

THE LION OF ST. MARK'S SEPTEMBER 2021

Pastor's



.Dear Members and Friends of St. Mark's,

On Friday, August 13, 2021, the bishop of our synod, The Rev. Barbara Collins, composed a pastoral letter with regard to the most recent information concerning guidelines for battling COVID-19. The gist of her letter can be found in her opening paragraph: "Been there! Done that! You know what needs to be done! Be safe!" The text of the full letter can be found at the synod website (ifo@uss-elca.org).

In light of our bishop's remarks, St. Mark's Church Council recommends the following:

Masks are to be worn in worship regardless of vaccination status until further notice

Singing and speaking should be kept at low volume

Holy Communion will continue to be served in a "continuous pattern" (what is now in place)

While it is true that these are "strong recommendations" and not mandates, it is Council's hope that they will be followed by all members and friends of St. Mark's.

I wish I could tell you with certainty when we will no longer need to wear masks and/or follow these guidelines. The truth is that I simply do not know when that will happen. All I can say with certainty, all the Council and Bishop Collins can say with certainty is that when we mask, are vaccinated and follow these guidelines we can significantly lessen our chances of severe and lifethreatening illness from COVID-19.

To quote our bishop once again, "...be safe, not just for yourself and your family, but be safe for the sake of your neighbors, your community, and for the 'other'."

The Lord is with us! The Lord will continue to be with us! Let us go continue to go forth in way of that promise, the promise of love of God and love of neighbor.

+Pastor Brian Vasey

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HAPPENING THIS MONTH:

Please Note: The Center for Disease Control has provided revised guidelines with regard to mask wearing. Following these guidelines, and the specific recommendations of our bishop (Bishop Collins of the Upper Susquehanna Synod) Church Council strongly recommends that masks be worn, social distancing followed, and to speak and sing in very low tones when worshipping in St. Mark's church building. 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!

Two services return on September 12. St. Mark's continues to offer one Sunday morning worship service at 9:30 a.m. Our two worship times (8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.) and Sunday Church School (9:15 a.m.) will return on Sept. 12. 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 con-valses 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!

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Council met on August 16, 2021.

Coronavirus update:

M(Mel Wentzel – 2nd by Ray Huff) SC: CC: 21.8.1

Motion approved to add welcome signs to the church doors. The sign will strongly recommend masks be worn by all regardless of vaccine status. Pam Jensen will create the signs.

Ushers to direct members from pews during communion to promote safe distancing procedures.

Communications:

Billtown Brass "Victorian Concert" paperwork has been received for their November 20, 2021 event. Received request for a membership transfer for Lou and Kathy Kolb to Brigantine, NJ.

Committee Reports:

Safety Committee: Accepted as presented.

Property Committee: Updates provided by Ed Gair. M(Vicki Haussmann – 2nd by Pam Jensen) SC:

CC: 21.8.2 Motion approved to extend perimeter of Glen Yaple's planting project in the Courtyard to also include the flower beds around the exterior of church.

Faith & Fellowship: Updates provided by Vicki Haussmann.

August 29, 2021 Backpack Blessing, September 12, 2021 Back to Church with displays in Fellowship Hall during the Sunday School hour, October 3, 2021 Pet Blessing in church parking lot

Outreach Committee: Update provided by Becky Pryor.

We continue to collect food, hygiene items and also monetary donations to purchase take out containers.

The committee will provide dessert for Redeemer's October dinner.

M(Mel Wentzel - 2nd Ralph Zeigler) SC: CC:

21.8.3 Motion approved to table discussions on the community Lunch-N-Fellowship until the September council meeting.

Volunteers are needed to help assist with the fall Bazaar.

Personnel Committee: Update provided by Becky Prvor.

The ad for our church Administrative Assistant position has been posted on Indeed.com.

Personnel in conjunction with the Property committee are seeking commercial cleaning companies to provide estimates for a deep cleaning of the church.

Worship & Music: Update provided by Ray Huff and Sam Robinson.

Discussions regarding soloists, duets, choir and musicians will be held at the next council meeting.

Signage on church to include a welcome message inviting Little League families and friends to join St Mark's for one of our worship services during their stay.

Next meeting: September 20, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m. in the Crossways room.

All church members are invited.

Lutheran World Relief

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 Please NO polar fleece blankets—these are not acceptable since they shed fibers and when washed in streams can cause a pollution problem.

Kits for LWR are due on Sunday September 26. There will be a display of the kits and any donated blankets on Oct. 3. Please see the directions for the kits on the next page. Backpacks for the kits are available in the Narthes. Diapers and diaper pins are also available for the baby kits. Monetary donations are also accepted—put LWR kits in memo line.

Many of these kits will go to places like Haiti which was just hit with a big earthquake. To see where all kits can go visit lwr.org.

PLEASE GIVE

A devastating 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck southwest Haiti on Saturday, August 14. Over 1,400 people were killed, and that number is expected to increase as search-and-rescue efforts continue. Blocked roads are delaying the delivery of vital supplies to hospitals, which are overwhelmed with more than 6,900 injured people. At least 26,000 homes were damaged or destroyed, but the full extent of damage is still unknown. Haiti is also suffering through a political crisis and was hit by Tropical Storm Grace on Monday night, which caused severe flooding in communities already damaged by the earthquake.

You can help by giving to Lutheran Disaster Response on line (elca.org), by mail (Lutheran Disaster Relief, PO Box 1809, Merrifield VA, 22116-8009) or by phone (800-638-3522).

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. Thank you to those members who have already donated funds. With the rise in new infections, it will be a while 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 **Daniel's Closet: Donations of fall clothing and shoes** your other donations.

We will be providing the dessert for Redeemer Luther- shoes for children to adults are especially needed. Distrian's October 8th meal. At this time, we are unsure as to what we will provide but we do know we will need monetary donations to cover the cost of preparing or purchasing the desserts and containers for distribution. If you wish to contribute to this activity, please make checks payable to St. Mark's with the memo line reading MEALS.

Ongoing Collections at St. Mark's:

United Churches Food Pantry: The Pantry continues to accept non-perishable food items. Items most in need are soups, condiments, cake mixes, frosting, pasta, pasta on the table in the Narthex.

Shepherd of the Streets: Hygiene items in regular sizes for children, women and men are always needed.

Specific needs this month are disposable razors, shaving cream for men and women, dish detergent and feminine hygiene products.

Blessing Boxes at New Covenant UCC: Individual 10:30 church services). There will be an Adult Class 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 cooking oil, bleach 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.

Ongoing Activities at Redeemer Lutheran:

Free Community Dinner: Thursday, September 9, 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.

may be dropped off Thursday, September 9, 2021 from 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM. Children's clothing and bution will be Saturday, September 25, 2021 beginning at 8:30 AM. CDC guidelines, wearing 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

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 sauce, healthy snacks, and drink mixes. Place items 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.

EDUCATION

Sunday School will resume once again on September 19th at approximately 9:15 AM (between our 8:00 and meeting in either Fellowship Hall or Middle Lounge, as well as a K-5 class that will meet in the Nursery. We look forward to seeing you!

Other Education Opportunities~

Looking ahead, 1st Communion classes will be held October 17th and 24th. Confirmation classes will resume in November. Please contact Pastor Vasey with questions regarding either of these educational opportunities.

Operation Christmas Child

Thank you to everyone for continuing to donate items for our Operation Christmas Child Collection. Our red bin has been overflowing all year which is wonderful! This September we are collecting **Socks**, (in all sizes), **School Supplies**, and **Encouraging Letters** (Please see our examples in the Narthex). Not a huge fan of shopping? Please consider donating \$9.00 toward our \$405.00 shipping costs.

These items (or any others you find) may be placed in our red, OCC bin located in the narthex. Your generosity is very much appreciated!

**** ***** Family Promise



Our next hosting is in October.. 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 are three families. To prevent cross contamination FP requests that the meals be packaged separately for each family. With three families it is not possible to just provide ingredients and have them cook themselves. 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

***** ***** Fair!

The Faith and Fellowship Committee would like to invite you to join your St. Mark's Church Family for our Ministry Fair on Sunday, September 12th at 9:15 AM in Fellowship Hall. The Ministry Fair is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about service opportunities available both at St. Mark's and in our community. Many of our committees will be on hand to answer questions and share information. Browse through pictures showing some of St. Mark's history as well.

Our Ministry Fair is also a great way to kick off our return to Sunday Church School which will begin on September 19th. Please join us for hospitality, information gathering, and Christian fellowship. We look forward to seeing you!

HYMN SING AT OLD IMMANUEL

Mr. Jim Girven, Lutheran Authorized Lay Worship Leader, will be the officiant at the Annual Hymn Sing at Old Immanuel Lutheran Church, Lime Bluff Road, Muncy, on Sunday, October 3, 2021, at 2:30 pm. Mr. Girven has chosen "Return to the Lord your God" as the theme for the service. Mr. Girven comes to Old Immanuel from the Messiah-St. James Lutheran Parish of Muncy. Both of these churches are "children" of Old Immanuel, and we are delighted to have Jim return to lead us in another service.

The Theme for the day is taken from the Lutheran Book of Worship and is reflective of the faithful returning to churches, which are once again open after the destruction of the Covid Pandemic. IT IS POSSIBLE that this service might need to be cancelled should Covid protocols dictate. Current CDC and Synodical guidance will be observed.

Among the hymns to be sung during the service are "Softly and Tenderly," "The Church in the Wildwood," "He Leadeth Me," "Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me," and "Blessed be the tie that binds." Mrs. Jane Landon will provide music on the church's antique pump organ.

Old Immanuel is considered to be the mother church of Lutheranism in Lycoming County. Founded in 1791, it lived until its doors shut permanently in 1920. The first structure built on the property was of log; the second of brick. The third and current building was dedicated in 1869, and houses two cornerstones, one in German dated 1832, and one in English dated 1869. At least 10 Revolutionary Soldiers and 5 Civil War Soldiers are buried in the historic cemetery. The church was built on land donated by Henry and Barbara Shoemaker, of "Shoemaker Mills" at the Routes 442/405 intersection.

At one time, there was a school associated with Old Immanuel, and the church contained a gallery, a wine-glass pulpit, and enough straight-backed pews to seat 600 people

Old Immanuel closed its doors for regular services in 1920, after giving rise to 19 other Lutheran congregations. Some of these have also closed their doors, such as Trinity (Huntersville), St. Paul's (Millville), Germany Church, Christ Lutheran (Montgomery), Messiah (Alvira), the Stone Church in Elimsport, and Zion's, also in Elimsport. Some of these churches, such as Moreland Lutheran, Katy's Church, and St. Mark's Church of Lairdsville have taken on new identities as they have become home to other congregations.

home to other congregations.

Churches that have sprung up from Old Immanuel that continue with the Lutheran tradition include Trinity and Mount Zion, Hughesville; St. Andrew's, Muncy; St. James, Muncy; Messiah, Clarkstown; St. John's, Gordner's Grove; St. John's (Brick), Montgomery; and Bethany, Montoursville.

The public is invited to attend this service as well as to tour the historic church. Light refreshments will be served after the service. For more information, or to follow Old Immanuel more closely, "Like" us on Face-Book!!!

Lunch 'N Fellowship

Later this month Church Council will decide if the time is right for us to once again host lunch on the third Wednesday of the month to members of the community. If approved the Parish Life Committee would like to begin in October.

Like so many things in our world, this event also will look different than it did pre-pandemic. Our menus will be simpler. We will be mindful of changing guidelines from the CDC. We are considering a take-out meal. We will need more volunteers. We need people to prepare desserts, to donate cups of applesauce or fruit, to set the tables, to serve the meal and to clean up afterwards including washing the dishes. Speak with Becky Miller Pryor if any of this is something you can do.



Special Needs Persons

Patricia Alexander	Kay Poliska
Grace Arner	Elizabeth Ruesskamp
Tanya Bower	Elsie Sechler
Marie Byerly	Lenny Shirlinski
Steven DeWar	Marian Waldiesen
Gary Clark	Cheryl Williamss
Vanessa Morgan Ashton Ott	Please call the Pastor to add names to this list

Upcoming Fall Sale at St. Mark's



The Bazaar Room is the fullest it has ever been and the stage is also very full. Church Council has approved our event for September 17 and 18 with setup beginning September 12, 2021. With only two weeks until the event, it is of the highest importance that you speak with or call Becky Miller Pryor (570 -971-4585) if you can volunteer to set up, work the sale or clean up at the end. I am uncertain we can make this event happen without sufficient help to handle two years' worth of treasures. Please help the Women of St. Mark's give all the profits from this sale to charities locally and abroad.

A PRAYER FOR LABOR DAY

Lord, on this Labor Day we thank you for the blessing of work which you provide our daily bread. Thank you for the gifts and abilities you provide people to carry out the myriad tasks that allow us to live the lives we do. Graciously grant us the strength we need to meet our responsibilities as well as the rest we need when we are weary; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

9/3
9/4
9/5
9/5
9/5
9/6
9/9
9/9
9/10
9/11
9/12
9/12
9/13
9/13

Birthdays and Anniversaries (cont)

Brennan Comerford	9/15
Tammy Fitzpatrick	9/17
Abrenna Doane	9/18
Audrey Bower	9/19
Richard Harris	9/20
Ronald Arner	9/22
Brittany Dewar	9/22
Aeric Powley	9/24
Abbigail Robertson	9/26
Bailey Sims	9/28
David Williams	9/28
Pamela Fink	9/30
Ed and Lorraine Barone	9/2
Ronald and Grace Arner	9/3
Steve and Nancy Bieber	9/3 (50th)
Robert and Shelly Clokey	9/4
Johnny and Renee Hinds	9/19 (40th)
Michael and Jackie Kinney	9/25
James and Donna Maule	9/27
George and Kay Poliska	9/28

Nibbles from the Church Mouse

Hi—Joyce needs you news—big or small, about you, a relative, an organization, exciting or not exciting—we want to know what is happening. Please let Joyce Hershberger know your news. Call or email.

deermountain2@comcast.net

Workers for God— September

Communion Assistants

9/5 Gregg and Kathy Dancho9/12 Lou DeSeau and Dan Zeigler9/19 Walt Doebler and Gary Weber9/26 Ralph and LouAnn Zeigler

Ushers

9/5 9:30 Miller/Poff/Maggs
8 AM 10:30
9/12 Miller/Poff Jensen team
9/19 Miller/Poff Fortin team
9/26 Miller/Poff Albright team
NOTE—no side door usher at this time

Lectors

9/5 Lou DeSeau (9:30)

9/12 Gary Weber (10;30)

9/19 Donna Boston (10:30)

9/26 Kathy Dancho (10:30

Watch for news from our organist Sam Robinson about music in the future.



Please have all submissions for the October newsletter to Pastor Vasey and Deb Buckman no later than 9/14. Thank You!



Fabric Kit

Fabrics do not need to match in size, should match one of the sizes below. (NO knits or 100% polyester) Each piece color or pattern. 2 pieces of cotton or cotton blend fabric

4 yards of 24"-37" wide 3 yards of 42"-45" wide OR 2 ½ yards of 58"-63" wide OR

general purpose thread, 250-300 yards 2 spools of matching or neutral colored

and tie with string or yarn. fabric inside the other pieces of fabric Fold the thread and one of the pieces of

School Kit

backpack. Remove all excess packaging. Place the following in the drawstring

4 notebooks – 70-80 sheet each, wide or

NO composition books NO Loose-leaf paper please

Ones with just centimeters are OK the other – plastic, wood, or metal centimeters on one side and inches on

1 pencil sharpener

gether with a rubber band 5 Unsharpened #2 pencils secured to-

pens please) together with a rubber band (no gel 5 black or blue ballpoint pens secured

1 box 16 or 24 crayons

1 eraser 2 ½ inch

Secure by drawing the strings

1 ruler – 30 centimeters or a ruler with

with embedded steel blade 1 pair blunt scissors – safety scissors

Personal Care Kit

1 light weight bath tower Dark color (fast drying if possible) 20" x 40" to 52" x 27"

2 bath size bars of soap in original wrap-

NO mini or hotel size please

1 adult toothbrush in original package – one in a business size envelope and seal if you buy a multipack of brushes, place

picks or fine-toothed combs 1 sturdy comb – remove packaging NO

file are OK) – remove packaging 1 metal nail clipper (ones with attached

with string or yarn or ribbon. Wrap all items in the towel and secure

Baby Care Kit

can be used included) used items in good condition (sizes newborn to 24 months can be

2 long or short sleeved gowns or sleep-2 lightweight cotton T-shirts NO Onesies or snap crotch

ers (NO feet) – pajama sets of top and

pants can also be used

polar fleece) lightweight yarn – 36" to 52" square (no flannel, or crocheted or knitted with 2 blankets – medium weight cotton or

cloth diapers. Flat fold preferred

1 jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with hood or include a baby cap

2 pairs of cotton socks

1 hand towel, dark color

2 bath size bars of gentle soap in original wrapping

NO mini or hotel size please

Secure everything inside one of the 2 diaper pins or large safety pins blankets and secure with the diaper pins



Permit No. 257
Williamsport, PA 17701

Non-Profit Organization U.S. POSTAGE

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

STAFF OFFICE HOURS

Pastor: The Rev. Brian Vasey

Mon-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 Phone: 570-323-4619 Fax: 570-323-2452 Website: http://www.stmarkswilliamsport.org

Email: stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org

Address Service Requested

5т. МАRK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH 142 МАRKET ST. 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 Organistsrobinson@stmarkswilliamsport.orgJackie Baysore, Bookkeeperjbaysore@stmarkswilliamsport.orgLou DeSeau, Environmental Serv.stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org

Linda Rosini, Council Presidentlr10152@yahoo.comBecky Miller Pryor, Vice-Presidenthome 570-971-4585Wanda Fortin, Secretary570-337-9137

Jackie Kinney, Treasurerjskinney1@yahoo.comKathy Eshelman, Stephen Ministry570-433-0522

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