



The Lion of St. Mark's

February 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, Thanksgiving looked and felt a little different this year. Christmas looked and felt a little different this year. Why should Lent be any exception?

Life is never exactly what we predict, and this is especially true during a pandemic. We "might" be back to in-person worship the First Sunday in Lent. Then again, numbers being what they are, we may not. Regardless of our situation and/or circumstance, there will be Ash Wednesday worship. Sundays in Lent will be observed. Mid-week Lenten services will take place. How this will happen remains to be seen, but the Gospel will be proclaimed.

Ash Wednesday and the Season of Lent that it begins, brings us face to face with our mortality, our sinful nature and the "Good News" of forgiveness and life eternal. This is the our faith. This is the Gospel. This is the preaching and teaching of Christ and his church. How can we not share it?

I am reminded of the old hymn by Robert Lowry, *My Life Flows On in Endless Song* (781 With One Voice), stanzas 3 and 4 specifically:

What though my joys and comforts die?
The Lord my Savior liveth.
What though darkness gather round?
Songs in that he giveth.

Refrain: No storm can shake my inmost calm while to the Rock I'm clinging.

Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing?

Refrain

No matter what befalls us, no matter our state or situation, the message of the Gospel will be proclaimed!

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:

By action of our Congregational Council, St. Mark's has suspended all in-person worship services indefinitely. Virtual worship by way of video will continue and will be available by way of our web page and Facebook.

Pastor's at church "Office Hours" during our suspension of in-person worship:

Monday & Tuesday	9 am-Noon
Wednesday	1:30 pm- 4 pm
Thursday	9 am- Noon
Friday	Pastor's Day Off

*Should you have a pastoral need and/or wish to schedule an appointment, please call the Church Office 570-323-4619. Pastor is always available by email (bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org). Home phone (emergencies only please) 570-523-1415.

Please continue to hold Bernadette Jones in prayer as she continues her treatments and con-vals at home. Cards are welcome and may be sent to: 665 Fifth Avenue, Williamsport, PA 17701.

REMEMBER...

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

UNITED CHURCHES NEWS:

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New Shepard of the Streets—Welcome
Rev. Mark Brumbach

SOS Needs—Family Size Please
These are the items needed at this time.

- men’s and women’s antiperspirant/deodorant
- men’s and women’s body wash
- shampoo & conditioner
- shaving cream and disposable razors
- women’s personal hygiene items
- laundry soap/pods.

They have enough toothbrushes and paste.

Cash donations are greatly appreciated to help with medical and heating bills. Send to:

Shepherd of the Streets
P. O. Box 2184
Williamsport, PA 17703

Office hours are M-Th 9-noon at SOS
A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.” Proverbs 11:25

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

We continue collecting items for our Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes with the goal of packing 45 shoeboxes in 2021. And while it is difficult to get out and shop right now, keep an eye out for those clearance deals that might be spotted during the few trips that do need to be made.



- Our February collection will be:
- Bars of Soap And Plastic Soap Boxes**
 - Washcloths (preferably dark in color)**
 - Knit Hats**
 - *T-shirts** (cute or plain, long sleeve or short, any will do)
 - *Socks/Undies**

Choose one, choose all! When church resumes, donations may be place in the red, OCC bin located in the Narthex. As always, thank you for your continued generosity!

*The age ranges for the boxes we fill are 2-4, 5-9, and 10-14 (both boys and girls)

Outreach Committee

Valentine’s Day Wishes

Please help the Outreach Committee spread some mid-winter cheer by sending a Valentine’s Day card or two to folks we do not see as often as we wish. Consider sending a card to a person on our Special Concern list or to another church member that would enjoy hearing from you. These Valentine wishes are sure to brighten the day of those who receive them. Just couldn’t get out to get a few cards? Then consider telephoning a few folks and chatting a bit.

Sharing in the Caring

Although in-person worship has been suspended until further notice due to the pandemic, our call to serve those in need has not been suspended. Please consider making a donation to one or all of the following ministries in these unprecedented times. If you are limiting your time away from home, please consider making a monetary donation to the Outreach Committee to purchase take-out containers for Redeemer Lutheran and other ministries serving take-out meals. We previously distributed all the containers we had. Checks may be made payable to St. Mark’s with the memo line reading “Take Out.”

LENT

◎ **The 3 Pillars of Lent**

▪ **PRAYER** - nurturing your relationship with God
<http://www.watton.org/clipart/prayer/prayer.shtml>



▪ **FASTING** - giving something up to be closer to God
<http://learnoutlive.com/signs-of-trouble/no-sign/>



▪ **ALMSGIVING** - sharing with those in need
<http://catholicinasmalltown.libsyn.com/category/podcasts>



COUNCIL BRIEFS,

Council met on January 11, 2021.

Ray Huff was installed as a council member.

Coronavirus: A reopening date has not been set at this time.

Pastor's report:

The baptism of Finley Hanford will be included in the Sunday January 17th online service. The Holy Baptism During a Pandemic guidelines will be followed.

Committee Reports:

Outreach Committee: Update provided by Becky Pryor.

We had a successful blood drive in December 2020. We have 2 additional blood drives scheduled for July & December of 2021.

We are encouraging the congregation to please consider sending Valentine cards to the folks on our special concerns list.

We will continue to accept various donations in the front lounge during office hours.

Personnel Committee: Update provided by Becky Pryor.

The committee is having discussions regarding hiring a part-time, temporary secretary.

Worship & Music: Update provided by Ray Huff.

The Worship committee is looking for volunteers to sing during the Sunday Service.

M(Ray Huff, 2nd by Becky Pryor) SC: CC: 21.1.1 Approved motion to offer the congregation the opportunity to sponsor bulletins in lieu of flowers in memory or in honor of someone. The cost would be \$15 and this is temporary until in-person services resume.

New Business:

M(Mel Wetzel, 2nd by Pam Jensen) SC: CC: 21.1.2 Approved motion to accept the sealed bid of \$63,500 for the sale of the Plankenhorn land that was equally bequeathed to St Mark's Lutheran Church, SPCA and HSUS (Humane Society). Proceeds to be divided equally between the three entities.

Election of new council officers:

M(Mel Wetzel, 2nd by Pam Jensen) SS: CC: 21.1.3 Nomination made and motion approved unanimously to elect Linda Rosini to serve as Council President for 2021.

M(Wanda Fortin, 2nd by Herb Poff & Bob Campbell) SS: CC: 21.1.4 Nomination made and motion approved unanimously to elect Becky Pryor to serve as Council Vice President for 2021.

M(Pam Jensen, 2nd by Herb Poff) SS: CC: 21.1.5 Nomination made and motion approved unanimously to elect Wanda Fortin to serve as Council Secretary for 2021.

M(Becky Pryor, 2nd by Mel Wetzel) SS: CC: 21.1.6 Nomination made and motion approved unanimously

to elect Jackie Kinney to serve as Church Treasurer for 2021.

Next meeting to be held on February 8, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship

ary
Hall.

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

Ongoing Events at Redeemer Lutheran:

Community Supper on Thursday, February 11, 2021 from 5:00 PM until the meals are gone. Curbside pick-up only. Last month over 100 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 to 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. Due to COVID, monetary gifts are preferred. Please send to United Churches
202 East Third St
Williamsport, PA 17701
- **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).
- **Blessing Hedges at Redeemer Lutheran:** They need hats, gloves and socks (new or gently used) that are placed in plastic bags and tied to their hedges for folks walking by.

Patricia Alexander	Ashton Ott
Lenny Sherlinski	Esteban Mazer
Elsie Sechler	Cheryl Williams
Bernadette Jones	Kay Poliska
Tanya Bower	Steve Dewar

Our Church Secretary, Bernadette Jones,

continues to undergo treatment UPMC, Wmpst. She thanks you for your prayers. You may send her greetings/cards at her home address: 665 Fifth Avenue, Williamsport, PA 17701

Birthdays

	DOEBLER, Margie	02/08
	ZIMMERER, Paul	02/08
	GREEVY, Gloria	02/10
	WRIGHT, Charlene	02/10
L	EWIS, Lisa	02/13
	NEWCOMER, Emily	02/13
	OWEN, Michele	02/13
	SECHLER, Elsie	02/13
	KIMBLE, Scott	02/16
	ROBERTSON, Rick	02/17
	STUGART, Tyler	02/20
	ELKIN, Donna	02/21
	PELLESCHI, Brandon	02/21
	WARD, Evelyn	02/21
	DOANE, Kahla	02/22
	GRENINGER, Seth	02/22
	CASTER, Kenneth	02/24
	VASEY, Brian	02/26
	CLARK, Gary	02/27
	ZEIGLER Jr., Ralph	02/29

Anniversaries

BAKER, Stanley & Susan 02/04
 BARDSLEY, H. Vincent & Diane 02/18

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
Doris Brown	Gladys Knauss

Family promise

A great big thanks to those who provided suppers for the family at the Day Center.

Gary and Shelby Weber
 Cheryl Eckert and the crew from
 Ray and Cindy Huff
 Jackie Kinney
 Mel and Mindy Wentzel
 Todd Smith and Becky Pryor

Our next hosting is April 11-18 and maybe by then we will be back to a normal rotation.
 God bless all our volunteers!

Ash Wednesday, February 17

Ash Wednesday Services will be virtual and “on line” this year. **Ashes will not be available or distributed due to the pandemic.** The service will be “posted” on our web and Facebook pages by noon.

Mid-week Lenten Series: “By Faith” begins February 24

What is Faith? The text from Hebrews 11:1 defines it this way: “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” This series focuses on the book of Hebrews, especially the eleventh chapter and **will be virtual and on-line.** The first four weeks provide a journey through the faith of the Old Testament figures, especially Noah, Abraham, Moses, and the Israelites. The fifth week brings us to Jesus, “the pioneer and perfecter of our faith”, and his path to the cross. Join us! The devotionals will be posted on our web and Facebook pages by noon beginning Wednesday, February 24.

2021 Lenten Daily Readings

- Wednesday, February 17, 2021, Ash Wednesday
Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
- Thursday, February 18, 2021: Psalm 25:1-10; Daniel 9:1-14; 1 John 1:3-10
- Friday, February 19, 2021: Psalm 25:1-10; Daniel 9:15-25a; 2 Timothy 4:1-5
- Saturday, February 20, 2021: Psalm 25:1-10; Psalm 32; Matthew 9:2-13
- Sunday, February 21, 2021: First Sunday in Lent
Genesis 9:8-17; Psalm 25:1-10; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15
- Monday, February 22, 2021: Psalm 77; Job 4:1-21; Ephesians 2:1-10
- Tuesday, February 23, 2021: Psalm 77; Job 5:8-27; 1 Peter 3:8-18a
- Wednesday, February 24, 2021: Psalm 77; Proverbs 30:1-9; Matthew 4:1-11
- Thursday, February 25, 2021: Psalm 22:23-31; Genesis 15:1-6, 12-18; Romans 3:21-31
- Friday, February 26, 2021: Psalm 22:23-31; Genesis 16:1-6; Romans 4:1-12
- Saturday, February 27, 2021: Psalm 22:23-31; Genesis 16:7-15; Mark 8:27-30
- Sunday, February 28, 2021: Second Sunday in Lent
Genesis 17:1-7; Psalm 22:23-31; Romans 4:13-25; Mark 8:31-38



United Churches of Lycoming County Wednesday Luncheons for February (Virtual)

- 3 - To Be Announced
- 10- **Rev. Gwen Bernstine**, Staff, United Churches, “**Who Can You Surprise With A Valentine?**”
- 17- **Pastor Tammy Aichner**, pastor, First Church of Christ Disciples, Williamsport, “**Celebrating Ash Wednesday**”
- 24- **Rev. Bob Wallace**, author and retired pastor, “**This Story Of Jesus’ Resurrection is the fourth in a series**”

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/728915712>

This year UCLC celebrates its 75th anniversary.

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.



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

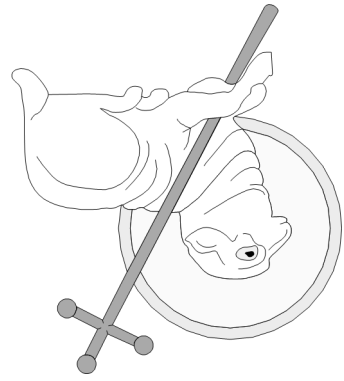
<https://www.facebook.com/St-Marks-Lutheran-Church-111684345535818/>

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.

Happy Valentines Day to all! God loves us all.

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
 jbaysoe@stmarkswilliamsport.org
Lou DeSeau, Environmental Serv.
 stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org
Linda Rosini, Council President
 lr10152@yahoo.com
 home 570-971-4585
Becky Miller Pryor, Vice-President
Wanda Fortin, Secretary
Jackie Kinney, Treasurer
Kathy Eshelman, Stephen Ministry
 jgmacoockie@comcast.net
Janet Jones, Parish Life
 dbuckman@pt.edu or dbuckman5@gmail.com
Debra Buckman
 Family Promise Coordinator
 Prayer Chain—coordinator needed
 Sally Bjornstad, Altar Flowers
 570-494-6637

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
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WILLIAMSPORT, PA 17701
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 Phone: 570-323-4619
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