

December 7, 2025

Annual Report of St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Williamsport, PA 17701

"To know Christ and to make Christ known"



Saint Mark's Lion

The Venetian lion normally has wings, very often holds a book below its paw, and sometimes is completed by a halo around its head. These three elements (wings, book, halo) reveal it as a symbol of Saint Mark the Evangelist, patron saint of the city.

According to a tradition started in the 2nd century AD, each of the four Evangelists is represented by a winged creature: lion, bull, eagle, human. This set of four creatures was also used in relation with the divine presence in the Old Testament.

Also, the lion has been associated with power, courage and strength since ancient times. What better symbol for the prestigious Venetian Republic?

"Pax tibi Marce"

So, now we know that the book the lion is holding stands for the gospel of Saint Mark.

Have you tried to read the Latin sentence written in it?

It says *"Pax tibi Marce, evangelista meus"*, which translates as "Peace to you Mark, my evangelist". According to legend, while Saint Mark was visiting the Venetian lagoon in the 1st century AD, a storm put him in danger, but an angel appeared to him and reassured the saint with those words.

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

December 7, 2025



MEMBERS OF THE 2025 CHURCH COUNCIL

Vicki Haussmann, President

Richard Reitz, Vice President

Ray Huff, Secretary

Debra Buckman, Treasurer

Donna Clark

Cathy Fenderson

Wanda Fortin

Nikki Jackson

Richard Miller

Cindy Todd

Lou Ann Zeigler

Pastor Vasey

Prepared By

Michele Owen, Administrative Assistant



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REPORT OF THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Vicki Haussmann

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

Grace and peace to you, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Often as we approach the end of the year we hear, "Where did the time go?" or "This year sure flew by!" 2025 seems to be no different in this regard. Where *did* the time go?

At St. Mark's, our time is filled with many things, but service to others seems to top them all! Your generosity with your time seems to know no bounds. More than 300 boxes of cereal were collected for the UCLC Food pantry this year. 85 boxes were packed for Operation Christmas Child. Hygiene products were delivered to Shepherd of the Streets. Over \$1000 was raised for the CROP walk. Collections were taken for Souper Bowl Sunday, Sojourner Truth Ministries, Daniel's Closet, Code Blue. Sandwiches are made weekly for the Blessing Box at New Covenant UCC. Birthday Bags were assembled for the UCLC Food Pantry. Meals are delivered to Family Promise. Our time is filled serving Christ by serving others.

Time can be a quirky thing as well, often bringing with it change. Change that is exciting, such as the forward movement in finishing our dossal project. I extend my gratitude to the Worship and Music Committee as well as to Ralph Zeigler in seeing this objective through. We certainly look forward to this finished project, and worshipping in our "new" space. We enjoy the change of liturgies each season, and the music that deepens our worship experience each Sunday. We enjoy the change of service times during the summer that bring us all together, and the change in the Fall that resumes and resets our traditional schedule.

Time also brings changes that can be difficult. Bishop Miller reminded us that holding on to how things "used to be" can make it challenging to embrace what lies ahead. As we move forward, we will need to make difficult decisions regarding an aging building that requires significant time and financial resources to maintain. We will also need to discern how our smaller congregation can best continue "to know Christ and to make Christ known." We take comfort in knowing that St. Mark's has been changing and adapting for nearly 175 years, and I have no doubt that we will continue to do so. God has a plan for our congregation. Through prayer, discernment, discussion, cooperation, and time, we will continue to walk in His way.

It may be *time* for me to close this missive, but before I do please know how appreciative and grateful I am for this congregation that is St. Mark's. Thank you to Pastor Vasey for your strong and steady leadership this past year, and for your warm and caring spirit. Thank you to Church Council for your willingness to serve. And most of all, thank you to each and every member for the ways you graciously and generously give of your time.

In Christ's Name,

Vicki Haussmann, Council President
St. Mark's Lutheran Church



FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

(as of November 23, 2025)

Saint Mark's Lutheran Church

Added to the Membership Rolls (Transfer)

Megan Cartwright
Shawn Cartwright
Ryan Kane
Alexandra Seyler
Scott Seyler

Baptisms

Miles William Boyle
Jack Charles Boyle

Marriages

Megan E. Louder and Shawn P. Cartwright

Removed from Membership Rolls (Death)

Judy Fortin
Carl Hieber
Betty Kaufman
Elizabeth Ruesskamp
Elsie Sechler



REPORT OF THE PASTOR

Reverend Brian Vasey

Annual Report of the Pastor (2025)

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.



The Church is the Church only when it exists for others...not dominating, but helping and serving. It must tell men of every calling what it means to live for Christ, to exist for others.

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer —

AZ QUOTES

The above quote from Lutheran pastor/theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer is an interpretation of what the church of Jesus Christ should and needs to be. We, the baptized followers of Jesus, exist as the Body of Christ for the sake of the world. As “God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life” (John 3:16), so we are to love God and to make this message known.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church has heard this message from Pastor Bonhoeffer and has made it our own through our Defined Mission Statement, *To Know Christ and to Make Christ known*. Our mission statement is read before every meeting in the church. It is printed in every church bulletin, church correspondence and monthly Lion. It has been studied, discussed and agreed upon as an accurate description of both who we are and who we hope to be as people of Christ in this place at this time.

In 2025 our congregation has reflected our mission statement in many ways of ministry to our community and our world:

+ We have remembered the promise that comes to us in Christ; the promise of God's love for us and for all people as the church through the celebration of the means of grace (Holy Scripture, Holy Baptism and Holy Communion) and Christian Education (Sunday School, Bible Study and Small Group Study). We identify as, "The community of believers and saints brought together by the Holy Spirit for the preaching of the Word and the administration of the holy sacraments in accordance with the Gospel (Augsburg Confession VII)".

+ We have proclaimed the good news of Christ and in Christ here and abroad through support to our Synod and various ELCA Missionaries and Missions.

+ We have participated in the ministries of Operation Christmas Child, Church World Service (CROP Walk), Lutheran World Relief, ELCA Good Gifts and Heifer Project International.

+ We have offered prayer, practical help, medicine and food to neighbors far and wide by supporting Diakon Ministries, Family Promise of Lycoming County, the Ministerium of the City of Williamsport (the "Holy COW's"), the United Churches of Lycoming County and Lutheran Disaster Response.

+ We have offered our building as a place of meetings, celebrations, concerts and learnings for various community groups and Little Lambs Preschool and Daycare.

This is who we are. This is whose we are. We are the church. We are the Body of Christ. We minister to others because Christ has first ministered to us. If we cease to minister because of anything other than our Lord's return: Hurricanes; the current war in Ukraine; disease; death of loved ones; lack of funds; apathy; the false gospels of Christian Nationalism and/or a Prosperity Gospel- we cease to be the church and thus cease to be the people of God.

On Sunday, November 30, we began the Season of Advent and thus a new Church Year. This provides an opportunity to look back at the past with fondness and thanksgiving and to the future with hope. Many of our accomplishments in 2025 should be looked at with great satisfaction: A Men's Fellowship Group with great opportunity to serve; Financial commitment to a new dossal; Expansion of our columbarium; exploring ways that our building can

be “in ministry” to our congregation and local community; nurturing youth through and with the gift of music; creating a space of welcome and inclusion. Ministry in our Lord's name has taken place at St. Mark's by people of God known as St. Mark's: The Members and Officers of our Church Council; Church Committees; Church Staff both paid and volunteer; members and friends of the congregation. As pastor I thank you for your work in the name of Christ for the sake of the world. I praise God and give thanks for the many ways you make Christ known.

Martin Luther said many times in his ministry, “Have faith! Grace abounds!” Let us go forth in the hope of a new church year ever clinging to the promises of God as we, empowered by the Holy Spirit to do the work of ministry and strive to, *Know Christ and Make Christ Known* in 2026 and beyond.

Grace + Peace

Pastor Brian Vasey

Advent, 2025



REPORT OF THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Richard Reitz

(Vice-President Church Council and Personnel
Committee Chair)

Committee Members:

Candy Dewar, Cindy Todd, Mel Wentzel, and Pastor
Vasey

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

St. Mark's Personnel Committee Report 2025

Richard Reitz, Church Council Vice President (Personnel Committee Chair)

Greetings and God's Blessings upon you. This has been an interesting year for me. I volunteered to become Vice President at the beginning of my second year on Council, not knowing what my responsibilities might be. Being relatively new to the Church, it has been interesting to learn how the church operates. I am grateful to Mel Wentzel for his help, support and guidance as I transitioned into this role of Personnel Chair.

On March 27, 2025 I met with the committee members: Candy Dewar, Cindy Todd, Mel Wentzel and Pastor Vasey. We remembered our former Administrative Aide, Mr. Joe Baur, who passed recently to eternal Heaven. Candy Dewar, our chair of hiring recommended that we hire Michele Owen. She had applied for the job and was interviewed by Candy. Since Joe's passing, Cindy Todd had volunteered to fill in for Joe. Pastor Vasey indicated that Cindy has been doing a great job and that she was organizing the office. We thanked Cindy for her work

The committee then voted to hire Michele Owen pending her criminal history clearance. Cindy Todd informed the committee that she would help Michele with office duties until she felt comfortable completing her daily work Michele is now completing her work and according to Pastor Vasey, is doing very well.

On October 1, 2025 I Met with Church Council Treasurer, Deb Buckman to go over the Synod's Guidelines for Pastor Vasey's Salary and Benefits. We completed the recommendations of the Synod's worksheets and will present it to Council for Budget Review. Deb also informed me that Jackie Bayshore is our Bookkeeper and we thank her for maintaining our financial duties of St. Mark's.

Lastly, I want to thank our President Vicki Haussmann for her leadership of Council and her guidance of my duties as Vice President.' Also thanking Sam Robinson as he continues to perform wonderful music, his preludes, hymn selections, postludes and his entire playing have not gone unnoticed. Thank you Sam. Also, wish to thank Canoy 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 that they do to benefit of St. Mark's Lutheran Church. Also wish to thank Pastor Vasey for his continued support and guidance as we progress to Knowing Christ and to make Christ Known.

Respectfully submitted, Richard A. Reitz Church Vice President



REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Sam Robinson

Report from the Director of Music—2025

As another year draws to a close, I continue to feel deep gratitude for the opportunity to serve as Director of Music and Organist at St. Mark's Lutheran Church. This year marks my sixth year in this role, and each season brings renewed joy as we make music together in worship and share the gift of sacred music with the wider community.

The St. Mark's Choir has experienced steady and meaningful growth over the past year. Our ensemble continues to include both devoted church members and guest singers, creating an ensemble that allows us to present high-quality choral anthems throughout the year. We have expanded the number of Sundays with choral offerings and explored a wider range of repertoire. I am deeply thankful for every singer who contributes their time and talent, and I look forward to welcoming new members in the year ahead.

Our Mighty Möller organ continues to be both a cornerstone of our worship life and a significant investment in the musical legacy of St. Mark's. Thanks to the congregation's ongoing generosity, we have been able to continue the process of vital restoration work—updating electrical components, replacing aging leather, and ensuring the long-term reliability of this magnificent instrument. The improvements already made have enhanced its responsiveness and tonal richness, reminding us each Sunday of why the organ remains such a powerful and timeless vehicle for worship.

The annual July 4th Organ Concert has become a much-anticipated event, growing in attendance and enthusiasm each year. It is a joy to see members of the congregation and broader community fill the nave to experience the versatility of the organ—from rock and roll to cinematic masterpieces. Many have shared that they are discovering a new appreciation for the organ through these programs, which speaks to the enduring appeal of hearing such a remarkable instrument in our beautiful acoustic space.

St. Mark's also continues to play an important role in the broader musical community. Our nave provides rehearsal and performance space for several community ensembles, including the Williamsport Chamber Choir & Orchestra and the Williamsport Civic Chorus. These groups make great use of our nave for concerts throughout the year, taking advantage of the church's beautiful acoustics that so richly enhance choral and instrumental sound. Their presence at St. Mark's underscores our shared commitment to fostering musical artistry and cultural enrichment within Williamsport.

I am continually thankful for the support of this congregation—for valuing music as a central expression of faith, for investing in the instruments and people that make it possible, and for the joy we share in every note sung and played.

Respectfully submitted,

Samuel Robinson

Director of Music & Organist



REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT Michele Owen

It has been a pleasure serving the family and members of Saint Mark's in the past and again as the church's administrative assistant as of March of this past year.

It was a learning process for me and I enjoyed learning how to make our weekly bulletins in more than one format and including the hymns in the bulletin. I wish to thank Cindy Todd for the numerous hours she spent teaching me and incorporating those ideas into making the bulletin more "user friendly".

I have been continually trying to update files as I grow in this new role here at St. Mark's and appreciate the congregation's patience and I'm grateful to any input I receive.

I am currently working on making a policy binder so all our churches policies can be in one place and easy to find in a hard copy format. I also have begun once again mailing our Lion to our "special concerns" members to include them in our church happenings.

I have much more to learn as I continue here and new things present themselves daily. It is a pleasure not only having St. Mark's as my church family but also as my place of employment and I pray each day that what I do here is for the Glory of God.

Respectfully, Michele Owen



REPORT OF THE MEMORIALS COMMITTEE Beverly Hieber

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:

ROBERT MILLER
LILLIAN FOUCART
CARL HIEBER
ELSIE SECHLER

Beverly Hieber



REPORT OF THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

Becky Miller Pryor (Interim)

Members: Deb Buckman, Donna Clark, Bob Campbell, Cathy Fenderson, Bev Hieber, Jackie Kinney, Barb Thomas, and Cheryl Williams

2025 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

Our activities within the congregation included

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

Providing hospitality for church events when requested such as a visit with Bishop Miller, packing of OCC boxes, making Advent Wreaths, the church picnic, Easter Sunday and Donut Tuesday.

We are pleased to support the other committees who spearhead these events.

Hosting the annual church meeting luncheon. This year a brunch, catered by the Food Guy, is being served.

With assistance from the Property Committee, a new dishwasher was installed. It is a blessing to this committee.

Our activities for the community included

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

Providing between 80 – 100 sandwiches per month to New Covenant UCC's Blessing Boxes. This activity is entering its fourth year. We are grateful for the congregation's financial support and donations of snacks and microwaveable food.

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.

On a housekeeping note, we continue to clean and organize cupboards in the kitchen and the Parish Life office. We hope to label the kitchen cupboards for ease in locating utensils and dinnerware.

Chairperson: Becky Miller Pryor

Members: Barbara Thomas, Donna Clark, Deb Buckman, Bob Campbell, Cathy Fenderson, Beverly Hieber, Jackie Kinney and Cheryl Williams along with several congregation members who make the holding of funeral luncheons and other large events possible.



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 Committee is to provide Safety and Security recommendations to the congregation of St. Mark's

Annual Report From the Safety Committee 2025

Members: Drew Haussmann (Chairman), Sally Bjornstad (Secretary), Herb Poff, Bud Doeblor, Dave Williams, Pastor Vasey, and Vicki Haussmann (President of St. Mark's Council)

All the locks were changed for each outside door and new keys were distributed.

All doors work except one, the Fellowship Hall door. It doesn't seem to latch securely. So Michele made a sign for each outside door to remind everyone to close and be sure it's latched.

Fry's Fire service was pleased we had accomplished the following things: the smoke detectors everywhere, emergency lights, and working exit signs.

We still have to get 3 things fixed: the roof, the boiler, and the AC.

Our next meeting is 4-13-26.

Respectively submitted,

Drew Haussmann (Chairman)

Sally Bjornstad (Secretary)



REPORT OF THE EVANGELISM AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Becky Miller Pryor (Chairperson)

Members: Cathy Fenderson, 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 Halloween/Autumn.

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 and other members as needed 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.

Our outreach to our community included

Hosting one blood drive in Fellowship Hall in partnership with the American Red Cross.

Providing meals during our hosting weeks for Family Promise.

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. We also collect hygiene items for Saving Grace Shelter.

Hosting the annual July Fourth Lawn Party with a music program in the Nave.

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. This year we will be able to entertain and gift in-person.

Collecting and delivering general Christmas gifts of clothing, watches, wallets and other items for the residents of the Danville State Hospital. We also participated in their Spring shoe drive.

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. We will host a Habitat luncheon at the Faith build on Scott Street. We look for other ways to be of service to our congregation and the community. We encourage you to pray and answer Christ's call to serve as our outreach could use more hands and feet.

Chairperson: Becky Miller Pryor

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



REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Vicki Haussmann (Chair)

Members: Donna Clark, Nikki Jackson, Melvin
Wentzel, Pastor Vasey

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Vicki Haussmann, Chair

Members: Donna Clark, Nikki Jackson, Pastor Vasey, Melvin Wentzel

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 on the Nominating Committee are Donna Clark, Nikki Jackson, Pastor Vasey, Melvin Wentzel, and Vicki Haussmann (chair).

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following names for your consideration for election to Council for a three year term beginning in January 2026:

Shawn Cartwright

Scott Seyler

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 to the Annual Assembly of the Upper Susquehanna Synod Conference will be elected by Council at a later date. If you have an interest in serving, please contact a member of Council. Thank you!

In Christ,
Vicki Haussmann, Chair
Nominating Committee



REPORT OF THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Drew Haussmann and Ed Gair (Co-Chairs)

Members: Dave Williams, Deb Buckman, Susan Newcomer, Jim Newcomer, James Newcomer, 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 Property Committee focused its 2025 efforts on maintenance and repairs of St Mark's large and aging infrastructure as well as updating safety concerns, and preparing for large capital projects in 2026.

Roof- The Parish House roof is in need of major repairs, possibly full replacement. The Property Committee had been working with roofing contractors to obtain several estimates. These are anticipated in the coming weeks, and will be presented to council and ultimately the full congregation, as this will be a significant expense that could exceed \$100,000.

HVAC- The nave and the north / east spaces (sacristy, choir room, nursery etc.) are heated by 2 boilers and hot water is circulated by 3 large pumps. After replacing 1 pump in 2023, and a second pump in late 2024, the third pump ultimately also failed and required replacement last winter. In addition, a heat exchanger on one of boilers also failed and need to be replaced during the heating season. Air conditioning in fellowship hall and the second floor of the Parish House also is in need of repairs or replacement.

Exterior- Neece Landscaping was contracted to mow the exterior lawns, while property and church members mowed the courtyard. Vandelinde landscaping was contracted for mulching, weed control and other trimming. Minor sidewalk repairs near the portico were undertaken.

Little Lambs- As the tenant of a significant portion of the Parish House spaces, there are regular maintenance concerns that property committee members address as they arise.

Fire/Emergency Infrastructure- Last Fall, it was discovered that there are no smoke detectors within the Parish House and that exit and emergency lighting was not in adequate working order. As much of this building is rented to Little Lambs Daycare, the property committee installed more than a dozen smoke alarms throughout the occupied spaces. Williamsport Electric was contracted to update and repair the building's emergency lighting and exit signs. These updates were approved as satisfactory by Williamsport Bureau of Fire.

Kitchen Dishwasher - new dishwasher was installed in late 2024. Unfortunately, there was a plumbing error by the contractor which resulted in significant flooding to the basement. While this was fully covered by the contractor's insurance, it required significant cleanup by a restoration specialist.

Exterior doors- The exterior doors were re-keyed to help maintain robust security. Door maintenance to ensure proper closing and latching was also addressed and continues to be monitored.

Communion rail anchors had become loose and were repaired by property committee to ensure safe use by parishioners during services.

Choice Cleaning continues to perform the cleaning duties keeping the building tidy. Ed Gair has graciously continued to work on a "per diem" basis as a sexton/maintenance coordinator.

Additional large capital projects planned for 2026 include the Dossal cloth replacement, and Columbarium expansion.

A special thank you to Herb Poff, who continues to be instrumental in coordinating numerous church projects and addressing routine property maintenance.

As we look ahead to 2026, we ask for the prayer and insight of the congregation 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, Robert Campbell, Pastor Vasey

Annual Report ~ 2025

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 during 2025 including: Adult Sunday School class, Lenten and Advent studies/services, support of United Churches of Lyscoming Country Vacation Bible School, and providing devotional materials for the seasons of Lent and Advent. The opportunity to make an Advent wreath to be used at home during the season of Advent encourages us to take time to remember the true meaning of the Christmas season. Christian reading material is available in the "Front Lounge Library", and we encourage you to see what books of interest you may find. We were pleased to offer a midweek Bible study throughout the months of May and October, and are encouraged by the positive response in attendance for these studies.

We realize that Christian Fellowship is also an important facet of connecting with 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. Our fourth annual Shrove Tuesday event was a success, and we enjoyed sharing the evening with our friends from St. Luke's. Souper Bowl Sunday, Birthday Cake Boxes, "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.

In addition, we are excited to be offering a Men's Fellowship Group which met for their first official meeting in October. While this group is still in the preliminary stages of organization, we hope that this becomes a monthly opportunity for the men of St. Mark's to come together.

The annual church picnic once again provided an opportunity for fellowship in the comfort of Fellowship Hall! And activities such as Backpack Blessing Sunday, Pet Blessing Sunday, Advent Wreath Making, and Christmas Tree Decorating helped bring us together to celebrate various seasons throughout the year.

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

As we look ahead to 2026, we will continue to navigate and explore how this committee works as we strive to reinvigorate education and participation for the entire congregation. We welcome any and all new members to our committee. Please reach out with ideas and feel free to join in any of our classes and activities. All are welcome!

Vicki Haussmann - Chair



REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Debra Buckman, Treasurer

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

The finance committee met in the Spring to review St. Mark's financial situation. The committee met in the Fall to discuss the budget which was approved and sent to council for approval. A meeting with the financial advisors is set for December as well as a review of the financial books.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Buckman

Treasurer



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.

The archives of St. Mark's are kept in a room across from the choir room. If you look at the room, you may find it appears to be in disarray. To some degree that is true. In recent years, the room has accumulated materials from all over the Church, and these materials do need some organization. My view has always been that all should be preserved, whether or not we have the time to organize the materials. If we have saved our heritage, it can be organized at any time – discarded materials can never be retrieved.

Volunteers for archives projects are welcome to contact me.

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. There is a consensus that the Website must be upgraded, and quotes will be obtained in the near future.

Gary Weber

Archivist and Webmaster



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.

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.

In Sam's words: *The St. Mark's Choir has experienced steady and meaningful growth over the past year. Our ensemble continues to include both devoted church members and guest singers, creating an ensemble that allows us to present high-quality choral anthems throughout the year. We expanded the number of Sundays with choral offerings and explored a wider range of repertoire. I am deeply thankful for every singer who contributes their time and talent, and I look forward to welcoming new members in the year ahead.*

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. Wanda Fortin has taken on the challenge and all is running smoothly.

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. He is also bringing more notable visitors to the church as well. We remember a visit from Martin Luther at the Reformation Service. We appreciate Pastor Vasey's 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 Mariano, Ralph and Lou Ann Zeigler, Shelby Weber, Wanda Fortin 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. You will notice the new Advent wreath. The old base now has greens of permanence. We are in the process of replacing the dossal behind the altar. Ralph and Lou Ann Ziegler have spent much time and effort on our behalf on this project. We look forward to the beauty to our services that the new dossal will add. The congregation has voted to fund the dossal. We have the cloth and await fireproofing and color match prior to installation. It will happen before we know it.

There exist many opportunities for volunteer ministry at St. Mark's. Please feel free to contact any member of the committee or Pastor Vasey if you can share in any of the various volunteering capabilities. 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-