



THE LION OF ST. MARK'S

NOVEMBER 2021

Pastor's "Lion" Message for November, 2021

Dear Members and Friends of St. Mark's,

In *All in the Family* the popular situation comedy of the 1970s, Archie Bunker leads a rare but telling grace before an evening meal: "Lord, we thank you for all the food before us even though we had to get it ourselves."

By all standards Archie's prayer leaves a lot to be desired. Most pastors, including myself, would not recommend it. However, we shouldn't dismiss it entirely. It does possess a grain of "good theology".

Most persons when they pray before a meal thank our Lord for what they are about to receive. All well and good. But then they make a crucial mistake. They equate the goodness of the Lord with material things such as food, a good life, safety, etc., almost as if to reason, "If we do not receive these things, it must be a sign that God does not love us or that we are doing something wrong". Jesus teaches us by way of the Lord's Prayer, which we are to emulate, that we are not to look to the Lord as providing

bread rather we are to thank the Lord for being our bread. "Give us this day our daily bread" refers to the goodness of the Lord, not the bread itself. Jesus reminds us that the Lord is everything we need and therefore, sustains us. Because of God's goodness we receive God's love. That love includes food, shelter, a comfortable life. God's love empowers, enables and inspires us to provide food for ourselves and for others.

On November 25, 2021, our nation celebrates a National Day of Thanksgiving. Instead of looking at Thanksgiving Day as a day dedicated to food, I suggest we take some time to practice what the day asks: To Give Thanks. A day of thanksgiving is to be a day to give thanks and for those of us who follow Jesus and take his words seriously, to give thanks to the Lord who is our bread that we may have and enjoy life and life eternal.

I wouldn't suggest we use Archie's prayer at our Thanksgiving tables, but we shouldn't dismiss it altogether. He does manage to remind us that Christ is our bread of life!

Grace + Peace,
Pastor Brian Vasey

HAPPENING THIS MONTH:

Two worship times are now back in place (8 AM and 10:30 AM) and Sunday Church School (9:15 AM) 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 is 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.

Operation Christmas Child

November brings much excitement for Operation Christmas Child as it is time to pack our shoeboxes! We have been collecting all sorts of items over the past 10 months, and it is now time to pull everything together! We will be packing our shoeboxes in Fellowship Hall on **Sunday, November 7 during the Sunday School hour beginning around 9:15 AM.** The doors to Fellowship Hall will be unlocked and you may enter there. **This promises to be a fun hour with the goal of packing 45 boxes to be sent out to children in need.**

In addition to our packaging event, we will be collecting monetary donations during the month of November. Samaritan's Purse asks for a **\$9.00** donation to help cover the cost of shipping each shoebox. This \$9.00 donation also helps Samaritan's Purse train and equip local churches to use our Ministry Partner Guide. This resource teaches

churches how to share the Good News of the Lord Jesus Christ in a child-friendly way. Your donation also provides The Greatest Gift Gospel Booklets, which are written in the children's language and distributed along with shoebox gifts.

Lastly, please pray that the shoeboxes we pack and send bless the child who receives it with the love of Jesus Christ. Thank you for your continued support of Operation Christmas Child. How exciting that we at St. Mark's are able to share the Good News around the World!

Advent Wreath Making

Please join us on Sunday, November 28 for our annual Advent Wreath making event. We will gather in Fellowship Hall during the Sunday School hour (**9:15 AM give or take a few minutes**) for the opportunity to create an Advent Wreath for your family to use at home during the Advent season. All materials are provided! We look forward to this time of creativity and Christian fellowship!



Advent Study Materials

Sunday, November 28th is the first Sunday in Advent. In order to prepare our hearts and minds for the upcoming celebration of Christmas, we encourage you to please take both an Advent devotional booklet and Advent calendar to use at home for daily study. We pray these devotions may guide your heart and quiet your soul throughout this holy season.

DONATIONS TO PURCHASE BLANKETS

Thank you, St. Mark's, for contributing an amazing total of \$731.00 to our Synod's Blanket Fund. This year's report is not yet completed. However, last year they were able to purchase 576 wool blankets and 600 cotton blankets, as well as sending \$1700 toward the cost of shipping. Your generous response was very much appreciated.

Lutheran World Relief

Thanks to all of you for the great support of the kits project for Lutheran World Relief. While not quite making the goals I set, the response was very good in this current climate. The following kits were delivered to the Synod Office in Lewisburg - 42 school kits, 11 personal care kits, 7 baby kits, and 5 fabric kits - Great work! Remember, you can buy items for kits any time during the year. We also had 6 quilts (really nice work) and 4 blankets. If you wish to donate a blanket please note it must be close to 60" by 80" and cotton, polyester or cotton/polyester blend. No polar fleece. Money is also needed to ship the items. Make checks out to St. Marks with LWR kit shipping in the memo line. Thanks all! Deb Buckman

Family Promise

Well our hosting week turned out to be not much work as the only family at the day center had their new baby on Monday and decided to go to relatives for the rest of the week. Thanks to all of you who volunteered to make meals (but then didn't have to). The next hosting is Dec. 12-19.

More information will be coming. Remember that Family Promise is a fluid situation, families come in and sometimes out in a short time and then sometimes a family is there for months - situations change. Thanks for all your work - Deb Buckman

Christmas Concert



Mark your calendar - Friday, Dec. 17 the Williamsport Civic Chorus will hold its Christmas concert at St. Marks in the evening. The concert will feature the music of John Rutter which you have probably heard our St. Marks choir sing in the past - The Angel's Carol and What Sweeter Music are two of the carols. More information to come.



Poinsettias

Red and white pinched plant poinsettia orders for Christmas must be to the church by November 22. This may seem early but supplies need some more time to be ordered and delivered to Helminiak's. Envelopes will be at the rear of the nave and as you exit. The cost is \$7.25 per plant.

Dedications other than poinsettias- We missed doing this last year. If you wish to have a dedication or memorial, please fill out the special envelope and give the information. You may also use another envelope to include your dedication/memorial and a donation of your choice.

NOVEMBER 7 IS ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY.

All Saints' Sunday, "The Church's Memorial Day" is November 7, 2021. This year St. Mark's All Saints' celebration will include the remembering of our St. Mark's saints who are now part of the Church Triumphant in 2021 (the roll of the honored dead) by way of bulletin insert. The insert replaces the use of a banner from previous years. The change was made for two reasons:

1. The materials used to make the banner are now very difficult to locate and in some cases impossible to find.
2. The insert, printed on card-stock with the names of our saints, the Prayer of the Day, and appropriate scripture, will serve as a more permanent keepsake for family and friends.

Plan now to join us in worship at either 8 AM or 10:30 AM on Sunday, November 7 as we celebrate this very important and significant day in the life of **St. Mark's!**

Church Council Minutes **October 18, 2021 6:00 PM**

Coronavirus Updates:

- Discussion on when to begin kneeling for the Confession with Jan. 2, 2022 as tentative start date.
- Kneeling during Holy Communion tabled until January 2022.

Pastor's Report:

- Gary Weber has been given an application to apply for grant monies

available to congregations who have made technological improvements due to Covid.

- **M (Mel Wentzel — 2nd by Ed Gair) SC: CC: 21.10.1** Motion approved to begin sending The Lion electronically beginning Jan. 2022. Hard copies will be available for pick up at church.

Communications:

- Dossal discussion referred back to Worship and Music. Check with Sam on his thoughts regarding organ sound, committee decision on type of material (long cloth or sound cloth), refer to Archive pictures for examples of original dossal.

Committee Reports:

Safety Committee: Update provided by Herb Poff.

- AED has been ordered through The Red Cross.

Property Committee: Update provided by Ed Gair.

- Middle Lounge and Front Lounge lighting to be replaced.

- Estimate received for caulking exterior stained glass windows.

- **M (Herb Poff — 2nd by Mel Wentzel) SC: CC: 21.10.5** Motion approved to use money previously budgeted for Fellowship Hall air conditioning replacement to instead replace outdoor sign board pending city/state codes approval.

Faith and Fellowship: Update provided by Vicki Haussmann

- Pumpkin Carving October 23, 2021
- OCC shoebox packing November 7, 2021 at 9:15 AM

Outreach Committee: Update provided by Becky Pryor

- Card Ministry continues.

Congregation will send Thanksgiving and Christmas cards provided by the committee to special concerns folks.

- Volunteers will provide cookies for Redeemer's Nov. Community Dinner.

- Christmas collections for Danville State Hospital and the Selinsgrove Center will take place.

- **M (Ralph Zeigler — 2nd Ray Huff) SC: CC: 21.10.2**

Motion approved to hold Bloodmobile in Fellowship Hall on December 10 with no charge to the Red Cross.

Personnel Committee: Update provided by Becky Pryor

- Annual performance reviews are occurring and hourly wage and salary recommendations for our employees have been forwarded to the Finance Committee for consideration.

Worship and Music: Update provided by Ray Huff

- **M (Worship and Music — 2nd Mel Wentzel) SC: CC: 21.10.3**

- Motion approved that we will discontinue making banners for All Saints Day. The names of the saints will be included in a special memorial card-stock addition to the bulletin.

- Advent and Christmas details for Bible Study, church decorating, flower ordering, and memorial dedications were discussed.

- **M (Worship and Music — 2nd Mel Wentzel) SC: CC: 21.10.4**

- Motion approved to

discontinue the Remembrance Service with the All Saints' service to replace it. Herb Poff and Mel Wentzel abstained, Becky Pryor, Nay vote.

- Next meeting: Sunday, February 13, 2022 after 10:30 service.

Constitution Committee: Update provided by Pam Jensen

- Next meeting: October 25, 2021

Nominating Committee: Update provided by Linda Rosini

- Next meeting: October 27, 2021

Reminders:

- Committee reports for the Annual Congregational Meeting are due to Mary Beth by November 15, 2021.

- Annual Congregational Meeting is December 12, 2021. There will be a single service at 9:30 AM.



WELCOME L. JANE KLINE! On Sunday, October 31, (L) Jane Kline was received into the membership of St. Mark's by way of her "Letter of Transfer of Membership" from First United Methodist Church, Fort Smith, AR. Welcome Jane!

Outreach Ministry Notes for The Lion

November 2021

Sharing in the Caring

The Outreach Committee thanks Susan Newcomer for providing all the cookies for Redeemer's October Community dinner and giving us the night off from packaging. The cookies looked both delicious and attractive in their ribboned bags.

We are certain those receiving meals enjoyed them. Redeemer is once again asking if the Outreach Committee could provide dessert for Redeemer's Community Dinner on Thursday, November 11, 2021. We accepted their request and will be providing cookies and candy kisses or chocolate miniatures in individual packages. The Church Council and Personnel Committee are providing all 21 dozen cookies that will be needed! **We are still in need of zip lock sandwich bags for 125 packages and bags of candy kisses or miniature chocolates.** All cookies and chocolates for this event must be at St. Mark's kitchen by 1:00 PM on Wednesday, November 10, 2021. Donations of zip lock bags and bags of candy kisses or miniature chocolates can be placed on the tables in the Narthex if you do not wish to wait until the deadline. The Outreach Committee will assemble all 125 packages later that evening for delivery to Redeemer on Thursday, November 11.

We are accepting monetary donations for purchasing anything not donated. Checks may be made payable to St. Mark's with the memo line reading MEALS.

Ongoing Collections at St. Mark's:

- **United Churches Food Pantry:** Items most in need are small cans of Coffee, Pop Tarts, Rice, Hamburger Helper, Condiments, Jell-O and Pudding Mixes.
- **Shepherd of the Streets:** Hygiene Items in regular sizes for infants, kids, men and women are always in need. Specific needs

this month are Kleenex, Band-Aids, Women's Deodorant, Razors and Shaving Cream for men and women.

- **Blessing Boxes at New Covenant UCC:** Individual Healthy Snacks and Crackers, Microwave Soups and Pasta, Ramen Noodles, Deodorant and Socks (new or gently used for men and women.) Travel-size Hygiene Items are especially needed.
- **Sojourner Truth Ministries:** This ministry provides meals to approximately 70 people each day, Mondays through Saturdays. This month they are in need of steel wool scrubbies, cooking oil, jars of mayonnaise and aluminum foil.
- **Items for the Food Pantry, Shepherd of the Streets, Blessing Boxes and Sojourner Truth may be placed on the table or in the bins in the Narthex.**
- **Aluminum Soda Can Tabs:** Containers are available in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall. Tabs are given to support the Ronald McDonald House in Danville.
- **Pennies for Youth Activities:** A container is available in the Narthex for your donations.

Ongoing Events at Redeemer Lutheran:

- **Community Supper** on Thursday, November 11, 2021 from 5:00 PM until all meals are served. This is a take-out only meal. This month the meal is the traditional Thanksgiving Dinner. All are welcome.



- **Daniel's Closet** (Free Fall/Winter Clothing) on Saturday, November 20, 2021 from 8:30 – 11:00 AM. **This is a week earlier due to Thanksgiving.**
- With cooler weather comes the need for warmer clothing and sturdier shoes.
- **Donated Clothing** may be dropped off at Redeemer on Thursday, November 11, 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.

Looking Ahead to Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas

The Outreach Committee will provide Thanksgiving Cards on Sunday, November 14, 2021 for congregation members to send to our Special Concern Folks and others we do not see as often as we wish. Please consider sending a card or two.

Later this month we will be collecting items to gift the ladies of CM-6 at the Selinsgrove Center. We will be collecting sensitive skin or extra moisturizing body wash and non-refrigerated pudding cups in a variety of flavors. We have the cozy socks for every lady to receive a pair or two. We will also gift the caregivers with treats. Be looking for those needed items closer to the end of the month. Later this month we will learn if an in-person party will occur. Regardless of that decision, our gifts will be delivered.

We will also collect general gifts for the residents of the Danville State Hospital. Those gifts include the following items in sizes large and up for men and women.

- Socks, PJ's, Night Gowns, Sweat Shirts, Inexpensive Wallets and Watches, Batteries (AA & AAA,) Hats, Gloves and Scarves. Body Wash, Shampoo and Conditioner are also accepted.

Specific containers will be available in late November for your donations to the Selinsgrove Center and the Danville State Hospital.

Keeping in Touch



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 2022. If you wish to be part of this ministry in the coming year, speak with Becky Miller Pryor, Jackie Kinney, Karen Mariano or Barb Thomas if you wish to participate. Several months remain open in the 2022 calendar.



**Workers for God – November
Communion Assistants**

8:00 AM

11/07/21 Becky Pryor
11/14/21 Drew Haussmann
11/21/21 Becky Pryor
11/28/21 Drew Haussmann

10:30 AM

11/07/21 Lou DeSeau & Dan Zeigler
11/14/21 Walt Doebler & Gary Weber
11/21/21 Ralph & Lou Ann Zeigler
11/28/21 Matt & Wanda Fortin

Lectors

8:00 AM

11/07/21 Ruth Rees
11/14/21 Drew Haussmann
11/21/21 Leah Haussmann
11/28/21 Candy Dewar

10:30 AM

11/07/21 Gary Weber
11/14/21 Lou DeSeau
11/21/21 Karen Mariano
11/28/21 Linda Rosini

Ushers

8:00 AM

11/07/21 Miller/Poff
11/14/21 Miller/Poff
11/21/21 Miller/Poff
11/28/21 Miller/Poff

10:30 AM

11/07/21 Jensen Team
11/14/21 Fortin Team
11/21/21 Albright Team
11/28/21 Maggs Team

Gary Weber-Head Usher
Carl Albright-Captain: Brenda, Owen and
Levi Gair
Tim Maggs-Captain: Carl Hieber, Charlie
Fortin
Mike Jensen-Captain: Gary Weber, Sean
Jensen, Shelby Weber
Matt Fortin-Captain: Glenn Yapple, Bud
Doebler



Birthdays

Smith, Marguerite	11/04
Bower, John	11/07
Kuntz, Ann	11/07
Gair, Brenda	11/08
Johnson, Darian	11/08
Fenderson, Kathy	11/09
Fredericks, Chele	11/09
Pryor, Becky Miller	11/09
Davenport, Pamela	11/12
Haussmann, Elizabeth	11/13
Baker, Donna	11/18
Baker, Ronald	11/18
Reams, Ray	11/21
Bjornstad, Sally	11/23
Jones, Robert	11/23
Newcomer Jr., James	11/23

Bieber, Nancy	11/25
Dewar, Stephen	11/25
Miller, Ashley	11/25
Smith, Lois	11/25
Miller, Shirley	11/26
Walz, Lucia	11/26
Clokey, Shelly	11/27
Jensen, Katlin	11/27
Hershberger, Harold	11/30



Anniversaries

Robertson, Jennifer & Rick	11/05
Dancho, Gregg & Kathleen	11/06
Dewar, Stephen & Candace	11/18
Williams, Cheryl & Dave	11/19
Zeigler, Jr., Ralph & Lou Ann	11/19
Clouser, Robert & Mary	11/20
Fortin, Charles & Judith	11/26
Wentzel, Melvin & Melinda	11/30

CONSECRATION SUNDAY IS OCTOBER 31.

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

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 Commitment 2022 is \$ _____ per week OR
\$ _____ per month OR \$ _____ per year.**

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. _____

Number _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____ Envelope

Number _____

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 570-323-1415
 srobinson@stmarkswilliamsport.org

Sam Robinson, Church Organist
 srobinson@stmarkswilliamsport.org

Jackie Baysore, Bookkeeper
 jbayesore@stmarkswilliamsport.org

Lou DeSean, Environmental Serv.
 stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org
 Linda Rosini, Council President
 lr10152@yahoo.com
 home 570-971-4585

Wanda Fortin, Secretary
 570-337-9137

Jackie Kinney, Treasurer
 jskimney1@yahoo.com
 570-337-3023

Matt Fortin, Stephen Ministry
 570-337-3023

Janet Jones, Parish Life
 jgnacookie@comcast.net

Debra Buckman
 dbuckman@pct.edu or dabuckman65@gmail.com

Family Promise Coordinator
 Prayer Chain-coordinator needed
 Sally Bjornstad, Altar Flowers
 5 70-494-6637

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 DeSean
 Sun, Mon, Wed, Thu 8:30am-1pm
Bookkeeper: Jackie Baysore
 Tue 8am-12:00pm
Secretary: Mary Beth Lingle
 Mon-Thu 9am-1pm
Friday Church Office is Closed

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

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