



The Lion of St. Mark's

April 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!



Members and Friends of St. Mark's,

Many have said it: Pastors, bishops, doctors, politicians, journalists, members of St. Mark's, people on the street; "We're beginning to see light in the darkness! COVID is waning!"

Yes, it does appear to be true! Yes, the nightmare of COVID-19 is beginning to loosen its grip and conditions are improving! We're not there yet and we have to be vigilant. Masks, social distancing and vaccines still need to be part of our lives, but we are definitely on the right path. Thanks be to God!

The beginning of the end of COVID-19 is its own Easter story. Easter, or to be more precise, "The Resurrection of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ", is the defeat of sin and death, of darkness giving way to light. As more and more strides are made against this virus, more light can be seen. The darkness is fading.

Consider the Easter story from Mark (Mark 16:1-2):

When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint [Jesus]. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb.

Mark, in his brevity tells a grand story: The sun, which in scripture can be a metaphor for the Son, had risen flooding all the world with light. Mark is telling us that because of Easter sunlight is actually "Son-light". The Good News of Easter is that the darkness of death and uncertainty is defeated. The Light has come and has defeated the darkness.

The good news concerning COVID is encouraging. Hopefully it will continue and this virus will be crushed. I would like nothing better this year to have as our celebration of the Easter message the Easter miracle of the defeat of COVID-19! But dear friends in Christ remember this, the good news of Easter cannot be stopped! Regardless of what the future may hold, Easter will come! Death is defeated! Resurrection and the new life that Jesus brings is our reality!

Grace + Peace,

Pastor 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 Church Council, Sunday morning in-person worship services at 8 am and 10:30 am have resumed. Sunday morning Church School at 9:15 am has also resumed. Although in-person worship has resumed, we will continue to make available video worship from our website and Facebook page so that all may have the option to worship in-person or by way of video.

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES:

Sunday of the Passion (Palm Sunday), March 28, 2021

Holy Communion, 8 am and 10:30 am

Sunday Church School, 9:15 am

Mundy Thursday, April 1, 2021

Holy Communion and "Stripping of the Altar", 7 pm

(No Foot Washing this year due to CDC Guidelines)

Good Friday, April 2, 2021

*Virtual Good Friday Service of the United Churches of
Lycoming County*

**Watch our website and Facebook page for link details*

NO TENEBRAE SERVICE THIS YEAR DUE TO COVID-19

Holy Saturday, April 3, 2021

NO EASTER VIGIL THIS YEAR DUE TO COVID-19

The Resurrection of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (Easter Sunday), April 4, 2021

Holy Communion, 8 am and 10:30 am

Sunday Church

School, 9:15 am



**CHRIST THE LORD
IS RISEN TODAY!**

UNITED CHURCHES NEWS:

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New Sheperd 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 body wash
shampoo & conditioner
shaving cream and disposable razors
paper towels
Diapers sizes 4,5,6
Bath towels and wash clothes
New or gently used

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 (320 Park Ave.,
Williamsport)

A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes
others will be refreshed." Proverbs 11:25

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Many thanks to everyone who continues to
donate items for our OCC collec-
tion. Our

 shoeboxes are on their way to being
filled with gifts for boys and girls throughout
the world. Our monthly donations to date
have included: activity books, journals, washcloths,
soap, knit hats, combs/brushes and toothbrushes.
All of these

items are a wonderful start to creating a special
Christmas memory!

In April, we are collecting **Stuffed Animals**
(beanie baby size) or **Small Dolls, Hair**
Accessories, and Tape Measures. These
items may be placed in our red, OCC bin located
in the narthex. Thank you for your generosity!

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

Outreach Committee**News from Liberia**

The Reverend Ann Zimmerman, Synod Chair of the Glob-
al Mission Team recently wrote, "When the Global Mis-
sion Team asked for donations to help a congregation
rebuild from a devastating fire in Liberia, YOU respond-
ed. We are grateful for your generosity. Together we,
the Upper Susquehanna Synod, were able to send
\$5,816.84 to the Lutheran Church in Liberia for the re-
building of St. Matthew's School." Thank you to the
members of St. Mark's who contributed more than \$500
to this effort. Please continue to keep Pastor Brian Palm-
er and St. Matthew's in your prayers.

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 minis-
tries in these unprecedented times. If you are limiting
your time away from home, please consider making a
monetary donation to the Outreach Committee to pur-
chase 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."

Pastor's "Office Hours" at Church:

Monday- Thursday 9 am-Noon

Friday Pastor's Day Off

*Should you have a pastoral need and/or wish to schedule an ap-
pointment, 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.

COUNCIL BRIEFS

Council met on 3/8/2021

Discussions on Holy Week:

M(Mel Wentzel – 2nd by Ray Huff) SC: CC: 21.3.1 Motion approved to hold the following in-person services during Holy Week: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday Services. (There will be a virtual service available on Good Friday through the United Churches of Lycoming County Facebook page)

M(Herb Poff – 2nd Vicki Haussmann) SC: CC: 21.3.2 Motion approved to purchase pre-made palm crosses for the Palm Sunday services. Crosses to be included in the communion bags.

M(Mel Wentzel – 2nd Becky Pryor) SC: CC: 21.3.3 Motion approved for Worship & Music to provide Easter Lillies for the altar on Easter Sunday.

Nave Sound System update: One estimate has been received to replace the sound system. This item is tabled at this time until two additional estimates are obtained.

Committee Reports:

Safety Committee: Carl Albright will schedule a safety meeting to discuss cleaning between the services on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday.

Property Committee: No updates.

Faith & Fellowship: Update on Sunday school provided by Vicki Haussmann.

Outreach Committee: Update provided by Becky Pryor. Cards will be available in the Narthex on Palm Sunday for the congregation to take and send to those on our special concerns list.

Personnel Committee: Update provided by Becky Pryor.

M(Personnel Committee- 2nd Mel Wentzel) SC: CC: 21.3.4 Motion approved to continue reduced hours for St. Mark's hourly employees thru the 2nd quarter (6/30/21) with additional hours as needed and approved by Pastor.

Worship & Music: Update provided by Ray Huff.

Shaible query regarding a special gift to the church: Discussions regarding a new dossal for the altar as a possibility and also discussed sharing the cost with the Hopley family in memory of their mother, Alona. Carl Albright suggested a committee be established to plan events to rejuvenate church attendance once it is safe to do so.



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, April 8, 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: Is now open! Donations of seasonal clothing may be dropped off Thursday, April 8, 2021 from 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm. Distribution will be Saturday, April 24, 2021 beginning at 9:00 pm. CDC guidelines, masks and social distancing will be required.

If you have a large quantity of clothing, please call Barb Horn at 570-974-3744 or Vicar Carol Johnson at 570-772-6674 to arrange a time to take your clothing directly to Redeemer Lutheran.

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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 Narthex in the tub during regular office hours or on Sunday.

- **United Churches Food Pantry:** The Pantry is once again accepting non-perishable food items. Items in need are canned fruits and veggies, microwave foods, pasta and sauce, ramen noodles, peanut butter and jelly and ketchup, mustard and mayonnaise.
- **Shepherd of the Streets:** Hygiene Items, 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:** 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 continue to accept donations for the annual Fall Bazaar. Please pack donations in small boxes for ease of moving. Place them in the Bazaar Room during Church Office Hours (away from the door).



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

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Birthdays

HUFF, Jon	04/02
JONES, Bernadette	04/02
ROSINI, Linda	04/06
BUTTERS, Carol	04/07
WENTZEL, Sadie	04/10
WENTZEL, Taylor	04/10
CLOUSER, Robert	04/11
OCHS, Michael	04/13
BUCKMAN, Ezra	04/14
DOANE, Veronica	04/14
HINDS, Johnny	04/14
BIEBER Jr., Steven	04/15
LARSON, Jami	04/15
HUGHES, David	04/17
BEST, Beverly	04/18
ZEIGLER, Diana	04/18
HARTZEL, Cynthia	04/19
BYERLY, Jeffrey	04/20
PELLESCHI, Karen	04/20
KNEEDLER, Catherine	04/21
FISH, Marc	04/23
HAUSSMANN, Benjamin	04/23
MERRIFIELD, Karen	04/26
WELKER, Lisa	04/27
COMERFORD, Audrey	04/28
DITCHFIELD, Ruth	04/29

Anniversaries

FORTIN, Matthew & Wanda	04/03
GOERTZ, Gary & Dee	04/03
JONES, Robert & Bernadette	04/08
KOLB, Louis & Kathy	04/08
ALBRIGHT, Carl & Audrey	04/23
LUKENS, Randy & Jeannette	04/23

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

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|--------------------|------------------|
| Liz Ruesskamp | Grace Arner |
| Ruth Pile | Gary Clark |
| Doris Brown | Gladys Knauss |
| Patricia Alexander | Ashton Ott |
| Lenny Sherlinski | Elsie Sechler |
| Cheryl Williams | Bernadette Jones |
| Kay Poliska | Tanya Bower |

Steve Dewar

Easter cards are available in the Narthex

Family promise

Our next hosting is April 11-18. FP would like to resume overnight hosting. There will be 3 families at the time of our hosting. Dinner for each family is to be packaged separately for COVID reasons. More information will be coming very soon.

God bless all our volunteers!

Thank You to:

Jackie Baysore! Jackie has agreed to care for specific secretarial office duties during our church secretary's absence.

Deb Buckman! Deb has agreed to care for formatting the "Lion" during our church secretary's absence.

REMEMBER...

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



2021 Holy Week



- Thursday, April 1, 2021: Maundy Thursday
Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14; Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26;
John 13:1-17, 31b-35
- Friday, April 2, 2021: Good Friday
Isaiah 52:13-53: 12; Psalm 22; Hebrews 10:16-25; John 18:1-19, 42
- Saturday, April 3, 2021: Holy Saturday
Daniel 6:1-24; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 3:17-22; Matthew 27:57-66
- Sunday, April 4, 2021: Easter Day
Psalm 150, Exodus 12:1-17, John 1:1-18

Remember, Easter is a season and a way of life! Continue to celebrate our Lord's Resurrection at St. Mark's every Sunday with Communion at 8 am or 10:30 am. Happy Easter!

United Churches of Lycoming County Ecumenical Wednesday Luncheons for April (Virtual)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88609741957>

You are also able to connect by phone. Call 1-301-715-8592 (toll charges apply), when prompted enter the meeting number 886 -974 1957. The passcode is 56076370. For other arrangements call United Churches at 570-322-1110.

APRIL:

7- **Ms. Melodie Russell**, President of the

Lycoming Tri-County NAACP, *"Our Future"*

14- **Ms. Corinne Stammel-Demmien**, Program

Director, Greater Lycoming Habitat for Humanity, *"The Diamond Street Build"*

21- **Mr. Gary Parks**, Executive Director, The Taber

Museum, *"Our History"*

28- **Rev. Gwen Bernstine**, Retired Executive Director,

UCLC, *"Remembering Our Beginnings"*

This year UCLC celebrates its 75th anniversary.

Landscaping

The property committee is looking for help with some landscaping around the church. Unfortunately the apple tree on the North side of the building is in poor shape and needs to be replaced. Additionally some work needs to be done in the courtyard including the possibility of adding a tree.

Can you help—either with a memorial donation or with some hard work? If so, please contact Carl Albright.



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

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

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



STAFF OFFICE HOURS

Pastor: The Rev. Brian Vasey
 Mon, Tue, Wed, 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
 Tues. and Thurs. 8am—12:00pm

Secretary: Bernadette Jones