

December 4, 2022
Annual Report of St. Mark's Lutheran Church
Williamsport, PA 17701

"To know Christ and to make Christ known"



*"And my God will supply every
need of yours according to his
riches in glory in Christ Jesus."*

PHILIPPIANS 4:19

The Annual Report of
St. Mark's Lutheran Church
142 Market Street
Williamsport, PA 17701

December 4, 2022



Prepared By
Joseph Baur, Administrative Assistant



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REPORT OF THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Ralph Zeigler



Dear Fellow Members of St. Mark's Lutheran Church:

A longstanding hallmark of our congregation is that of "generosity". We know that, as we have been blessed, we can be a blessing to others. That is our mission: *"to know Christ and to make Christ known"*.

We are grateful for everything that members of this congregation continue to do, both at the church as well as in the greater Williamsport community. What a sense of gratitude we all feel for the many gifts shared – not only the financial support, but also the countless hours volunteered in caring for the church and in supporting the ministry to which we all have been called. On behalf of a grateful church Council, our message is simply "thank you"!

We are ever mindful of those who serve as members and officers on Council; those who chair or serve on any of the dozen or so standing committees; those who contribute to and participate in worship services; those who help to maintain the church property; those who support programs and activities; and those who contribute so much to the life of this congregation. One only need read the church newsletter and bulletins to know how active this parish is. For all of that and more, we express our appreciation.

To those serving as officers on the Council – Mel Wentzel, Vice President; Vicki Haussmann, Secretary; and Pam Jensen, Treasurer – a special note of appreciation. Your dedication and commitment to St. Mark's is ever present. For all that you do, please accept my deepest gratitude.

My personal gratitude for the blessings of our staff – for Pastor Vasey, so capable, thoughtful, and respectful...a well-informed leader for our congregation...a humble servant of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ; for our gifted organist, Sam Robinson, whose talents enrich our worship; for our welcoming and creative administrative assistant, Joe Baur; for our new bookkeeper, Deb Kershner, whom we are delighted to welcome as our newest staff member, and for her predecessor, Jackie Baysore, who is working with Deb during this transition period; for our volunteer financial secretary, Herb Poff whose knowledge of this church is such an amazing resource; and for the crew from Choice Cleaners who have earned the respect and appreciation of many for their care of this facility. For these and your many other contributions to St. Mark's, "thank you"!

Earlier this year we commended to God's eternal care two longtime employees, Bernadette Jones and Lou DeSeau. We pray God's blessing on their families whom we continue to keep in prayer.

Finally, we extend sincere appreciation to Robert Campbell, Wanda Fortin, and Linda Rosini, all of whom are finishing their terms on Council. Please know that we are grateful for your gifts of time and service, and look forward to your continuing involvement in this parish.

It has been an honor to serve this year as president of the congregation into which I was born. Your confidence and support have been so very much appreciated. We are called to love one another just as He has loved us. The gospel reminds us that "...from His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace." (John 1:16) What wonderful news to share!

May God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – bless both the members and the ministry of this congregation as we continue our journey of faith.

In His name,

Ralph Zeigler, Council President

FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

(as of November 6, 2022)

ST. MARK'S
LUTHERAN
CHURCH



Members Received by
Public Affirmation of Baptism

Levi Gair

Hudson Ott

Nolan Ott

Members Received by Transfer

Charlotte Reitz

Richard Reitz

Helen Schramm

Restored to Membership

Ann Kuntz

Charles Kuntz

Deaths of Members

Kay Marie Poliska 11-25-2021

Robert Ramsauer 12-07-2021

Linda R. DeSeau 12-09-2021

Blanche L. Doeblen 01-03-2022

Lois B. Smith 01-08-2022

Bernadette H. Jones 02-10-2022

Ernestine C. Doane 04-08-2022

Leo Louis DeSeau 04-30-2022

Carolyn-Kay Lundy 05-01-2022

Marion S. Waldeisen 05-17-2022

Betty J. Stoetzel 06-21-2022

Doris P. Brown 07-06-2022

Shirley G. Miller 08-17-2022



REPORT OF THE PASTOR

Reverend Brian Vasey



*Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;
as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.*

Great is thy faithfulness!

(733, Evangelical Lutheran Worship)

Grace + Peace be unto you in the name of the One who has poured forth God's own Spirit upon all the earth, even the same Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord!

Great is the faithfulness of our God! As the above quote from the hymn, "Great is Thy Faithfulness" reminds us, our God never tires of grace. Our God never tires of caring for us. Our God never tires of offering us forgiveness and life eternal. Our God never tires...not even in a pandemic.

With the beginning of the Season of Advent we find ourselves on the threshold of a new church year. I wish I could share with you that with the beginning of this new year, the pandemic is a thing of the past; that it has been 100% eradicated. Sadly, this is not the situation. COVID is still with us. New variants, some more deadly than the original, continue to emerge. Loved ones and friends continue to succumb. Add to this the war in Ukraine, natural disasters, violence on our streets, shootings in the Williamsport Area, not to mention a loss of common decency and civility, it's enough to make us wonder to ourselves and to others, "Where is our God?"

Our God is with us! Our God has come and continues to come to us and among us:

- + God has come in the birth, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus
- + God comes to us in the word of scripture, preaching and teaching
- + God comes to us in Holy Baptism
- + God comes to us in Holy Communion

Our God does not abandon us! Our God promises to us that where two or three are gathered in God's name, God comes! God comes and in the activity and ministry of the Holy Spirit, God asks us to remember this divine and faithful promise in our prayers, conversations and living of life. God knows that the present situation is difficult, at times it may even seem unbearable, but it does not define us. COVID, war, violence, hurricanes, earthquakes do not have the last word! We are people of God and people of God are people of hope and promise. These last three years have been times of hardship and struggle, but because of our faith and because of our identity as people of God, St. Mark's continues to minister. Our focus continues to be outward. Needs are being met. Prayers, for ourselves and others are being prayed. Aid, food, compassionate care in our community and around the world has been given, both in monetary and practical means. Sunday School continues to meet. Worship continues to happen. Participation in our city's ministerium and the United Churches of Lycoming County continue to take place. We are the church. We are the Body of Christ. We must minister unto others in the name and way of Christ. It is who we are. It is whose we are. If we cease to minister because of anything—a horrific virus, wars, lack of funds—we cease to be the church.

(continued on next page)

REPORT OF THE PASTOR (continued)

Reverend Brian Vasey

2022 has been identified as the 170th year of St. Mark's existing as a parish; 170 years of, in the language of our current Mission Statement, "Knowing Christ and Making Christ Known". In 2023 St. Mark's celebrates its 171st year! As pastor I look forward to the many ways in which together we will continue the mission and ministry of the church regardless of situation.

As Martin Luther is rumored to have said many times in his ministry, "Have faith! Grace abounds!" We go forward into this new church year ever clinging to the promises of God through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord. "Great is God's Faithfulness"! Thanks be to God!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Vasey



REPORT OF THE ARCHIVES AND WEBSITE

Gary Weber



The Archivist is responsible to document and preserve the history of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, both past and present. This is done by way of preservation of photographs, videos, written materials, and artifacts that represent the congregation and its activities. The archivist also accumulates, catalogs, organizes and preserves materials left behind by past generations of members of St. Mark's.

In the past year I have been approached multiple times by members with the same question: "I was going through the closet/shelf/back room at St. Mark's and found one of these (fill in the blank). Do we want to save this? Should I put it in the archive room?" The answer is invariably "yes!" because it is a piece of St. Mark's past and it is my role to preserve that part of our history, so future generations can understand what we have done here.

As always, the St. Mark's Website is where you can read about current activities and past history. The Website, www.stmarkswilliamsport.org, allows our members access to documents, photographs, schedules, news, past issues of "The Lion", worship services, bulletins and much more.

The Website design is a bit out-of-date and we must update. Although it complies with the latest security requirements, it is not "responsive" which means it does not do well on a phone or other small screen device. Efforts to secure a quote for revisions were not successful, but it is a project for consideration in 2023.

Gary Weber



REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTION REVISION COMMITTEE

Gary Weber (Chairman)

Members: Ralph Zeigler, Pam Jensen, Candy Dewar and Gary Weber



The ad hoc constitution committee was appointed by the Congregation Council to review and propose revisions to St. Mark's Constitution. The committee members—Ralph Zeigler, Pam Jensen, Candy Dewar and Gary Weber—met approximately 9 times between August 2021 and April 2022.

The background is that the congregation last updated the constitution in 2018, and there were major changes at that time because it had been 28 years since the last revision. The focus at that time was to incorporate St. Mark's procedures into a new more comprehensive format required by the Synod. Existing procedures were carried over unchanged.

This time, the committee took a line-by-line look at church procedures, evaluated whether actual practice followed constitutional requirements, determined whether the language will work for us in the future and recommended a number of changes in the document. The committee also corrected a serious oversight – although by-laws are mentioned many times in the constitution, no by-laws existed.

The resulting product is a revised constitution that corrects and updates our constitution, eliminates unnecessary language, and provides a more concisely written and understandable document. And by-laws were developed!

The draft was approved by Council, and once by the congregation. A required second approval by the congregation is being sought at the annual meeting on December 4, and the Bishop must approve, but it is hoped to implement the revisions in 2023.

The revised documents as well as a summary of the changes are posted at www.stmarkswilliamsport.org/articles/2022/constitution.asp. There are many changes that are fully described on our Website.

Thanks to the committee members, who put in the many hours necessary to complete this difficult project.

Gary Weber, Chair Constitution Revision Committee



REPORT OF THE MEMORIALS COMMITTEE

Carl and Beverly Hieber (Co-Chairs)



The purpose of the Memorial Committee is to proclaim Jesus Christ to each other and to the whole world through the thoughtful use of special gifts given to the congregation in memory of members and friends of the parish.

Gifts have been received in memory of the following members in the past year:

LOU DeSEAU

MARION WALDEISEN

Carl & Beverly Hieber, Co-Chairs



REPORT OF THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mel Wentzel

(Vice-President Church Council and Personnel
Committee Chair)

Committee Members

Gary Weber, Candy Dewar, Helen Schramm,
Pastor Vasey and Ralph Zeigler



Greetings and God's Blessings upon you,

This has been an interesting year with staffing vacancies and hiring new personnel to help St. Mark's continue to move forward. Thank you to Becky Pryor for her help, support and guidance as I transitioned into this role as Personnel Chair.

Earlier this year we hired Choice Cleaning Services to do a thorough cleaning of the church building. We cannot say enough about how they have worked tenaciously to initially deep clean and then maintain the cleaned St. Mark's. They also helped tremendously to strip and clean the kitchen floor when we replaced the refrigerator. They continue to help wherever they can such as setting up and taking down tables and chairs for events in Fellowship Hall. Thank you to Choice for doing such a noticeably great job.

With the passing of Bernadette Jones the church needed a new Administrative Assistant and after several candidate interviews, Joe Baur was hired and has been doing a great job in that capacity. He has enhanced our weekly bulletin and The Lion. Thank you Joe.

We are sad to see that our Bookkeeper, Jackie Baysore is leaving and we have been fortunate to hire Deb Kershner to continue the great job maintaining the financial duties of St. Mark's. Our thanks and best wishes go to Jackie Baysore for all of her accomplishments over the past years. We also wish the best for Deb as she begins her journey with us here at St. Mark's. I would like to thank Jackie Baysore, Herb Poff and Pam Jensen for all of their help in getting Deb hired and settled in as our new Bookkeeper.

We have been trying to hire a part-time Sexton since the unfortunate passing of Lou DeSeau. With God's help, we will be able to fill this position in a timely manner.

Last, but not least, Sam Robinson continues to perform wonderful music for us here at St. Mark's. His preludes, hymn selections, postludes and the entire incidental playing have not gone unnoticed. We have been truly blessed with the music that enhances and invigorates our congregation each and every week. Thank you Sam.

I would like to thank the members of this important committee. Gary Weber, Candy Dewar, Helen Schramm, Pastor Vasey and Ralph Zeigler, Council President. These folks have been a tremendous help to the successful advertising, interviewing and hiring of all personnel, spending hours on the process.

Special Thanks to Candy Dewar who makes sure the staff is celebrated on special occasions and dates. She provides small gifts and tokens of our appreciation for the important work they do every day to the benefit of St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

And, finally, I want to personally thank Pastor Vasey and President Ralph Zeigler their support and guidance as we progress through the challenges and successes of the Personnel Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Mel Wentzel

Council Vice-President (Personnel Committee Chair)



REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Sam Robinson



It is hard to believe that we are wrapping up my third calendar year at St. Mark's. I began my time here in May 2020 when we were still pre-recording video services in front of an empty nave. Last year, we were able to bring choral music back to St. Mark's in a limited capacity.

In the fall of 2022, we began our choir rehearsals again. We have been fortunate to include five guest singers to our choir: Lydia Hall, Alanna Ramos, Olivia Ciabattari, Chase Bower, and Samuel Weaver—all Williamsport Area High School students and graduates. Their voices have helped contribute to the beautiful choral music at St. Mark's. Moving forward in 2023, we will see much more from the choir. On another note, I want to send appreciation to Gregg and Kathy Dancho for their MANY years of active service in the St. Mark's choir.

We were blessed to have Chase Bower, a Williamsport Area High School graduate and current Lycoming College student, serve as a weekly cantor for several months at our 8:00am services in early 2022. His talents were a welcome addition to that service. Since then, he has not been a stranger to St. Mark's. Also, I want to acknowledge Sadie Wentzel for performing beautiful music for our congregation. She is a tremendous talent.

The fall and winter months brought several outside musical groups to fill our nave with beautiful music. The Lycoming College Chamber Choir performed Duruflé's *Requiem* under the leadership of Mr. Kent Weaver, and the Williamsport Civic Chorus performed Fauré's *Requiem* under Michael Connor's baton. In December, the Williamsport Chamber Choir and Orchestra will perform Haydn's *Missa Sancti Nicolai*. The musical community is alive and well in Williamsport, and it's a testament to St. Mark's that many groups want to use our beautiful nave to bring their music to life.

I am eager to see what 2023 will bring to the music at St. Mark's. I am impressed and humbled at the support from the congregation. The importance of music has never been in doubt at St. Mark's, and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as Director of Music.



REPORT OF THE
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Joseph Tobias Baur III



I am grateful and excited that the position was offered to me this year and look forward to helping the church grow and prosper in the upcoming year and beyond.

I am reworking the files to eliminate duplicates and make it easier to locate information, working on eliminating clutter in the copier room and evaluating equipment in storage to see if it truly needed.

I am updating the current database for church membership and looking to make it more inclusive. Please remember to update me in any changes to addresses, phone numbers, etc.

I am pleased to hear all the compliments on the weekly bulletin and monthly newsletter. I am always open to additional feedback on the two and will strive to make them even better.

I would like to thank Lou Ann and Ralph Zeigler, Bob Miller and George Poliska for their help in putting together the newsletter. If any one is interested in helping please let me know. The more hands the faster it goes.



REPORT OF THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE
Janet Jones (Chairperson)
Members: Robert Miller, Becky Miller Pryor and
Connie Shaible



Since 2020 the pandemic has greatly restricted the activities of the Parish Life Committee. But 2022 saw a lessening of restrictions in the community and at St. Mark's. Parish Life rejoiced at the prospect of once again serving others in the name of our Lord.

Our activities within the congregation included

Serving several funeral luncheons when asked by the families to do so.

Providing hospitality for church events when requested.

Replacing or servicing kitchen appliances in anticipation of increased activities. A new refrigerator was purchased, the ice maker and all three stoves were serviced and repaired as needed.

Our activities for the community included

Catering the monthly luncheons for the Center City Pastors of the United Churches of Lycoming County.

Providing twenty-four sandwiches twice per month to New Covenant UCC's Blessing Boxes.

Assisting the Evangelism and Fellowship Committee with providing and packaging desserts for Redeemer's community dinner.

Our activities going forward include

Continuing with all the activities from this year and looking for opportunities to further serve the congregation and the community as we are able.



REPORT OF THE SAFETY COMMITTEE

Dr. Drew Haussmann (Chairman)

Sally Bjornstad (Secretary)

Members: Herb Poff, Dave Williams, Walter Doeblor and Pastor Vasey.



The goal of the Safety Team is to provide Safety and Security to the St. Mark's Congregation as well as being First Responders in a medical emergency until the Ambulance arrives.

The team members are: Dr. Drew Haussmann (Chairman), Sally Bjornstad (Secretary), Herb Poff, Dave Williams, Walter Doeblor, and Pastor Vasey.

At the end of September, 2021, Council voted to purchase an AED, Auto External Defibrillator. In January, 2022, Dr. Haussmann gave an AED inservice in which 10 people attended. He opened the AED and thoroughly explained how it works. He explained to us this unit is for sudden cardiac arrest and is designed to be used by anyone. You do not need to be a medically trained person. The machine talks you through it. Besides the AED, 911 is to be called immediately and CPR is to be administered until the AED indicates use or the Ambulance arrives.

In February, 2022, Carl Albright resigned as Chairman of the Safety Team. The team would like to thank Carl for his service. He did so much for our team. Dr. Drew Haussmann graciously agreed to be our new Chairman in April and in May 2022, we had our first meeting. The team is so blessed to have Dr. Haussmann as our Chairman.

Since then, signs have been made for the location of the AED and First Aid Kits. We are in the process of putting them through-out the Church. In May, 2022, the Safety Team had a refresher course in the use of the AED by Dr. Haussmann.

Then we turned our attention toward the Fire Extinguishers. The Fire Extinguishers were inspected by Fry's Fire Service in July, 2022. In order to expand the safety of St. Mark's, we are purchasing two additional ones and relocating a third one. Small signs will be put above the light switches through-out the Church to tell the location of all the extinguishers.

Looking ahead, we are contacting a Security Co. to give us a quote on how much it would cost to have every exterior door checked each night everyday to be sure they are locked and secure. Also, a sign will be made for the Fellowship Hall doorbell which will indicate to go to the Office door if no one responds to the bell. Office hours are M-F 9am-1pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Drew Haussmann- Chairman

Sally Bjornstad- Secretary



REPORT OF THE EVANGELISM AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Becky Miller Pryor (Chairperson)

Members: Wanda Fortin, Jackie Kinney, Karen
Mariano, Linda Rosini and Barbara Thomas



The purpose of the Evangelism and Fellowship Committee is to proclaim Jesus Christ to each other and to the entire world by sharing Christian love through social, emotional and material support.

Our outreach within the congregation included

Continuing to send greeting cards to our Special Concern folks and others we do not see as often as we wish. Cards were sent at Christmas, Valentine's Day, Easter, July Fourth and Thanksgiving.

Continuing the Card Ministry which was reestablished in 2021. In addition to our committee members, congregation members send cards, on a rotating basis, to our Special Concern folks to honor birthdays, anniversaries, thinking of you or get-well greetings as another way to stay in touch.

Assisting the Faith Formation Committee in various activities throughout the year.

Continuing the creation of Welcome mugs begun by the Dancho's.

Hosting our missionary to Liberia, Linda Johnson Seyenkulo, in July.

Our outreach to our community included

Hosting two blood drives in Fellowship Hall in partnership with the American Red Cross.

Providing meals during our hosting weeks for Family Promise. These meals were delivered to the families at the Day Center.

Facilitating the collecting of non-perishable food items, paper products, cleaning supplies and snacks year-round for The United Churches Food Pantry, Shepherd of the Streets, Sojourner Truth Ministries and the Blessing Boxes at New Covenant UCC.

Hosting the annual July Fourth Lawn Party after an absence of three years.

Collaborating with the Faith Formation Committee in collecting items and packing Operation Christmas Child boxes and Reverse Advent bags.

Collecting and delivering small gifts to the Ladies of CM-6 at the Selinsgrove Center and their caregivers.

Collecting and delivering general Christmas gifts of clothing, watches, wallets and other items for the residents of the Danville State Hospital.

Providing monthly support to Daniel's Closet with our clothing donations.

Supporting Redeemer Lutheran's free community dinner by providing desserts monthly.

Assisting the Parish Life Committee in providing sandwiches twice each month to the Blessing Boxes of New Covenant UCC.

Our outreach going forward includes

Continuing with those projects that serve members of the congregation and the community. As the pandemic subsides, we wait for new opportunities to reach out in Christian love to our church family and community. We encourage you to pray and answer Christ's call to serve.



REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Ralph Zeigler (Chairman)

Members: Robert Campbell, Wanda Fortin,
Linda Rosini, Pastor Vasey



The Nominating Committee is chaired by the president of Council and includes three additional voting members of the congregation appointed by the president for a term of one year. Serving this year are Robert Campbell, Wanda Fortin, Linda Rosini, Pastor Vasey and Ralph Zeigler.

With sincere gratitude, we recognize members of Council who are completing their terms:

Robert Campbell

Wanda Fortin

Linda Rosini

Shelby Weber was appointed by Council to complete the remaining two years of Kathy Dancho's term. That became available when Kathy and her husband, Gregg, moved from the area.

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following names for your consideration for election to Council for three-year terms beginning in January 2023:

Debra Buckman

Vicki Haussmann (second term)

Nicki Jackson

Helen Schramm

Ralph Zeigler (second term)

Additional nominations may be made from the floor and require a second to the motion. As a courtesy, however, please confirm with the person being nominated their willingness to serve in that capacity should they be elected to a Council position.

Nominees for the Audit Committee and Lay Delegates to the Annual Assembly of the Upper Susquehanna Synod Conference will be proposed to the congregation at a special meeting in the spring. If you have an interest in serving in either of these capacities, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee. Thank you!



REPORT OF THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Drew Haussmann and Ed Gair (Co-Chairs)

Members: Dave Williams, Bob Miller, Glenn Yapple, Deb Buckman, Susan Newcomer, Jim Newcomer, James Newcomer Carl Albright, Herb Poff.



The purpose of the Property Committee is to proclaim Jesus Christ to each other and all the world by promoting the use of the congregation's physical resources in the support of our Christian Mission. To this end the committee arranged for the promotion, protection, maintenance, repair and expansion of church properties. The Committee supervises the use of the same by the congregation and other organizations so that the facilities are adequate for the functions assigned by the congregation.

The year 2022 brought significant change to the property committee. In addition to the challenges posed by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we have also lost our long time sexton, Lou DeSeau. Lou was known and appreciated by everyone in the congregation, and he not only knew everyone within the parish, but also everything there was to know about the property and infrastructure that is St. Mark's. There is no replacing a person like Lou, but the building and grounds still need to be cared for and maintained. As the committee awaits the hiring of a new sexton, they have worked together to tackle the problems and maintenance needs of the building and grounds that have arisen throughout this past year.

Drew Haussmann has stepped up to join Ed Gair as chairperson, filling Lou's role as previous co-chair of the committee. Many of the routine cleaning tasks of the church are now being attended to by Choice Cleaning, though the committee would like to make a special mention and thanks to committee member, Dr. Carl Albright, who is frequently tending to a variety of cleaning tasks as well as leading the "outdoor crew."

In addition, we would like to recognize Herb Poff, who's frequent presence at the church has helped identify a large number of property issues, and he has taken the lead on a number of repair and maintenance concerns that have arisen. We also appreciate the time and talents of the other active members of the committee, including Dave Williams, Bob Miller, Glenn Yapple, and Deb Buckman. We welcomed Jim, Susan and James Newcomer to the property committee this year, and appreciate their willingness to serve St. Mark's on the property committee.

As we look ahead to 2023 there are a number of projects and repairs, both big and small, that we will endeavor to tackle as we strive to preserve and promote the physical space that is the church of St. Mark's.

In Christ,

Drew Haussmann and Ed Gair, Property Co-chairs



REPORT OF THE
FAITH FORMATION COMMITTEE
Vicki Haussmann (Chairperson)
Sally Bjornstad, Pastor Vasey



The Faith Formation Committee is committed to our purpose of proclaiming Jesus Christ to each other and to the world through Christian Education as well as through Christian Fellowship.

Christian Education was offered in a variety of ways this past year including: Sunday School classes, Lenten and Advent studies, Confirmation classes, support of Vacation Bible School, and providing devotional materials for the seasons of Lent and Advent.

We were pleased to Confirm three young men this past June ~ Levi Gair, Hudson Ott, and Nolan Ott. We realize that Christian Fellowship is also an important part of connecting with each other and encouraging each other to grow in our faith. In that regard, we were pleased to be able to host many events throughout the year. The first annual Shrove Tuesday event was a success, and we enjoyed sharing the evening with our friends from St. Luke's. Souper Bowl Sunday, "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday, Operation Christmas Child, and Reverse Advent Calendars provided opportunities to come together to provide outreach to those outside of our congregation. The annual church picnic returned and provided an opportunity for fellowship. And activities such as Backpack Blessing Sunday, Pet Blessing Sunday, Pumpkin Carving, Advent Wreath Making, and Christmas Tree Decorating helped celebrate various seasons throughout the year.

A special thank you to Sally Bjornstad who is a faithful and committed member of the Faith Formation committee. Thank you, Sally, for all you do to support the studies, activities, and events that occur at St. Mark's.

As we look ahead to 2023, we will continue to navigate and explore how this committee works as we strive to reinvigorate education and participation for the entire congregation. Please join in any of our classes and activities. All are welcome!

Vicki Haussmann ~ Chair



REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Pam Jensen, Treasurer

Committee Members: Diane Bardsley, Wanda Fortin, Jackie Kinney, Herb Poff, Barb Thomas, Phil Thomas, Gary Weber, Ralph Zeigler and Pastor Vasey



The purpose of the Finance Committee is to proclaim Jesus Christ to each other and to our community by prayerfully managing the financial resources of the congregation.

The St. Mark's Finance Committee faced many challenges this year, including the retirement of Jackie Kinney as Treasurer and of Jackie Baysore as Bookkeeper. Our heartfelt thanks to both Jackies for their tireless and invaluable contributions to the financial stability of our congregation.

Since the last financial audit of St. Mark's was conducted in 2019, Larson Kellett was hired to perform an audit for the period of July 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021. We received excellent feedback and only minor suggestions for improvement.

A subgroup of the Finance Committee met with Chris Fellon, our insurance representative from Brotherhood Mutual, and performed a thorough review of our insurance policy. This led to a plan to bring in the Industrial Appraisal Company to conduct a comprehensive insurance appraisal of St. Mark's building and assets, since the last such appraisal was done several years ago.

For some years, there have been concerns as to what would happen with payroll if there were to be a disruption in bookkeeper service. With Jackie Baysore's retirement, those concerns became reality and Council voted to hire MinistryWorks to provide payroll services to St. Mark's, beginning in January 2023.

On November 3, we welcomed Deb Kershner as our new bookkeeper. Deb has over 30 years experience with administrative tasks, including billing, payroll, tax returns, and office management. Deb will work 8 hours per week, Monday and Wednesday mornings.

Our proposed budget for 2023 will be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting on December 4, and is found at the end of this report.

None of this work could have been done without the help of Finance Committee members Diane Bardsley, Wanda Fortin, Jackie Kinney, Herb Poff, Barb Thomas, Phil Thomas, Gary Weber, Ralph Zeigler, and Pastor Vasey. A very special thank you to Jackie Baysore, Herb Poff, and Jackie Kinney for offering help and support to a very new and inexperienced treasurer!

Pam Jensen, Treasurer



REPORT OF THE WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE

Ray Huff - Chairman



Our mission statement contains many elements that are crucial to our ministry.

To Know Christ, and to make Christ known.

The purpose of the Worship and Music Committee is to see that the worship of God is conducted in good order in accordance with the Bible and the Lutheran tradition.

The Worship and Music Committee, in an oversight capacity, continued to be busy again this year within the congregation, as well as in the community. We have two beautiful spaces for worship. The nave was a sight for Sunday liturgies, weddings, funerals, concerts, and other events. The challenge this year was the COVID-19 impact on the way that we worship.

We are extremely fortunate to have Sam Robinson to lead our worship in word through music. We look forward to Sam, with our help, in rebuilding our music program.

We have gone from having volunteer cantors at the single service in the summer and both services to having young guests lend their talents with our “popup” choir, adding much to our worship.

The Altar Guild was extremely active again this year with the many scheduled and unscheduled activities to keep the church supplies and articles in proper order.

Acknowledgment must be given for the diligent service of our committee members, musicians, the behind-the-scenes helpers, and those who share in the worship leadership roles. Without their assistance, leadership and contributions, our services to the Lord would not be as fulfilling.

In a year of many challenges, Pastor Brian D. Vasey has been leading us in our various forms of worship and discipleship in a most heart-warming way. His children’s sermons with his friends, I. M. Stein, and his canine companion Bosco, will bring more parents and children to participate in the church. He is also bringing more notable visitors to the church as well. We thankfully appreciate his efforts for St. Mark’s.

Thanks are due for those who so graciously helped in the many duties to keep things flowing throughout the entire year, especially the committee members: Bev Hieber, Cindy Huff, Linda Rosini, Karen Boone, Diana and Dan Zeigler, Ralph and Lou Ann Zeigler and, of course, Sam Robinson and Pastor Vasey.

Challenges continue each year, in the areas of volunteering, meeting parishioners' needs, and increasing our active membership. It may not be obvious to some, but it truly takes a host of people to keep the church, music and worship services ministering properly. This is most evident during the seasons of Advent and Holy Week, but the need continues every day during the year. There exist many opportunities for volunteer ministry at St. Mark’s. Please feel free to contact any member of the Worship and Music committee or Pastor Vasey if you can share in any of the various volunteering capacities. Together we all will continue to praise and proclaim Jesus Christ through His Word and Sacrament.

In closing, God has blessed St. Mark’s in so many ways. Sometimes we lose sight of who is in control of things. Let us rejoice in God’s wisdom and grace.

-Ray Huff-

UPDATE ON DOSSAL REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Dossal Replacement: An Update

Replacement of the dossal cloth behind the altar was discussed at the February 2020 Council meeting when the family of a long-time member of St. Mark's was looking for a possible memorial gift. Council members (and others) noticed that the current white dossal cloth was becoming noticeably dirtier and, in some places, torn; it needed to be addressed.

At that meeting, Council approved using red fabric when the dossal was replaced again. This was the color originally chosen by the award-winning architect who designed our church, T. Norman Mansell. It adds some warmth to the chancel and offsets the coolness of the two larger grey screens (one on either side of the dossal) on which the wooden plaques are hung.

Then the pandemic arrived in March 2020, and everything was put on hold.

Even though we still are in earlier stages of the dossal replacement project, some progress has been made. The current dossal cloth is made up of 21 panels that together create a white backdrop for the suspended cross. The area is approximately 11 feet wide x 36 feet high. It features two multi-color orphreys or bands, one on either side of the dossal. One plan would be to replace the current fabric with red cloth and to reinstall the frames.

A second plan would be to revert to the architect's original design, that of a continuous red cloth from ceiling to floor. Many of the fabrics used for dossal cloths come in widths of 55 to 60 inches. Three sections of fabric would be sewn together to create a single red dossal, taking careful measures to align any patterns in the cloth. Mr. Mansell chose blue as the color for the original two orphreys.

To date, the Worship and Music Committee has looked at several different red fabrics. There are some lovely choices. We know that the cost per yard can range between \$75 and \$125 or more.

Based on these known figures, we estimate that the cloth alone most likely will cost between \$3,000 and \$5,000. Also, there will be other costs including labor involved in sewing and the orphreys that adorn the sides of the dossal.

Currently, we are researching installation options and working to find a company to do this complex work. Those costs may not be known for a while. However, as that information becomes available, we will share it with the congregation.

St. Mark's is blessed to have a beautiful worship space. Our nave was thoughtfully designed more than 60 years ago and continues to serve us well. The Worship and Music Committee is being deliberative as it seeks ways to assure that our facility retains its splendor. We appreciate your patience and understanding, as well as your thoughts and support.

Respectfully,

Ralph Zeigler, Member

Worship & Music Committee



REPORT OF THE PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

Pam Jensen - Chairperson



Publicity Committee Annual Report

The purpose of the Publicity Committee is to proclaim Jesus Christ to each other and to our community by using every available and prudent means of communication to invite, encourage and inform persons both inside and outside the congregation, and to promote the congregation's activities.

The St. Mark's Publicity Committee continues to work on publicity efforts as part of our mission to know Christ and to make Christ known. Our primary activity is writing and sending our e-mail newsletter at regular intervals to those who have shared an e-mail address. Articles for the newsletter are suggested by Council members, committee chairs, and others who have news to share. Content is edited and published by Gary Weber and by Pam Jensen.

Thanks go out to others who have helped with publicity efforts, including Ralph Zeigler, who has written press releases for the Williamsport Sun-Gazette, and Vicki Haussmann, who continues to manage and enhance St. Mark's Facebook presence.

We continue to place ads in the Williamsport Sun-Gazette in the Christmas, Easter, and Progress editions, as well as in specialty publications such as the Worship Service Directory.

Going forward, the committee will continue the email outreach, and our efforts to have our activities advertised in local print, radio, and electronic media. We encourage all St. Mark's members to get involved with publicity efforts by attending events and by alerting committee members to public outreach opportunities.

Pam Jensen, Chair

2022 FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2022

			<u>YTD Actual</u>		<u>Budget Year 2022</u>
INCOME					
Parking Lot Rent			\$ 9,217.50		\$ 15,120.00
Little Lambs Room Rental			\$ 8,460.00		\$ 12,690.00
Room & Hall Rental			\$ 350.00		\$ 500.00
Welker/Capital General			\$ 16,209.45		\$ 21,612.00
Religious Income			\$ 189,811.99		\$ 200,875.00
Fund Transfers			\$ -		\$ 94,443.00
Benevolence & Charity			\$ -		\$ -
Income Totals			<u>\$ 224,048.94</u>		<u>\$ 345,240.00</u>
EXPENSE					
Salaries			\$ 95,591.00		\$ 133,436.00
Administrative Benefits			\$ 40,672.12		\$ 54,239.00
General Administrative			\$ 13,035.62		\$ 13,950.00
Worship & Music			\$ 6,853.78		\$ 9,220.00
Christian ED, Youth & Family Min			\$ 1,276.98		\$ 2,950.00
Outreach Ministries			\$ 579.58		\$ 600.00
Property			\$ 74,434.69		\$ 100,720.00
Benevolence & Charity & Synod Donations			\$ 16,538.28		\$ 30,125.00
					\$ -
Expense Totals			<u>\$ 248,982.05</u>		<u>\$ 345,240.00</u>
Difference			<u>\$ (24,933.11)</u>		<u>\$ -</u>

2022 FINANCIAL REPORT AS OF October 31, 2022 (continued)

		INVESTMENT FUND:		
Balance as of January 1, 2022				\$ 2,013,100.74
Income:				
	Gifts, Various Transfers & Reclassifications			\$ (89.13)
	Interests/Dividends			\$ 26,228.63
		Total In- come		\$ 26,139.50
Expenditures:				
	Fees			\$ (21,104.96)
	Various Transfers & Reclassifications			\$ -
		Total Expenditures		\$ (21,104.96)
Market Value Change				\$ (362,800.94)
Balance as of October 31, 2022				\$ 1,655,334.34



2023 BUDGET REPORT

2023 BUDGET REPORT					
			<u>2022 Budget</u>		<u>2023 Budget</u>
INCOME					
Parking Lot Rent			\$ 15,120.00		\$ 9,360.00
Little Lambs Room Rental			\$ 12,690.00		\$ 14,594.00
Room & Hall Rental			\$ 500.00		\$ 500.00
Welker/Capital General			\$ 21,612.00		\$ 21,612.00
Religious Income			\$ 200,875.00		\$ 182,975.00
Fund Transfers			\$ 94,443.00		\$ 164,349.00
Income Totals			\$ 345,240.00		\$ 393,390.00
EXPENSE					
Salaries			\$ 133,436.00		\$ 134,015.00
Administrative Benefits			\$ 54,239.00		\$ 51,360.00
General Administrative			\$ 13,950.00		\$ 15,260.00
Worship & Music			\$ 9,220.00		\$ 11,800.00
Christian ED, Youth & Family Min			\$ 2,950.00		\$ 2,950.00
Outreach Ministries			\$ 600.00		\$ 1,000.00
Property			\$ 100,720.00		\$ 143,880.00
Benevolence & Charity & Synod Donations			\$ 30,125.00		\$ 33,125.00
Expense Totals			\$ 345,240.00		\$ 393,390.00
Difference			\$ -		\$ -