



The Lion of St. Mark's

Condensed Edition for November, 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,



All Saints' Day is traditionally seen as the Church's "Memorial Day". This is the day on which the local church remembers both the baptized and the deceased members of our congregation, or as we express it: Those who have joined both the Servant Church and the Church Triumphant. On All Saints' Day, November 1, 2020 we will read those names in worship and remind ourselves of the life, love, hope and comfort faith brings.

This day is a reminder to us that we are connected to Christ and one another. None of us are part of the church "by chance". Our grandparents, parents, spouses, relatives, friends, Sunday School teachers, pastors and others have helped to shape our understanding of who God is and what our callings are in response to God's love in Jesus Christ. This festival proclaims that we are part of a sacred community- the "Communion of Saints"- one people who have placed their hopes, dreams and livelihoods in Christ and in those who have trusted Christ. All Saints' is a day about the past- All the baptized who have gone before us; the present- All the baptized who journey in life with us; and the future- All the baptized who will come after us. One communion. One community. One family- the Family of God.

This year, the Tuesday following All Saints' in the USA is election day. On election day most of us, if we have not done so already, will cast our vote; select our choices for elected office. Sometimes salvation in the church is called "election". Election as a church term does not mean we have elected or chosen God. Election in the church means God has elected or chosen us. The Holy Spirit has called us to love and serve God by loving and serving others. All believers in Christ are called to this general ministry of love and our baptism is our "ordination". All Saints' serves as a reminder of this truth.

God through Christ has assured us of divine love; the grace of God has "elected" us to serve God in Christ by serving others. It is a calling made known to us in our baptism that assures us of life eternal within God's community- the Communion of Saints.

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

HAPPENING THIS MONTH:

All Saints' Day, Sunday, November 1

The day the church remembers the faithful community of God in Jesus Christ; the Communion of Saints.

Sunday, November 15

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

Sunday, November 22, Christ the King Sunday

The "Last Sunday" of the Church Year. 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

NOVEMBER PRAYERS:

Election Day (November 3):

Lord God, you call your people to honor those in authority. Help us elect trustworthy leaders, participate in wise decisions for our common life, and serve our neighbors in local communities. Bless the leaders of our land, that we may be at peace among ourselves and a blessing to other nations of the earth; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen. (from Evangelical Lutheran Worship)

VETERAN'S DAY (November 11):

Merciful God, you grieve amid the pain, fear, and suffering of your children. Look with compassion on all who endure the miseries of war. Help us to be mindful of those who faced peril in defense of our nation. Guide all those who currently serve in our military as they seek justice for our nation, as well as justice for those who are oppressed and seek liberty. Lord our God, hear our prayer, and grant speedy deliverance in a new day of peace and concord; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (from ELCA Prayers for Armed Forces)

A NATIONAL DAY OF THANKSGIVING

Lord, thank you for your abundant generosity and never-ending grace. Let us remember you, the source of all our blessings, as we give thanks for all we have, all we've had, and all that's yet to come; through Jesus Christ your Son. Amen. (from ELCA Prayer Repository)

PLEASE REMEMBER...

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

UNITED CHURCHES NEWS:

CROP Walk Update: Thank you to Pastor Vasey, Michael Ochs and the Haussmann and Gair families for representing St. Mark's Lutheran Church at the 42nd annual CROP walk on October 11, 2020. We really appreciate all who donated, totaling \$818.00! 25% of the money raised goes to local Lycoming County food banks and the other 75% is distributed by Church World Service.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

You Did It! Thanks to all our members who donated to the Lutheran World Relief by quilting, or making a kit to send. This year we had 24 quilts - not bad for the time that quilting could be done, 15 personal care kits, 3 fabric kits, 7 baby care kits and 55 school kits (the same as last year!) So, don't think we are done, now is the time to plan ahead for next year. Watch for the sales (January white sales are good for hand and bath towels cheap). Yard sales are good for gently used baby items and Joann's has great deals on fabric several times a year. If you need directions on what each kit needs, just email me, dabuckman65@gmail.com, or see me at church or call 570-323-1707. Also needed are donations of cash for shipping of items. This can be dropped off at the church office with LWR kits in the memo line. Thanks so much for your work - special thanks for Lou DeSeau and Bob Miller for taking our items to the Synod office. Deb B and Shirley H

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



November brings much excitement for Operation Christmas Child ~ it is time to pack our shoeboxes! We have been collecting all sorts of items over the past 10 months, and it is now time to pull everything together! Due to the nature of this crazy year, we sadly will not have our full blown packing event. Instead, our Sunday school kids will put together our boxes as part of their ongoing service work this year. If you would like to pack a box to send, please take a shoebox from the Narthex. Packing instructions will be included!

In addition to packing our shoeboxes, we will be collecting monetary donations during the month of November.

Samaritan's Purse asks for a \$9.00 donation to help cover the cost of shipping each shoebox. This \$9.00 donation also helps Samaritan's Purse train and equip local churches to use our Ministry Partner Guide. This resource teaches churches how to share the Good News of the Lord Jesus Christ in a child-friendly way. Your donation also provides The Greatest Gift Gospel Booklets, which are written in the children's language and distributed along with shoebox gifts.

Lastly, please pray that the shoeboxes we pack and send bless the child who receives it with the love of Jesus Christ. Thank you for your continued support of Operation Christmas Child. How exciting that we at St. Mark's are able to share the Good News around the World!

THE BAZAAR ROOM IS OPEN!

The Women of St. Mark's continue to accept your donations of housewares, jewelry, small appliances, decorations and treasures of all kinds for our sale in 2021. It is most helpful if items could be packed in small boxes and placed in the Bazaar Room away from the door.



Recently boxes and bags have been placed on the stage that make it difficult to determine if the items are clothing for Daniel's Closet or items for the Bazaar. Please help us by placing only Daniel Closet items on the stage. If you cannot get your Bazaar items to the basement please leave them in the stairwell on the lower landing. We can take it the rest of the way. Thank you

A Look Ahead to Christmas

Fall, Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas are one of the busiest times of year for the Outreach Committee. It is a time to remember all of our Special Concern Folks and others we do not see as often as we wish with cards and caroling. We also reach out to the Ladies of CM-6 at the Selinsgrove Center and to the residents of the Danville State Hospital with various gifts.

The Covid-19 pandemic has changed all of that. Due to restrictions at local facilities and caution in home visits we will not be caroling. The Selinsgrove Center and Danville Hospital are closed to visitors.

Although it would seem that there is nothing we can do, with some effort and help from congregation members we can send cards to our Special Concern Folks. Danville State Hospital is accepting the general gifts we have given in years past. Be looking for that information later in November. And we are awaiting confirmation from the Selinsgrove Center as to if we can deliver gifts (body wash, slipper socks and pudding cups) to the Center for the Ladies of CM-6.

#beablessing

COUNCIL BRIEFS, October, 2020

Council met on October 19, 2020.

- Coronavirus: Discussion regarding how the Safe Practice Procedures are working.

Committee Reports:

Safety Committee: No new updates.

Property Committee:

- Discussions on the purchase a new columbarium. Additional research required. Tabled until November council meeting.

Faith & Fellowship:

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

Outreach Committee:

- Due to covid-19 Christmas caroling and the annual visit to the Selinsgrove Center will be cancelled for 2020. Outreach will collect items to be delivered to the center.

Personnel Committee:

- Approved motion to hire Mike Jensen to troubleshoot and address St Mark's computer issues. Pam Jensen abstained from the vote.

New Business:

- Reaffirmed St Mark's remains closed to events other than church meetings.
- The meeting was adjourned. Next meeting: November 16, 2020 @ 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 he Church Directory so that they can be printed here! We don't know unless you tell us!

Ongoing Events at Redeemer Lutheran:

Community Supper on Thursday, November 12, 2020 from 5:30 PM -6:30 PM. All are welcome. This is a take-out meal delivered at the curb.

Daniel's Closet (Free Seasonal Clothing) on Saturday, November 20th from 8:30 – 11:00 AM. Due to Thanksgiving, distribution is one week earlier. With cooler weather comes the need for warmer clothing and sturdier shoes.



Donated Clothing may be dropped off at Redeemer on Thursday, November 12th from 3:00 – 4:30 PM. **Note the new drop off date due to the pandemic.**

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 and healthy snacks are always in need.
- **Shepherd of the Streets:** Hygiene Items in regular sizes for infants, kids and adults. Especially needed are deodorant for men and women, disposable diapers and feminine hygiene items.
- **Blessing Boxes at New Covenant UCC:** Individual Snacks, Cup of Soups, Microwave Mac & Cheese, Ramen Noodles and warm socks (new or gently used are needed).
- **Items for the Pantry, Shepherd or the Blessing Boxes** may be placed on the table in the Narthex.
- **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

Notable Sundays in November Include:

All Saints' Day (11/1). The names of the faithful (Baptized and Deceased) will be read at both worship services. Thanks to Ruth Rees and Ralph Zeigler for their work on the All Saints' Banner.
Christ the King (11/22). Emphasis on "closing out" the "old liturgical year" and introducing the "new liturgical year".

Advent (Nov. 29-Dec. 20).

A Preaching Series on "Advent Saints" for two Advent Witnesses:

- 12/6: Nicholas, Bishop of Myra (the historical St. Nicholas)
- 12/13: Lucy (Lucia, Maiden of Lights)

Advent Afternoon Mid-week Services begin Wednesday, December 2, 12:15-12:35, **in our Nave. Please note that we will continue to follow our Safety Guidelines.**

Continued on next page

Annual Meeting to elect 2021 Council Members and to vote on the 2021 Budget will take place Sunday, December 13, 2020 at 10:30. Please note there will only be one worship time on this Sunday.

Christmas Eve (12/24). Service times "tentatively" set for 7 and 10.

What about the choir? Pastor Vasey, Sam Robinson and I have agreed that the services will continue as they have been for the past four 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

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SUNDAY SCHOOL (9:15 am)

Please join in one of the classes that our being offered:

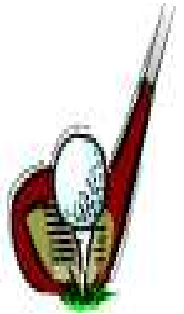
- Elementary Kids ~ Church Library
- Middle/High School Kids ~ Confirmation Class:
Orientation is Nov. 15/Class begins Nov. 22
- Adult Sunday School ~ Fellowship Hall

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.

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!

ST. MARK'S SPORTS REPORT

St. Mark's member Mike Kinney and his partner, Jeff Deisher, defeated St. Mark's member Ray Huff and his partner, Bob Wenzel, for the Retirees' League championship at the White Deer Golf Club on October 14. Mike's team won the Thursday section and Ray's team won the Wednesday section. There are 50 teams in the league. The score was 9 ½ to 8 ½.



CONGRATULATIONS are in order for Lycoming County college-bound students who have received scholarships from the St. Paul Lutheran Church Scholarship Fund. They include:



- Ethan Strother**
(St. Luke, Williamsport),
- Grace Schreckengast**
(St. Mark, Williamsport),
- Maxwell Ferguson and Olivia-Anne Eisner**
(both St. John, Jersey Shore),
- Jennifer Jackson and Olivia Welter**
(both Messiah, South Williamsport).

Our Church Secretary, Bernadette Jones, continues to recuperate from her surgery at UPMC, Pittsburgh. She thanks you for your prayers. You may send her greetings/cards at either her home address: 665 Fifth Street, Williamsport, PA 17701 or her hospital address: UPMC Presbyterian, Montefiore, 200 Lothrop St., Unit 10N, Room 82, Pittsburgh, PA 15213.

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Dear People of St. Mark's,

Thank you so very much for your kindness, words of sympathy and prayers at the passing of my dad Carey E. Vasey (PhD).

**+The Vasey Family
(Pastor, Joanne, Brandy and Tim).**

Please note that the list of birthdays and anniversaries are not available this month. St. Mark's congratulates all those celebrating these milestones in November, 2020 and thanks you for your understanding.



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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
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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



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