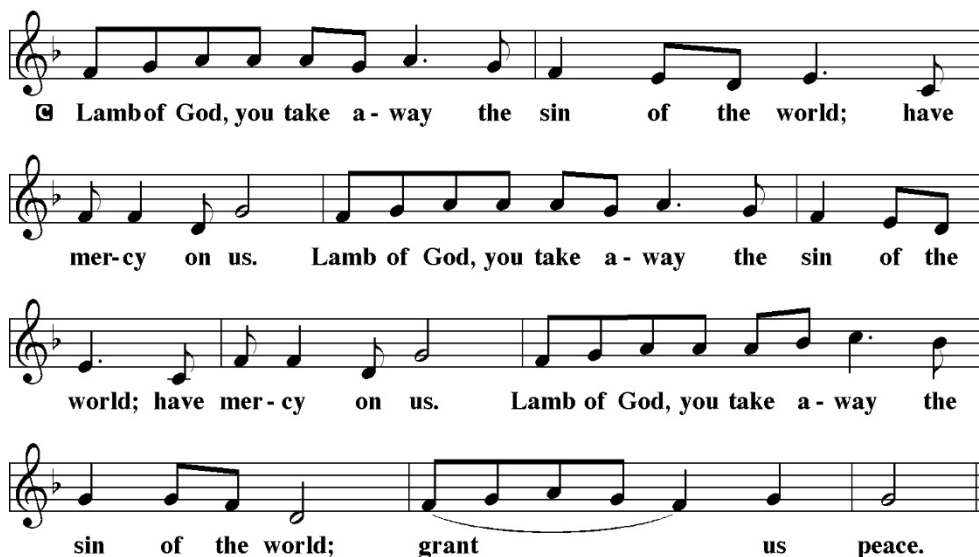
For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever.

Amen.

***LAMB OF GOD**



The musical notation is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#).

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.

***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 The Church of Christ, in Every Age LBW “Green,” 433**



1 The church of Christ, in ev - 'ry age be - set by
 2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, the vic - tims
 3 Then let the ser - vant church a - rise, a car - ing
 4 For he a - lone, whose blood was shed, can cure the
 5 We have no mis - sion but to serve in full o -



change, but Spir - it - led, must claim and test its
 of in - jus - tice cry for shel - ter and for
 church that longs to be a part - ner in Christ's
 fe - ver in our blood, and teach us how to
 be - dience to our Lord; to care for all, with -



her - i - tage and keep on ris - ing from the dead.
 bread to eat, and nev - er live be - fore they die.
 sac - ri - fice, and clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.
 share our bread and feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.
 out re - serve, and spread his lib - er - at - ing word.

WAREHAM

***DISMISSAL**

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Nun Danket Alle Gott* Sigfrid Karg-Elert

Summary: Jesus teaches that those who abide in his word are truly his disciples and will know the truth that sets them free.

Theme: Freedom in Christ; the truth of God's Word; faithful discipleship.

Music notes:

On Reformation Sunday we hear Jesus' words in John 8:31-36: those who abide in his word are truly his disciples, and the truth will make them free. The hymns and music today celebrate that freedom and the Word that grounds the church.

We begin with Luther's "A mighty fortress is our God" (EIN FESTE BURG), the great hymn of the Reformation and a favorite of this congregation. Luther wrote both the text and the tune, likely in the late 1520s, drawing on Psalm 46 ("God is our refuge and strength"). It has been called the battle hymn of the Reformation, and its confidence in God's Word against every threat has made it a source of courage for centuries. Bach built an entire cantata on it, and Mendelssohn quoted it in his *Reformation* Symphony. "O God of light" (ATKINSON) then turns to Scripture as the light by which we see truly, a fitting response to Jesus' promise that abiding in his word leads to the truth that sets us free. We close with "The Church of Christ, in every age" (WAREHAM), a hymn that sends the freed people of God into the world, reminding us that the church is always being reformed and called to serve.

Our liturgy today replaces *Glory to God* with "This is the Feast of Victory." Most often heard in the Easter season, this joyful canticle is a fitting song for a festival day. Its text, drawn from the Book of Revelation, praises the Lamb who was slain and who has won the victory for us. That is the heart of what Luther rediscovered and what the Reformation proclaims: we are saved and set free by Christ's work alone, a freedom Jesus promises in today's Gospel to all who abide in his word.

About the anthem: We hear the second movement of Felix Mendelssohn's cantata *Psalm 42* ("Wie der Hirsch schreit," or "As the hart longs"), the soprano aria "Meine Seele dürstet nach Gott." Mendelssohn composed the work in 1837, and Robert Schumann praised it as the highest point recent church music had reached. Mendelssohn set the psalm in Martin Luther's German translation, so the words we hear are the ones Luther gave to the people in their own language, one of the great gifts of the Reformation. The aria's longing for the living God echoes the Reformation's conviction that God meets us in his Word, and Jesus' promise in today's Gospel that those who abide in it will know the truth that sets them free.

About the Voluntaries:

Today, we hear "Festive Intrada in C" by Paul Fey and "Nun danket alle Gott" by Sigfrid Karg-Elert. Karg-Elert's piece is a grand, triumphant setting of the hymn tune "Now thank we all our God," and is among the most celebrated festive organ works in the repertoire, a fitting finale for a day of thanksgiving for the gift of the Word.

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, Hannah Hausmann, Stephen Boone, Joshua Garverick, Jane Kline, David Martinez and Brian & Nikki Jackson.

COMMEMORATIONS

Philipp Nicolai, died 1608; Johann Heermann, died 1647; Paul Gerhardt, died 1676; hymnwriters

Monday, October 26, 2026

These great hymnwriters all worked in seventeenth-century Germany in times of war and plague.

Nicolai, a pastor, lost 1,300 parishioners to plague, 170 in one week. He wrote "O Morning Star, how fair and bright" and "Wake, awake, for night is flying."

Heermann's hymns, including "Ah, holy Jesus," often express the emotions of faith. Gerhardt, perhaps the greatest Lutheran hymnwriter, was a pastor in Berlin.



Simon and Jude, Apostles

Wednesday, October 28, 2026

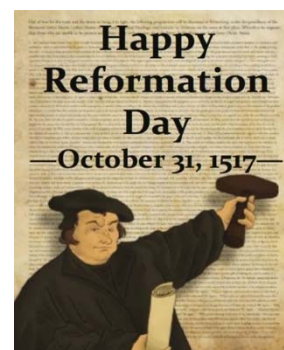
We know little about these apostles. Simon is listed as "the zealot" or Cananean in New Testament lists. Jude, also called Thaddeus, asked Jesus at the last supper why he had revealed himself to the disciples but not to the world.



Reformation Day

Saturday, October 31, 2026

By the end of the seventeenth century, many Lutheran churches celebrated a festival Commemorating Martin Luther's posting of the Ninety-five Theses, a summary of abuses in the church of his time. At the heart of the reform movement was the gospel, the good news that it is by grace through faith that we are justified and set free.



THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Today, October 25

Reformation Sunday

Holy Communion, 9:30 am

Ray Huff preaching and presiding

Worship & Music after service

Monday, October 26

Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm

Tuesday, October 27

Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm

Wednesday, October 28

Office Hours, 9 am - 1 pm

Book Group, 12:10 pm

Thursday, October 29

Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm

Friday, October 30

Office Hours, 9 am- 1 pm

Saturday, October 31

Office Closed

Sunday, November 1

All Saints' Sunday

Holy Communion, 9:30 am

Ray Huff preaching and presiding

OUR STEWARDSHIP for October 18, 2026

Regular Offering	\$2,460.00
Plate Offerings	55.00
Parish Life	20.00
Capital Fund	10.00
Flower Memorials/Tributes	35.00
Synod Benevolence	10.00
Grand Total	\$2,590.00

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God; and
In loving memory of Elmer D. & Eva F. Hunt and William W. & Frederica M.
Bastian, by Romain & Evelyn Bastian; and
In loving memory of John C. Rees, by Ruth Rees, and son, Grant Rees.

WORSHIP LEADERS for October 25, 2026

Preacher/Celebrant	9:30 am	Ray Huff
Lector	9:30 am	Phil Thomas
Communion Assistants	9:30 am	Mindy Wentzel & Deb Buckman
Ushers	9:30 am	Mel Wentzel & Glenn Yaple
Hospitality	9:30 am	Sarah Young & Becky Pryor
Offering Collection	9:30 am	Donna Clark
Organist		Sam Robinson
Altar Guild		Cindy Huff & Linda Rosini

WORSHIP LEADERS for November 1, 2026

Preacher/Celebrant	9:30 am	Ray Huff
Lector	9:30 am	Shelby Weber
Communion Assistants	9:30 am	Gary & Shelby Weber
Ushers	9:30 am	Brenda, Ed, & Levi Gair
Hospitality	9:30 am	Herb Poff
Offering Collection	9:30 am	Richard Reitz
Organist		Sam Robinson
Altar Guild		Wanda Fortin & Ruth Ann Bigelow

BIRTHDAYS

Hazel Boone	10/26
Naomi Boone	10/26
Hannah Haussmann	10/26

Kathy Eshelman	10/27
Andrew Haussmann	10/28
Barb Thomas	10/29
Deb Maggs	10/30
Donna Maule	10/31

KEEP IN MIND:

~When you or a family member are ill, have a crisis of faith, or have a personal concern of which you wish to make the pastor aware, please contact 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.”

FINANCE

Our Stewardship Campaign began, Sunday, Oct. 11 with temple talks and then will conclude Sunday, November 1 with the collection of the pledges.

Between then 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.

Next finance meeting is November 9, 2026 at 5:30 pm to finish the budget. Thank you.



Upper Susquehanna Synod Youth Day

On Sunday, October 11, 2026, St. Mark's and the Evangelism and Fellowship Committee hosted several youth and adults from our Synod including Chad

Hershberger from Camp Mount Luther. Games, a spooky story, a bible lesson and pumpkin decorating were the activities of the day followed by pizza, snacks and beverages. The attendees had a great time and we enjoyed hosting. We hope to host another Synod Youth Day in the future.

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, Band Aids, Women's Deodorant, Q-tips, Shampoo and Body Wash.

Sojourner Truth Ministries (STM): Needed are Individual Snacks/Breakfast Bars, Large, Brown Lunch Bags Napkins, Mayonnaise, Sugar, Snack-Size Ziplock Bags, Salt and Pepper Shakers and Coffee Creamer.

United Churches Food Pantry: We have learned that each week, the Pantry sees more new clients in need of food to stretch their budgets. Any non-perishable food you can share is in need and welcomed. The Pantry continues to accept plastic grocery bags and 12 count egg cartons.

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.

Evangelism and Fellowship Committee: Upcoming Events

- **Friday, October 30, 2026 in the morning:** We will join Little Lambs for their annual Fall/Halloween Celebration. We will be passing out treats as the children parade around the parking lot at 11:00 AM weather permitting. Join us for this fall fun.

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.
- The South Williamsport Church/UMC is sponsoring a Krispy Kreme Doughnut fundraiser through October 29 and a Rummage and Book Sale on November 6 and November 7, 2026. If either event interests you, flyers are in the Narthex.

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 and ending October 28th in the Middle Lounge. Copies are in the Narthex or give your name to Michele in the church office. Please join us!!!!



Our Parish House roof will be replaced this month. Work began on Thursday, October 15th. The work is expected to take 2-4 weeks, depending on weather. During this time part of our east parking lot (closest to Fellowship Hall) will be a staging area for the contractor. Parking will not be available and at times State Street will be blocked (the street closest to the back of our building). Parishioners should avoid using Fellowship Hall entrance during the work week. Please use the main Office entrance and park on the street in front of the church or in the "visitor" parking spots near Little Lamb's outdoor play area. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

St. Mark's Annual Congregational Meeting and Brunch are scheduled for **Sunday, December 6, 2026 immediately following the 9:30 a.m. service of worship.**

Among the items to be presented, discussed, and/or voted upon are:

- * Annual Report of Committees to the Congregation
- * Election of new Council members
- * Adoption of the 2027 budget to support the ministry of St. Mark's Lutheran Church
- * Any other business that needs to be addressed

Please mark your calendar and plan to participate in this Annual Congregational Meeting. If you need additional information or have items that you would like to discuss, please contact one of the Council officers: Ray Huff, president; Dick Reitz, vice-president; Cindy Todd, secretary; or Debra Buckman, treasurer. We are looking forward to not only seeing you on December 6th, but are excited to see how our congregation will continue to "Make Christ Known" in 2027! Thank you for your participation in this important church event.

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