



THE LION OF ST. MARK'S

Condensed Edition for October, 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,

Sunday, October 25 is Reformation Sunday. As "all good Lutherans know" Reformation Sunday celebrates our unique tradition as Lutheran Christians.

The hymn associated with Reformation Sunday is "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God". Composed by Martin Luther, "A Mighty Fortress..." is believed to be a tavern song; a common melody of the German people to which Luther added a now familiar text. "A Mighty Fortress..." is:

- A commentary on Psalm 46, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble...the God of Jacob is our stronghold..."

AND

- A primer of Lutheran theology, "A mighty fortress is our God...he wins salvation glorious...a champion comes to fight whom God himself elected...Christ Jesus mighty Lord,...he holds the field victorious."

Luther knew the familiar sentiment, "music hath charm..." He used music often to tell of God's truth and to bring comfort to the anxious soul.

During this pandemic I too have turned to music to remind me of God's truth and goodness; to bring comfort to my anxious soul. Often I find myself singing (although it is more like a whisper or hum so as not infect others) a hymn text or melody. This practice along with the reading of the word proclaims to me the truth of the gospel: God loves me! In Christ that love is made known and in him I have nothing to dread. Though I will experience suffering and unrest, God is forever near and will not fail!

Luther's main teaching of the Reformation came to be known as "Justification"; we are justified, made right with God by God in Christ. Faith is a gift; the gift of God's grace. We are asked to trust in that gift; to proclaim that our salvation and hope lies not in ourselves or our society, but in and of the way of God.

Martin Luther often told Christians to "Have faith! God's grace abounds!" True wisdom for Reformation Sunday and all our days.

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:

HAPPENING THIS MONTH:

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- Nursery. 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.

Sunday, October 18

First Communion Class continues.

Sunday, October 25

First Communion experience in worship

LOOKING AHEAD TO NOVEMBER

All Saints' Day, Sunday, November 1

Sunday, November 15

Confirmation Orientation. Pastor meets with Confirmands and Parents at 9:15 am to look at Confirmation Curriculum and discuss expectations.

Sunday, November 22, Christ the King Sunday

Confirmation Classes begins at 9:15 am in "Crossways Room".

Thursday, November 26, Our "National Day of Thanksgiving"

Sunday, November 29, The First Sunday of Advent

PLEASE REMEMBER...

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

UNITED CHURCHES OF LYCOMING COUNTY

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Farewells and Welcomes:

Farewells...

Gloria McDermott resigned this summer as administrative assistant at United Churches main office, due to health issues. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.

Patty Gohrs will retire later this month as the other half of United Churches main office administrative team. We wish her well as she travels and spends more time with family and friends.

Morris Smith retired August 27th as our Shepherd of the Streets after twenty years! He and Barby will soon move to Kansas City Missouri where their daughter Marci and her family lives. Shepherd volunteers surprised him with a small, socially distanced retirement party. We shared all the blessings and gifts you sent and provided a few keepsake mementoes.

Welcomes...

Deborah Bird became our administrative assistant at United Churches main office in mid-August. She has ten years experience in office management. Deb and her husband Rich have three children, Will, Chris and Joe.

Mark Brumbach has just finished his first week as Shepherd of the Streets. He has been a United Methodist pastor in our county for many years, first at Trout Run UMC and now at South Williamsport UMC. Welcome to our "New Shepherd"!

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

BLANKET SUNDAY- October 4, 2020



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' on the memo line.** "Blanket Envelopes" are available in the narthex.

Thank you for sharing God's blessings!!

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Kits update – Thanks to everyone who did a kit (s) for Lutheran World Relief. A complete report will be in the Nov. newsletter. Thanks, Deb Buckman.

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!

God's Work. Our Hands.

The Outreach Committee thanks the congregation for their help in supplying much needed food and hygiene items for the United Churches Food Pantry, Shepherd of the Street's office and the Blessing Boxes at New Covenant UCC. All were grateful for your donations. Please consider giving items monthly to these three ministries. See Sharing in the Caring for more information.

The Bazaar Room is Open!

The Bazaar Room is open and ready to go for your donations of all sorts of treasures that are clean and in working order. Please double check kitchen gadgets and small electronics before placing them in the Bazaar Room. All items should be packed in smaller boxes for ease of carrying. Place your boxes as far away from the door as possible. A few boxes and newspaper are available in the Bazaar Room for your use.

COUNCIL NOTES, September, 2020

Council met on September 21, 2020.

- Coronavirus: Discussion regarding Safe Practice Procedures and pew signage.

Committee Reports:

Safety Committee: No new updates.

Property Committee:

- Herb Poff provided an update that re-keying is completed at the church. The only task remaining is to replace the keys in the exterior lock boxes.

Faith & Fellowship:

- Vickie Haussmann provided an update on the adult and youth Sunday school classes.

Outreach Committee:

- We continue to collect items needed by the United Churches Food Pantry, Shepherd of the Street's office and the Blessing Boxes at New Covenant UCC.
- Approved motion to host a mobile blood drive in Fellowship Hall on December 11, 2020 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Next meeting October 6, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Personnel Committee:

- Approved motion for current reduced hours of hourly staff to remain the same through the end of 2020.
- Next meeting: October 19, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Saint Mark's is "open" *for Sunday worship (8 am and 10:30 am) and Sunday School (9:15 am).*

Remember, Christ is with you!

*Congregational Council of
St. Mark's Lutheran Church*



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

Community Supper on Thursday, October 8, 2020 from 5:30 PM -6:30 PM.

This is a take-out only meal. All are welcome.

Daniel's Closet (Free Seasonal Clothing) on Saturday, October 22, 2020 from 8:30 – 11:00 AM. With cooler weather comes the need for warmer clothing and sturdier shoes.

Donated Clothing may be dropped off at Redeemer on Thursday, October 8, 2020 from

3:00 – 4:30 PM. Please **note this new drop-off time due to COVID-19 guidelines.**



If you have a large quantity of clothing that cannot wait until the monthly drop off, please contact Barb Horn at 570-974-3744 or Carol Johnson at 570-772-6674 to arrange a time to meet at Redeemer Lutheran.

SHARING IN THE CARING

Ongoing Collections at St. Mark's:

United Churches Food Pantry: Non-perishable food items are always in need.

Shepherd of the Streets: Hygiene Items in regular sizes for infants, kids and adults. Especially needed are disposable diapers sizes 3-6 and feminine hygiene items.

Blessing Boxes at New Covenant UCC: Snack crackers and cookies, microwave pasta and soups are always in need. Items for the Pantry, Shepherd or Blessing Boxes may be placed on the table in the Narthex or in the tubs in the Narthex coatrium.

Aluminum Soda Can Tabs: Containers are available in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall. Tabs are given to support the Ronald McDonald House in Danville.

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

WORSHIP/MUSIC COMMITTEE

I hope that the fact that schools have opened has put some semblance of normalcy that has been missing for six months.

I am very pleased with the services under the leadership of Pastor Vasey and Sam Robinson. The congregation has been most cooperative in ensuring that all will go well at each service.

A question that may have been asked is: What about the choir? Pastor Vasey, Sam and I have agreed that the services will continue as they have been for the past two months. With continuity of safety precautions in mind, **we will not have choir rehearsals or presentations** for the foreseeable future. There really is no any other safe and logical option at this time. Thank you for understanding. We hope to return to a "newer normal" in hopefully the near rather than distant future.

Let's all keep the faith,

Ray

Ray Huff, Chairperson, Worship/Music Committee

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:

Stephanie Bieber	10/05
Caitlin Butters	10/06
Jane Zimmerer	10/09
Kameera Smith	10/10
Amy Burkholder	10/11
Barbara Doebler	10/11
Gary Goertz	10/11
Christine Sauers	10/12
Shirley Vognet	10/13
Gary Chrisman	10/14
Makensie Doebler	10/14
Sean Fenderson	10/17
Marion Larson	10/18
Breanna Chicas	10/19
Ashley Campbell	10/20



Megan Greevy	10/20
Paige Fortin	10/21
Carolyn Wacker	10/21
Ryan Lynn	10/23
Charles Kuntz	10/24
Richard Miller	10/24
Mark Welker	10/24
Hannah Haussmann	10/26
Kathy Eshelman	10/27
Andrew Haussmann	10/28

Tait Thorne	10/28
John Hoffman	10/29
Barbara Thomas	10/29
Lois Goldy	10/30
Deborah Maggs	10/30
Natalie Miller	10/31

Anniversaries:

Kenneth & Kathleen Caster	10/09
Jeffrey & Catherine Kneedler	10/09
Lawrence & Norma Lehman	10/09
Andrea & Tracy Gregory	10/16
Scott & Mary Kimble	10/25
Louis & Linda DeSeau	10/26
Robert & Constance Shaible	10/26
Audrey & Jake Comerford	10/27

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMED SEPT. 13 (9:15 am)

Please join in one of the classes that our being offered:
Elementary Kids ~ Church Library
Middle/High School Kids ~ Crossways Room
Adult Sunday School ~ Fellowship Hall

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.

(cont. —>)

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!

CONSECRATION SUNDAY

Sunday, October 25, 2020, "Reformation Sunday" will be a time to express our gratitude to God through our intended giving to the church in 2021. Our God has blessed us and continues to bless us in Christ with the gifts of grace, faith, life, and life eternal. October 25 will be a day to say, "Thank You" to God for all the blessings we enjoy at both the 8 am and 10:30 am worship services

Below you will find your "Estimate of Giving" card. Once you determine what your financial giving will be in 2021, complete the following commitment card, bring it with you to worship on October 25, along with your regular weekly offering, to place in the provided basket. Should you find yourself unable to attend either worship service on October 25, please mail your commitment card to the church office and mark it confidential (142 Market St., Williamsport, PA 17701) as soon as possible.

The ELCA has a motto regarding our life together: God's Work/Our Hands. This phrase reminds us that in Christ God has blessed us; indeed, God has done for us in Christ what we could never do for ourselves. To support the work of the church universal through the ministries of the St. Mark's congregation is a definitive and faithful way to show our gratitude. The blessings of our faith are truly God's Work in our hands.

In uncertain financial times many of us hesitate to increase our commitment. We must believe that God gives us the strength and grace necessary to do what God leads us to do- the work and blessing of ministry.

May God bless you as you faithfully consider your response to God's generosity. We look forward to greeting you on Reformation Sunday!

MY COMMITMENT FOR CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH

In response to God's love and as a concrete expression of my/our faith in and commitment to Christ and his church, I/we plan to make the following commitment in my giving.

My/Our Commitment 2021 is

\$ _____ per week

OR

\$ _____ per month

OR

\$ _____ per year.

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. Number _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Telephone _____

Email _____

Envelope Number _____



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

HARVEST HOME SUNDAY- OCTOBER 11, 2020 **Bring your offering of** non-perishable items for the local United Churches Food Pantry to worship on this Sunday. Please use the bag provided on Sunday, September 27 or plastic bags. Bags can be brought to the

church on Sunday, October 4 or 11. The food will be displayed on Sunday, October 11. We hope you and your family will be part of this annual celebration.



Celebrate
 WITH ALL THE BOUNTY
 THAT THE LORD YOUR GOD
 HAS GIVEN TO YOU.

DEUTERONOMY 26:11, NRSV



CROPWALK

Registrations begins at 1 P.M. Walkers go together in small socially distanced groups.

This year is our 42nd walk and, to date, we have raised over 1 million dollars to help stop hunger! Last year we raised \$10,626.06. **For more information and to participate in our CROP Walk please contact Brenda Gair (brendag1@comcast.net or 570-321-7561)**