



THE LION OF ST. MARK'S

JULY, 2021



Members and Friends of St. Mark's,

July 4 is considered the "birthday" of the USA. With that in mind I share the following litany as my pastor's thought for our July Lion.

~ Pastor Brian Vasey

As we remember the birth of our nation, and the gifts of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, let us offer our thanks and prayers to God, the giver of all things good.

For the tribes and nations who inhabited this land for generation upon generation,

We thank you Lord.

For the women and men who braved the long journey by sea to come to this new world,

We thank you Lord.

For patriots who dreamed of, and fought for, a free nation,

We thank you Lord.

For the men and women who laid the foundation of our democracy, and who pledged liberty and justice for all,

For those who built this country brick by brick, road by road, and town by town,

For the brave soldiers who have fought for our country, for all who paid for our freedom by their service, and those who paid by their sacrifice.

We thank you Lord.

For innovators and artists, poets and teachers, farmers and factory workers; for all who labor and provide for the common good,

We thank you Lord.

For this land, with its peaks and valleys, coasts and deserts, fields and meadows,

We thank you Lord.

For our own community, for those who came before us in this place, and for our neighbors near and far,

We thank you Lord.

For these United States, that we might always be a nation which defends and promotes liberty and freedom, truth and justice,

We pray to you Lord.

Grant that we may always be a nation where all are free to pray and worship,

We pray to you Lord.

That we may always be a beacon of freedom to all who



live under the shadow of terror and hopelessness,
We pray to you Lord.

That those who are elected to govern and lead, will seek your guidance, and ever be aware of the trust that has been given them,

We pray to you Lord.

That we would be a people who repent from our sins, and who always return to your grace and mercy,

We pray to you Lord.

Gracious Lord, Father of all nations, bless, guide and defend us; prosper the work of our hands; increase in us your grace and compassion; and cause us to ever proclaim you as our generous God of love; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

~ Inspired by The Rev. Rick Morley.

HAPPENING THIS MONTH:

Please Note: Although the Center for Disease Control has provided new guidelines stating that some restrictions have now been lifted, Bishop Collins asks us to please continue to "wear masks when we gather." Our Congregational Council agrees with our bishop and so as a congregation we will continue to, "stay the course by continuing to follow the precautions that we have put in place." These include mask-wearing, social distancing, singing and speaking in very low tones, hand washing and using hand sanitizer often, and the use of "celebration cups" for holy communion. A full copy of Bishop Collins recommendations is included in this month's Lion and is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. Thank you!

COVID CONTACT: Please note that your attendance at our worship services will be recorded. This serves as a precaution in case contact tracing due to the pandemic is warranted. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Read any good books lately? Faith and Fellowship has temporarily "moved some books" from our church library to the Front Lounge in order to make them more accessible. Stop by the Front Lounge and take a look!

One Worship Time for Summer! Beginning June 6, St. Mark's will offer one Sunday morning worship service at 9:30 am. Our two worship times (8 am and 10:30 am) and Sunday Church School will return in the fall. 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.

Pastor Vasey's at church "Office Hours":

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.

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.

Patricia Alexander has changed her contact information:

Pat Alexander
1201 Rural Avenue; **Room 322 B**
Williamsport, PA 17701
570-917-8212

REMEMBER...

The Lion may look a little different this month as we are without the services of a Church Secretary. We ask for your patience and understanding during this time. Thank You!

Council met on June 14, 2021.**Communications:****M(Ray Huff – 2nd by Mel Wentzel) SC: CC: 21.6.1**

Motion approved for the request from Lycoming County Hometown Heroes to use Fellowship Hall on October 30, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. for their presentation. Approval is subject to completion of the Facility Use Form and honorarium to Lou DeSeau.

M(Pam Jensen – 2nd by Vicki Haussmann) SC:

CC: 21.6.2 Motion approved for Civic Chorus to resume their usage of Fellowship Hall for regular rehearsals and board meetings.

- Civic Chorus requested use of St. Mark's Nave and Fellowship Hall for their concert to be held on December 11, 2021. More information requested.
- A card was received from Little Lamb's Preschool & Daycare thanking St Mark's for our generosity in waiving some rent during the covid pandemic. A check in the amount of \$1,560 was presented to St Mark's from Little Lamb's as reimbursement for one month of rent and parking.

Committee Reports:**Safety Committee:****M(Safety Committee – 2nd by Ray Huff) SC: CC:**

21.6.3 Motion approved effective immediately that masks are no longer required at St. Mark's for individuals who are fully vaccinated. Those who are not vaccinated are to continue to wear a mask.

- Captains of usher teams are asked to please arrive

30 minutes prior to the service to open the church for early arrivals.

- All exterior doors to be adjusted so they lock properly. Lou DeSeau to contact the door man to inspect the doors.

Property Committee: Update provided by Ed Gair.

- M(Property Committee – 2nd by Vicki Haussmann) SC: CC: 21.6.4** Motion approved for Glen Yapple to plant some of his personal plants in the courtyard.
- Nave Sound System update: Additional proposals will be obtained from several vendors.
 - Expansion of the Columbarium was discussed. There currently are two units available in the existing Columbarium. An article will be included in the July and August Lion to gauge interest from St Mark's members to determine if additional niches should be added to the Columbarium.

Faith & Fellowship: Update provided by Vicki Haussmann.

- The Progressions Milestone was celebrated for Sean Jensen on June 6th.
- Rally Day/Ministry Fair will be held on September 12, 2021.
- Vacation Bible School will be offered virtually through United Churches of Lycoming County June 28 - July 1. This year's theme is Bedtime Stories and is available for children ages 3-8.
- On August 29, 2021 will be the blessing of the backpack/briefcase.

Outreach Committee: Update provided by Becky Pryor.

- The July 4th activities will be suspended until July 2022.
- Blood drive to be held in Fellowship Hall on July 16, 2021.
- A Little Lambs Liaison meeting is scheduled for June 30, 2021 at 1:15 p.m.
- St. Mark's will be providing dessert for Redeemer's July 8th community dinner.
- Outreach will provide lunch for Habitat for Humanity volunteers.
- Card Ministry – Requesting more volunteers to send cards to special concerns list and for other occasions.
- The Fall Bizarre is to be discussed at a later date. If held it will occur on September 17th & 18th.

Personnel Committee: Update provided by Becky Pryor.

- M(Personnel Committee – 2nd by Ray Huff) SC: CC: 21.6.5** Motion approved to accept the resignation of Bernadette Jones, Church Secretary effective June 30, 2021.
- Committee will begin the process of hiring a Church Secretary to work Monday – Thursday, 12 -16 hours per week.

- M(Personnel Committee – 2nd by Mel Wentzel) SC: CC: 21.6.6** Motion approved to continue the reduced work hours for St Mark's hourly staff through the 3rd quarter of 2021.

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(Council Notes continued)

Worship & Music: Update provided by Ray Huff.

The committee will be looking to add more music to the summer schedule, both vocalist and musicians.

Next meeting: July 19, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m.

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SHARING IN THE CARING

Ongoing Collections at St. Mark's:

United Churches Food Pantry: The Pantry We have returned to in-person worship and aspects of our everyday lives have improved. But 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 not-yet-normal times. The Outreach Committee continues to accept monetary donations for the purchase of take-out containers for Redeemer Lutheran and Sojourner Truth Ministries. It will still be a few months until regular indoor dining returns. Checks may be made payable to St. Mark's with the memo line stating "Take-Out." Tubs and a table in the Narthex are available for your non-perishable donations.

Ongoing Collections at St. Mark's:

The Outreach Committee thanks the members of St. Mark's for the many food items, hygiene products, snacks and monetary funds (take-out containers) that were donated from May through June 2021. All of the ministries receiving these items were so thankful for St. Mark's support of their efforts on behalf of those less fortunate than us. May you be blessed as you have blessed others.

United Churches Food Pantry: The Pantry continues to accept non-perishable food items. Items most in need are cups of fruit and applesauce, soups, condiments, cake mixes, frosting, pasta, pasta sauce and healthy snacks.

Shepherd of the Streets: Hygiene items in regular sizes for children, women and men are always needed. Specific needs this month are shampoo and conditioner, shaving cream and feminine hygiene products.

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. This month they are in need of aluminum foil, bottles of salad dressing (Italian, Ranch, French and Thousand Island,) cooking oil and paper towels.

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. A decision as to if this event will occur has not been made. But we have our fingers crossed that it can happen. 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.

Ongoing Activities at Redeemer Lutheran:

Free Community Dinner: Thursday, July 8, 2021 starting at 5:00 PM until all meals are distributed. This is a take-out meal picked up at the curb. For several months Redeemer Lutheran has been distributing 120 meals at this dinner. All are welcome.

Daniel's Closet: Donations of summer clothing and shoes may be dropped off Thursday, July 8, 2021 from 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM. Children's clothing and shoes for children to adults are especially needed. **Distribution will be Saturday, July 23, 2021 beginning at 8:30 AM.** CDC guidelines, masks and social distancing will be continued. 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.

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Card Ministry Needs More Volunteers!

The Outreach Committee is seeking church members who could assist with sending cards to our Special Concern folks. The committee will supply all cards and postage along with the names and addresses of those receiving cards. We are hoping that with enough volunteers (to date two have volunteered,) it would be possible for a volunteer to send cards only one month per year. If interested please contact Becky Miller Pryor at 570-971-4585 for more information.

Lending a Hand

The Outreach Committee is ready to "lend a hand" with Redeemer Lutheran's community dinner. On August 12, 2021 we will be providing dessert for 125 people as part of their meal. If that goes well we will do the same for their October meal. We will find out closer to the August date if the desserts need to be commercially prepared and prepackaged or if an assortment of cakes may be used. Either way we will need monetary funds for food items and for containers to package the desserts.

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Nibbles from the Church Mouse



Very slowly things are coming back to a kind of normal – we are back in the nave, activities are beginning, although slowly. We are so pleased to see folks in the pews again and look forward to even more chances to worship and socialize together.

In the meantime, many things are gone on in much the usual way and some of these activities have involved some of our younger members and family.

Cooper Larson, grandson of Jane and Ted Larson, is making a real name for himself on the baseball field as a member of the Loyalsock High School baseball team. In a game over the Memorial Day weekend the boys were thrilled to win the District 4 class AAA final with Cooper as star catcher. They were presented gold medals. Jane and Ted cared for the boys in their early toddler years and beyond and part of their entertainment was to play baseball in the garage. Jane even constructed bases from burlap bags from the original Griggs store! No doubt that was the start of Cooper's illustrious career.

Another young man of whom the mouse and her husband are very proud is Sean Jensen. He was a started on the Loyalsock Township High School boy's basketball team that won the PIAA Division AAA state championship in Hershey for the first time in Coach Insinger's 47 year history.

The excitement continued for Sean at the Senior Awards Night, where he received several prestigious awards. These included the Scott Insinger award, founded to honor a boy who had lettered in varsity basketball and who exhibits strong leadership qualities, true sportsmanship and an unselfish spirit. He also received the Dana K. Williams Memorial Award founded to honor a boy who participated in basketball or soccer and who has been a positive influence on the school. Coach Insinger presented the awards and his comments why Sean was chosen, in part because of his kindness and his upbeat personality, meant more to his mother than the awards. Sean is also a member of the National Honor Society. Best of luck to Sean as he continues his education at the University of Pittsburg. We know you will accomplish great things.

That is all for now – please remember to send me your exciting and maybe not so exciting news!

~ Joyce S. Hershberger

(SHARING ...CARING continued from pg. 3)

We also will be speaking with Habitat for Humanity concerning their current build on Scott Street in Williamsport. They have work crews on Wednesday and Saturday and have requested lunches for the volunteers.

We are seeking additional information, but if we can provide a lunch we will. Again monetary donations will provide food items. If you wish to support this outreach, checks may be made payable to St. Mark's with the memo line reading MEALS. We will keep you updated on the status of these projects. Thank you for any assistance you can give.

Operation Christmas Child

It's "Christmas in July" for our Operation Christmas Child Ministry! On our Christmas Wish List this year is ... monetary donations (we are more like teenagers than toddlers I guess!). Monetary donations will be put toward one of two things. Shipping costs to defray the expense of shipping our 45 shoeboxes or Grow With Me Shoes. Grow With Me Shoes expand up to 5 sizes and "grow" with the child who receives them. Shoes are often the last item needed for a child's school uniform. By including these in our shoeboxes, we can help send children to school. There is an example of the Grow With Me shoes in the Narthex so please feel free to take a look. Monetary donations may be placed in the offering plate earmarked for Operation Christmas Child.



School supplies will also be making their entrance onto the scene within the next couple of weeks so crayons, pencils, pencil sharpeners, erasers, and pens are also wonderful donations.

These items (or any others you find) may be placed in our red, OCC bin located in the Narthex. We thank you for your continued generosity! "Merry Christmas in July!"



The first week in July is our host week. Again we will be supplying the dinners to the day center. There has been a request to start having overnight hosts. Please think about this for the future hostings. Currently there is just one family - 2 adults and 2 small children. Thanks for all you have done to help me however it is time that someone else steps up to be the coordinator - please talk to me if you are interested. Deb Buckman, 570-323-1707 dabuckman65@gmail.com

A Note of Gratitude

The Chairman of the Safety Team, Carl Albright, would like to thank the Safety Team members for their time, talent, and dedication to the safety of the St. Mark's Congregation. The members are: Carl Albright, Sally Bjornstad, Herb Poff, Bud Doebler, Dave Williams, Lou DeSeau, Dr. Drew Haussmann (Medical Advisor), and Pastor Vasey.

RE: Church Columbarium

Discussions regarding the possible expansion of the St. Mark's Lutheran Church Columbarium have begun. The 60-niche Columbarium is located on the north wall of the Chapel, and all but two of the existing units have been purchased. These were installed in 2003.

The church Council is attempting to gauge interest among St. Mark's members to determine if additional niches should be added to the Columbarium. The price per niche most likely would be in the range of \$700-800 (plus or minus) based on an estimate received from the same company that provided the original units and depending on the number of niches to be added. Cost of materials alone has more than doubled during the intervening years. Price includes cost of the unit, installation charges, and any necessary future care in the eventuality that the interred cremains need to be moved to a different location.

If you are considering cremation and would be interested in seeing the current Columbarium expanded, and possibly reserving one or more niches, please contact Pastor Vasey, the church office, or any member of church Council. Doing so does not obligate you in any way, but it will be most beneficial to the planning process. If you need additional information, please feel free to ask. Thank you!

(REZ 6/21)

Lutheran World Relief

It is that time again to start thinking about the kits for Lutheran World Relief. As in the past we will be making school kits, fabric kits, baby kits, and personal care kits. I do understand that with the exception of the school kits, the kits are expensive to put together. So, beginning this month we will be collecting different items. For July we will be collecting bars of soap, bath size, Ivory or any brand; baby socks; thread - neutral colored, 250-300 yd size: hand towels, dark colors. There will be a bin in the narthex for these items. School kit bags will be available beginning the 3rd Sunday of July. If you have any questions or would like further information please contact me 570-323-1707 dabuckman65@gmail.com Deb B

Patricia Alexander Rose View Center 1201 Rural Ave., 322B Williamsport, PA 17701	Steve Dewar	1201 Rural Ave. Williamsport, PA 17701
Grace Arner	Bernadette Jones 665 Fifth Avenue Williamsport, PA 17701	Elsie Sechler AristaCare Nursing Center 1445 Sycamore Road, Rm. 312 Montoursville PA 17754
Tanya Bower	Gladys Knauss	Lenny Sherlinski
Marie Byerly Arista Care Nursing Ctr. 1445 Sycamore Rd. Montoursville, PA 17754	Ashton Ott	Marion Waldeisen Williamsport Home 1900 Ravine Rd. Bldg C Apt. 1213 Williamsport, PA 17701
Gary Clark	Kay Poliska 1100 Allen St. Montoursville, PA 17754	Cheryl Williams
	Elizabeth Ruesskamp Rose View Center, 222B	





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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



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
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