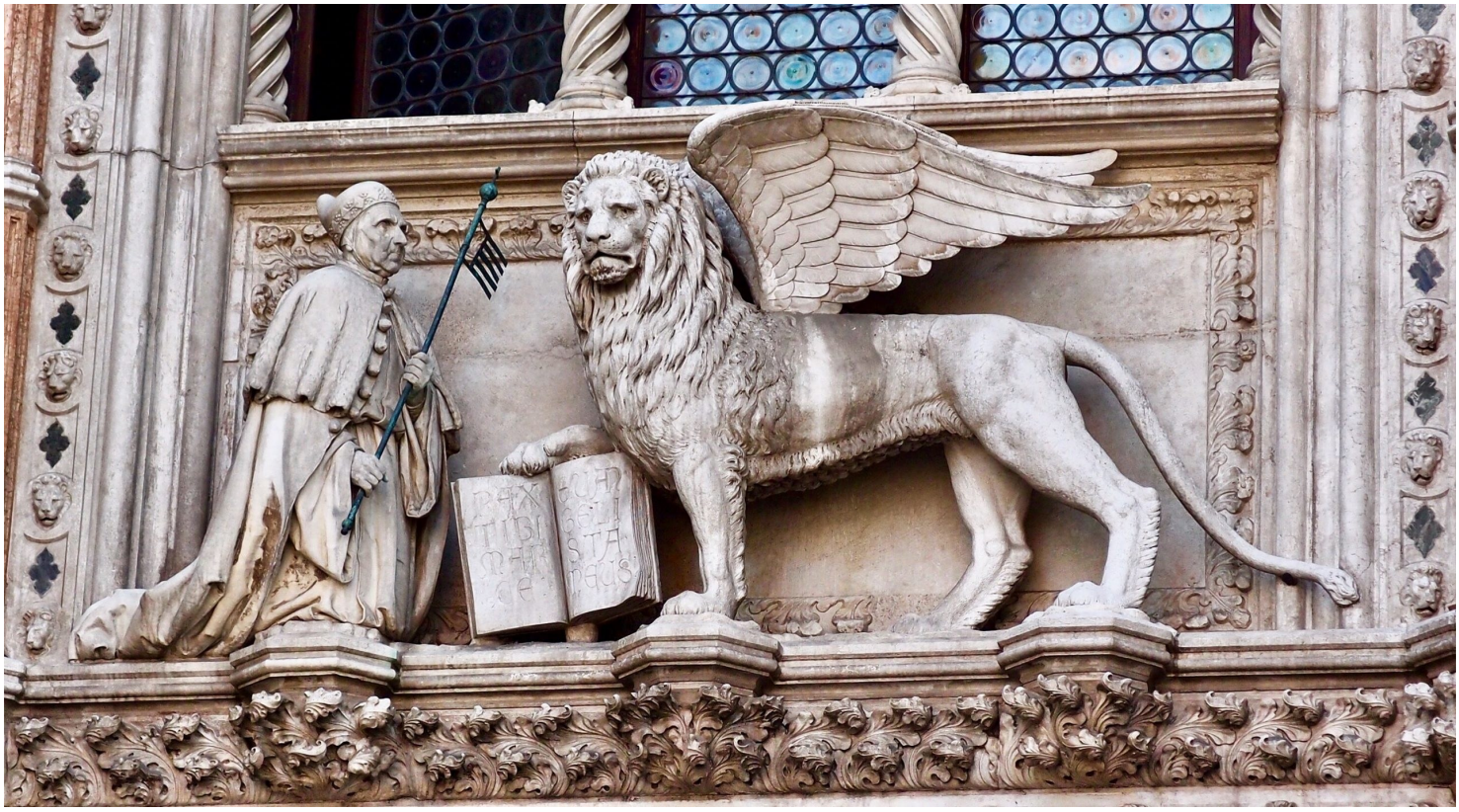
December 6, 2026

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 6, 2026



MEMBERS OF THE 2026 CHURCH COUNCIL

Ray Huff, President — Richard Reitz, Vice President

Cindy Todd, Secretary — Debra Buckman, Treasurer

Shawn Cartwright, Donna Clark, Cathy Fenderson, Wanda Fortin
Nikki Jackson, Richard Miller, Scott Seyler, Lou Ann Zeigler

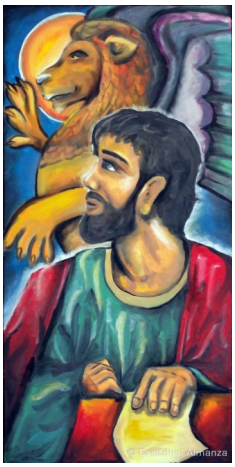
Prepared By

Michele Owen, Administrative Assistant



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REPORT OF THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Ray Huff

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!" 2026 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. 93 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, as our dossal, so beautifully adorns our chancel area. Thanks to the Worship and Music Committee as well as to Ralph Zeigler in seeing this objective through. We enjoy the change of liturgies each season, and the music that deepens our worship experience each Sunday. We enjoy the gift of an outstanding worship schedule that our Music Director, Sam Robinson, has given to us.

Time also brings changes that can require a cultural shift. We must look through the car's front window, not in the rear-view mirror. 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, 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. We will celebrate those 175 years with Bishop Miller and a luncheon on April 4, 2027.

Time is so interesting. We can never recapture Yesterday and Tomorrow never comes. We are given the gift of the Present (Today). We are seizing Today with foresight and mutual cooperation. Pastor Vasey's years at St. Marks's were, quite literally, a Godsend. Thank you to Pastor Vasey, for your strong and steady leadership these past years, and for your warm and caring spirit. You were our pastor, our leader, and our friend. We now are blessed to have Pastor Gerald Kliner (Messiah Lutheran Church), as our Interim Pastor until we find the person whom God has already chosen to be our next pastor. He has given us great guidance at Council meetings as well as the heartfelt service at Jane Kline's funeral.

Time gives us a chance to accept a challenge. We are blessed to have Pastor Ron Montgomery and Janet Stroble to each lead one service a month. I have been blessed to be able to lead the other two. We celebrate the Eucharist on all but four Sundays per year. Members of the congregation are leading at least four services each year. Our members have so many spiritual gifts from God and we welcome that challenge. We, like the disciples, are ordinary men and women. With prayer and God's guidance, we can do the extraordinary.



FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

(as of November 23, 2026)

Saint Mark's Lutheran Church

Removed from Membership Rolls (Death)

Ray M. Reams

Catherine Lundy

Sandra Stover Noyes

Maynard Kohler, Jr.

James A. Burkholder

Martha J. Burkholder

Baptisms

Nora Elyse Hasko

Clara Jane Hasko



REPORT OF THE PASTOR

Annual Report of the Pastor (2026)

(Jesus taught them, saying:) "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven, for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous." (Matthew 5:43—45)

The Grace and Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all!

I view these "Annual Reports," not just as an excuse to report bare statistics, but as a chance to address some of the issues I see as affecting our life together as well as some of the spiritual ailments I see that make us sick. Undoubtedly, one of the most serious spiritual maladies that we are wrestling with, both within the Church and in the word around us, is "*cold-heartedness*"—a condition that is marked by a lack of Charity (love) for God and our neighbors. Don't confuse "*cold-heartedness*" with just "*stinginess*" or "*a lack of generosity*"—certainly stinginess and a "*lack of generosity*" are ***symptoms*** of the illness just as coughing and "*a runny nose*" are symptoms of a cold—but treating the symptom doesn't cure what is causing it.

The Christian Life is marked by ***Love***: "*God **is Love***" (1 John 4), and "*God so **loved** the world that he gave his only Son…*" (John 3). Jesus tells his disciples that, "*If you **love** me, you will keep my commandment…*" (John 14:15) and "*This is my commandment, that you **love** one another as **I have loved you**.*" (John 15:12) In the "*Sermon on the Mount*," Jesus commands his followers to "***love** your enemies*" (Matthew 5:43) and the Apostle Paul reminds us that Christ died for us, "*at the right time*," when we were still enemies to him. (Romans 5). So we must always be on-guard against our hearts growing cold towards our neighbors, especially against those whom we do not regard as "*friends*."

What is the cure for "*cold-heartedness*"? The first, and classically "*Lutheran*" answer is the Holy Eucharist. Luther remarked that sin was like leprosy; sin causes us to "*lose feeling*" and that *losing feeling* was a symptom that should not be ignored. He counseled those who were experiencing this *loss of feeling* to flee—to literally run to—the Sacrament, saying that the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ is the remedy for sin, and that he alone, who cleansed lepers by touching them, could heal our disease as well. Likewise, when you find yourself, "*cold-hearted*" you should run—RUN—to Jesus; the Body and Blood of our Lord can cure your "*cold-heartedness*" where nothing else can.

The Reformed theologian, Karl Barth, once said "*Anyone who truly understands that Jesus became human can never act inhumanely again.*" To put this into today's words, anyone who understands Jesus as "***Love***," and seeks to follow him, can never act "*cold hearted*" again. There simply is no place for "*cold-heartedness*" within Christian discipleship for Christ is not "*cold-hearted*" but rather his heart is inflamed with Love. Thanks be to God that Christ "*abides in us*" and "*we (abide) in him*" when we partake of his Body and Blood! And not just the Sacrament of Holy Communion, but the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, where we are "*clothed in Christ*," for when we were Baptized, we were "*united in his life, death, and Resurrection.*" A "*cold heart*" simply is not compatible with a living, Christian Faith.

The danger of "*cold heartedness*" is especially tempting in a time of Pastoral Vacancy. It is all too tempting to "*step away*" from the Church, assuming that "*nothing is happening*" while there is not a Pastor under-call to our Parish. But over and over and over again, we have seen the results of "*stepping away*": the fire of Faith dims and goes out and is harder to rekindle than it ever was to start in the first place.

The Christian Faith, when it dies in a person, is not simple to breathe life back into.

My point? Don't give into "*cold heartedness*." Fight against it, commit yourselves to the struggle of the Christian life at Saint Mark Lutheran Church. Persevere in prayer, seek the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ and commit yourself to the Kingdom of God that comes in and among us. Abide in Christ and let him abide in you and trust always in the Providence of God. For God is indeed good and holds only good for his Church.

Pax Christi;

The Rev. Jerry Kliner, STS
Interim Pastor



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 2026

Richard Reitz, Church Council Vice President Personnel Committee Chair

Greetings and God's Blessings to you. This is my second year serving in this capacity on Church Council. Since the announcement by Pastor Vasey's retirement, Council and myself have been donating most of our time assessing what we must do to search for a new Pastor: Our Council President has had many meetings with the Bishop. Council members have met with Bishop Miller who gave us guidance ideas of how to develop our call for a new Pastor-It will take time but God willing, it will happen.

Michelle Owen our Church secretary has settled in her duties after Cindy Todd's tutoring last year. Her son Devon has been a huge asset as well. He assists Becky Pryor for Parish Life setting up for meetings and has worked mowing Grass and has joined in the Mens Lions meetings helping to serve pancakes to our congregation.

Lastly, I want to thank our President Ray Huff, for his leadership of Council: Also thanking Sam Robinson for his beautiful music that he performs for us. He also has written a series of music selections that relate to the sermon each day for 2026 and 2027 and processed in booklet form. Candy Dewar who makes sure the staff is celebrated on special occasions. She provides small gifts of our appreciation for the important work that they do to benefit of St. Mark's Lutheran Church. Also wish to thank Becky Pryor for her continued support and work that she always does for our church and the community churches.

So as we go forward in our search for a new Pastor, let us go forward Knowing Christ and make Christ known.

Respectfully submitted, Richard A. Reitz, Council Vice President



REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Sam Robinson

Report from the Director of Music—2026

As another year comes to a close, I remain deeply grateful for the privilege of serving as Director of Music and Organist at St. Mark's Lutheran Church. This year marks my seventh in this role. When I arrived in May 2020, we were pre-recording services in front of an empty nave; today, our worship is filled with choral and organ music week after week. It is a joy to look back on how far we have come together, and I am thankful to share this ministry with you.

This year also brought a season of transition with the departure of Pastor Vasey in August. During this time, I have been glad to take on much of the worship and music planning for each service that Pastor Vasey previously oversaw. I am pleased to share that an entire year of services is planned through July 2027, and I am happy to share these plans with anyone who would like to see them. Having the year of music planned has also given me more time to write thoughtful notes for the weekly bulletin about our organ voluntaries, hymns, and anthems. I hope you have enjoyed these notes and found them helpful in deepening your connection to the music we share in worship each Sunday.

The St. Mark's Choir continues to grow and flourish. This fall, we welcomed new singers to our ensemble: Caroline Pelly, Johanna Pelly, Sabra Fisher, Megan Radspinner, Jahki Burget, and Colyn Jandrisavitz. Their voices have already enriched our service, and I am grateful for the time and talent they bring. Together with our devoted church members and returning guest singers, they help us offer high-quality choral anthems throughout the year. We also said a fond farewell to Colton Taylor, who has begun his studies at Susquehanna University. Colton joined the choir in the fall of 2024, and his voice and dedication have been a true gift to our music ministry. We are proud of him and wish him every blessing in this next chapter. As always, I welcome anyone who would like to sing with us—there is room for every voice.

I am pleased to report that our Mighty Möller organ is in good shape. The restoration work of the past few years—new electrical components and the replacement of aging leather—has restored much of the instrument's reliability and tonal richness, and it continues to serve our worship faithfully every Sunday. This is a direct result of the congregation's generosity, and I am sincerely thankful. At the same time, an instrument of this size and age requires ongoing care. The Möller will need additional work in the next few years, and I encourage us to begin planning for it sooner rather than later. Organ repairs are significant investments, and preparing in advance will allow us to budget thoughtfully and avoid more costly problems down the road. I look forward to working with church leadership to develop a plan that protects this treasured instrument for generations to come.

St. Mark's also remains a vital home for music in the wider Williamsport community. Our nave continues to host rehearsals and concerts for community ensembles, and musicians and audiences alike treasure its beautiful acoustics. Their presence here reflects our shared commitment to sacred music and the cultural life of our city.

On a personal note, I feel truly fortunate to serve a church and congregation that support me so much. This past summer, I had the extraordinary opportunity to travel to England, Scotland, and Wales as the organist for a choir tour, and I was also able to spend some restorative time exploring the island afterward. With my family rooted in New Jersey and Massachusetts, I am equally grateful for the time I am afforded to travel and visit them. Your understanding and encouragement make these experiences possible, and I return from each one renewed and ready to serve the congregation.

Thank you for your continued support: for valuing music as a central expression of our faith, for investing in the people and instruments that make it possible, and for the joy we share in every note sung and played.

Respectfully submitted,

Samuel Robinson

Samuel Robinson
Director of Music & Organist



REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Michele Owen

This year has continued to be full of learning experiences for me. In May, I began learning how to put together the bulletins as we prepared for Pastor Vasey's retirement. Sam's Worship & Music Planner for the next year has been tremendously helpful. I continue to send out the LION to our special concern folks, and the LION is now sent as an email to the congregation.

My recent endeavor has been keeping track of our flowers vases and monthly parking under the direction of Jackie Kinney. Each day brings something new and I am blessed to be able to continue to serve my St. Mark's family in this way.

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:

CATHERINE LUNDY

LILLIAN JANE KLINE

CARL HIEBER

Beverly Hieber

REPORT OF THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Becky Miller Pryor

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

2026 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

Our activities within the congregation included

1. Serving funeral luncheons when asked by the families to do so.
2. 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.
3. Hosting the annual church brunch following the annual meeting. This year a brunch, catered by the Food Guy, is being served.

Our activities for the community included

4. Catering the monthly luncheons for the Center City Pastors of the United Churches of Lycoming County. As of September 2026, due to Pastor Vasey's retirement, this activity was moved to St. Luke Lutheran Church.
5. Providing between 80 – 100 sandwiches per month to New Covenant UCC's Blessing Boxes. To accomplish this task, we have a Monday Crew and a Wednesday Crew. This activity is entering its fifth year. We are grateful for the congregation's financial support and donations of snacks and microwaveable food.
6. Assisting the Evangelism and Fellowship Committee with providing and packaging desserts for Redeemer's community dinner.
7. On a housekeeping note, we thank Cheryl Williams and Devin Owen for the many hours they gave in cleaning and organizing our kitchen. We thank Herb Poff for creating the labels that now identify the contents of all the cupboards.

Our activities going forward include

8. Continuing with all the activities from this year and looking for opportunities to further serve the congregation and the community as we are able.
9. Planning and preparing Fellowship Hall for a dinner commemorating our 175th anniversary.
10. We heartily thank James Newcomer, Jr. and his Assistant for their weekly gathering and disposing of our recyclables from the kitchen and other areas of the church. This is a huge help to this committee. Previous to James taking on this task, the recyclables would many times be overflowing until someone took care of them.
11. We thank those congregation members who graciously provide hospitality in the Narthex on a regular basis. Without this support, this committee would find it most difficult to keep up with this activity.

Chairperson: Becky Miller Pryor

Members: Barbara Thomas, Donna Clark, Deb Buckman, Bob Campbell, Cathy Fenderson, Beverly Hieber, Jackie Kinney, Devin Owen, Tim Maggs 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, Michele Owen.

The goal of the Safety Committee is to provide Safety and Security recommendations to the Congregation of St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

Annual Report From the Safety Committee 2026

Members: Dr. Andrew Haussmann (Chairman), Sally Bjornstad (Secretary), Herb Poff, and Dave Williams. We thank Bud Doebler and Pastor Vasey for their past service to the Safety Committee. We welcome Michele Owen who joined the committee.

The AED in the Chapel hallway continues to be checked monthly. First Aid bags are located in the Chapel hallway and in the closet of the Pastor's Sacristy. There is a smaller First Aid bag in fellowship hall (outside the kitchen).

Fry's Fire Protection continues the annual inspection of our fire extinguishers and kitchen fire suppression hood.

Property Committee has completed the upgrade all our exit signs and emergency lighting in all areas.

Michele will help with making more permanent signage for the location of the fire extinguisher, AED, etc. around the building. Other signage pertaining to loitering or littering has been considered for around the exterior of the building, but not installed.

Little Lambs is working with appropriate parties to see if they need a system or an upgrade to the current smoke detectors installed in each area.

A newer battery back-up/surge protector has been replaced on the exterior camera system. One faulty camera has been replaced with a 180 degree camera for better view of the southside.

Respectively submitted,

Dr. Andrew Haussmann (Chairman), Sally Bjornstad (Secretary)



REPORT OF THE

EVANGELISM AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Becky Miller Pryor (Chairperson)

Members: Donna Clark, Cathy Fenderson, Wanda Fortin, Jackie Kinney, Karen Mariano, and Barb 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.

2026 ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EVANGELISM AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Our outreach within the congregation included

1. Sending special holiday 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 and Halloween/ Thanksgiving. We thank the congregation for helping us with this activity.
2. 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. We thank the congregation for their donations of assorted cards that are used throughout the year.
3. Assisting the Faith Formation Committee in various activities throughout the year such as the annual church picnic and the making of Advent wreaths/centerpieces.
4. Providing "Welcome Mugs" to visitors to St. Mark's.

Our outreach to our community included

5. Hosting three blood drives in Fellowship Hall in partnership with the American Red Cross.
6. Providing meals during our hosting weeks for Family Promise. As of this date Family Promise has closed. Thank you Sarah Young for being a partner with this activity.
7. Facilitating the collecting of hygiene items, 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.
8. A special collection of food and snacks was facilitated for Code Blue, a winter shelter for homeless individuals.
9. Caroling to our Special Concern folks for the first time since the COVID epidemic.
10. A special summer collection, Cereal Sundays, collected 361 boxes of cereal for the United Churches Food Pantry.
11. Collaborating with the Faith Formation Committee in collecting items during Reverse Ad-

11. Collaborating with the Faith Formation Committee in collecting items during Reverse Advent and packing Operation Christmas Child boxes.
12. Assisting the Parish Life Committee in providing sandwiches weekly to the Blessing Boxes of New Covenant UCC. As they are available, we also provide other food and hygiene items.
13. Providing sandwiches, chips and water for the Building Blitz for Habitat for Humanity in June. We also answered the call to serve a luncheon to volunteers for an extra build day again for Habitat for Humanity.
14. Assisting Redeemer Lutheran Church with their monthly curbside suppers by providing desserts. This is our fifth year of participation. We thank the congregation for their assistance with donations when asked. We are especially thankful for the participation of Susan and Jim Newcomer for providing desserts six time per year.
15. Partnering with New Covenant UCC to prepare and serve a meal for sixty people at Sojourner Truth Ministries.
16. Providing a light supper for United Churches' Vacation Bible School. We served fifty children and adults.
17. Supporting UCLC's annual golf tournament, the Faith Formation Committee and this committee created four raffle gift baskets to add to the fun of the day.
18. Hosting an Upper Susquehanna Synod Youth Day in Fellowship Hall.
19. Supporting United Churches Campus Ministry at Penn College we provided snacks and pizza gift cards to assist coordinator, Shelley Myers in her ministry.
20. We thank Lou Ann Zeigler, Cindy Todd and Theresa Furman for creating a special ornament during Advent that generated monetary donations used for grocery gift cards for Code Blue, a winter shelter for homeless individuals.
21. We thank Jackie Kinney for donating ten quarts of her delicious chicken noodle soup for the annual soup sale of United Churches of Lycoming County.
22. We thank Brenda Gair for her ongoing efforts with the annual CROP Walk. She did a fantastic job in person and online in helping our congregation reach a goal of more than $1,000 despite a very rainy day for the walk.
23. We thank Devin Owen for his assistance in helping to remove Sunday School supplies from the second-floor cupboards. These no-longer-needed supplies were distributed to Little Lambs, Fire Tree Place and the Master Gardeners for use in their children's programming.

Our outreach going forward includes

24. Continuing with current activities and being receptive to new activities that serve members of the congregation and the community. We encourage you to pray and answer Christ's call to serve as our outreach welcomes more hands and feet.

Chairperson: Becky Miller Pryor

Members: Donna Clark, Cathy Fenderson, Wanda Fortin, Jackie Kinney, Karen Mariano and Barbara Thomas



REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Ray Huff (Chair)

Members: Donna Clark, Nikki Jackson, Melvin Wentzel

REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Ray Huff, Chair

Members: Donna Clark, Nikki Jackson, 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, Melvin Wentzel, and Ray Huff (chair).

The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce that we recommend **Karen Mariano** to be considered at the congregational meeting for open council position.

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,
Ray Huff, 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.

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

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.

During the 2026 calendar year, the Property Committee focused its efforts on several large projects, as well as the regular repair and maintenance at St Mark's. The large and aging infrastructure of the church continues to create a variety of challenges.

Roof — The Parish House roof was in need of significant repairs. Working with Tremco Roofing, a series of bids were obtained and reviewed for a roofing retrofit and restoration. Ultimately, R. H. Marcon was awarded a contract for just under $246,000. This project was undertaken in October and November and included the entire Parish House, and the roofs over the walkway porticos (3). These projects carry a 25 year warranty, and includes regular interval inspections.

Columbarium — The columbarium expansion was completed by the Property Committee in July. This project added an additional 12 niches on the west side of the chapel. Further expansion with additional niches is possible in the future if deemed necessary.

Emergency Lighting — Our electrical contractor, Williamsport Electric, continued the updates to the emergency and exit lighting in our buildings. Following the work done previously in the Parish House, the lighting of the chapel, narthex, and nave were modernized to ensure occupant safety in the event of an emergency.

Dossal Cloth replacement — Property committee assisted in coordinating with Lundy Construction for the Dossal replacement in the nave. The lion's share of this project was overseen and directed by Ralph Zeigler, and the Property committee joins with the whole parish in extending our deepest gratitude to him for his vision and tireless efforts.

Exterior — Vandelinde Landscaping has continued to perform exterior mulching. Neece Landscaping provided exterior lawn mowing, weed control, and other trimming. A special thank you to Devin Owen who mowed the courtyard grass. Jeff Fox had continued to do the snow plowing of parking lots and clean the sidewalks with property members assisting when necessary to ensure that sidewalks were clear and treated to reduce ice.

Emergency repairs made to: 1) the humidification system for St Mark's organ, 2) Frozen pipes in the narthex bathroom, 3) Air-conditioning unit in the chapel, 4) Faulty circuit breaker in the narthex, 5) a variety of plumbing and pest issues.

In addition, electronic recycling of old computers, copy machines and other devices was completed with KVS Computers. A new water heater was installed in the narthex women's bathroom.

Choice Cleaning continues to perform the cleaning duties and keeps the building tidy.

Property members continue to handle and coordinate emergency and essential property related issues and repairs as they arise. This includes Little Lambs.

As we look ahead to 2027, 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

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.

Annual Report ~ 2026

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

The Faith Formation committee offered Christian Education in a variety of ways throughout 2026 including: Adult Sunday School class January - May, Lenten and Advent studies and services, support of United Churches of Lycoming 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. **If you have suggestions for Christian reading material please let us know. We would love to add to our library! We were pleased to offer a midweek book study in May. Even in the absence of a Pastor, October brought a member led Bible study. We 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 fifth annual Shrove Tuesday event was a success complete with homemade fastnachts made by our Men's Fellowship Group. We always enjoy sharing this evening with our friends from St. Luke's. Souper Bowl Sunday, Birthday Cake Bags for the UCLC Food Pantry, Operation Christmas Child shoebox packing, and Reverse Advent Calendars provided opportunities to come together to provide outreach to those outside of our congregation.

In addition, we are excited that our Men's Fellowship Group of 10-15 men meets monthly for dinner, Fellowship and time in the Word. They have also hosted several congregational meals this past year which were well received. "The Lions of St. Mark's" meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:00 PM and all men are welcome to attend.

The annual church picnic once again provided an opportunity for fellowship in the comfort of Fellowship Hall! Activities such as our 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 2027, 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 COMITTEE

Debra Buckman, Treasurer

Committee Members: Diane Bardsley, Wanda Fortin, Jackie Kinney, Herb Poff, Phil Thomas, Gary Weber,

The finance committee met several times this year for the following business - review of report from Larson, Kellet & Associates, PC who review our books for the following: Bank reconciliations, cash disbursements, cash receipts, and credit cards; assemble the budget for 2027 including a 4% increase in the salaries of employees; an increase in the Little Lambs rent (approval of use of an additional room was done in Sept); accepted the approval of council for pastoral coverage, agreed to pay Devin Owen a stipend for the work he has done for the church. With the closing of Family Promise, the line items in the SOA will be rendered dormant. A motion was made to council to add a line item in income and in expenses for the 175th anniversary celebration - which was passed. Presented a stewardship presentation with three stewardship speeches in October with the conclusion the first Sunday in November.

Respectfully submitted - Debra Buckman, Chairman



REPORT OF THE ARCHIVES AND WEBSITE

Gary Weber

Archives and Website

I have served as the keeper of the St. Mark's records for some 25 years, as archivist and webmaster. My primary function has been to preserve and protect the document and photograph history of the church.

As the congregation enters its 175th year, the archives will serve a prominent role. Throughout 2027, you will see pieces of our archival history displayed in posters, articles and other projects that the anniversary committee is planning. It is because our history is so well preserved, that we will be able to display artifacts from our earliest history.

There is always more to be done in the archives. St. Mark's has not maintained a good index and there is much to be scanned and digitalized. Your archivist has, over the years, done some of that scanning but the project is very incomplete. With retirement comes opportunity, so I am hoping to schedule work sessions – anyone interested in helping out, please contact me.

One long delayed, and extremely important project was the digitalization of the historical church records – membership, baptisms, confirmations, marriages, burials, communion. These records are contained in 7 volumes, dating back to 1852! Some of the volumes are in poor condition, and digitalization was essential to preserve the information. That scanning and preservation project was completed in late summer 2026. An index that will assist genealogists and interested family members is being prepared to assist in research.

The good news is that St. Mark's records are mostly complete, with 2 obvious gaps. The first occurs with pastoral records of Pastors Ziegler, Welker and Fahs (1852-63). There is reference in St. Mark's historical narratives to losses that occurred due to 19th century floods. The information is not specific, but it is logical to assume that these missing records are related to the floods, and damage to earlier church buildings.

The second gap in the records is harder to understand. It occurred with marriages performed by Pastors Hasskarl, Johnson and Yelovich. There is no volume containing Hasskarl marriage records from 1954-1980, and the Johnson and Yelovich records are haphazardly maintained. I recently discovered a series of file cards that contained membership information from this era. In reviewing the cards, it appeared that marriages were recorded only on these cards, and the cards were not maintained with an eye to creating a permanent record.

Also, some of the Johnson marriage records were recorded on copies of marriage licenses stuffed in with the cards. I was able to create a record of 264 marriages that occurred between 1956 and 1981, based on information found in the cards. The completeness of this record is unknown, and especially for the years of 1956-1960, appears to be incomplete. The recreated record does fill a record keeping gap.

In the meantime, you can rest assured that we are preserving our history and working to digitalize records. In the St. Mark's Website, 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 service bulletins and much more. Our worship services are all recorded and saved.

Anyone interested in working with our historical records is welcome to join the Archives Committee, as there is much help needed.

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 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 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.*

Sam has supplied St. Mark's with an outline of worship through the 2027 church year. This guide serves as a weekly plan for hymns, readings that follow the ELCA calendar, and special music throughout the year. We are blessed to have this worship plan.

Megan Cartwright has been a key member of the committee. When needed, she uses her strong musical gifts to provide the music when Sam is away. Organist, pianist, or soloist- it doesn't matter. She accomplishes all with graceful aplomb.

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 and Ruth Ann Bigelow have 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 changes, Pastor Brian D. Vasey's retirement has left us without his calm and trusted guidance. We thankfully appreciate Pastor Vasey's efforts for St. Mark's. We are much better because of his efforts.

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, Wanda Fortin, Shelby Weber, Karen Mariano, Ralph and Lou Ann Ziegler and, of course, Sam Robinson and Pastor Vasey.

Opportunities 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 need to celebrate the completion of the dossal project. Ralph and Lou Ann Ziegler spent much time and effort on our behalf on this project. We thank the Lundy Construction Center and the Barn Fabric Center for their partnership in making this magnificent focal point come to fruition.

There exist many opportunities for volunteer ministry at St. Mark's. Please feel free to contact any member of the Worship and Music committee Sam Robinson, or me 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.

We are realizing our gifts that God has graciously given us. Members of the congregation are leading worship when needed or scheduled. This action has born much good fruit.

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-

2027 Propposed Budget

INCOME	**2026 BUDGET**	Actual as of 10/30/2026	Proposed 2027 budget
Parking lot rental	$9,000.00	$8,610.00	$9,000.00
Little Lambs Room Rental	$16,344.00	$13,207.34	$17,578.00
Room & Hall Rental	$1,500.00	$100.00	$1,600.00
Welkeer/Capital	$21,000.00	$16,209.45	$21,000.00
Religious income	$158,450.00	$149,085.05	$167,450.00
Fund transfers	$226,063.00	$300,000.00	$245,683.00
Benevolene & Charity	$100.00	$0.00	$100.00
Other donations	$2,100.00	$34,429.12	$2,050.00
175th anniversary	$0.00	$0.00	$1,500.00
TOTAL	$432,457.00	$521,640.96	$465,961.00

Other donations - bequest, capital improvements

EXPENSES			
Salaries	$146,026.00	$113,647.98	$158,770.00
Adminstrative benefits	$42,406.00	$32,149.06	$59,766.00
General Admistrative	$16,850.00	$15,207.62	$17,400.00
Worship & Music	$21,700.00	$6,587.49	$22,000.00
Christen Ed	$3,050.00	$480.55	$3,050.00
Outreach	$1,500.00	$400.78	$1,500.00
Property	$167,150.00	$313,136.16	$166,900.00
Benevolence $ charity	$35,775.00	$24,796.64	$33,575.00
175th anniversay	$0.00	$0.00	$3,000.00
TOTAL	$434,457.00	$506,406.28	$465,961.00