



THE LION OF ST. MARK'S

MAY, 2021



And (God) has put all things under (Jesus') feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all (Ephesians 1:23).



Members and Friends of St. Mark's,

Thursday, May 13, 2021 is "Ascension Day", 40 days since Easter Sunday. Usually the church does not make that big a deal of the ascension. Most of the time, if it is celebrated at all, it is done so on the Sunday that follows the event (the Seventh Sunday of Easter is often referred to as Ascension Sunday). Hollywood, my guess would be in an attempt to tell the Christ story in a succinct and meaningful way, often depicts the ascension taking place the same Sunday of the resurrection, but this is not the biblical timetable.

The Ascension of Our Lord (Jesus rejoining the Trinity to reign in eternal majesty in heaven) is essential to our faith. Without the ascension the risen Christ becomes more like a ghost, appearing and disappearing without much purpose. The ascension provides closure to the story of the earthly life, ministry and mission of Jesus and assures the church that Jesus, though ascended, has not gone away. The ascension reassures the church that Jesus reigns as Lord and King for all the universe and throughout all time. At the time of the first century when a great teacher sat down it signaled he or she had finished teaching. In celebrating the ascension we proclaim as stated in the Nicene and Apostles' Creeds that Jesus' work is now complete, he is, "...seated at the right hand of the Father." He has fulfilled all things necessary for our salvation.

The ascension affirms that "Our God Reigns"! Nothing changes this truth, nothing can change this truth. Jesus is not just alive, he reigns on high and we are to do his bidding; we are servants of the "Ascended One". The ministry and mission of St. Mark's, the ELCA, and all people of God known as Church is the work of the Ascended Christ, the Eternal King. When we love others as he loves us, we proclaim "Our God reigns!" When we pray for our own circumstances and those of others, we proclaim "Our God reigns!" When we worship, receive Holy Communion, or witness a baptism, we proclaim "Our God reigns!"

Our God is real! Our God is alive! The way and work of Jesus is the way and work of God. The way and work of Jesus is our way and work. When we live it we continue to be people of God.

Jesus has ascended on high! He is no longer on earth,

but he has not gone away! He reigns in eternity and in our hearts! The risen Christ is with us! Alleluia!

Grace + Peace,
Pastor Brian Vasey

Was Jesus Asian?

Not that far fetched a possibility:

Israel is in "The East" just off the continent of Asia

Technically, Hebrew is considered a "Language of the Orient"

When it comes to questions regarding race, one could draw the conclusion that Jesus, as well as all Semitic People, might be considered "Asian".

May is Asian American Pacific Island Heritage Month. As Asian people combat the prejudice of ignorance and are falsely accused as those responsible for bringing the "Chinese Flu" (COVID-19) among us, the possibility of Jesus' Asian ancestry raises some interesting questions and actions. Jesus, the One who identifies with all persons reminds us, that "our race" is one of love for one another.

LOOKING AHEAD:

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.

CELEBRATE THE 50TH DAY OF EASTER ON MAY 23, 2021!

The Day of Pentecost (the 50th Day of Easter) celebrates the outpouring of God's Spirit upon all the earth. Pentecost is a day of great celebration. In "The spirit of the Spirit's presence" please **wear red to worship on this Sunday!** Red is the color associated with the Holy Spirit. It symbolizes fire, breath of the Spirit and great zeal for the Lord. Let's celebrate together this glorious day in the life of the church!

**Don't forget,
WEAR RED TO WORSHIP ON MAY 23!**

Pastor's Office Hours at St. Mark's

Monday- 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.

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In recognition of Memorial Day, the church office will be closed on Monday, May 31, 2021.

A Prayer for Memorial Day:

O God of life, you are older than time. You have seen generations who have died through sacrifice, war, courage and folly. You have comforted generations who mourned and grieved and sang solemn songs and laid flowers on graves. Gather us in your embrace. And cradle us with compassion. As we remember those who have died in past wars and conflicts, help us to remember that you were there when mountains were formed. You were there to sooth our grief and breathe hope into the hopeless. You are with us still. We give you thanks in Jesus and pray that our lives may be reflections of his love. In his holy name we pray. Amen.

Grand Canyon Synod, ELCA.

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PLEASE REMEMBER...

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

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Council met on April 19, 2021

*One amendment to the March minutes was to amend the Nave Sound System update to read "One estimate has been received to replace the **units**, not replace the sound system."*

Committee Reports:

Safety Committee: No update.

Property Committee: Update provided by Ed Gair.

M(Herb Poff – 2nd Ed Gair) SC: CC: 21.4.1 Motion approved to accept proposal from Lundy Construction for \$8,405.00 plus \$300.00 for permits to complete two of the concrete projects that were previously budgeted for in the 2021 budget.

Faith & Fellowship: Update provided by Vicki Haussmann. Next meeting April 22, 2021.

Outreach Committee: Update provided by Becky Pryor.

Donations continue to be collected for the Blessing Boxes, Shepherd of the Streets and United

Churches Food Pantry.

Red Cross Blood Drive to be held in Fellowship Hall on July 16, 2021 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Personnel Committee: Update provided by Becky Pryor.

Worship & Music: Update provided by Ray Huff.

M(Worship & Music – 2nd by Mel Wetzel) SC:

CC: 21.4.2 Motion approved to offer the congregation the opportunity to purchase Geraniums for Pentecost Sunday on May 23, 2021 in honor of or memory of a loved one. Envelopes will be available in the bulletins or may be ordered by calling the church office.

Council discussed a single service for the summer beginning the first week of June. The final decision to be made at the May council meeting.

New Business:

Plankenhorn land sale: Per update from Gary Weber the closing on the land has not occurred yet.

Dossal discussion: Information still being gathered.

Discussions regarding Lycoming County Hometown Heroes request to use Fellowship Hall on October 30, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. for their presentation. Additional information is being gathered at this time.

Next meeting: May 17, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m.

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Working from home, Bernadette is again creating and editing the newsletter. Please keep her in your prayers 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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SPAM AT CHURCH—

the annoying kind, not the canned kind

Emails are still being sent out to parishoners in Pr. Vasey's address book, asking for favors or just to call him. Before responding to theses missives, make sure the return address is either bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org or cryptol@comcast.net. If it is not from either of those addresses, block the sender and delete the email. If you want to verify the source, call Pr. Vasey at (570-323-4619) or email him at one of the above addresses .

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Dear members of St. Mark's,

I would like to thank all the members of our church family for their kind words, cards, calls, and support (emotional and monetary). Your generosity in all ways has overwhelmed me over the past months

With one more major surgery to go (I'll keep Pastor and Becky apprised of the date), I hope to see an end to the extreme treatments and settle into an easier maintenance schedule. I can't wait to see you all at church.

With Love and Thanks, Bernadette

A great big THANK YOU to everyone who continues to donate items for our Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes! Never doubt that God is using these seemingly small items for good. "My favorite thing I received in my box was a toothbrush of my very own. I got a lot of use out of it. It was a prized possession. To this day when I pack shoebox gifts, I don't just include one toothbrush—I pack at least four of them in each box! That way, the children can use them for a long time, or have enough of them to give to their friends or family members."



In May we will be collecting **Jump Ropes, Sidewalk Chalk, Hair Accessories, Bungee Cords, and Bar Soap.**

Monetary donations are also welcome as we are looking into including "Grow With Me" shoes in this year's boxes. While these are a bit pricey, they adjust over time and can "grow" 5 sizes as the child's foot grows. A huge blessing indeed! Checks may be made to St. Mark's with OCC in the memo line.

These items may be placed in our red, OCC bin located in the narthex. Thank you!
*The age ranges for the boxes we fill are 2-4, 5-9, and 10-14 (both boys and girls)



Remember to send in any corrections for the Church Directory so that they can be printed here!

We don't know of any changes unless you tell us!

SHARING IN THE CARING

Although we have returned to in-person worship and some aspects of our everyday lives have improved, we are still being called to serve those in need. Please consider making a donation to one or all of the following ministries in these unprecedented times. Tubs and a table are available for your donations in the Narthex.

ONGOING COLLECTIONS AT ST. MARK'S:

United Churches Food Pantry: The Pantry is once again accepting non-perishable food items. Items most in need are canned fruits, tomato sauce, Ramen noodles, cereal, Hamburger Helper, elbow macaroni and healthy snacks.

Shepherd of the Streets: Hygiene items in regular sizes for children women and men are always needed. Specific needs are dish soap, hand soap, sunscreen for children and adults and laundry pods in smaller household packages.

Blessing Boxes at New Covenant UCC: Individual healthy snacks and crackers, Cup of Soups, Microwave

mac and cheese or other pasta foods, ramen noodles and socks (new or gently used) are needed. FYI: Travel size shampoo, conditioner, soap and toothpaste are also needed for the Blessing Box. Many homeless people prefer this smaller size due to the inability to store larger sizes.

Sojourner Truth Ministries: This ministry provides take-out meals to between 70 – 100 people per day. Presently they are in need of Dawn dish detergent, take-out meal containers and spices such as pepper, cinnamon, onion powder, chili powder, garlic powder and oregano.

Soda Tabs: Collected to support the Ronald McDonald House in Danville. Containers are in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall.

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 away from the door. If you cannot get to the Bazaar Room, items may be left on the lower landing of the back stairwell as you enter from the parking lot.

RENEWED ACTIVITIES AT REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

Free Community Dinner: Thursday, May 13, 2021 starting at 5:00 PM until all meals are distributed. This is a take-out meal picked up at the curb. In the past few months Redeemer Lutheran has been distributing 120 meals at this dinner. All are welcome.

Daniel's Closet: Is now open! Donations of spring and summer clothing may be dropped off Thursday, May 13, 2021 from 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM. Children's clothing and shoes for children to adults are especially needed. **Distribution will be Saturday, May 22, 2021 beginning at 8:30 AM.** 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 to arrange a time to take your clothing directly to Redeemer Lutheran.



FAMILY PROMISE

Thanks to all the chefs who provided meals.

You are God's great helpers.



SPECIAL CONCERNS LIST

Patricia Alexander
Rose View Center
1201 Rural Ave., 223B
Williamsport, PA 17701

Grace Arner

Tanya Bower

Gary Clark

Steve Dewar

Bernadette Jones
665 Fifth Avenue
Williamsport, PA 17701

Ashton Ott

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

Lenny Sherlinski

Marion Waldeisen
Williamsport Home

1900 Ravine Rd. Bldg C Apt. 1213
Williamsport, PA 17701

Cheryl Williams



Birthdays:

Melvin Wentzel	5/1
Jarod Barone	5/2
Robert Clokey	5/2
Jacob Schreckengast	5/2
Grace Schreckengast	5/5
Rosemary Clokey	5/6
Vincent Bardsley	5/12
Thomas Waffenschmidt	5/12
Catherine Lundy	5/13
Karen Mariano	5/14
Jane Larson	5/15
Stephen Boone	5/16
Candace Dewar	5/19
Kenneth Schreckengast	5/19
Amy Stugart	5/19
Jaden Roberts	5/22



Owen Lukens	5/23
Ryan Jensen	5/24
Dawson Owen	5/24
Dustin Pelleschi	5/24
Norma Prato	5/26
Jean Soars	5/26
Audrey Albright	5/27
Walter Haussman	5/27
Joyce Hershberger	5/27
Owen Gair	5/30
Steven Bieber, III	5/31

Anniversaries

Galen and Pamela Davenport	5/15
Patrick and Carol Harvey	5/17
Brian and Joanne Vasey	5/24
Michael and Pamela Jensen	5/30

ECUMENICAL LUNCH IS THE PLACE TO CONNECT WEDNESDAYS

The Time Is Now to be part of our virtual lunches on Wednesdays for great programs this spring! You can bring your lunch to your computer, tablet or phone and enjoy conversation with each other and the speaker. Zoom is free. This link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88609741957> will either help you download the app or prompt it to open. You are also able to connect by phone. Call 1-301-715-8592 (toll charges apply), when prompted enter the meeting number 886 0974 1957. The passcode is 56076370. For other arrangements call United Churches at 570-322-1110.

MAY:

5- **Mr. Timothy Morey**, Natural Resource Program Specialist, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, *"The Night Sky - a threatened resource"*

12- **Ms. Carole Fulmer**, Facilitator, Alzheimers Support Group, *"The Church's Response to Caregivers"*

19- **Mr. Kevin Mertz**, Founder, Father's Hope, *Providing Hope for Children Around the World and Close to Home"*

26- **Ms. Joan Hatcher**, Member, Christ Episcopal Church, *"A Spiritual Retreat"*

Volunteers are needed—

—for a four-hour shift in the Williamsport Hospital Gift Shop!!! The Gift Shop will be a part of The City Hospitals Auxiliary and will become an all volunteer entity.

You will be helping the Auxiliary purchase equipment or donate toward special projects at UPMC Susquehanna.

The Gift Shop is open Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 4:30pm. Shifts are 8:30am to 12:30pm, and 2:30pm to 4:30pm. Call Ruth Keller at 570-484-7854 to spend some enjoyable time as a volunteer in the Gift Shop.

The 22nd Annual Victorian Christmas

will be held November 20th and 21st, 2021.

Join us for tours of homes, churches and museums. There will be plenty of good food and entertainment. This year, 50% of the proceeds will go to our United Churches Food Pantry. This will come at a time when many families will be struggling with increased heating bills and the added stress of the holidays. Come out and see the rich, beautiful history of our community, all while supporting the ones who live in it. Look for more information in the coming month.

DIAL-A-DEVOTION

Have you called yet today?

The number is 570-322-5762.

It's available 24/7.

Devotions are three minutes or less, change daily, and are designed to lift your spirits and help you to have "A Closer Walk with God". The devotionalists this spring are:

- **April 12-18:** Overseer Bernice Coaxum
- **April 19-25:** Rev. Ken Wagner-Pizza
- **April 26-May 2:** Ms. Rebecca Logan
- **May 3-9:** Pastors Jim and Kathy Behrens
- **May 10-16:** Ms. Sandy Grier
- **May 17-23:** Pastor Tammey Aichner
- **May 24-30:** Ms. Pat Jenkins

Food Pantry

Mona Rundio, Coordinator, 570-322-1657

foodpantry@uclc.org

During suffering or challenges, it is hard to stay encouraged, especially in today's world. With vaccines produced and out for us to receive, we still are cautious on what we do and where we go. This, however, shouldn't stop our souls from soaring high! God has taken away all of life's distractions to have us lean more on HIM and each other. He has RISEN indeed and will help us through this journey. During this difficult time period we can bring glory to HIM and His works by strengthening our courage and faith amongst self, but also amongst the community!

"We are all encouraged" during difficult times or sufferings (Acts 27:33-36). This is NOT an act of pride, but acting in humility to help all those amongst us that need it. Christ-like actions are a sign of being HUMBLE and understanding of others circumstances, whether they be happy or sad times in one's life!!

The Food Pantry is an essential service that provides to those in need during hard times. So please find the opportunity/means to help us keep stocked up on food. We are in need of ALL types of food that the food insecure can use, with or without cooking equipment. This can be done either by buying food when out for ourself or by financial donations. If you choose to make a financial donation, make sure you notate Food Pantry on the memo line. IN NEED OF:

Tomato sauce Canned Fruit Ramen Noodles
Cereal Hamburger Helper Elbow Noodles
Healthy Snacks

Hours of Operation (Covid):

Monday 9-11 for donations/stocking/deliveries

Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:15 – 12 pm



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

THANK YOU TO THE CONGREGATION

The Outreach Committee thanks members of the congregation for sending Easter greetings to our Special Concern folks and others we do not see as often as we wish. Particularly during these times of social distancing the greetings are a respite from the isolation so many folks experience. As our community slowly returns to more normal activities, please consider sending additional greetings to folks.

We also thank the congregation for monetary donations for the purchase of take-out meal containers. Recently Redeemer Lutheran received 250 containers purchased with donated funds for their use during their monthly community dinner.

STAFF OFFICE HOURS
Pastor: The Rev. Brian Vasey
 Mon.—Thurs. 9am—Noon & by appointment
Church Organist: Sam Robinson
 Summer: Mon 1pm-3pm & by appointment
Sexton: Lou DeSeau
 Sun, Mon, Wed, Thu 8:30am—1pm
Bookeeper: 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