



SAINT MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

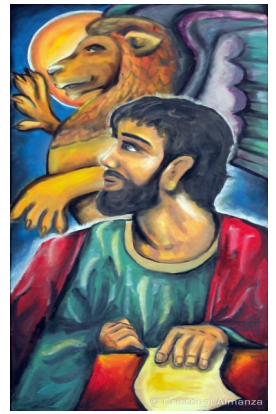
“THE LION”

of ST. MARK'S

A Monthly Newsletter by and for the members of St. Mark's

*To know Christ and to
make Christ known.*

October
2026



The President's Corner for October 2026

A Message from your President,

Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

Autumn- the most beautiful time of the year. Cool nights and warm days give us the chance to go out into the world and see its beauty and its changes as the leaves change colors. We know the changes of the seasons; we know that we are changing as well now that Pastor Vasey has assumed full-time grandfather status.

We are changing, but we are strong in our love of each other and our Lord, Jesus Christ. With that love and trust, we can forge to wherever God has planned for us.

Here is where we are right now:

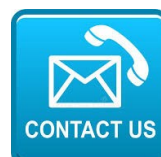
Council will meet with synod's Sue Ellen Spotts for a listening session (thank you Pastor Kliner) as we plan for our rendering of the Ministry Site Profile. After her presenta-

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STAFF OFFICE HOURS

An Administrative Interim Pastor will be appointed by our bishop. Please call the church office.
Church Organist: Sam Robinson
Summer Mon 1-3 p.m. & by appointment
Bookkeeper: Jackie Baysore
By appointment
Administrative Assistant: Michele Owen
Monday through Friday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org



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142 Market Street
Williamsport, PA 17701
(570) 323-4619

tion, council will plan for sessions involving anyone who wants to be a part of who we are and what we would like to have in the new pastor. We will meet either after church or on Saturday mornings.

We have wonderful worship services each week. Pastor Ron Montgomery and Janet Stroble are supplying so much to their services while I am at MY church on weeks one and four.

We are once again having an October book study on Wednesdays from 12:10-12:50. Bob Campbell and Vicki Haussmann will be leading the discussion of Kelly Friar's "Reclaiming the C Word. Daring to be Church Again."

The Lions of St. Mark's hosting an Oktoberfest on October 4. Kaiserschmarm (look it up!) will be the main course.

We will have a Pet Blessing at 2:00 on October 4 as well.

Much thanks are due to Pastor Kliner and our own Sam Robinson. Pastor gives us guidance and Sam has mapped out the worship services for the year!

Watch the changes; Be part of the changes.

Blessings,

Ray



JOIN US FOR SUNDAY
WORSHIP IN OCTOBER -
ALL ARE WELCOME!!

**JOIN US FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP IN
OCTOBER: ALL ARE WELCOME**

****OUR FALL SCHEDULE OF ONE
WORSHIP TIME – 9:30 AM.***

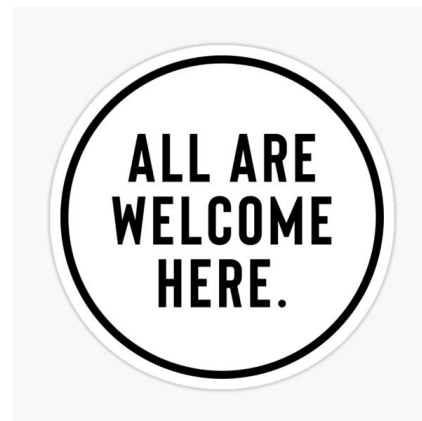
**Sunday, October 4, 19th Sunday after
Pentecost
9:30 am Holy Communion**

**Sunday, October 11, 20th Sunday after
Pentecost
9:30 am Holy Communion**

**Sunday, October 18, 21st Sunday after
Pentecost
9:30 am Holy Communion**

**Sunday, October 25, 22nd Sunday after
Pentecost
9:30 am Holy Communion**

ALL ARE WELCOME!



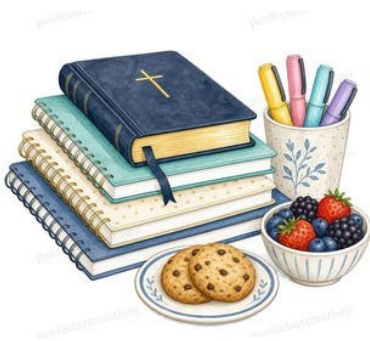


Synod Trip to Germany

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.



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.



When a parish has no pastor, the church is sometimes said to be "vacant." This is not a good way to think about St. Mark's. Faith Formation committee, as part of keeping us a fully functioning congregation, will resume our October Wednesdays' Book Study with Kelly Fryer's "Reclaiming the C Word: Daring to be Church Again." This timely book asks us to think about "church" as a verb, rather than a place or institution. In the absence of authoritative leadership, our gatherings may be more like a book club than a book study: more fellowship and sharing thoughts than lessons and instruction. We will meet the four Wednesdays in October, or until we run out of things to talk about. Copies of the book are in the narthex. If you can't find one, ask Michele in the office. If you have questions, speak to Bob Campbell or Vicki Haussmann. We hope to see many of you on October 7, 12:10 to 12:50 in the Middle Lounge.



Pet Blessing

Please join us 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.



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.



The Evangelism and Fellowship committee hosted a Red Cross blood drive on Monday, September 21, 2026. Six St. Mark's volunteers welcomed three Red Cross staff and 18 donors. Seventeen units of blood were collected and can help save the lives of 51 people! Our next drive will be on Friday, December 11, 2026. **MAYBE YOU CAN DONATE BLOOD!**



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 church aware, please contact the church office telephone (570-323-4619) or email (stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org). Please do not assume we will know of your need any other way.



**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

WANT TO EXPLORE WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A LUTHERAN CHRISTIAN? Adults wishing to unite with St. Mark's in church membership are invited to contact the church office at 570-323-4619 or email stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org.



When you or a loved one has a change of address, telephone number or email, please contact the church office at 570-323-4619 or stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org. Please direct your intentions whether or not to share this information with our church family.

Envelopes

There are special envelopes in the pew racks for Heat (to pay for boiler repair), Roof (for the roof on the Parish house) and Organ (for repairs and general maintenance). When giving to these causes, be sure to put your name on the envelope so your contribution may be recorded correctly on your contribution statement. Please write on the memo line of your check how you wish your gift to be used (cash is always welcome).



OCTOBER Worship Leaders

Please arrange for a replacement if you cannot serve.



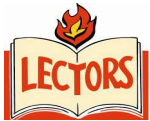
Communion Assistants

October 4	
9:30 AM	Brian & Nikki Jackson
October 11	
9:30 AM	Ralph & Lou Ann Zeigler
October 18	
9:30 AM	Drew Haussmann & Theresa Furman
October 25	
9:30 AM	Mindy Wentzel & Deb Buckman



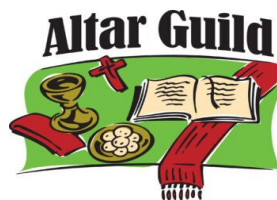
Ushers

October 4	
9:30 AM	Brenda, Ed & Levi Gair
October 11	
9:30 AM	Tim & Deb Maggs/Dick Reitz
October 18	
9:30 AM	Gary & Shelby Weber
October 25	
9:30 AM	Glenn Yaple/Mel Wentzel



Lectors

October 4	
9:30 AM	Donna Clark
October 11	
9:30 AM	Donna Boston
October 18	
9:30 AM	Benda Gair
October 25	
9:30 AM	Phil Thomas



Altar Guild

Cindy Huff & Linda Rosini

October Birthdays

Glenn Yaple	10/09
Sean Fenderson	10/17
Theresa Furman	10/21
Paige Hanford	10/21
Charles Kuntz	10/24
Dick Miller	10/24
Hazel Boone	10/26
Naomi Boone	10/26
Hannah Haussmann	10/26
Kathy Eshelman	10/27
Drew Haussmann	10/28
Barb Thomas	10/29
Deb Maggs	10/30
Donna Maule	10/31



October Anniversaries

Karen & Mike Merrifield 10/13





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



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Thanks to your continued generosity, our OCC shoeboxes are just about complete. In fact, they are just about bursting at the seams ~ a great "problem" to have! For the month of October, we will be collecting "Odds N Ends" ~ things that will help us finish each of the 75 (or more) boxes that we will be donating to Samaritan's Purse. School supplies, combs/brushes, hair accessories, small toys, flashlights, all are welcome! Not a huge fan of shopping? Please consider donating \$10.00 to help cover the cost of shipping our boxes. Thank you again for your continued support of this outreach project. We are excited to see our boxes come together at our **Shoebox Packing Event** which will be held in Fellowship Hall on **November**

OKTOBERFEST BREAKFAST



Oktoberfest breakfast by Lions of St. Mark's – October 4 after the service.

PLEASE JOIN US IN FELLOWSHIP HALL!!!!



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"

STONE GABLES ESTATE

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.





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!!!

Jane Kline sustained a fall that resulted in a broken femur. She had surgery and is doing well. If you would like to send her a note/card her address is:

3900 Medical Center Drive
Apartment 144
Fayetteville, NY 13066





September 2026

Minutes

St. Mark's Lutheran Church Council Meeting – September 21, 2026

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm.

Cindy Todd provided the opening prayer.

Secretary's roll call by Cindy Todd.

Members present –Shawn Cartwright, Cathy Fenderson, Ray Huff, Richard Miller, Richard Reitz, Scott Seyler, Cindy Todd, Lou Ann Zeigler, Pastor Gerald Kliner (Messiah).

Members absent – Debra Buckman, Donna Clark, Wanda Fortin and Nikki Jackson, all excused.

August meeting minutes were emailed to Council members. There were no corrections or additions. Motion to accept the minutes by Richard Reitz, 2nd Lou Ann Zeigler. Minutes were approved and are filed in the church office.

Treasurer's report (Deb Buckman) – report is attached to these minutes.

Pastor's report –

Pastors of Redeemer Lutheran, St. Luke Lutheran and St. Mark's Lutheran continue to provide pastoral care for the churches known as Liberty Parish.

Pastor Kliner asked for the names of St. Mark's members who need pastoral care. Lou Ann will provide information for the Haussmann family.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Evangelism and Fellowship –

There was a blood drive at St. Mark's today. No further information available.

Faith Formation – No report

Finance Committee – No report.

Council Minutes Continued

Little Lambs – No report, see motion approved in New Business.

Memorial Committee – the committee motioned council to approve the transfer of money from various old memorial accounts to the roof project.

MC 2026.09.01 – Motion to transfer \$19,472.12 from various older dated memorial account numbers to the Roof Fund. APPROVED

Nominating – Richard Miller and Richard Reitz agreed to remain on council for a second term starting 2027.

Parish Life – No report.

Personnel – Annual job evaluations will be conducted with Michele and Sam within the next month.

Property – No report.

Publicity – No report.

Worship and Music – Ray distributed St. Mark's Worship & Music Planning document created by Sam Robinson. It will be a guide for each service beginning August 23, 2026, through July 25, 2027. Many thanks to Sam for creating this calendar that will be used by many in preparation for services throughout the next year.

175th Anniversary Committee – No report.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

EC 2026.09.01 - Record approval of Bishop Miller's contract for Janet Stroble to supply at services on the second Sunday of each month through December 2026. APPROVED.

EC 2026.09.02 – Record approval of Bishop Miller's contract for Pastor Ron Montgomery to supply at services on the third Sunday of each month through December 2026. APPROVED.

Council Minutes Continued

EC 2026.09.03 – Request approval of Lycoming County Veterans’ Ceremony on November 14, 2026, at 9 am. Ray will attend. APPROVED.

FC 2026.09.01 – Recommend approval of a \$550.00 honorarium paid to Devin Owen for various and extensive work done around the church. APPROVED.

PC 2026.09.01 – Record approval of additional room #312 to Little Lambs in conjunction with the formal lease agreement at an additional cost of \$350.00 for the 2026/2027 school year. APPROVED.

CC 2026.09.01 – Request approval of Megan Cartwright’s request for use of the choir room for Youth Choir practices (Tuesday evenings 6:15p to 8:00p from October 6, 2026, through February 23, 2027) and concert in the Nave on February 27, 2027. Shawn will attend. M/Shawn, 2nd/Scott. APPROVED.

CC 2026.09.02 – Synod requests approval for Youth Day, October 11, 2026, in Fellowship Hall. M/Scott, 2nd/Lou Ann. APPROVED.

Upcoming schedule for services:

October 18 – Pastor Montgomery will be on vacation. We plan to have members of the congregation participate in a Service of the Word. Members of the Lions of St Mark’s will lead the service with other volunteers as needed. Scott will deliver the sermon.

November 29 – 5th Sunday of the month 1st Sunday in advent. Ray will lead the service.

December 6 – first Sunday in December, 2nd Sunday in advent. This is another opportunity to engage members of the congregation in a Service of the Word. Phil will deliver the sermon.

Christmas Eve – we will discuss the possibility of one service on Christmas Eve at the next council meeting.

COUNCIL MINUTES CONTINUED.....

DISCUSSION OF NEXT STEPS IN CALL PROCESS

September 27 following the service, council will meet with Pastor Spotts concerning the new Ministry Site Profile. Pastor Kliner provided some advice when preparing the Profile.

- *Be honest with ourselves
- *Involve as many people as possible in preparing the Profile
- *Be honest about the challenges of ministry at St. Mark's
- *Remember, there are worse things than being vacant a pastor (such as a bad fit).
- *Don't turn down interviews, they are a chance to practice
- *Pray and trust that God will provide

We will need a large group of volunteers, probably Saturdays or Sundays after the service, to work on the Profile.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

October offering collection – Donna Clark

October devotions – Nikki Jackson

Upcoming Events –

Oktoberfest breakfast by Lions of St. Mark's – October 4 after the service

Pet Blessing – October 4 at 2 pm

Upcoming Committee Meeting Dates –

Worship and Music – October 25 after the service

Lions of St. Mark's – October 9 at 6 pm

Closing Prayer (The Lord's Prayer) led by Ray Huff.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM

Next scheduled Council meeting – Monday, October 19, 2026, at 6 pm.

Evangelism and Fellowship Committee Articles for The Lion

Of October 2026

THANK YOU

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee heartily thanks our Church Council members for providing ALL the desserts/cookies for Redeemer's September community dinner! Our committee is grateful for Council's willingness to serve in this capacity.

We are also grateful for the willingness of Susan and Jim Newcomer to provide all the desserts for the remainder of 2026! They have been committed to this outreach for the past few years and have made sure Redeemer did not need to omit desserts from their menu.

Many thanks to you all. Our committee is blessed to have so much support.



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 our congregation's efforts.

Sharing in the Caring



Ongoing Collections at St. Mark's:

Members of St. Mark's have given much for a number of projects throughout 2026, but the need continues. The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee continues to request, on behalf of the vulnerable in our community, for any items listed below that you are able to donate. Thank you for your continued support.

***United Churches Food Pantry:** With the rising cost of groceries, the Pantry continues to see an increase in clients. Any non-perishable item is gratefully accepted and appreciated. The Pantry is also accepting plastic grocery bags and 12 count egg cartons. The Worship and Music Committee is hosting our annual Harvest Home on October 4. Please consider filling a bag and returning it in time for the celebration.

***Shepherd of the Streets:** If it keeps a person clean, it is needed. Dollar Stores are good resources for hygiene items reasonably priced. **Of urgent need are Paper Towels and Shampoo for Men and Women.**

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

***Sandwich Crews at St. Mark's:** We provide sandwiches weekly to New Covenant's Blessing Boxes. Monetary donations to offset the cost of rolls, plastic bags, meat and cheese are always appreciated. Checks may be

made payable to St. Mark's with the memo line indicating Parish Life..

***Sojourner Truth Ministries: 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.

***Card Ministry:** The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee thanks the congregation for their continued donations of assorted cards. Currently we are in need of birthday cards for men and women. Thank you, Cathy Fenderson for sending cards this month.

Donations to the Food Panty, Shepherd of the Streets, the Blessing Boxes or Sojourner Truth Ministries may be placed on the tables in the Narthex closet.

Ongoing Events at Redeemer Lutheran:

***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 October:** Jim and Susan Newcomer will provide Halloween brownies. Thank you for your ongoing support.

***Daniel's Closet: This month's clothing drop off is Thursday, October 22, from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM.** Please consider donating fall clothing for all members of a family. Shoes for adults and children along with blankets, sheets, throws and crocheted afghans are also accepted.

***Daniel's Closet: Distribution of free seasonal/fall clothing is Saturday, October 24, from 8:30 AM – 11:00 AM.**

***If you have a large quantity of clothing, please call Redeemer's office (leave a message) at 570-322-2333 to make an appointment for taking your items directly to Redeemer. Smaller quantities can be placed on our stage behind the curtains.**



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.**

. Evangelism and Fellowship Committee: Upcoming Events

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

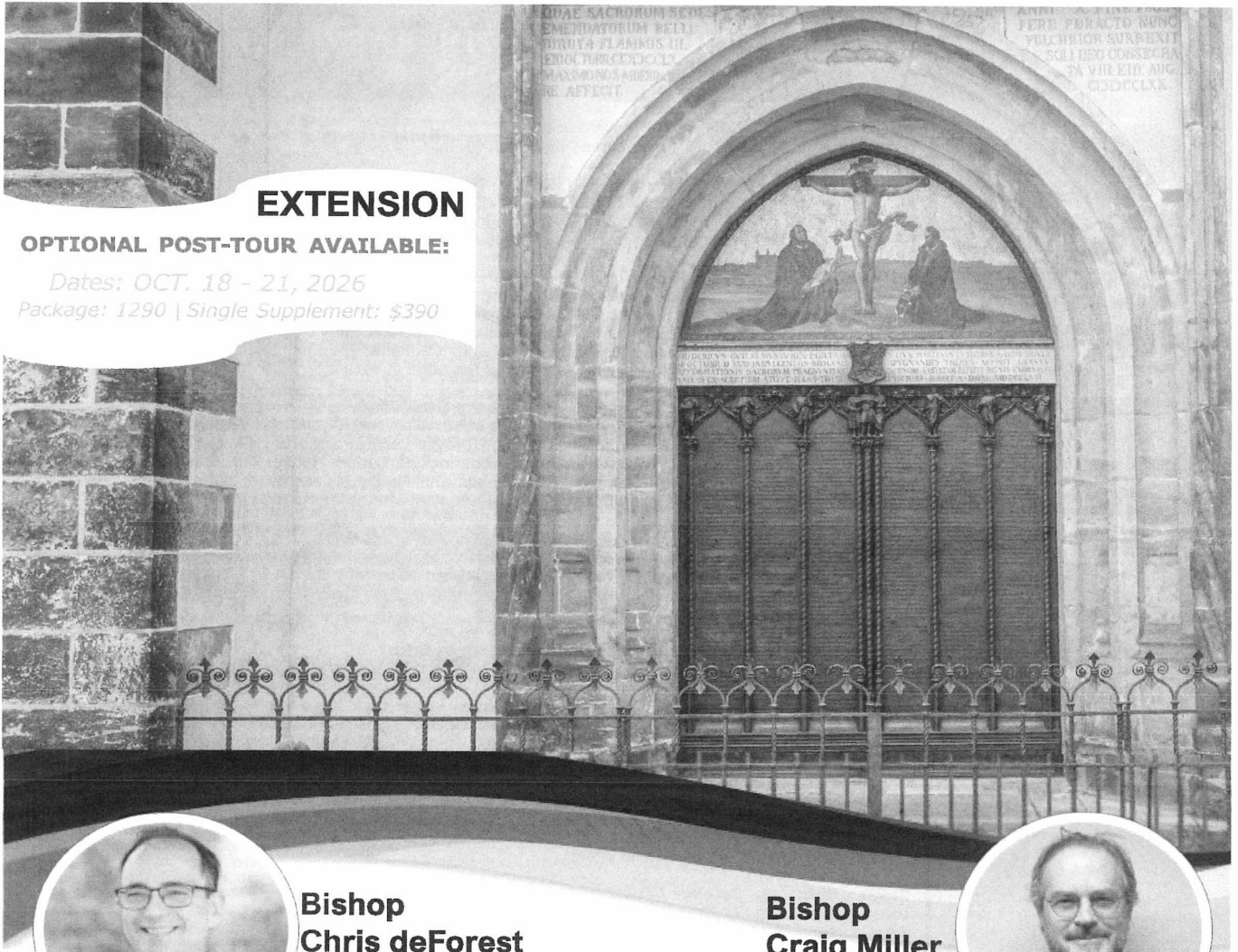
*Sunday, October 11 from 2:00 – 4:00: Synod Youth Meeting at St. Mark's. We need some help with refreshments for approximately 20 youth from around the area. Items in need are individual bags of chips, 2-liters of soda (regular and diet) fruit snacks, cookies or brownies and individually wrapped candy.

*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.



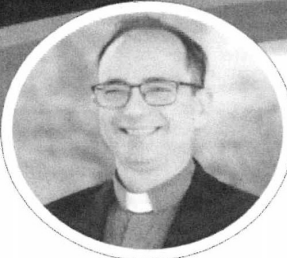


EXTENSION

OPTIONAL POST-TOUR AVAILABLE:

Dates: OCT. 18 - 21, 2026

Package: 1290 | Single Supplement: \$390



**Bishop
Chris deForest**



**Bishop
Craig Miller**

Tour Leaders

October 10 - 18, 2026 | Washington, DC (IAD) or Newark, NJ, (EWR) | Package Price: \$4490

GERMANY

PILGRIMAGE



PACKAGE INCLUDES:
Round-trip airfare | Accommodations in double occupancy luxury hotels
Breakfast and dinner daily | sightseeing in a modern, air-conditioned private bus
English-speaking tour guide | And Much More



Good Shepherd Travel
www.goodshepherdtravel.com
Toll Free: 1-844-659-5263

October 2026

MonTueWedThuFriSat						
123						
1:15PM Symbols Booklet Commit- tee						
4 9:30AM Holy Communion5678910						
W & MOKTOBERFESTHarvest Home2PM Pet Blessing Service12:10PM Book Group6PM Men's Fellowship5:00PM Redeemer Com-munity Dinner						
11111314151617						
9:30AM Holy CommunionCROP WALKYOUTH DAY2pm Hymn Sing5:30PM Finance12PM Packing Party LWR12:10PM Book Group						
18192021222324						
9:30AM Holy Communion6PM Council12:10PM Book Group4-6:00PM Redeemer Cloth-ing Drop-Off8:30AM-11:00AM Daniel's Closet						
25262728293031						
9:30AM Holy Communion12:10PM Book Group						