THE LION OF ST. MARK'S

OCTOBER 2021



Pastor's "Lion" Message (October 2021)

Dear Members and Friends of St. Mark's, In 2021 Monday, October 11, is designated as Columbus Day, the day aside by American society to honor the explorer credited with "Discovering America".

Way back in 1992 (29 years ago), I was living in Nescopeck, Pennsylvania, just over the bridge from Berwick. To commemorate the 500th anniversary of Columbus' historic voyage, the Berwick Area Ministerium hosted a "Founder's Day Celebration". The Ministerium named this celebration "Founder's Day" because it included both European and Native American history. The goal was to remember that when Columbus arrived in the New World, there were indigenous people already present for whom that land was considered home.

The attitude of the Berwick Area Ministerium in 1992 is a far better attitude for all Americans, especially those who identify as Christians to embrace, rather than the present attitude of today. There is a way of thinking in American society that seeks not to unite, but to divide; to rank races, cultures and individuals in such a way as to make some seem inferior to those of European descent. Such thinking fuels the engines of hate, prejudice and bigotry. Such thinking led to the violent attack on our nation's capitol on January 6, 2021. Christ teaches us that as his followers such attitudes are not to be part of our lives. We are not to think of ourselves as superior to other human beings because of our race, culture or history. As the church we are first, foremost and always, members of the body of

Christ. The color of our skin and the history of our culture can be something in which to take pride, but not to the point of feeling superior toward others. The primary direction of how we live, and move and have our being is to be that of Christ, not politics and certainly not domination.

Prejudice toward others because of who they are or what they look like is not something that disappeared at the end of the mid-1970s. That demon is still with us and as a result still needs to be something of which to repent.

On Sunday, October 31, St. Mark's will celebrate Reformation Day. Reformation Day reminds us of Martin Luther's teaching that God's message is one of acceptance, forgiveness, love and life eternal. May we, the spiritual descendants of Luther, learn to more fully embrace this message of grace and apply it to how we recognize Columbus Day and all our days!

Grace + Peace,

+Pastor Brian Vasey

HAPPENING THIS MONTH:

Please Note: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 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.

Two worship times are now back in place (8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.) and Sunday Church School (9:15 a.m.) has resumed. All are welcome! We 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.

Church Office Hours:

Monday- Thursday 9 am-Noon Friday Church Office Closed

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

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.

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. IT IS POSSIBLE that this service might need to be cancelled should COVID protocols dictate. Current CDC and Synodical guidance will be observed.

Founded in 1791, Old Immanuel is considered to be the mother church of Lutheranism in Lycoming County.

The public is invited to attend this service as well as to tour the historic church. Light refreshments will follow. For more information, or to follow Old Immanuel "Like" us on FaceBook!!!

2021 CROP Walk:

What: The Greater Lycoming Area CROP Walk for Hunger When: Sunday, October 10, beginning at 1 p.m. Where: Starting at St. Mark's Lutheran Church Contact Brenda Gair (570-321-7561 or brendag1@comcast.net) to walk or sponsor walkers.

First Communion Class, for ages Kindergarten through 2nd grade take place Sunday, October 17 through Sunday, October 24, 9:15 a.m. in the Church Nursery. If you wish your child to participate please contact Pastor Vasey (570-323-4619 or <u>bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org</u>). First Holy Communion will take place in worship on Reformation Day, October 31. *Please note that this is a two week class and at least <u>one parent</u> <u>must accompany each child.</u>*

REMEMBER: Reformation Day is October 31, 2021! Celebrate this important day in the life of the church and wear an article of red clothing (the color associated with the Holy Spirit) to worship on this day!



God's Work, Our Hands.

The Outreach Committee thanks the congregation for their help in supplying much needed food, cooking supplies, snacks and hygiene items for the United Churches Food Pantry, Shepherd of the Street's office, Sojourner Truth Ministries and the Blessing Boxes at New Covenant UCC. All were grateful for your donations. Please consider giving items monthly to these ministries. See <u>Sharing in the Caring</u> for more information.

Sharing in the Caring

The Outreach Committee continues to accept monetary donations for the purchase of take-out containers for Redeemer Lutheran Church and Sojourner Truth Ministries. Thank you to those who have donated in the past. These monetary donations have provided more than 1,100 containers this past summer. Checks may be made payable to St. Mark's with the memo line reading TAKE-OUT.

Once again, the Outreach Committee will be providing dessert for Redeemer Lutheran's Community Dinner on Thursday, October 14, 2021. We will be providing homemade cookies for 120 people. We will need 20 dozen cookies to provide two cookies per person. Can you provide a batch of your favorite cookie? Please no peanut butter cookies. <u>Cookie donations</u> <u>must be at St. Mark's kitchen by 1:00 PM on</u> Wednesday, October 13, 2021. We are also accepting monetary donations for purchasing bakery cookies and plastic bags for packaging. Checks may be made payable to St. Mark's with the memo line reading MEALS. Speak with Becky Miller Pryor if you will be providing cookies.

The **Card Ministry at St. Mark's** is in full swing. In addition to the Outreach Committee making cards available to the congregation for special times of the year, several members of the congregation are choosing a month and sending a variety of cards to our Special Concern Folks and others at St. Mark's. All cards, stamps and a list of folks receiving cards are provided. We request that approximately two cards per week be sent. We are seeking additional volunteers to send cards in 2021. Speak with Becky Miller Pryor, Jackie Kinney, Karen Mariano or Barb Thomas if you wish to participate.

Ongoing Collections at St. Mark's:

- <u>United Churches Food Pantry:</u> Nonperishable food items are always in need.
- <u>Shepherd of the Streets</u>: Hygiene Items in regular sizes for infants, kids and adults are always in need. Specific needs are laundry detergent pods (small packs) and razors and shaving cream for men and women.
- <u>Blessing Boxes at New Covenant UCC:</u> Individual healthy snacks and crackers, microwave soups and pasta, ramen noodles, deodorant and socks (new or gently used.) Travel-size hygiene items are also accepted.
- <u>Sojourner Truth Ministries:</u> This ministry provides either eat-in or take-out meals to 70-100 people Mondays through Saturdays. This month they are in need of spices (garlic or onion powder, red pepper flakes, oregano, cinnamon, etc.), steel wool scrubbies and XL trash bags.
- Items for the Food Pantry, Shepherd of the Street's, Blessing Boxes and Sojourner Truth may be placed on the table or in the bins in the Narthex.
- <u>Aluminum Soda Can Tabs</u>: Containers are available in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall. Tabs are given to support the Ronald McDonald House in Danville.
- <u>Pennies for Youth Activities:</u> A container is available in the Narthex for your donations.

Ongoing Events at Redeemer Lutheran:

- <u>Community Supper</u> on Thursday, October 14, 2021 from 5:00 PM until all meals are served. This is a take-out only meal. All are welcome.
- <u>Daniel's Closet</u> (Free Seasonal Clothing) on Saturday, October 23, 2021 from 8:30 – 11:00 AM. With cooler weather comes the need for warmer clothing and sturdier shoes.
- Donated Clothing may be dropped off at Redeemer on Thursday, October 14, 2021 from 3:00 – 4:30 PM. Please note this new drop-off time due to COVID-19 guidelines.
- If you have a large quantity of clothing that cannot wait until the monthly drop off, please contact Barb Horn at 570-974-3744 to arrange a time to meet at Redeemer Lutheran.



Torrison Medical Scholarship awards announced

CHICAGO (September 13, 2021) — The Dr. George and Emma J. Torrison Scholarship Fund makes scholarships available to students who intend to pursue careers in medicine. An endowment in memory of George and Emma J. Torrison makes these awards possible, with additional support from the Frederick W. Williams Scholarship Endowment. Both endowments are managed by the Foundation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

The program was established in the American Lutheran Church, a predecessor of the ELCA. The program is managed by the Network of ELCA Colleges and Universities but is not restricted to the graduates of ELCA colleges and universities. The Torrison program is open annually to any member of the ELCA admitted to an accredited medical college.

Students awarded \$5,000 Torrison Medical Scholarships for 2021-22 are: Samantha Engrav, from Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn., who will attend the Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine in Rochester, Minn.; Glenn Seela, from Concordia, who will attend the University of Minnesota Medical School in Minneapolis; Yanick Tade, from Concordia, who will attend the Creighton University School of Medicine in Omaha, Neb.; Danielle Karch, from the University of Wisconsin– La Crosse, who will attend the Medical College of Wisconsin in Wauwatosa; and Austin Thompson, from Wartburg College, Waverly, Iowa, who will attend the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine in Cleveland.

"Lutherans entering medical school are nominated annually to apply for a Torrison Medical Scholarship by ELCA colleges and universities and by campus ministries in the ELCA's Lutheran Campus Ministry Network," said Mark Wilhelm, program director for the <u>Network of ELCA Colleges</u> <u>and Universities</u>. "This competitive scholarship program has supported over 200 first-year medical students who are members of this church since 1988."

The application process for the Torrison Scholarship Program begins in the fall. The window for applications opens in November, with applications due no later than the end of the following July. Award announcements are typically made by Sept. 1.



Thanks to your generosity, our **Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes** are just about complete. In fact, they are just about bursting at the seams \sim a great "problem" to have! For the month of October, we will be collecting "Odds N Ends" ~ things that will help us finish each of the 45 boxes that we will be donating to Samaritan's Purse. Please take a tag from the OCC bin in the Narthex and bring back the item(s) listed. Not a huge fan of shopping? Please consider donating \$9.00 to help cover the cost of shipping our boxes. Thank you again for your continued support of this outreach project. We are excited to see our boxes come together at our **Shoebox Packing Event** which will be held in Fellowship Hall on November 7th, 9:15 AM. Would love to see you there!

WELCOMING THE NEW SECRETARY

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to the congregation at St. Mark's Lutheran Church. My name is Mary Beth Lingle. My husband Carl and I moved to Linden, Pa in May of this year. Originally from Scranton, born and raised for the last 51 years, we were excited to make the move to this beautiful area. It so happens that we are living

next to my sister and her husband. The home next to them became available and my sister

jokingly asked us to move down and we did. (She can't get rid of me). My daughter is 25 and lives in Scranton with her fiancé and is going to make me a grandmother in October for the first time. My last position was as a medical receptionist at a dental practice in Scranton where I worked for 7 months before the move. Before that I worked as a medical receptionist for 4 years at a Primary Care Physician's office. In my spare time I enjoy reading, walking and yard sailing –lol. I am excited to join the staff and the many volunteers here at St. Mark's and am truly grateful for this wonderful opportunity.

Pumpkin Carving

Please join us Saturday, October 23 at 5:00 PM for an evening of Fun and Fellowship, Creativity and Candy Corn, Pumpkins



turned into Jack-O-Lanterns !

Whether young or young

at heart, we would love to have you join us for light refreshments and pumpkin carving. What: Pumpkin Carving (Pumpkins Provided) When: October 23, 5:00 PM

Where: Fellowship Hall Please RSVP to Vicki Haussmann (570) 447-3263 or sign up in the Narthex by October 20th so we know how many pumpkins are needed. Can't wait to see you!



Family Promise

Hi - our hosting week is the first week of October. We are responsible for meals only. More information will be passed on as I receive it. Currently there are 4 families. Thanks to everyone who volunteered already. Deb Buckman

Lutheran World Relief

Thanks to everyone who donated kits for LWR. Remember that funds are also needed in order to ship these items to their final destination. More information after I have finished counting kits - hope we met our goals. God Bless, Deb Buckman

Williamsport Civic Chorus



The Chorus is back to practicing on Monday evenings in Fellowship Hall. The first

concert will be here at our home church on Friday Dec. 17 at 7 PM. This concert will feature music by John Rutter and will include a brass ensemble.

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Stephanie Bieber Caitlin Butters Glenn Yaple 10/5 10/6 10/9

Jane Zimmerer	10/9
Kameera Smith	10/10
Amy Burkholder	10/11
Gary Goertz	10/11
Patrice Santalucia	10/11
Christine Sauers	10/12
Gary Chrisman	10/14
Makensi Doebler	10/14
Sean Fenderson	10/17
Breanna Chicas	10/19
Ashley Campbell	10/20
Paige Hanford	10/21
Ryan Lynn	10/23
Charles Kuntz	10/24
Richard Miller	10/24
Hazel Boone	10/26
Naomi Boone	10/26
Hannah Haussmann	10/26
Kathy Eshelman	10/27
Andrew Haussmann	10/28
Tait Thorne	10/28
John Hoffman	10/29
Barbara Thomas	10/29
Deborah Maggs	10/30
Donna Maule	10/31
Natalie Miller	10/31

Lee & Veronica Doane	10/4
Kenneth & Kathleen Caster	10/9
Jeffrey & Catherine Kneedler	10/9
Andrea & Tracy Gregory	10/16
Scott & Mary Kimble	10/25
Louis & Linda Deseau	10/26
Jake & Audrey Comerford	10/27
Romain & Evelyn Bastian	10/30

Workers for God – October Communion Assistants 8:00 AM

10/03/21 Drew Haussmann 10/10/21 Becky Pryor 10/17/21 Drew Haussmann 10/24/21 Becky Pryor 10/31/21 Drew Haussmann

10:30 AM

10/03/21 Matt & Wanda Fortin 10/10/21 Ken & Laura Schreckengast 10/17/21 Carl & Audrey Albright 10/24/21 Deb Buckman & Mindy Wentzel 10 /31/21 Gregg & Kathy Dancho

Lectors

8:00 AM

10/03/21 Drew Haussmann 10/10/21 Leah Haussmann 10/17/21 Becky Pryor 10/24/21 Vicki Haussmann 10/31/21 Ruth Rees

10:30 AM

10/03/21 Phil Thomas 10/10/21 Pam Jensen 10/17/21 Ralph Zeigler 10/24/21 Greg Dancho 10/31/21 Ray Huff

Ushers

8:00 AM

10/03/21 Miller/Poff 10/10/21 Miller/Poff 10/17/21 Miller/Poff 10/24/21 Miller/Poff 10/31/21 Miller/Poff

10:30 AM

10/03/21 Maggs Team 10/10/21 Jensen Team 10/17/21 Fortin Team 10/24/21 Albright Team 10/31/21 Maggs Team NOTE : No side door usher at this time.

Gary Weber – Head Usher

Carl Albright – Captain: Brenda Owen, Levi Gair Tim Maggs – Captain: Carl Hieber, Charlie Fortin Mike Jensen – Captain: Gary Weber, Sean Jensen, Shelby Weber Matt Fortin – Captain: Glenn Yaple, Bud Doebler

Our Fall Sale is a Success!

After an absence of two years, the Women of St. Mark's recently held their annual Fall Sale in Fellowship Hall and the Crossways Room. Both areas were filled to the brim with treasures of all kinds. Due to the great quantity of items for sale, the ladies chose to hold a two-day sale. When the dust settled, the Women of St. Mark's made a profit of \$1,615.56!

The Women of St. Mark's thank the congregation for their generous donations over the past two years. With a sale of this magnitude, it takes many volunteers to make it successful. The members and friends of St. Mark's did not disappoint us. Our heartfelt thanks go out to Coach Christen Ditzler and the nineteen young ladies of the Women's Basketball team of Lycoming College. Their tremendous energy and enthusiasm had all the treasures and all the tables we could find delivered to Fellowship Hall in a little over an hour. Then the remainder of the week saw 40 different individuals (members and friends of St. Mark's) working tirelessly at unpacking and organizing hundreds of items. Many of these volunteers came to assist for more than one day.

At the conclusion of the sale, items were sorted and shared with the James V. Brown Library, Newberry Branch of NGA, Toys for Tots, Operation Christmas Child, Daniel's Closet and the American Rescue Workers.

Deep thanks to every person who worked in one way or another to make this sale a success. We could not have done it without you. Special thanks to the Faith and Fellowship Committee for providing the snacks we all enjoyed and to

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the Outreach Committee for doing anything asked of them. Extra thanks to the Property Committee for doing yeoman's work at the end of the sale. The Property crew did all that was necessary to return Fellowship Hall, the Crossways and Bazaar rooms to their pre-sale condition. The Women of St. Mark's are blessed to have such a helping church family. May our Lord and Savior continue to bless all of you.

COUNCIL NOTES

Council met on September 20, 2021

The offering collection by a council member and one other person for both services are covered through the end of 2021.

Communications:

- Dossal discussion: Fine Arts Committee
 - Ralph Zeigler volunteered to join the Fine Arts Committee as Council representative.
 - Shirley Kinney would like to make a donation toward the new Dossal in memory of her husband.
 - Research continues on the Dossal and a committee meeting will be scheduled.

Committee Reports:

Safety Committee: Update provided by Carl Albright. Next meeting: Monday, September 27, 2021.

- The committee is obtaining pricing on AED's.

Property Committee: Update provided by Ed Gair.

- The committee is obtaining estimates from several companies to remove trees on the east side of the church.
- M(Property 2nd by Mel Wentzel) SC: CC: 21.9.1 Motion approved to obtain bids for weekly cleaning of the church.

Faith & Fellowship: Update provided by Vicki Haussmann.

- Sunday school classes began on September 20, 2021 for youth and adult classes. The Adult class is studying Psalms.

- St. Mark's youth are joining the youth from Trinity Episcopal, St Luke Lutheran and New Covenant United Church of Christ for
- a joint youth group. They meet on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month at Trinity Episcopal.
- Upcoming events:
 - Pet Blessing: October 3, 2021 in the church parking lot.
 - Crop Walk: October 10, 2021.
 - Pumpkin Carving: October 23, 2021.

Outreach Committee: Update provided by Becky Pryor.

- Our card ministry has begun.
- The Women of St Mark's Fall Bazaar profits are estimated at \$1,600. All profits go to local charities. We had a tremendous amount of volunteers this year to make the event a great success.
- The Outreach Committee will be providing the dessert for Redeemer's community dinner. Thank you to all who have volunteered to donate cookies.

Personnel Committee: Update provided by Becky Pryor.

- Our new Administration Assistant, Mary Beth Lingle has started her new position at St. Mark's and is doing well.

Worship & Music: Update provided by Ray Huff.

- Pop-Up Choir is looking to start on October 3rd or October 10th.
- The committee is seeking soloists.

Constitution Committee: Update provided by Pam Jensen.

- The committee continues to review the Constitution and anticipates working through the fall and winter months.
- M(Constitution Committee 2nd by Herb Poff) SC: CC: 21.9.2 Motion approved for church members to complete a communion card annually.

Reminders:

- Committee reports for the Annual Congregational Meeting are due to Mary Beth by November 15, 2021.
- Nominations Committee to fill two upcoming vacancies on church council.

CONSECRATION SUNDAY

Sunday, October 31, 2021, "Reformation Sunday" will be a time to express our gratitude to God through our intended giving to the church in 2022. Our God has blessed us and continues to bless us in Christ with the gifts of grace, faith, life, and life eternal. October 31 will be a day to say, "Thank You" to God for all the blessings we enjoy at both the 8 am and 10:30 am worship services

Below you will find your "Estimate of Giving" card. Once you determine what your financial giving will be in 2022, complete the following <u>commitment card</u>, *bring it with you to worship on October 31, along with your regular weekly offering, to place in the provided basket*. Should you find yourself unable to attend either worship service on October 31, please mail your commitment card to the church office and mark it confidential (142 Market St., Williamsport, PA 17701) as soon as possible.

The ELCA has a motto regarding our life together: God's Work/Our Hands. This phrase reminds us that in Christ God has blessed us; indeed, God has done for us in Christ what we could never do for ourselves. To support the work of the church universal through the ministries of the St. Mark's congregation is a definitive and faithful way to show our gratitude. The blessings of our faith are truly God's Work in our hands.

In uncertain financial times many of us hesitate to increase our commitment. We must believe that God gives us the strength and grace necessary to do what God leads us to do- the work and blessing of ministry. May God bless you as you faithfully consider your response to God's generosity. We look forward to greeting you on Reformation Sunday!

MY COMMITMENT FOR CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH

In response to God's love and as a concrete expression of my/our faith in and commitment to Christ and his church, I/we plan to make the following commitment in my giving.

My/Our Commitme	ent 2022 is \$		per week OR	
\$	per month OR \$		per year.	
Name				
Address			Apt.Number	
City	State	_Zip	Telephone	

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

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 Secretary : Mary Beth Lingle Mon-Thu 9am-1pm Friday Church Office is Closed

Church Office 570-323-4619 Fax 570-323-2452 Website: stmarkswilliamsport.org Main e-mail: <u>stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org</u>

	ovasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org	
	570-323-4619 or 570-523-1415	
Sam Robinson, Organist <u>srobinson@stmarkswilliamsport.org</u>		
Jackie Baysore, Bookeeper jbaysore@stmarkswilliamsport.org		
Lou DeSeau, Environ.Serv. stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org		
Linda Rosini, Council President <u>lr10152@yahoo.com</u>		
Becky Miller Pryor, Vice-President home 570-971-4585		
Wanda Fortin, Secretary	570-337-9137	
Jackie Kinney, Treasurer	jskinney1@yahoo.com	
Matt Fortin, Stephen Ministry	570-337-3023	
Janet Jones, Parish Life	jgmacookie@comcast.net	
Debra Buckman <u>dbuckman@pct.edu</u> or		
Family Promise Coordinator	Dabuckman65@gmail.com	
Prayer Chain – coordinator needed		
Sally Bjornstad, Altar Flowers	570-949-6637	

ST. Mark's Lutheran Church 142 Market St. Williamsport, PA 17701

Address Service Requested

Phone: 570-323-4619 Fax: 570-323-2452

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