



THE LION OF ST. MARK'S

Condensed Edition for September, 2020

The Lion looks a little different this month due to the illness of our Church Secretary. We wish Bernadette a "speedy recovery" and ask for your patience during her absence. Thank You!

Dear Members and Friends of St. Mark's,



In 2020, the Sunday following Labor Day (September 7), God's Work/Our Hands Day (September 13) and Holy Cross Day (September 14) fall within 24 hours of each other. At first glance it might seem that these three events have nothing in common. But as we often know, first glance can be deceiving.

The Sunday following Labor Day in 2020, September 13, is the fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost. Our gospel appointed for this day tells us that forgiveness is an act of mercy, not justice. God in Christ has forgiven us. We are to forgive one another. This is not something in which we should "keep score".

God's Work/Our Hands Day 2020, September 13, celebrates the ministry of the ELCA in the local church. It was created to remind us that God in Christ has freed us to love and serve each other. Because we are followers of Jesus our service to and for one another is not an option.

Holy Cross Day 2020, September 14, celebrates the event of the cross. Holy Cross Day is the reminder that Jesus suffered on the cross for our redemption. Holy Cross Day proclaims that the cross is the glorious and mysterious work of God; salvation is a matter of grace.

All three events remind us that God acts and asks us to respond:

- God in Christ forgives us. So we in Christ are to forgive each other.
- God in Christ has set us free. So we in Christ are free to serve one another
- God in Christ wins salvation for us on the cross. So we lift high the cross to proclaim victory

Traditionally autumn has been seen as a time of year when things start up again after a summer hiatus. This year is obviously different. Activities and events were altered way before summer began and may stay that way for a while.

The blessing of these three events communicate to us that which never changes- the love and promises of God. Trust in God's forgiveness. Serve others in love and freedom. Thank God for the salvation won for us in Christ.

Fall will be different in 2020. But the blessings associated with Christ will never change. Thanks be to God!

Grace + Peace,

Pastor Brian Vasey

I'VE BEEN HACKED!

Dear St. Mark Members and Friends,
If you receive an email from me requesting "a favor involving a sum of money", please disregard. This is a scam! A good rule of thumb is to always make sure the return address is either bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org or cryptol@comcast.net. You can also contact me by telephone or email to verify (570-323-4619).

Pastor Vasey

LOOKING AHEAD:

Sunday, October 4

Pet Blessing, 2 pm, Parking Lot.

- A simple liturgy giving thanks to God for the companionship of our pets. All pets are welcome (please be sure your pet[s] are leashed or contained).

Sunday, October 11

- First Communion Class, 9:15 am. Location TBA. Instruction for all children grades Kindergarten-Second grade who have not had instruction or wish to have a refresher on the meaning of Holy Communion. Each student needs to be accompanied by a parent/guardian. This is a two week class and Pastor Vasey is the teacher.
- CROP Walk. Registration begins at 1 pm (St. Mark's). The walk (the traditional route) begins at 1:30 pm. More details will provided at a later time.

Sunday, October 18

- First Communion Class continues.

Sunday, October 25

- First Communion experience in worship

PLEASE REMEMBER:

To continue to practice CDC guidelines associated with COVID-19: Wash hands, stay home when sick, limit travel, practice social distancing.

Saint Mark's is "open" **for Sunday worship**. We hope to resume Sunday School and our "Regular Office Hours and Schedule" after the Labor Day holiday.

Remember, Christ is with you!

Congregational Council of St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.—Colossians 3:23

GOD’S WORK, OUR HANDS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

Our church and our world continue to live through the COVID-19 pandemic. Social distancing has changed the way we worship and the way we answer God’s call to serve, but the needs of many in our community continue. In response to this day of service, the Outreach Committee is requesting that you donate an item to one, two or all three of the following causes.

United Churches Food Pantry: Non-perishable food items including pasta, tuna, soups, jelly, peanut butter and boxes of cereal.

Shepherd of the Street: Hygiene products in regular sizes for men, woman, children and infants. Especially needed are toilet tissue, feminine hygiene items and disposable diapers in sizes three – five.

Blessing Boxes at New Covenant UCC: Our neighbors at New Covenant provide snacks to food insecure individuals who pass by the church each day. Items needed are snack crackers and cookies, ramen noodles, Cup of Soups, fruit snacks, individual pasta cups that can be microwaved, individual boxes of cereal and individual pouches of tuna and crackers. Please no cans or glass containers.

Containers will be in the Narthex for your donations. Can you help fill our bins?

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

The last few months have been distressing for all of us. Still, God continues to bless us in so many ways. Thanks be to God !! However, humanitarian needs continue to increase. Think of the millions of people who were already living in poverty or crisis before the coronavirus struck.

Blanket Sunday will be October 4th. Kits and quilts are needed now more than ever. Since our Quilters were unable to meet and produce our usual number of quilts for Lutheran World Relief, help is possible. Blankets will be purchased to send warmth and love to our needy neighbors around the world. Contributions for this purpose can be made to St. Mark’s with a designation for ‘BLANKETS’ in the enclosed envelope.

Thank you for sharing God’s blessings !!

FAMILY PROMISE

Family Promise – Yeah! We are done for the year as August was our last hosting for 2020. Thanks for those persons who volunteered to provide a meal or be an overnight host in these trying times. Thanks to our cooks – Shelby and Gary Weber, Jackie and Shirley Kinney, Mel and Mindy Wentzel, and Todd Smith. Overnight hosts –

Tim and Deb Maggs, Brian and Nikki Jackson Donna Elkin, and Matt and Wanda Fortin.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Kits update – all kits for Lutheran World Relief need to be turned in by Sunday, September 27 so they can be prepared for shipment in October. A four types of kits are needed but if you do not want to do a kit, a monetary gift would be greatly appreciated. The cost for shipping overseas in \$2.25/quilt, \$1.40/school kit, \$2.65/personal care kit (includes buying the toothpaste), \$1.30/baby kit, and \$1.00/fabric kit. Please make checks out to St. Marks and put LWR in the memo line. For more information on Lutheran World Relief visit lwr.org. If you have any questions about the kits please contact me at 570-323-1707 or dabuckman65@gmail.com.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Hello! After a few months off, it seems the right time to begin thinking about our Operation Christmas Child Shoebox outreach once again. At the beginning of the year we set filling 45 boxes as our goal ~ one that is still very manageable. (24 of these boxes are earmarked for boys and 21 boxes are earmarked for girls). In order to fill these boxes, specific items are listed for each month and then the boxes are assembled by our Sunday School kids and other volunteers in November. The following items would be very useful in helping us fill our boxes.

- Small Balls (no super balls please)
- Yo-Yo’s (light up if possible)
- Sidewalk Chalk
- Hair Accessories
- Jump Ropes
- Screwdrivers
- Bungee Cords
- Stuffed Animals (beanie baby size)
- Small Dolls
- Tape Measures
- Combs/Brushes
- Toothbrush/Toothbrush Case or Cover
- Mini Flashlights

As we slowly and safely start getting out a bit more, please consider picking up one or two things. These small gifts are so meaningful to the child receiving a shoebox with the ultimate goal of bringing that child the love of Christ. Thank you very much for your continued support!

COUNCIL NOTES, August 2020

Council met on August 17, 2020

Coronavirus: Discussion regarding Safe Practice Procedures Update/Progress.

- Approved suspending use of the Narthex and Nave to outside groups for the balance of 2020.
- Approved annual congregational meeting to be held going forward on the 2nd Sunday in December along with the budget approval.
- Approved a St Mark's Lutheran Church policy book to be available in a location accessible to all members.

Committee Reports:

Safety Committee: Carl Albright advised things are going well.

Property Committee:

- Ed Gair indicated they are working on a few projects and are waiting for a few estimates.
- Herb Poff provided an update on the re-keying.

Personnel Committee: No new updates

Outreach Committee: On September 13, 2020 collection bins will be available in the Narthex for nonperishables items, hygiene items and snacks.

Faith & Fellowship: Approved 1 adult Sunday school class and 1 youth Sunday school class to begin September 13, 2020.

New Business:

Discussions regarding September parking fees.

- Approved applying the \$400 previously paid by the Civic Chorus to reserve their spot for the Fall, toward their 2021 rent. The balance of \$300 is to be paid in January 2021.
- Approved Mike Jensen to examine our computer system due to recent hacks.

Next meeting: September 21, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.



Remember to send in any corrections for the Church Directory so that they can be printed here!

We don't know unless you tell us!

Updated Activities at Redeemer Lutheran Church

Free Community Dinner: Thursday, September 10, 2020 from 5:30 PM -6:30 PM. All are welcome. **This is a take-out meal with curbside distribution. Masks are required.**

Daniel's Closet: Free seasonal clothing on Saturday, September 26, 2020 from 8:30 -11:00 AM. **Social distancing guidelines will be in place. Masks are required.**

Change in Drop Off Time:

Donations of Fall and Winter clothing may be dropped off at Redeemer on Thursday, September 10, 2020 from 3:00 – 4:30 PM. This earlier date allows all donations to not be touched for a period of time. If you have a large quantity of clothing, please call Barb Horn at 570-974-3744 or Carol Johnson at 570-772-6674 to arrange a time to take your clothing directly to Redeemer Lutheran.



SHARING IN THE CARING

Ongoing Collections at St. Mark's:

Bazaar Room: Although the Fall Bazaar has been postponed until September 2021, the Women of St. Mark's continue to accept your donations. Items should be packed into small boxes and placed away from the Bazaar Room door. If needed boxes are available in the Bazaar Room.



Soda Tabs for Ronald McDonald House: A container is in the Narthex for your donations.

Pennies for Youth Activities: A container is in the Narthex for your coins.

SPECIAL CONCERNS LIST

Patricia Alexander
Rose View Center
1201 Rural Ave., 223B
Williamsport, PA 17701

Marie Byerly
Arista Care Nursing Ctr.
1445 Sycamore Rd.
Montoursville, PA 17754

Catherine Lundy
c/o Carol Butters
123 Aberdeen Road
Williamsport, PA 17701

Ruth Pile
Wmspt Home Care Ctr #105A
1900 Ravine Road
Williamsport, PA 17701

Kay Poliska
1100 Allen St.
Montoursville, PA 17754

Elizabeth Ruesskamp
Rose View Center, 222B
1201 Rural Ave.
Williamsport, PA 17701

Elsie Sechler
AristaCare Nursing Center
1445 Sycamore Road, Rm. 312
Montoursville PA 17754

Marion Waldeisen
Williamsport Home
1900 Ravine Rd. Bldg C Apt. 1213
Williamsport, PA 17701

Birthdays

9/2 Dee Goertz
9/3 Todd Smith
9/4 Jeannette Lukens
9/5 Brett Campbell
9/5 Lauren Campbell
9/5 Valerie Doebler
9/5 Sean Elkin
9/5 Hailey Jarrett
9/5 Joshua Lynch
9/5 Kirk Owen
9/6 Derek Lewis
9/6 Betty Rechel
9/9 Debra Buckman
9/9 Nolan Ott
9/9 Hudson Ott
9/10 Mary Clouser
9/11 Carol Harvey



9/12 Mary Ann Stiller
9/12 Marion Waldeisen
9/13 Timothy Maggs
9/13 Stefan Weber
9/15 Andrea Welker
9/17 Tammy Fitzpatrick
9/18 Abreanna Doane
9/19 Audrey Bower
9/20 Richard Harris

9/22 Ronald Arner
9/22 Brittany Dewar
9/24 Aeric Powley
9/26 Blanche Doebler
9/26 Abigail Robertson
9/27 Jonathan Lynch
9/28 Lawrence Satifka
9/28 Bailey Sims
9/30 Pamela Fink

Anniversaries

9/2 Edward & Lorraine Barone
9/3 Ronald & Grace Arner
9/3 Steven & Nancy Bieber
9/19 Johnny & Renee Hinds
9/25 Jackie & Michael Kinney
9/28 George & Kay Poliska

STAFF OFFICE HOURS

Pastor: The Rev. Brian Vasey
Mon, Tue, Thu 9am—12pm & by appointment
Church Organist: Sam Robinson
Summer: Mon 1pm-3pm & by appointment
Sexton: Lou DeSeau
Sun, Mon, Wed, Thu 8:30am—1pm
Bookkeeper: Jackie Baysore
Tue 8am—12:00pm
Secretary: Bernadette Jones
Mon, Wed, Fri 9am—1pm

Church Office 570-323-4619 Fax 570-323-2452

Website: stmarkswilliamsport.org

Main e-mail: stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org

Rev. Brian Vasey, Pastor bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org
570-323-4619 or 570-523-1415
Sam Robinson, Church Organist srobinson@stmarkswilliamsport.org
Bernadette Jones, Secretary stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org
Jackie Baysore, Bookkeeper jbaysore@stmarkswilliamsport.org
Lou DeSeau, Environmental Serv. stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org
Linda Rosini, Council President lr10152@yahoo.com
Becky Miller Pryor, Vice-President home 570-971-4585
Wanda Fortin, Secretary 570-337-9137
Jackie Kinney, Treasurer jskinney1@yahoo.com
Kathy Eshelman, Stephen Ministry 570-433-0522
Janet Jones, Parish Life jgmacookie@comcast.net
Debra Buckman dbuckman@pct.edu or dabuckman65@gmail.com
Family Promise Coordinator
Prayer Chain—coordinator needed
Sally Bjornstad, Altar Flowers 570-494-6637



Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 257
Williamsport, PA 17701

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
142 MARKET ST.
WILLIAMSPORT, PA 17701
Address Service Requested
Phone: 570-323-4619
Fax: 570-323-2452
Website: <http://www.stmarkswilliamsport.org>
Email: stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES ON SEPTEMBER 13 at 9:15am!

While all the details are still being worked out, we do know that Sunday School will be resuming on September 13 at 9:15am!

Please join in one of the classes that will be offered:

Elementary Children ~ Church Library

Middle/High School Youth ~ Crossways Room

Adult Sunday School ~ Fellowship Hall



**Sunday
School**

Our meeting spaces look a bit different than in the past so that we are able to accommodate social distancing. We also require that masks be worn at all times.

Please enter the church through the front doors that lead into the Narthex. From here, classrooms may be accessed by walking through the courtyard and Front Lounge.

We look forward to learning and growing in Christ!

We look forward to spending time together in
Christian fellowship.

We look forward to seeing YOU!

**WELCOME
BACK!!**