

THE LION OF ST. MARK'S

AUGUST 2021





Dear Members and Friends of St. Mark's,

On Sunday, August 15 the church remembers Mary, Mother of Our Lord. When Mary is told by the angel Gabriel that she will bear the Son of God (Lk. 1:26-38) she breaks forth in a song of praise (Luke 1:46-55); "The Magnificat". Mary's song is filled with the biblical themes of human vulnerability and need, God's recurring deliverance, and thanksgiving.

Mary is a model of discipleship for us. Often we forget her biblical witness and the truth she shares. If we remember her at all, it is usually during the seasons of Advent and/or Christmas. Mary is a "Woman for All Seasons". She illustrates for us Martin Luther's definition of faith, "Trust" and Martin Luther King's illustration of that definition, "Faith is taking that first step even when you don't see the whole staircase".

Mary participated in God's plan of salvation. She heard the possibility of Good News entering the world through her and she said, "Yes".

Mary foreshadows the way of Christ. Through the Holy Spirit the Lord comes to each of us and asks us to trust; to take Christ in; to remember our baptism and to take it seriously as that holy bath that cleanses us from sin and death and points us toward grace.

As we continue to "open up" more and emerge from the grips of COVID-19, remember Mary and her message of hope in Christ. Take the hand of God in the grasp of faith and go forth in the way of discipleship.

We honor faithful Mary,
fair maiden, full of grace.
She bore Christ, our brother,
who saved our human race.
May we, with her, surrender
ourselves to your command
and lay upon your altar
our gifts of heart and hand.

*From, For All the Faithful Women Text: Herman G. Stueempfle, Jr.
Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 2006
Augsburg Fortress Publishers*

HAPPENING THIS MONTH:

Please Note: The Center for Disease Control has provided new guidelines stating that some restrictions may now be lifted. Following these guidelines Church Council suggests that if you are fully vaccinated, and feel comfortable in doing so, you may remove your mask when you enter St. Mark's. If you are not fully vaccinated, please continue to wear your mask. Council has approved members to come forward in the Nave to receive communion beginning Sunday, August 1, 2021. At this time we will not kneel or use the communion rail. Pastor and the communion assistant will fill the plastic cups from the Chalice and hand the wafer to the member. Plastic cups to be placed in the trays as members return to their pews.

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.

August 29 is "Backpack Sunday" at St. Mark's!

On Sunday, August 29, St. Mark's will celebrate "Backpack Sunday"! All students who heading back to class are invited to bring their backpacks and bags with them to worship on August 29. These items will be blessed in worship as we wish our very best to students beginning a new academic year. There will be school items (pencils, erasers, etc) available free of charge as supplies last. All are welcome

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!

Pastor Brian Vasey

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.

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 July 19, 2021.

We are awaiting the status of the sale of the Plankenhorn land.

Coronavirus update:

M(Pam Jensen – 2nd by Carl Albright) SC: CC: 21.7.1 Motion approved for members to come forward in the Nave to receive communion beginning Sunday, August 1, 2021. At this time we will not kneel or use the communion rail. Pastor and the communion assistant will fill the plastic cups from the Chalice and hand the wafer to the member. Plastic cups to be placed in the trays as members return to their pews.

M(Wanda Fortin – 2nd by Herb Poff) SC: CC: 21.7.2 Motion approved to return hymnals to the pews and begin singing all stanzas of the hymns beginning Sunday, August 15, 2021.

The general practice of one council member and one other person placing the offering in a sealed bag and taking it to the safe immediately after the service will resume effective immediately.

Committee Reports:

Safety Committee: No updates at this time.

Property Committee: No updates at this time.

Faith & Fellowship: Vicki Haussmann provided an update on vacation bible school. Next meeting to be held in August.

Outreach Committee: Update provided by Becky Pryor.

Card Ministry – We have 3 members of St. Mark's who have volunteered to send cards to those on our special concerns list and for other occasions. There were 15 pints of blood collected at the Blood Drive held on July 16, 2021 in Fellowship Hall.

The next Blood Drive at St. Mark's is scheduled for December 10, 2021.

The committee continues other outreach to the community.

M(Pam Jensen – 2nd by Vicki Haussmann) SC: CC: 21.7.3 Motion approved to resume the St. Mark's Fall Bazaar on September 17 & 18 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., contingent upon recruitment of sufficient volunteers.

Discussions regarding resuming Lunch N Fellowship beginning on the 3rd Wednesday in October 2021 has been tabled until the August meeting.

Personnel Committee: Update provided by Becky Pryor.

M(Personnel Committee – 2nd by Wanda Fortin) SC: CC: 21.7.4 Motion approved to allow Bernadette Jones to hold 2 performances of the one-women play "The Belle of Amhearst" in Fellowship Hall in October or November of 2021. (date to be determined) The performances will be fundraisers and all donations will be donated to charity.

Personnel will be placing an ad on indeed.com for a part-time Administration Assistant for the church office for 12-16 hours per week.

M(Personnel Committee – 2nd by Herb Poff) SC: CC: 21.7.5 Motion approved to create an ad-hoc committee to review the church constitution and make changes as necessary. The committee will be chaired by Gary Weber and the committee members will be Candy Dewar, Pam Jensen and Ralph Zeigler.

Worship & Music:

The council has requested Worship & Music to create a schedule of communion assistants.

A Shower of Cards for Bernadette Jones will take place at the Sunday, August 15, 2021 service.

A request from Billtown Brass has been received for the use of the Nave November 20, 2021 for their Victorian Concert. We are awaiting the completed Facility Usage form, therefore this matter has been tabled until the August council meeting.



* * * * *

SHARING IN THE CARING

Card Ministry Update

The Outreach Committee along with three congregation members has re-established the card ministry at St. Mark's. Each member of this group sends cards to Special Concern folks and others for a month at a time. The cards and postage to mail them are provided. If you are interested in becoming a part of this group, please contact Becky Miller Pryor at 570-971-4585 to volunteer or for more information.

Lending a Hand

The Outreach Committee continues to "lend a hand" with Redeemer Lutheran's community dinner. On July 8, 2021 we provided dessert for 125 people as part of their meal. It went very well so we are planning on providing dessert for their October 14th meal. At this time desserts may be commercially prepared and prepackaged or an assortment of homemade cakes, cookies or brownies may be used. Although we are unsure at this time what direction for desserts we will take, we will need monetary funds for food items and for containers to package the desserts.

If you wish to support this outreach, checks may be made payable to St. Mark's with the memo line reading MEALS. Thank you for any assistance you can give.

Sharing in the Caring

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. Supermarkets with their BOGO sales and shopping at the Dollar Tree are budget friendly ways to participate.

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 reading TAKE-OUT. Tubs and a table in the Narthex are available for your other donations.

Ongoing Collections at St. Mark's:

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

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, dish detergent 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, lemonade mix, ice tea mix, 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 on September 17 and 18 with set-up during that week. **Please speak with or call Becky Miller Pryor if you can volunteer to set up, work the sale or clean up at the end.** We have a large quantity of items and without many folks helping I am uncertain we can make this event happen. The Women of St. Mark's give all the profits from this sale to charities locally and abroad.

Ongoing Activities at Redeemer Lutheran:

Free Community Dinner: Thursday, August 12, 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, August 12, 2021 from 3:00 PM – 4:30 PM. Children's clothing and shoes for children to adults are especially needed. **Distribution will be Saturday, August 27, 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.



Operation Christmas Child



Thank you for your generous monetary donations during our "Christmas in July" collection. Your donations will help offset the cost of shipping as we pack our 45 boxes in November.

Our shoeboxes are getting closer and closer to being filled with just three more months of collecting to go! We bet you might have a good guess as to what August collections might be. Did you say school supplies? Then you are absolutely correct!

In August we are indeed collecting **school supplies** ~ crayons, pencils, pens, erasers, colored pencils, rulers, scissors (both kid and adult sizes), etc. Keep an eye out for those great sales that are sure to be just around the corner. (And is it really time to think about back to school? Summer slow down!)

These items (or any others you find) may be placed in our red, OCC bin located in the narthex. Thank you, thank you!



Thanks to all the cooks at St. Marks for providing the dinners for the families at the day center. It was a bit of a challenge with the changing number of clients but you all were up to the task. Our next hosting is in October and will be just the providing of meals though Anne, the caseworker, is hoping to have overnight hosts as well. Regular church rotations may resume at the beginning of the new year. For info contact Deb Buckman, 570-323-1707 dabuckman65@gmail.com

Lutheran World Relief

It is that time of year when we begin to collect items for the kits for Lutheran World relief. This year we will do the school kits, baby, kits, personal care kits, and sewing kits. Directions for the kits will be available in the Narthex. School bags for the school kits will be available later in August, If you would like to contribute to making kits there will be a bin in the Narthex to donate items such as bars of soap, toothbrushes, dark hand towels (used are OK if in good shape), baby tee shirts (no oneies or snap crotch) ages newborn to 9 month, baby socks, baby hats, cloth diapers, diaper pins. All kits will be due the end of September. Watch for information about where our kits went last year.

Thank You

The Newberry Branch of NGA (National Giving Alliance) thanks those members of St. Mark's who recently participated in our fundraiser at Panera Bread. It was our first time to host this event at Panera Bread and we are pleased with its outcome.

BLANKET SUNDAY – October 3, 2021

We have been so blessed to live in a country that is emerging from our devastating pandemic. Meanwhile, war, poverty and disasters remain for others. Blanket Sunday will be on October 3, 2021. Since our quilters were unable to produce quilts this year, blankets can be donated. A blanket is like a hug of love and comfort from God. If you wish to make a monetary donation to purchase blankets, you can send it to St. Mark's with a designation of "BLANKETS". Thank you for your compassion.

Hannah Haussmann on Camp Mt. Luther Staff.

Camp Mt. Luther, a camp of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, is pleased to announce that Hannah Haussmann is part of its 2021 Summer Ministry Team. Members and friends of St. Mark's are encouraged to keep Hannah, all staff and all aspects of the camp's ministry in prayer. Mail can be sent to Hannah at Camp Mt. Luther, 355 Mt. Luther Lane, Mifflinburg, PA 17844 until August 6, 2021. Camp Mt. Luther is located five miles west of Mifflinburg, just off of Rt. 45. More information regarding the camp's ministry and mission can be found at www.campmutluther.org.

Blood Drive Update

On Friday, July 16, 2021 the Outreach Committee in conjunction with the American Red Cross hosted a blood drive in Fellowship Hall. From 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM donors answered the urgent call for blood donations, including our own Karen Mariano. Thank you Karen! At its conclusion 15 pints of life-saving blood were collected. Our next blood drive will be Friday, December 10, 2021. If able, please consider donating blood at this event.

Celebrate with Us!

On Sunday, August 15, St. Mark's will recognize the sixteen years of service Bernadette Haas Jones has given during her employment at St. Mark's. Bernadette has served our congregation since August 15, 2005 first as Director of Youth and Family Ministry and most recently as Parish Secretary with her service ending June 30, 2021. With your help St. Mark's wishes to say, Thank

You!" A card shower and an acknowledgment of Bernadette's good work are being planned by Church Council for Sunday, August 15, 2021 during our regular service. Members and friends of St. Mark's will have the opportunity to share their best wishes with Bernadette via a card on or before August 15. A basket for cards will be available in the Narthex on Aug, 1,8, and 15.

Anniversaries

Larson, Ernest and Nancy	8/1
Baker, Ronald and Donna	8/2
Haussmann, Walter and Leah	8/3
Pelleschi, Bryan and Karen	8/7
Maggs, Tim and Deb	8/10
Schreckengast, Ken and Laura	8/10
Eshelman, Neal and Kathy	8/14
Gair, Ed and Brenda	8/14
Mariano, Stephen and Karen	8/15
Hieber, Carl and Bev	8/18
Zimmerer, Paul and Jane	8/24
Butters, David and Carol	8/25
Greevy, Charles and Gloria	8/26
Sherlinski, Leonard and Ruth	8/27
Thomas, Phil and Barb	8/28
Waffenschmidt, Thomas and Doebler, Valerie	8/30

Birthdays

Patricia Alexander Rose View Center 1201 Rural Ave., 322B Williamsport, PA 17701	Bernadette Jones 665 Fifth Avenue Williamsport, PA 17701	Marion Waldeisen Williamsport Home 1900 Ravine Rd. Bldg Apt. 1213 Williamsport, PA 17701	Clark, Donna	8/7
Grace Arner 1960 Woodland Ln Montoursville, PA 17754	Ashton Ott		Fortin, Charlie	8/8
Tanya Bower 56 Lambert Dr. Williamsport, PA 17701	Kay Poliska 1100 Allen St. Montoursville, PA 17754	Cheryl Williams 249 Johnson Dr. Williamsport, PA 17702	Wacher, Audrey	8/8
Marie Byerly Arista Care Nursing Ctr. 1445 Sycamore Rd. Montoursville, PA 17754	Elizabeth Ruesskamp Rose View Center, 222B 1201 Rural Ave. Williamsport, PA 17701		Newcomer, Susan	8/10
Gary Clark 2010 Linwood Ave, Williamsport, PA 17701	Elsie Sechler AristaCare Nursing Center 1445 Sycamore Road, Rm. 312 Montoursville PA 17754		Robertson, Lynna	8/10
Steve Dewar	Lenny Sherlinski 1565 W. Mountain Ave. Williamsport, PA 17702		Staffini, Karen	8/10
			Buckman, Gillian	8/11
			Fortin, Dallas	8/11



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

*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!*



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

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
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