

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

142 Market Street
Williamsport, PA 17701
570-323-4619



“THE LION” OF ST. MARK’S JANUARY 2022

Pastor's “Lion” Message for January, 2022

Dear Members and Friends of St. Mark's, “Happy New Year”! On January 1 we began a new calendar year. The new calendar year brings with it not only change, excitement, and resolutions, but also a little bit of fear and trepidation. New Year’s Day means a fresh start and can be a very scary place where nothing is familiar.

Although it is often forgotten with the celebration of the New Year holiday, in the life of the Church January 1 also represents “The Octave”, the eighth day of Christmas. If December 25 is counted as the first day of the Christmas Season, than January 1 is considered the octave or eighth day. According to Mosaic Law, eight days after a male child is born he is circumcised and named. Naming was very significant in the lives of God's faithful. A name reflected a family's history, occupation or devotion to God. For example the name David (Deivid in Hebrew) means “Beloved.” Jesus, the Greek form of the name Joshua (Yeshua in Hebrew) means “God saves”. Joseph and Mary brought Jesus to the Temple eight days following his birth to “Do for him what the Mosaic Law required”: to circumcise him

(sign of the covenant) and give him the name Jesus (Luke 2:21).

Not much is made of “The Octave”. Perhaps there should be, for the octave reminds us of the significance of the name Jesus. Jesus means God saves: God saves us from our sins; God saves us from eternal death; God saves us to be God's servants; God saves us to love others as God loves us.

The new calendar year brings with it joy and a “clean slate” for some. It can also bring with it a sense of fear and uncertainty for others. However, when we as people of the New Covenant embrace January 1 as a reminder of the name and significance of Jesus, it means for us only one thing: salvation! In Jesus we have more than just the celebration of a new year and a clean slate. In Jesus we have nothing to fear, nothing of which to be uncertain. Our God is the same yesterday, today and forever. The name “Jesus”, the name in which we are baptized, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the Christian Covenant, assures us of that. Happy New Year! Happy Octave!

Grace + Peace,
Pastor Brian Vasey

HAPPENING THIS MONTH:

Thursday, January 6, 2022 celebrates The Epiphany of Our Lord. The Epiphany commemorates the adoration of the Wise Men.



Sunday, January 9, 2022 celebrates The Baptism of Our Lord. It commemorates the baptism of Jesus by John in the River Jordan.

January 17, 2022 is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. While it is true that Reverend Dr. King was a champion of human and civil rights for all people, he was also a man of peace who preached love as God's "weapon" to combat evil and hatred. January 17 is truly a day to embrace non-violent Christian philosophy and practices.

The "Week of Prayer for Christian Unity" (Tuesday, January 18-Tuesday, January 25) calls to mind the high priestly prayer of Jesus, that his followers may all be "one" (John 17:11). It celebrates our unity in Christ and reminds us that while we as Christians may not have uniformity, in Christ we have unity.

WELCOME (back) TO ST. MARK'S! On Sunday, December 12, St. Mark's welcomed Helen Schramm to church membership. Helen had been a member of St. Mark's previously and wanted to "reconnect" with our congregation. Welcome Helen!

WELCOME TO CHURCH COUNCIL! At the annual meeting of our congregation Kathy Dancho and Glenn Yapple were both elected to serve one term on St. Mark's Congregational Council. Herb Poff was re-elected to a second term. The election of council officers will take place at the January 17 council meeting.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE SERVED ON CHURCH COUNCIL IN 2021!

Please continue to hold Bernadette Jones, and Lou DeSeau in prayer. Cards and calls are always welcome:

Bernadette Jones
665 Fifth Ave.
Williamsport, PA 17701

Lou DeSeau
2211 Webb Street
Williamsport, PA 17701

The New Year 2022 **ALTAR FLOWER SIGN-UP BOOK** will be available starting the first week of January.



THANK YOU for your cards, gifts, prayers and well - wishes to the Vasey family during the Christmas season.

With much appreciation,
Pastor and family

Christmas Clean-Up

As beautiful as St. Mark's Christmas decorations are, the season of Christmas will come to an end. Please come help us "undecorate" the Nave, Narthex and Front Lounge on Saturday, January 8th. We will meet at 10:00 in Fellowship Hall ~ with a box of donuts and some coffee to start things off right! All hands are welcome. We look forward to seeing you there!



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



We look forward to continuing the outreach

ministry of Operation Christmas Child in 2022, and have set a goal to pack 60 beautiful boxes (10 per gender and age group). These shoeboxes will then be sent to kids around the world toward the end of the year. Monthly collections make this process a little less daunting come November, and we very much appreciate your generous donations throughout the year.

In January, we are collecting:

Fun Pads (small activity pads)
Journals/Small Notebooks
Knit Hats
T-shirts* ("Cute" or plain white. Either is fine!)
Socks/Undies*

These items may be placed in our red, OCC bin located in the narthex.

Thank you for your continued support in helping spread the good news of God's love!

*Just a note ~ the age ranges for the boxes we fill are 2-4, 5-9, and 10-14 for both boys and girls. This may help with clothing sizes.

Annual Congregational report

Report of the Secretary for the Annual Congregational meeting held at a combined service on Sunday, December 12, 2021 at 9:30 a.m. – Wanda Fortin, Secretary

Present at the service: Pastor Vasey, Samuel Robinson.

Congregation members present were 51. One member left early prior to voting.

Council President Linda Rosini opened with prayer and called the meeting to order.

Jackie Kinney, Church Treasurer, gave a brief overview of the 2022 church budget. There were no questions regarding the proposed budget and it was passed unanimously.

Jackie also announced her resignation as Church Treasurer.

Council President Linda Rosini reported:

- The current council members were announced as Linda Rosini, Becky Pryor, Mel Wentzel, Ray Huff, Pam Jensen, Vicki Haussmann, Herb Poff, Wanda Fortin, Ralph Zeigler, Carl Albright, Ed Gair and Bob Campbell.
- Becky Pryor and Carl Albright will be completing their terms on council effective December 31, 2021.

A motion was made by Linda Rosini on behalf of the Nominating Committee and Council, seconded by Shelby Weber to nominate Kathy Dancho and Glenn Yapple for a term on council. A hand vote of those present was unanimous to approve the motion. **M(Council) SC: CC: 21.12.1.**

A motion was made by Linda Rosini on behalf of council and seconded by Karen Mariano to nominate Herb Poff for a second term on council. A hand vote of those present was unanimous to approve the motion. **M(Council) SC: CC: 21.12.2.**

Gary Weber – The Church Constitution requires the congregation approval of all real estate sales. St. Mark’s Lutheran Church along with the SPCA and HSUS (Humane Society) were gifted a parcel of land in Eldred Township. The land is landlocked and therefore has limited commercial value. The parties agreed to offer the land for sale to the surrounding land owners. Two bids were received. One for \$30,500 and a second offer for \$63,500. The second bid of \$63,500 was accepted. The individual purchasing the land for \$63,500 obtained an appraisal as a requirement of their loan financing. The appraised value came in at \$47,000. St. Mark’s, SPCA and HSUS agreed to accept \$47,000 as the new purchase price. This was also accepted by the church council. A motion to ratify the

action of council to offer the land for sale using the bidding process and accepting a \$47,000 bid, and to approve the sale of the land for \$47,000 was made by Kathy Dancho and seconded by Gregg Dancho. A hand vote of those present was unanimous to approve the motion. **M(Council) SC: CC: 21.12.3**

Pastor Vasey reported the Annual Report did not include the deaths of Linda DeSeau and Kay Poliska as the report was printed prior to their passing. Pastor Vasey also welcomed all those newly elected council members and thanked Linda Rosini (Council President), Becky Pryor (Council VP), Wanda Fortin (Secretary) and Jackie Kinney, (Treasurer) for a job well done.

Pam Jensen reminded the congregation to please complete and turn in their communion cards.

Motion to adjourn by Linda Rosini, seconded by Shelby Weber.



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity:

My Dear Friends in Christ,

Each year the worldwide **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** (January 18-25) encourages us to renew our commitment to pray and to work for greater unity among all followers of Jesus Christ. In 2022, we joyfully commemorate the 58th anniversary of the promulgation of the **Decree on Ecumenism** of the Second Vatican Council, which brought the Catholic Church into the modern ecumenical movement.

It is a pleasure to invite you to join me for an Ecumenical Celebration of God's Word on **Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 12:10 p.m.** in Saint Peter's Cathedral, Scranton, Pennsylvania. All are most welcome to attend! Please RSVP by calling or emailing Jennifer Andres at Jennifer-Andres@dioceseofscranton.org or calling 570-207-2213 by Wednesday, January 12, 2022.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera,
D. D., J.C.L.
Bishop of Scranton



January 2022

Thank You for the Christmas Gifts

The Outreach Committee thanks the congregation for their support of our many December projects. Without your support we could not have been the hands of God at this very special time of year.

During December the Outreach Committee assisted with collecting the following:

- General gifts for the residents of the Danville State Hospital. Fifty-six clothing items and forty-eight batteries were donated by church members.
- Body wash, slipper socks and pudding cups for the thirteen ladies of CM-6 at the Selinsgrove Center. A snack basket was prepared for their caregivers. Due to the ongoing pandemic, we were unable to sing and tell stories to the ladies. The staff was grateful for our gifts to the ladies and hope 2022 will be the year we can return in person. A special thank you to Jim Newcomer for the generous donation of chocolate pudding cups.
- On December 10, 2021 we hosted a Red Cross Blood Drive in Fellowship Hall. Sixteen units of blood were collected. We are tentatively scheduled to host blood drives on July 15 and December 9, 2022.
- Thank you to all the members of the congregation who took Christmas cards from the table in the Narthex, added a cheery message and mailed them to our Special Concerns Folks and others we do not see as often as we would like, particularly during the pandemic.
- Special thanks to Susan Newcomer for her donation of Christmas cookies for Redeemer's December community dinner. Thanks also to Bob Miller for his donation of two pork loins for Redeemer's upcoming January dinner of pork and sauerkraut.
- The Polish Stars crafted by Lou Ann Zeigler brought joy to many. That joy will be shared with clients of the United Churches Food Pantry. To date \$150 worth of grocery gift cards have been donated to the pantry.

- The Faith and Fellowship and the Outreach Committees thank the congregation for participating in Reverse Advent. As of press time the Advent bags were being returned filled with non-perishable food items and hygiene products.
- The Newberry Branch of NGA thanks members of St. Mark's for the much-needed hats, gloves and mittens.



These gestures of Christmas spirit given by members of our congregation were sure to comfort the individuals receiving them in Christ's name.

Go Green for Gifting

Have more Christmas gift bags, new greeting cards and tissue paper than you can use? Donate them to the Outreach Committee for gifting the ladies of CM-6 and others in 2022. We can also find homes for extra 2022 calendars and day planners. Donated items can be placed in the tub in the Narthex.



Resolutions for 2022?

Are you thinking of making any changes to your life in 2022? Maybe you want to become more fit or be more organized. Maybe our Lord has been calling you to be more involved at church or in our community. If so, please consider joining the Outreach Committee. We meet the first Tuesday of most months.

If joining another committee does not work in your life at this time, please consider being part of the Card Ministry team. From the comfort of your home, you can send one or two cards per week to folks on our Special Concern list. All cards, stamps and addresses are provided.

If either idea is a fit for you, contact Becky Miller Pryor at 570-971-4585.



Sharing in the Caring

Ongoing Collections at St. Mark's:

- **United Churches Food Pantry:** Needed are side dishes and pasta, pancake syrup, canned vegetables, cake and dessert mixes and healthy snacks.
- **Shepherd of the Streets:** Needed are shampoo, conditioner, body wash and toothbrushes for adults and children, feminine hygiene products, paper towels, Kleenex, hand and dish soap.
- **Blessing Boxes at New Covenant UCC:** Easily prepared foods like Cup of Soups, individual packs of crackers and cookies, microwave mac & cheese, ramen noodles and individual boxes of cereal are needed. Travel size hygiene items are also needed
- **Sojourner Truth Ministries:** Bleach, Dawn dish detergent, aluminum foil, copper scrubbies and cooking oil are needed.

Donations to the Food Panty, Shepherd of the Streets, the Blessing Boxes or to Sojourner Truth Ministries may be placed on the tables in the Narthex.



Committees

that make a difference

Ongoing Events at Redeemer Lutheran:

- **Community Dinner** on Thursday, January 13, 2022 beginning at 5:00 PM. All are welcome. This is a take-out meal available at the curb.
- **Daniel's Closet** Distribution of free seasonal clothing on Saturday, January 22, 2022 from 8:30 – 11:00 AM. Winter weather brings the need for warm clothing and sturdier shoes for adults and children. Blankets, throws and afghans are also accepted.
- **Donated Clothing** may be dropped off at Redeemer on Thursday, January 13, 2022 from 3:00 – 4:30 PM. This is the same date as the community dinner. 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.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Council met on December 20, 2021.

Sound System update: **M(Herb Poff – 2nd by Ray Huff) SC: CC: 21.12.1** Motion passed to purchase 4 wireless mics and associated work by Gelnett & Associates for \$6,915.00. Ralph Zeigler abstained from the vote. (It was announced after the meeting was adjourned that we have received an anonymous donation of \$4,000 toward the purchase of the 4 wireless mics)

Committee Reports:

Safety Committee: Update provided by Carl Albright.

The defibrillator has been received. A meeting will be set up to discuss dates for training that will be offered to anyone in the congregation who wishes to participate.

Property Committee: No new update.

Faith & Fellowship: No new update.

Outreach Committee: Update provided by Becky Pryor.

Our many Christmas activities from sending cards to gifting the ladies of CM-6, have brought cheer to many folks. The congregation is thanked for their generous support.

Personnel Committee: Update provided by Becky Pryor.

Our secretary, Mary Beth Lingle has satisfactorily completed her 90 day probationary period. We are so pleased with how well she fits at St. Mark's.

Earlier in December, the council via email, unanimously voted to hire Danielle Fulp for part time, temporary custodial services for up to eight hours per week subject to securing clearances.

Worship & Music: Update provided by Ray Huff.

Set up for Christmas Eve services are underway.

A heartfelt thank you to the Gair Family for their help with the advent wreath and also to Ralph & Lou Ann Zeigler for their banners and making the Nave beautiful.

Next W&M meeting will be held February 13, 2022.

New Business:

January 9, 2022 will be the installation of returning council members and two new council members, Kathy Dancho and Glenn Yapple.

During the January 17, 2022 council meeting, council members will nominate and vote for the following open positions: President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.



January Birthdays:

Weber, Shelby	1/1
Newcomer Sr., James	1/4
Doebler, Mary Lou	1/6
Zeigler, Andrew	1/10
Zeigler, Peter	1/10
Kinney, Jackie	1/13
Weber, Riley	1/14
Zeigler, Anna	1/15
Zeigler, Laura	1/15
Doane, Lee	1/16
Boston, Donna	1/17
Miller, Beth	1/17
Rees, Ruth	1/17
Poff, Herbert	1/21
Ruesskamp, Elizabeth	1/22
Doebler, Walter	1/25
Kinney, Marc	1/26
Buckman, Sean	1/28
Owen, Devin	1/30



Next meeting: January 17, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m. in the Crossways room.



Workers for God – January

Communion Assistants

8:00 a.m.

1/2/22 Becky Pryor
1/9/22 Drew Haussman
1/16/22 Becky Pryor
1/23/22 Drew Haussmann
1/30/22 Becky Pryor

10:30 a.m.

1/2/22 Gregg & Kathy Dancho
1/9/22 Deb Buckman & Mindy Wentzel
1/16/22 Walt Doebler & Gary Weber
1/23/22 Ralph & Lou Ann Zeigler
1/30/22 Gregg Dancho & Dan Zeigler

Lectors

8:00 a.m.

1/2/22 Leah Haussman
1/9/22 Candy Dewar
1/16/22 Becky Pryor
1/23/22 Vicki Haussmann
1/30/22 Ruth Rees

10:30 a.m.

1/2/22 Deb Buckman
1/9/22 Karen Mariano
1/16/22 Gary Weber
1/23/22 Phil Thomas
1/30/22 Brenda Gair

Ushers

8:00 a.m.

1/2/22 Dick Miller/Herb Poff
1/9/22 Dick Miller/Herb Poff
1/16/22 Dick Miller/Herb Poff
1/23/22 Dick Miller/Herb Poff
1/30/22 Dick Miller/Herb Poff

10:30 a.m.

1/2/22 Albright Team
1/9/22 Maggs Team
1/16/22 Jensen Team
1/23/22 Fortin Team

1/30/22 Albright Team

Ushers:

Gary Weber – Head Usher

Albright Team:

Carl Albright, Captain: Brenda, Owen and Levi Gair

Maggs Team:

Tim Maggs, Captain: Carl Hieber, Charlie Fortin

Jensen Team:

Mike Jensen, Captain: Gary Weber, Sean Jensen, Shelby Weber

Fortin Team:

Matt Fortin, Captain: Glenn Yapple, Bud Doebler

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 570-337-3023
 Matt Fortin, Stephen Ministry
jmacookie@comcast.net
 Janet Jones, Parish Life
dbuckman@pct.edu or dabuckkman5@gmail.com
 Debra Buckman
 Family Promise Coordinator
 Prayer Chain-coordinator needed
 Sally Bjornstad, Altar Flowers
 5 70-494-6637

STAFF OFFICE HOURS
Pastor: The Rev. Brian Vasey
Mon-Thru 9a.m.-12p.m. & by appointment
Church Organist: Sam Robinson
 Summer: Mon 1p.m.-3p.m. & by appointment
Sexton: Lou DeSean
 Sun, Mon, Wed, Thu 8:30a.m.-1p.m.
Bookkeeper: Jackie Baysore
 Tue 8a.m.-12:00p.m.
Secretary: Mary Beth Lingle
 Mon-Thru 9a.m.-1p.m.
Friday Church Office is Closed

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
142 MARKET ST.
WILLIAMSPORT, PA 17701

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