

# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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



## “THE LION” OF ST. MARK’S FEBRUARY 2022

Pastor's “Lion” Message for February, 2022

Dear Members and Friends of St. Mark's,  
On Wednesday, February 16, the church remembers Philipp Melancthon.  
Melancthon is often referenced as Martin Luther's friend and associate, a theologian and professor who agreed with the Lutheran reforms. A careful reading of history however tells us that Melancthon was much more than one who simply agreed with Luther. Philipp Melancthon was the author of the Augsburg Confession, the document that more than any other states the theology and rationale for the Lutheran reforms. “If it please Christ, Melancthon will make many Martins; he knows well the Rock of Christ... As a man of might, he will prove his ability.” (*Martin Luther*). Philipp Melancthon could and should be called the first systematic theologian of Lutheranism.

But this is only part of why the church remembers him. Melancthon sought the reforms of Luther in a more ecumenical spirit. Where Luther was bold and earthy, Melancthon was shy and refined. Where Luther was exclusive in his opinion, Melancthon was more inclusive. Philipp Melancthon sought to reform the church with and by other voices. He embraced and taught Luther's reforms by way of

scholasticism and used such to appeal to nations and reformers outside of Germany. Because of Melancthon, Moravian Christians (descendants of Jan Hus who embraced many of Luther's reforms some 100 years before Luther) adopted his phrase of, “In essentials, unity; in differences, liberty; in all things, charity”, when defining their unique tradition. Because of Melancthon's influence the Book of Common Prayer of the English Reformation reflects some Lutheran ideals.

The influence of Philipp Melancthon is an ecumenical influence. He belongs to the entire church. Like his mentor and friend Martin Luther, Philipp Melancthon teaches us faith's true meaning, “*Faith is nothing else than trust in the divine mercy of Christ.*” *Philipp Melancthon.*

Grace + Peace,  
*Pastor Brian Vasey*

***WE HAVE HAD AN EPIPHANY! Our signboard announced an Epiphany has happened! Indeed the light of Christ has come and in response to his light Council has approved two changes in the names of two of our Church Committees: “Outreach” will now be called, “Evangelism and Fellowship”. Why the change? Evangelism and Fellowship***

more fully explains the rationale of the work of this committee. Every extension of hospitality, good, and help we share with others is related to the Good News. Kiwanis, Rotary, Moose, etc., reach out to people in similar ways doing similar things but only the church does what it does as followers of Jesus. The name change keeps before us why this committee “does what it does”.

“Faith and Fellowship” will now be called “Faith Formation”. Why the change? Faith Formation more fully explains the rationale of the work of this committee. Sunday School, Family Activities, Adult Education, and Confirmation all seek to inform our faith. Christian Education is not limited to one age-level in the church. We are to have a “life-long learning encounter with Christ.” The name change reminds us what scripture proclaims: “In following Jesus we are the students of the Master Teacher.”

Committee Chairpersons, Committee Members, Pastor Vasey and Members of Council are welcoming of these changes. Please keep these committees, and all ministries of the church before the Lord in prayer as we all strive to serve Christ in faith.

#### ***HAPPENING THIS MONTH:***

“SOUPER BOWL OF CARING” is Super Bowl Sunday, February 13. Help us celebrate a football game as an opportunity to ease poverty and hunger at home and abroad through your generosity and participation. The Souper Bowl of Caring will be celebrated at both services on February 13.



#### ***LOOKING AHEAD:***

#### **SHROVE TUESDAY CELEBRATION:**

St. Mark's will celebrate “Shrove Tuesday” (March 1) the day before Ash Wednesday with a special celebration. At 6:30 p.m. we will gather in Fellowship Hall for donuts and light conversation. Remember that in some circles “Shrove Tuesday” is also referred to as “Fastnacht”; Donut Day, a day to remove all fat and sugar from the home in preparation for Lent. Our celebration will include gathering in our courtyard to burn last year's palms for ashes to be used as our ashes for repentance and mortality on Ash Wednesday. We will conclude our time together with a brief liturgy of prayer and praise as we “Bury the Alleluia” in preparation for Lent. Joined by fellow Lutherans from St. Luke's, Williamsport, this promises to be a meaningful day as we celebrate our faith and life in Christ in anticipation of the Lenten and Easter Seasons. Be sure to join us!

**ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2.** This year there will be two opportunities to receive ashes at St. Mark's:

**12:15 p.m. - Brief Service of Ashes and the Word in the Chapel.**

**7 p.m. - Ash Wednesday Holy Communion in the Nave.**

**All are welcome!**



**LENTEN BIBLE STUDY, 12:15 – 12:45 p.m., March 9-April 6 (Fellowship Hall). “Conversation and Catechism” will explore the scripture texts of Luther's Small Catechism. More details in the March Lion. All are welcome!**

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

**Bernadette Jones (570-220-0373)  
665 Fifth Ave.  
Williamsport, PA 17701**

**Lou DeSeau (570-323-9178)  
2211 Webb Street  
Williamsport, PA 17701**

**Report of the Secretary for the Council meeting held on January 17, 2021 – Wanda Fortin, Secretary**

Present: Pastor Vasey, Council members Wanda Fortin, Linda Rosini, Bob Campbell, Pam Jensen, Ralph Zeigler, Herb Poff, Mel Wentzel, Ray Huff, Kathy Dancho, Glenn Yapple and Ed Gair.

Mel Wentzel led us in the opening prayer. The meeting was called to order by Linda Rosini, Council President.

Welcome to our newest council members, Kathy Dancho and Glenn Yapple.

The Secretary's report was accepted as presented.

The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

Election of new council officers:

- **M(Ray Huff – 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mel Wentzel) SC: CC: 22.1.1** Nomination made and motion approved unanimously to elect Ralph Zeigler as President of Council.
- **M(Mel Wentzel – 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pam Jensen) SC: CC: 22.1.2** Nomination made and motion approved unanimously to elect Vicki Haussmann as Secretary of Council.
- **M(Ray Huff – 2<sup>nd</sup> by Herb Poff) SC: CC: 22.1.3** Nomination made and motion approved unanimously to elect Mel Wentzel as Vice- President of Council.
- **M(Mel Wentzel – 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ed Gair) SC: CC: 22.1.4** Nomination made and motion approved unanimously to elect Pam Jensen as Treasurer.

Pastor's report: As submitted by Pastor Vasey.

- **M(Mel Wentzel – 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kathy Dancho) SC: CC: 22.1.5** Motion approved to change the names of the two of our church committees. “Outreach” will now be “Evangelism & Fellowship” and “Faith & Fellowship” will now be “Faith Formation”.

Dossal Update provided by Ralph Zeigler:

- Three companies have been contacted that advertise dossal cloths/curtains. Information is being gathered and sample cloths have been requested. This will be discussed further at the next Worship & Music meeting.



Concerns from Council: None at this time.  
 Prayer at the end of the day – Mel Wentzel.  
 The meeting was adjourned.  
 Next meeting: February 21, 2022 @ 6:00  
 p.m. in the Crossways room.

**CHURCH COUNCIL ELECTS NEW OFFICERS:**

<b>President</b>	<b>Ralph Zeigler</b>
<b>Vice-President</b>	<b>Mel Wentzel</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Vicki Haussmann</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Pam Jensen</b>

**Congratulations to our new officers!**

**Worship and Music Committee notes:**

The Worship and Music Committee thanks all who helped to make the Advent worship season a glorious one. Ralph and Lou Ann Zeigler prepared, pressed, and hung the beautiful blue fabric on each of the posts in the sanctuary. Herb Poff found the perfect tree. The Haussmann family was also everywhere as they decorated the trees in the narthex and sanctuary.

Becky Miller Pryor dealt with every detail, whether big or small, to help us to be ready for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. The Gairs were everywhere, and special thanks go to Owen and Levi for their help with the Advent Candle. Cindy Huff made sure that the wreaths on the posts and the Advent Candle would add to the beauty of the Advent season.

Lou DeSeau and George Poliska teamed up in any way that they could to help us to get ready as they shared the loss of Linda and Kay in doing God’s work.

Committee Reports:

Safety Committee: AED instruction was offered by Dr. Drew Haussmann following the 10:30 a.m. service on Sunday, January 23 in the Front Lounge.

Property Committee: Update provided by Ed Gair.

Faith Formation: Next meeting will be February 3, 2022.

Evangelism and Fellowship Committee: As reported by Becky Pryor.

Personnel Committee: As reported by Becky Pryor.

Worship & Music: Update provided by Ray Huff.

- Next meeting will be held February 20, 2022 after the 10:30 a.m. service.
- A heartfelt thank you to all who assisted with Advent.

New Business:

- Danielle Fulk declined the position to assist Lou DeSeau with cleaning the church.

Reminders:

- Invite and encourage people to come and worship with us at St. Mark’s.





The music throughout the season was beautiful and special thanks go to Sam Robinson in his forming a larger choir with violin and viola accompaniment in an unforgettable presentation of *In the Bleak Midwinter*.

Pastor Vasey led us in word and sacrament throughout the season and added a special touch with his well-attended midweek Advent studies.

As with any acknowledgements, there is the probability that a name or names will not be included. For this, I apologize. Be assured that God knows what is in our hearts and actions.

Thank  
You

### **DO YOU ENJOY QUILTING?**

St. Mark's would like to "resurrect" our Quilting Ministry! If you like to sew or quilt or are just interested contact Wanda Fortin at 570-584-6403 or [wmariefort@gmail.com](mailto:wmariefort@gmail.com).



## **Evangelism and Fellowship Committee Articles for "The Lion"**

**February 2022**

### **Advent Blessings Continue in 2022!**

The Faith Formation and Evangelism and Fellowship Committees thank all who participated in our Reverse Advent Calendar collections this past December. All items have been sorted, counted and delivered to area nonprofits.

- **Shepherd of the Streets** received 34 hygiene items as well as 24 calendars!
- **The Blessing Box** received 120 assorted food and snack items!
- **United Churches Food Pantry** received 178 food items and 18 grocery gift cards!

Thank you for continuing to bless others through your generous giving. Working together, we accomplish much. It is appreciated!

### **Polish Stars Feed Those in Need**

Thank you, thank you, thank you Lou Ann Zeigler, for donating your hand-crafted Polish Stars to the Evangelism and Fellowship Committee. It was obvious that the congregation loved them as much as we did. As the display of Polish stars diminished, monetary donations increased. Members of St. Mark's donated a total of 15 ten-dollar grocery gift cards and 3 fifteen-dollar grocery gift cards to be used by clients of the United Churches Food Pantry. Thank you all for your support!

### **Hats, Gloves and Mittens, Oh My!**

The Newberry Branch of NGA (National Giving Alliance) distributes new clothing and coats to needy children, women and families in the Greater Williamsport Area. Since November we have distributed 128 coats. If we have hats, gloves and mittens we include them with the coat, but since early December we had all but exhausted our supply of those items.

We are deeply grateful to the members of St. Mark's who answered our request for hats, gloves and

mittens. A total of 29 assorted hats, gloves and mittens were donated.

### **Going Green for Gifting in 2022!**

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee thanks the congregation for their donations of gift bags, cards, tissue paper, calendars and day planners. The calendars and day planners were shared with the Shepherd of the Streets, Blessing Box at New Covenant UCC, and Daniel's Closet. The gift bags, cards, and wrapping paper will be used for our outreach next December.

### **Parish Life Activities**

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the Parish Life Committee has been sidelined. But feeling the need to get back into the kitchen, this committee is serving in small ways both within the church and out into the community. It is the outreach to the community that needs the congregation's help.

During the winter months when no refrigeration is required, the Blessing Box at New Covenant UCC distributes a dozen sandwiches per day. With the cost of groceries on the rise, you can imagine the expense New Covenant is shouldering. Parish Life has volunteered to provide 24 sandwiches the second and fourth Monday of each winter month. This will provide two days of sandwiches during the respective weeks.

We are in need of monetary donations to cover the costs for meat, cheese, rolls/bread, sandwich bags and individual packets of mayonnaise and mustard. Checks can be made payable to St. Mark's with the memo line indicating Food 4 All.

### **Sharing in the Caring**

#### **Ongoing Collections at St. Mark's:**

- **United Churches Food Pantry:** Needed are boxes of cereal, canned fruit, canned meats, rice, juice and healthy snacks.
- **Shepherd of the Streets:** Needed are shampoo, conditioner, body wash, deodorant, shave cream and body lotion for

men and women. Also needed are Kleenex and paper towels.

- **Blessing Box at New Covenant UCC:** Most of the people who use the Blessing Box are homeless or are on extremely tight budgets. 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 and men's socks (new or gently used) are also needed.
- **Sojourner Truth Ministries:** Spices of all types, Dawn dish detergent, aluminum foil, copper scrubbers and cooking oil are needed.

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

### **Ongoing Events at Redeemer Lutheran:**

- **Community Dinner** on Thursday, February 10, 2022 beginning at 5:00 p.m. All are welcome. This is a take-out meal available at the curb.
- **Daniel's Closet** Distribution of free seasonal clothing on Saturday, February 26, 2022 from 8:30 – 11:00 .m. Winter weather brings the need for warm clothing and sturdier shoes for adults and children. Blankets, bedding, throws and afghans are also accepted.
- **Donated Clothing** may be dropped off at Redeemer on Thursday, February 10, 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, 1101 Washington Blvd, Williamsport.

## Outreach to Redeemer's Community Dinner

Since the beginning of the pandemic, Redeemer Lutheran has provided a dinner for up to 125 individuals each month. Not only is that a lot of food, but extra expenses are incurred with the need for take-out containers and individual servings of fruit, bread and desserts. St. Mark's provided take-out containers and desserts for several months in 2021. Redeemer has once again requested our help with desserts in 2022.

In January, Parish Life provided brownies for dessert. Parish Life and the Evangelism and Fellowship Committees will provide desserts in February and March. In February we will be providing cakes to be cut and packaged into individual servings. We need **nine cakes** to provide 125 individual servings. Can you provide a 9 X13 sheet cake? Please contact Becky Miller Pryor at 570-971-4585 if you can donate a cake. The cake and the icing can be any flavor. All cakes must be in our kitchen by Wednesday, February 9, 2022 by 1:00 PM. If you cannot provide a cake, please consider making a monetary donation toward the small containers used for individual servings. Checks may be made payable to St. Mark's with the memo line indicating Food 4 All.

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



We continue collecting items for our Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes with the goal of packing 60 shoeboxes in 2022.

Our February collection will be:

## **Bars of Soap *And* Plastic Soap Boxes**

**Washcloths (preferably dark in color)**

**Knit Hats**

**\*T-shirts** (cute or plain, long sleeve or short, any will do)

**\*Socks/Undies**

Choose one, choose all!

Donations may be placed in the red, OCC bin located in the Narthex. As always, thank you for your continued generosity!

\*Just a note, the age ranges for the boxes we fill are 2-4, 5-9, and 10-14 (both boys and girls)



The Chiefs? The Bengals? The 49ers? The Rams? What on earth do these names even mean? It means that the football season is drawing to a close and Super Bowl Sunday is quickly approaching.

Whether you are a fanatic football fan or are just in it for the snacks, "Souper Bowl Sunday" gives us a wonderful opportunity to also think about others in our community.

“Souper Bowl Sunday” is February 13th this year ~ a week later than in years past. Which is a good thing as it gives us an extra week to collect those cans of soup to help stock the United Churches Food Pantry. Our “Famous Football Tub” will be in the Narthex ready to accept cans of soup (or other non-perishable food) on Feb. 6th and Feb. 13th. If you prefer, monetary donations may also be made (checks should be earmarked for Souper Bowl of Caring). Monetary donations will be used to support the many ministries of Shepherd of the Streets.

Please pray this simple prayer that started the Souper Bowl of Caring 30+ years ago: “Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat.”

Let’s see what we can do together to help fight hunger here in Williamsport. Thank you!

### **College Readiness Webinar Series**

the best education possible, and we are kicking off 2022 with the College Readiness Webinar Series, free webinars to answer any questions families may have about applying to or preparing for college. The series is composed of five different webinars, each focusing on a topic that will move you forward in your college search. The webinars will be offered throughout February.

The first webinar explains how you can get the most out of your visit to a college or university. The second will give you a firsthand look at the admissions process, with advice from admissions directors and tips on how to build a strong application. The third will dive deeper into how to pay for college, giving you tools to learn more about financial aid and how it can help you afford the school of your dreams. The fourth webinar will help you start your college search. The fifth webinar will be offered in Spanish and will provide an overview of the college search process.

Learn more at [imaginecolleges.org](https://imaginecolleges.org).



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

ELCA colleges and universities are dedicated to providing students with



**A Letter From our New Council  
President:**

My sisters and brothers in Christ —

What an honor to have been chosen to serve as president of our congregation and the Church Council for 2022.

Thank you for your confidence and support.

It pleases me to be serving alongside members of the Church Council. Other officers elected for this year are vice-president, Melvin Wentzel; secretary, Vicki Haussmann; and treasurer, Pamela Jensen. Together, with leadership from Pastor Vasey, we look forward to a year of opportunities “to know Christ, and to make Christ known.”

We welcome your ideas. They may be shared with any of us on Church Council. In addition to the officers, other members include Robert Campbell, Kathy Dancho, Wanda Fortin, Edward Gair, Ray Huff, Herbert Poff, Linda Rosini, and Glenn Yaple.

Or, your thoughts may be sent to me via email at [zeigler17702@msn.com](mailto:zeigler17702@msn.com) or by calling 570-772-3920.

St. Mark’s has a rich and wonderful history, and we want to help ensure a strong future. Together we can.

May God continue to bless us and our congregation.

Yours in Christ—

Ralph Zeigler





**Workers for God – February  
Communion Assistants**

**8:00 a.m.**

- 2/6/22 Drew Haussmann
- 2/13/22 Becky Pryor
- 2/20/22 Drew Haussmann
- 2/27/22 Becky Pryor

**10:30 a.m.**

- 2/6/22 Matt & Wanda Fortin
- 2/13/22 Carl & Audrey Albright
- 2/20/22 Deb Buckman & Mindy Wentzel
- 2/27/22 Gregg & Kathy Dancho

**Lectors**

**8:00a.m.**

- 2/6/22 Drew Haussmann
- 2/13/22 Vicki Haussmann
- 2/20/22 Candy Dewar
- 2/27/22 Becky Pryor

**10:30 a.m.**

- 2/6/22 Kathy Dancho
- 2/13/22 Pam Jensen
- 2/20/22 Mel Wentzel
- 2/27/22 Ralph Ziegler

**Ushers**

**8:00 a.m.**

- 2/6/22 Dick Miller/Herb Poff
- 2/13/22 Dick Miller/Herb Poff

- 2/20/22 Dick Miller/Herb Poff
- 2/27/22 Dick Miller/Herb Poff

**10:30 a.m.**

- 2/6/22 Maggs Team
- 2/13/22 Jensen Team
- 2/20/22 Fortin Team
- 2/27/22 Albright Team

**Ushers:** Gary Weber – Head Usher

**Albright Team:**

Carl Albright, Captain: Brenda, Owen and Levi Gair

**Jensen Team:**

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

**Fortin Team:**

Matt Fortin, Captain: Glenn Yapple, Bud Doebler



**February  
Anniversaries**

BARDSLEY, H. Vincent  
& Diane 02/18

**February Birthdays**

DOEBLER, Margie	02/08
GREEVY, Gloria	02/10
LEWIS, Lisa	02/13
NEWCOMER, Emily	02/13
OWEN, Michele	02/13
SECHLER, Elsie	02/13
ROBERTSON, Rick	02/17
ELKIN, Donna	02/21
PELLESCHI, Brandon	02/21
DOANE, Kahla	02/22
VASEY, Brian	02/26
CLARK, Gary	02/27
ZEIGLER Jr., Ralph	02/29



**Church Office 570-323-4619 Fax 570-323-2452**  
**Website: stmarkswilliamsport.org**  
**Main e-mail: [stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org)**

Rev. Brian Vasey, Pastor  
[bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org)  
 570-323-4619 or 570-323-1415  
[mblingle@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:mblingle@stmarkswilliamsport.org)  
 Mary Beth Lingle, Secretary  
 Sam Robinson, Church Organizer  
[strobins@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:strobins@stmarkswilliamsport.org)  
[jbaysore@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:jbaysore@stmarkswilliamsport.org)  
 Jackie Baysore, Bookkeeper  
 Lou DeSean, Environmental Serv.  
[stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org)  
 Ralph Zeigler, Council President  
 Mel Wentzel, Vice-President  
[melvinewentzel@gmail.com](mailto:melvinewentzel@gmail.com)  
 Vicki Haussmann, Council Secretary  
[hausfamily1@comcast.net](mailto:hausfamily1@comcast.net)  
 Pam Jensen, Treasurer  
[prhnmj53@aol.com](mailto:prhnmj53@aol.com)  
 570-337-3023  
 Matt Fortin, Stephen Ministry  
 Janet Jones, Parish Life  
[jmaccookie@comcast.net](mailto:jmaccookie@comcast.net)  
 Debra Buckman  
[dbuckman@pct.edu](mailto:dbuckman@pct.edu) or [dabuckman65@gmail.com](mailto: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 9 a.m.-1 p.m. & by appointment*  
**Church Organizer: Sam Robinson**  
 Summer: Mon 1 p.m.-3 p.m. & by appointment  
**Sexton: Lou DeSean**  
 Sun, Mon, Wed, Thu 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.  
**Bookkeeper: Jackie Baysore**  
 Tue 8 a.m.-12:00 p.m.  
**Secretary: Mary Beth Lingle**  
 Mon-Thu 9 a.m.-1 p.m.  
**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](mailto:stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org)

Non-Profit Organization  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
**Permit No. 257**  
 Williamsport, PA 17701