



# The Lion of St. Mark's

## January 2021

*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,

On January 6, the church celebrates the Epiphany of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (also known as the Adoration of the Wise Men). Epiphany does not fall on a Sunday this year and unlike 2020, Epiphany Eve (January 5) is not a Sunday either. In many ways the Epiphany is much more significant to us Christians with a non-Jewish background than Christmas. A careful reading of the Christmas Story from Luke (2:1-14) reminds us that those who came to see Jesus the night he was born were Jews not Gentiles.

Gentiles came much later (almost two years later) as represented by the Wise Men. To be certain that we do not forget the significance of the Epiphany when January 5 or 6 does not fall on a Sunday, an "Epiphany Quiz", such as the one included in this edition of the Lion, can be most helpful. Don't worry, it's open book (the bible) and can be a lot of fun. So, here we go.

*The key phrase in answering all questions correctly is "According to scripture"*

Epiphany Quiz:

1. Where do the wise men come from? (Matthew 2:1)
2. How many wise men are mentioned? (Matthew 2:1)
3. What are the names of the wise men? (Matthew 2: 1)
4. How do the wise men know Jesus is born? (Matthew 2:2)
5. How do the wise men know to go to Bethlehem? (Matthew 2:4-8)
6. In what dwelling to the wise men find Jesus? (Matthew 2:11)
7. What gifts did the wise men bring to Jesus? (Matthew 2:11)

Answers can be found following our other articles in this Lion.

The purpose of this quiz is to remember that scripture--not popular culture or folklore or tradition--tells us what we know about Jesus. While other sources are helpful, scripture is primary.

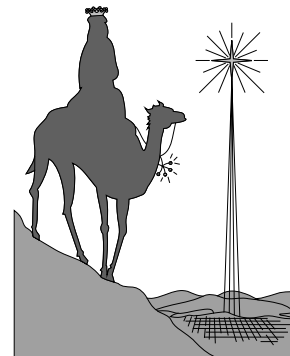
Continue to hope in what Jesus has brought us and continues to bring us. Rejoice in the Word and words of our Savior, the "Bright Morning Star" whom not even a pandemic can extinguish or dim. *Pastor Brian Vasey*

### 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](mailto:bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org) or [cryptol@comcast.net](mailto:cryptol@comcast.net). You can also contact me by telephone or email to verify (570-323-4619).

Pastor Vasey



**UNITED CHURCHES NEWS:**

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UCLC is looking for volunteers to fill various ministries. You do not have to be a clergy person to participate. Especially needed are persons to fill the nursing home and assisted living centers Sunday services.

Contact Gwen at [director@uclc.org](mailto:director@uclc.org) or call 570-322-1110.

New Shepard of the Streets—Welcome  
Rev. Mark Brumbach

**SOS Needs—Family Size Please**

- |  |                  |                 |
|--|------------------|-----------------|
| Toothpaste   | Toothbrushes     | Shaving Cream   |
| Razors   | Shampoo          | Conditioner     |
| Feminine Hygiene Products                              | Towels           | Wash Cloths     |
| Band-Aids  | Hand/Body Lotion | Facial Tissues  |
| Toilet Tissue  | Paper Towels     | Soap            |
| Deodorant (men's and women's)                          |                  | Combs & Brushes |
| Bedding - new or clean & gently used (Q & K preferred) |                  |                 |
| Adult Diapers (pull-ups M, L and XL, especially M)     |                  |                 |
| Baby Diapers and Pull-Ups (Sizes 1-6, especially 3-6)  |                  |                 |
| Baby Shampoo   | Baby Wash        | Baby Lotion     |
| Baby Oil   | Baby Wipes       |                 |

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

Thanks to your generous support, St. Mark's packed 30 OCC shoeboxes in 2020! Not only did we fill these boxes with all sorts of goodies, we raised the entire \$270.00 needed to cover shipping costs. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated (even amongst a pandemic!) in ways big or small.

We look forward to continuing this outreach ministry in 2021, and plan to pack 45 beautiful boxes to be sent to kids around the world. Monthly collections make this process a little less daunting, and we very much appreciate your generous donations.



- In January, we are collecting:
- Fun Pads (small, activity pads)**
  - Journals**
  - Knit Hats**
  - T-shirts\***
  - Socks/Undies\***

These items may be placed in our red, OCC bin located in the narthex.. Thank you for your continued support in helping spread the good news of God's love ~ for all of us!

\*Just a note ~ the age ranges for the boxes we fill are 2-4, 5-9, and 10-14. This may help with clothing sizes.

**Thank You for the Christmas Gifts**

The Outreach Committee thanks the congregation for their support of their many December projects.

During December the Outreach Committee collected the following:

- General gifts for the residents of the Danville State Hospital
- Body wash, slipper socks and pudding cups for the ladies of CM-6 at the Selinsgrove Center.

A snack basket was prepared for their caregivers. Due to the pandemic, this was the first time in forty years that we were unable to visit in person. The staff was grateful for our gifts to the ladies.



On December 11, 2020 we hosted a Red Cross Blood Drive in Fellowship Hall. Twenty-three units of blood were collected. Our largest quantity to date! We are waiting the confirmation of two dates in 2021. Be the lifeline patients need. Give blood.

Thank you to all the members of the congregation, who took Christmas cards from the table in the Narthex, added a cheery message and mailed them to our Special Concerns Folks and others we do not see as often as we would like, particularly during the pandemic. A special thank you to Audrey Albright for creating numerous handmade cards for us to send.

The Faith and Fellowship and the Outreach Committees thank the congregation for participating in Reverse Advent. As of press time the Advent bags were being returned filled with food items and hygiene products. **Due to the suspension of in-person worship, Advent bags not yet returned may be brought to the office and placed in the Front Lounge during weekly office hours.**

The Parish Life committee recently "cleaned house." Any non-perishable food items, frozen food or paper products that could be donated were delivered to local charities serving food to the needy. The charities included the United Churches Food Pantry, Redeemer Lutheran's Community Meal and Sojourner Truth's Ministries. Thank you Parish Life.

These gestures of Christmas spirit given by our congregation were sure to comfort the individuals receiving them in Christ's name.

## COUNCIL BRIEFS,

Council did not meet in December. Next meeting will be January 18 at 6 PM

The annual congregational meeting was held Dec. 13 after both services. The budget for 2021 was passed and Ray Huff was voted onto council to fill the vacancy.

### Committee Reports:

#### Worship and Music Committee

The Advent season began with great hopes and reduced activity. We held a midweek service and had regular services through December 13. After that date we returned to our service as it was at the start of the pandemic.

Many thanks are due to those whose talents helped us to prepare for Advent.

Thanks to Dan and Diana Ziegler for donating the lovely tree for the nave.

Thanks to the Gair family and the Sunday school children's classes for decorating the tree..

Thanks to Cindy Huff and Lou DeSeau for making the Advent wreath.

We will continue to plan our virtual services. Thanks to Pastor, Sam, Sadie and Gary for their expertise in making this happen.

We look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus and the hopes that He brings for the New Year.

Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021



Remember, Christ is with you!

**Make sure to send in any corrections for the Church Directory so that they can be printed here! We don't know unless you tell us! Call or email [stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org)**

## Ongoing Events at Redeemer Lutheran:

**Community Supper** on Thursday, January 14, 2021 from 5:00 PM until the meals are gone. Curbside pick-up only. In December 2020, 120 meals were served. All are welcome. . .

**Daniel's Closet** - Due to the pandemic, Daniel's

Closet is temporarily closed. They are not accepting donations at this time due to a lack of space. If you have clothing to donate, please give it the American Rescue Workers. The ARW has numerous programs for the homeless and needy that are stretching their resources during these unprecedented times.

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## SHARING IN THE CARING

### Ongoing Collections at St. Mark's:

During the suspension of in-person worship the needs of the community continue. Donations may be brought to the Front Lounge and left in the tub during regular office hours.

- **United Churches Food Pantry:** Non-perishable food items and healthy snacks are always in need.
- **Shepherd of the Streets:** Hygiene Items in regular Including diapers (size 4 and up) and feminine hygiene items for women..
- **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).
- **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.

**Bazaar Room:** The Women of St. Mark's need your items for our 2021 sale. It is a great time to sort through holiday / winter decorations and make a donation. A special thank you is given to Ed and Owen Gair. This father-son duo tackled the Bazaar Room and devised extra storage using stacked tables. We've got room for more treasures! Donations are best received during weekly office hours when Lou can open the east door for easy access to the Bazaar Room.

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**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 her home address: 665 Fifth Avenue, Williamsport, PA 17701

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**Birthdays**

Shelby Weber	01/01
John Shaible,	01/03
James Newcomer, Sr.	01/04
Mary Lou Doebler	01/06
Andrew Zeigler	01/10
Peter Zeigler	01/10
Kathy Kolb	01/12
Jackie Kinney	01/13
Riley Weber	01/14
Anna Zeigler	01/15
Laura Zeigler	01/15
David Butters	01/16
Lee Doane	01/15
Donna Boston	01/17
Beth Miller	01/17
Ruth Rees	01/17
Herb Poff	01/21
Liz Ruessskamp	01/21
Tara Thorne	01/23
Neil Eshelman	01/24
Walter Doebler	01/25
Marc Kinney	01/26
Sean Buckman	01/28
Linda Deseau	01/30
Devin Owen	01/30
Travis Thorne	01/30

Please remember our shut-ins and those who are ill..  
 Drop them a card or call one of them on the phone.  
 Remember—Loneliness can be cured with your help.

Liz Ruesskamp	Grace Arner
Ruth Pile	Gary Clark
Paul Young	Bob Shaible
Doris Brown	Gladys Knauss
Patricia Alexander	Ashton Ott
Lenny Sherlinski	Esteban Mazer
Elsie Sechler	Cheryl Williams
Bernadette Jones	Kay Poliska
Tanya Bower	Steve Dewar

**Family promise**

The schedule has been set for 2021. St. Mark's will be hosting the following weeks

- Jan. 10-17
- April 11-18
- July 4-11
- Oct. 10-17
- Dec. 12-19

Since we only did 3 hostings in 2020, we have an additional one for this year. At this point the families are staying at the day center and our responsibility is to just provide a evening meal which will be left on the front porch in disposable containers. I will be making calls in the next week to set this up. No overnight hosts are needed at this time.

# Happy New Year!

A reminder that there will be no in-person services until further notice. Services will be recorded and available for viewing at the St. Mark's website and on the church's Facebook page.

## Christmas at the Organ: A Concert of Carols

The tenth day of Christmas (Sunday, January 3, 2021) at Covenant Central Presbyterian Church (807 W. Front Street, Williamsport), 3 pm. The concert will feature nine members of the American Guild of Organists.

THANK YOU for the gifts, cards and well-wishes to Vasey Family during this Christmas Season!

<http://www.stmarkswilliamsport.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Marks-Lutheran-Church-111684345535818/>

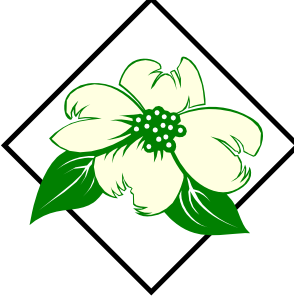
Please contact the church office if you need any assistance.

Until we can meet again in person—keep the faith, stay well, pray a lot, contact your family and friends.



We are done with 2020!

**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



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**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  
 jbaysoe@stmarkswilliamsport.org  
 Lou DeSeau, Environmental Serv.  
 stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org  
 Linda Rosini, Council President  
 lr10152@yahoo.com  
 home 570-971-4585  
 Wanda Fortin, Secretary  
 570-337-9137  
 Jackie Kinney, Treasurer  
 jskiney1@yahoo.com  
 570-433-0522  
 Kathy Eshelman, Stephen Ministry  
 jgmacoockie@comcast.net  
 Janet Jones, Parish Life  
 debuckman@pct.edu or dabuckman5@gmail.com  
 Family Promise Coordinator  
 Prayer Chain—coordinator needed  
 Sally Bjornstad, Altar Flowers  
 570-494-6637

**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](mailto:stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org)

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