

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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



“THE LION” OF ST. MARK’S MARCH 2022

Pastor's “Lion” Message for March, 2022

“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also”. (Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21)

Ash Wednesday is March 2, 2022. This day calls us to make a fresh start on the renewal of our life in and with Christ. The Gospel is very straightforward about the manner of this life. There will be many opportunities to practice our faith outwardly this day:

- Prayer
- Fasting
- Reading Devotions
- Receiving Ashes
- Receiving Holy Communion

All these actions are well and good public expressions of the beginning of Lent.

However, we must not let or permit them to drown out or take away the call to be quiet, to look inward, to speak to God in secret, and to rest ourselves in Christ.

The image of treasure as mentioned in the above reading is the centerpiece here. It does not mean earthly goods, but rather the treasure that God offers us in the gift of his Son. That treasure is to be found in close communication and intimacy with God. Ash Wednesday provides the opportunity to walk with God, prizing our relationship with the divine as treasure which knows no equal. Ash Wednesday speaks to us to place God at the center of our lives outwardly and

inwardly.

Almighty God, this day guide us to place you at the center of both our outward and inward spiritual life; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Grace + Peace,
Pastor Brian Vasey

HAPPENING THIS MONTH:



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 PM - Service and Holy Communion in the Chapel.

7 PM - Ash Wednesday Holy Communion in the Nave. All are welcome!

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY, 12:15 – 12:45 PM, March 9-April 6 (Fellowship Hall). “Conversation and Catechism”; exploring the scripture texts of Luther's Small Catechism.

Please continue to hold the family of Bernadette Jones in prayer. Bernadette passed away February 10. Cards are always welcome:



**The Jones Family
665 Fifth Ave.
Williamsport, PA 17701**

**CONFIRMATION CLASS IN MARCH:
ALL CONFIRMANDS ARE REQUIRED
TO ATTEND THE ASH WEDNESDAY
SERVICE ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH
2, 7 PM.**

Confirmation class will meet Sunday, March 13, 2022, 9:15 AM. in the Crossways Room. Please remember to wear a mask and bring with you a pen or pencil and paper. If you are unable to attend, please contact Pastor Vasey (570-323-4619 or bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org)



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



**“I took each item out of my box one by one. I wanted to rejoice for everything.”
~ Andy, shoe box recipient.**

Please consider donating to our shoebox collections this month. The items are small, and yet so meaningful to the child who receives them.

In March, we will be collecting:

Combs/Brushes/Hair Accessories

Toothbrushes

Bar Soap

Mini Flashlights with extra batteries

Monetary donations are also welcome as we are looking into including “Grow With Me” shoes in this year’s boxes. While these are a bit pricey at \$20.00/pair, they adjust over time and can “grow” 5 sizes as the child’s foot grows. These shoes are often needed for children to attend school so receiving them is a huge blessing indeed! Checks may be made to St. Mark’s with OCC in the memo line.

These items (or any others) can be placed in our red, OCC bin located in the narthex. We thank you for your generosity!

*The age ranges for the boxes we fill are 2-4, 5-9, and 10-14 (both boys and girls).

FAMILY PROMISE

Family Promise is up and running again with families staying at the Center. St. Marks has been scheduled for the following weeks to host: March 27-April 2, July 10-16, Oct. 16-22 and Dec. 11-17. At this point our commitment would be provide evening meals. I will be getting in touch with our cooks later in the month of March.

Thanks – Deb

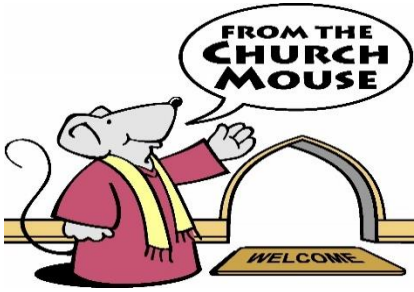


CHURCH CLEAN-UP

Our beautiful, BIG building could use a little more TLC than one or two people can handle. If you are willing to help dust, clean windows, sweep floors, vacuum carpets, mop..... we would love to have some extra hands to help tidy up a bit. We will meet on **Saturday, March 5 from 9:30 AM.-11:30 AM** to see what we can tackle. Please enter through the Fellowship Hall doors which will be unlocked. Any questions, please contact Vicki Haussmann. We look forward to seeing you!



NIBBLES FROM THE CHURCH MOUSE



It has been such a cold winter that the mouse has had to stay in his hole to hibernate for a bit but things are a little better now and slowly he is coming out and slowly things are beginning to happen at St. Mark's.

Mike and Pam Jensen's son, Sean, a freshman at Pitt, was playing basketball with some friends and the coach of the girls' basketball team asked if he would be interested in being on the practice team for the girls to help with their training.

Sean said yes and has enjoyed keeping his arm in basketball without the stress of competition.

Lots of news from the Haussmann family. Hannah made the dean's list for the fall semester at Washington and Jefferson. Elizabeth made the honor roll for the second quarter at Williamsport Area High School.

Ben had a wonderful two week study abroad in Barbados at the beginning of January. He loved learning about the culture, tasting the food, seeing how rum is distilled and being in the warm 80 degree weather. Ben has only one semester before he graduates! Those college years go by so quickly!

Both Hannah and Elizabeth's pictures can be found in the Summer Brochure for

Camp Mount Luther. Elizabeth, after her triumph as Annie in the play of the same name, will be featured in the Gertrude McFuzz in Seussical the Musical as part of the Penguin Project presented at the Community Theater March 4, 5, and 6. Get your tickets early – they sell out fast.

Recently had the pleasure of seeing both Sadie and Taylor Wentzel in concert performances at Pennsylvania State University. Both girls keep very busy with the many activities of the music department.

Now that the mouse is active again he would love to hear your news about exciting things in your lives – our members love to hear about you and so does he.

Blessing, Joyce Hershberger



Don't forget to set your clock, watches and phones ahead one full hour on March 13. Daylight Savings Time begins!

LENTEN PROJECT

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee is asking for your help. The Shepherd of the Streets is in need of monetary donations to support their prescription fund. To gather funds for the Shepherd's use, Lenten coin folders will be available for your use. We ask that each day you say a prayer and add a quarter to the folder. At the conclusion of Lent return the filled folder to church. These many quarters will be counted and given to the Shepherd of the Streets for the prescription fund. Coin folders are available in the Narthex. If you prefer, a check made payable to St. Mark's with the memo line indicating Prescription Fund may be donated. Thank you for any assistance you can give.



Evangelism and Fellowship Notes

March 2022

Valentine's Day Wishes

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee thanks the congregation for their support of our recent Valentine's Day card event. Folks on our Special Concerns List and others we do not see as often as we wish received a cheery card message. We feel certain there were many smiling faces when those sweet cards arrived. Please plan on helping us again by sending a card or two just in time

for Easter. Dates and details will be in the April "Lion".

Raise the Region – Save the Dates!



First Community Foundation of PA in partnership with Blaise Alexander Family Dealerships will once again be launching a 30-hour online fundraising event starting Wednesday, March 9, 2022 at 6:00 PM through Thursday, March 10, 2022 at 11:59 PM. Take a few moments and visit www.raisetheregion.org to see the many non-profit organizations accepting donations. A few charities that come to mind at St. Mark's are the Community Theatre League, Inc., Family Promise of Lycoming County, United Churches of Lycoming County, the SPCA, the Newberry Branch of NGA and Camp Mt. Luther. All gifts are tax deductible and will help make your favorite nonprofit's mission possible.

Parish Life Committee Update

When this committee called, the members of St. Mark's answered. During the winter months the Blessing Box at New Covenant UCC provides sandwiches each day to those in need of food. With the cost of all food on the rise, help with sandwiches is greatly appreciated by New Covenant.

The Parish Life Committee with your help has been providing meat and cheese sandwiches the second and fourth Monday of each winter month. They are grateful for the monetary support given by the congregation in supplying the meat, cheese, condiments and baggies for this project. Monetary contributions for these items continue to be welcomed. Checks may be made payable to St. Mark's with the memo line indicating Food4All.

Sharing in the Caring

Ongoing Collections at St. Mark's:

- **United Churches Food Pantry:** Needed are boxes of cereal, food that is easily opened (pop tops,) canned meats/veggies/fruits, condiments including salt and pepper and juice boxes or bottles.



Feeding the Community

- **Shepherd of the Streets:** Needed are shampoo, conditioner, body wash, deodorant, shave cream and body lotion for men and women. Also needed are Kleenex, paper towels and laundry pods in small packs.
- **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:** Bleach, Lysol disinfecting spray, cooking oil, aluminum foil, XL trash bags and cooking oil are needed.

Donations to the Food Party, 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, March 10, 2022 beginning at 5:00 PM. All are welcome. This is a take-out meal available at the curb. The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee are providing the dessert for this meal.
- **Daniel's Closet** Distribution of free seasonal clothing on Saturday, March 26, 2022 from 8:30 – 11:00 AM. Warm clothing and sturdier shoes for adults and children are still in need. Blankets, bedding, throws, towels and afghans are also accepted.
- **Donated Clothing** may be dropped off at Redeemer on Thursday, March 10, 2022 from 3:00 – 4:30 PM. This is the same date as the community dinner.

Small quantities of clothing may be placed on the stage. 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.



GOT STUFF?
Bored with winter? Thinking ahead to spring cleaning? The Women of St. Mark's need those items you no longer want

Thank You for the Cakes



The Evangelism and Fellowship and Parish Life Committees with the congregation's help, are providing desserts for the monthly community meal at Redeemer Lutheran. In February we provided an assortment of cakes. Thank you to Bob Miller, Janet Jones, Jackie Kinney, Barb Thomas, Linda Rosini and Becky Miller Pryor for their delicious donations. An extra special thank you goes to Janet Jones and Bob Miller for assisting with the cutting and packaging of 125 individual servings.

Monetary donations are still needed for future desserts along with baking supplies and containers for Redeemer's dinners to the community. If you wish to support this outreach, checks may be made payable to St. Mark's with the memo line indicating Food 4 All. Thank you for any help you can give.

for their annual Fall Sale in September. There is plenty of space in the Bazaar Room for them. We are looking for housewares, toys, linens, jewelry, decorations, collectables, kitchen gadgets, small tools, electronics, lamps and just about anything else.

We cannot accept computers, TVs, encyclopedias, VHS tapes, large exercise equipment or large pieces of furniture. If in doubt, call Becky Miller Pryor before you bring it to church.

Items may be brought to the Bazaar Room during church office hours or on Sunday.

THANK YOU to everyone who participated in this year's Souper Bowl of Caring! While our congregation's "can prediction" for a Cincinnati Bengals victory did not come to fruition (sorry Pastor), the United Churches Food Pantry did come up with a big win thanks to your generous donations, as 95 cans of food were delivered to the food pantry to be used in their outreach ministries. \$170.00 was also collected and will be used to buy \$10.00 grocery store gift cards that the food pantry will discreetly share with those who are in the most need. Thank you for being a blessing to our Williamsport community through the Souper Bowl of Caring. Truly a WIN for all involved.

Report of the Secretary for the Council Meeting held on February 21, 2022 at 6:00 PM

- Vicki Haussmann, Secretary

Meeting was called to order by Ralph Zeigler and roll call taken -

Present: Ed Gair, Wanda Fortin, Linda Rosini, Kathy Dancho, Ray Huff, Herb Poff, Mel Wentzel, Vicki Haussmann, Pam Jensen, Bob Campbell, Ralph Zeigler, Pastor Vasey, Glenn Yaple

President's remarks - Ralph is appreciative and honored to be able to serve as council president.

Ralph outlined several goals he would like to strive to attain this year:

- Continue to keep open lines of communication
- Respond to concerns and requests (please send friendly reminders if need be)
- Respect and appreciate Pastor Vasey as our spiritual leader and CEO of St. Mark's
- Remain focused on our mission statement, **"To know Christ and to make Christ known."**
- Pray for St. Mark's, Pastor, Council, and our congregation

Pastor's report: As submitted by Pastor Vasey.

Facility Use Requests

- **M(Pam Jensen - 2nd Mel Wentzel) SC: CC: 22.2.1** Motion approved for use of both the Nave and Fellowship Hall on June 19, 2022 from 11:30 AM-2:30 PM for a small, private vow renewal ceremony.

- **M(Mel Wentzel - 2nd Ray Huff) SC: CC: 22.2.2** Motion tabled for West Branch Chorale's use of the Nave

May 2, 2022 from 5:15 PM-8:30 PM for their spring choral concert. Motion tabled due to possible conflict with Civic Choir's weekly rehearsals on Monday evenings. More information is being gathered.

- **M(Mel Wentzel - 2nd Kathy Dancho) SC: CC: 22.2.3** Motion approved for Civic Choir's use of Fellowship Hall, Sunday, March 27th from 2:00 PM-4:00PM for planning purposes/annual meeting.

United Churches of Lycoming County gave signs to all churches in Lycoming County. Council, by unanimous consent, agreed that this sign may be placed outside the building by the Choir Room entrance.

Committee Reports:

Constitution Revision:

The majority of our church constitution has been reviewed and revised and work is now being turned to the By-laws. Work is set to be complete by the end of year.

Evangelism & Fellowship:

With congregational help, 50 Valentine cards were mailed to our special concerns folks.

St. Mark's continues to provide desserts for Redeemer's Community Dinner.

With Parish Life, sandwiches are made twice monthly for New Covenant Blessing Box.

Volunteers needed for Monthly Card Ministry.

Collections for various local agencies continue.

Lenten coin folders will be used to collect money for Shepherd of the Street's prescription fund.

Next meeting Tuesday, April 5 at 6:00 PM. All are welcome.

Women of the ELCA:

This group is under transition and is working toward finding the best way of moving forward within our congregation.

Faith Formation:

Souper Bowl Sunday Stats ~ 95
canned goods, \$170.00 collected.

OCC collections continue.

Library books will be moving to the Narthex for perusal and checking out.

Lenten Devotionals will be available in the Narthex beginning Feb. 27th.

Shrove Tuesday event March 1, 2022 at 6:30 PM in Fellowship Hall.

Weekend Clean-Up to be held March 5, 2022 from 9:30 AM-11:30AM

- **M(Glenn Yaple - 2nd Kathy Dancho) SC: CC: 22.2.4** Motion approved to plant flower bulbs in the window boxes along the south side of the church building during the March 5th Clean-Up.

Next meeting Thursday, March 3, 2022 at 10:45 AM. All are welcome.

Finance:

- **M(Finance Committee - 2nd Ray Huff) SC: CC: 22.2.5** Motion approved for an external audit to be done by Larson/Kellett at a cost not to exceed \$4000.00.

An internal audit of our finances should be done annually. Looking for 3 congregation members who will be willing to complete this annual task.

Thank you to Herb Poff for his above and beyond work as Financial Secretary.

Next meeting Tuesday, April 26, 2022.

Personnel:

Jackie Baysore will continue in her role as bookkeeper, working approximately 2 1/2 hours per week.

It is with sadness that Mary Beth Lingle's resignation was accepted. Advertising for a new church secretary has been posted on **indeed.com**.

Pastor and Mel met with Lou DeSeau to discuss how we can best move forward with Lou working in the position of sexton. Pastor will give Lou a letter outlining these discussion points.

Property:

- **M(Mel Wentzel - 2nd Wanda Fortin) SC: CC: 22.2.6** Motion approved to hire Choice Cleaning Services for a 30 day cleaning trial.

A request was brought to council and referred to Property in regards to placing the fountain back in the chapel.

Publicity:

An email blast with information regarding the Shrove Tuesday event as well as other items was recently sent out.

An ad for St. Mark's will be placed in the paper at the end of March.

An ad for our Easter services will be placed in the religion section of the paper.

Safety:

AED instruction was offered Jan. 23rd. 10 people were in attendance.

Next meeting Sunday, March, 6th after late service (tentative).

Worship and Music:

Holy Week Schedule: April 9 ~ Palm cross making 9 AM

April 10 ~ Palm Sunday

April 14 ~ Maundy Thursday (Foot washing, stripping the altar)

* Large cross from basement upstairs after service

April 15 ~ Good Friday service 7:30 PM

April 16 ~ Easter Vigil 8:00 PM

April 17 ~ Easter Sunday 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM services

Deadline for ordering Easter lilies will be **March 17**.

Confirmation will be held on Pentecost (confirmands will wear stoles).

Chase Bower (WAHS student) will cantor at the 8:00 AM services.

Information on replacing dossal continues to be gleaned.

Unfinished Business:

Two congregational delegates are needed for Synod Assembly June 17-18, 2022.

Three congregational members are needed for the internal audit committee. This is a 3 year appointment with the committee meeting once per year.

New Business:

- **M(Ray Huff - 2nd Pam Jensen) SC: CC: 22.2.7** Motion approved to resume kneeling for the Confession on Ash Wednesday, March 2nd, 2022.

March 1, 2022 @ Noon review of investments with M&T Bank in Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be provided. Please contact Pam Jensen if you are planning to attend.

How can we better include and encourage families from Little Lambs to participate in St. Mark's services and Sunday School classes?

Next meeting: Monday, March 21, 2022 @ 6:00 PM (Crossways Room)

Let us rejoice in this day the Lord has made!

We will begin a new GriefShare 13-week cycle at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Williamsport, PA, on Monday, March 7, at 1 PM.

If you are an adult grieving the death of a family member or friend, we would like to invite you to join us on this journey.

You are not alone. Ever.

If you would like more information, please go through [GriefShare.org](https://www.griefshare.org), search for our location and leave your name and contact information.

If you are not tech savvy and feel more comfortable, please contact Barb Horn at 570-974-3744 or horn@lycoming.edu and I'll be glad to talk with you.

Another option for you is to just come to our meetings on Monday at 1 PM. Redeemer Lutheran Church Williamsport is located at 1101 Washington Blvd. Please use the wooden door entrance on Washington Blvd.

We invite you to share (if you'd like to), realize that many of us are on this journey at different stages, and perhaps find some peace. What happens at our informal sessions STAYS in those sessions♥.

We can offer you prayer, refreshments and friendship.

Peace,

Barb and Deb

Facilitators

WORSHIP



ASSISTANTS

Workers for God – March

Lectors

8:00 a.m.

- 3/6/22 Leah Hausmann
 3/13/22 Ruth Rees
 3/20/22 Drew Hausmann
 3/27/22 Leah Hausmann

10:30 a.m.

- 3/6/22 Dan Zeigler
 3/13/22 Audrey Albright
 3/20/22 Greg Dancho
 3/27/22 Linda Rosini

Communion Assistants

8:00 a.m.

- 3/6/22 Drew Hausmann
 3/13/22 Becky Pryor
 3/20/22 Drew Hausmann
 3/27/22 Becky Pryor

10:30 a.m.

- 3/6/22 Walt Doebler & Gary Weber
 3/13/22 Ralph & Lou Ann Zeigler
 3/20/22 Gregg Dancho & Dan Zeigler
 3/27/22 Carl & Audrey Albright

Ushers

8:00 a.m.

- 3/6/22 Dick Miller/Herb Poff
 3/13/22 Dick Miller/Herb Poff

3/20/22 Dick Miller/Herb Poff

3/27/22 Dick Miller/Herb Poff

10:30 a.m.

- 3/6/22 Maggs Team
 3/13/22 Jensen Team
 3/20/22 Fortin Team
 3/27/22 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 Yaple, Bud Doebler



March Anniversaries

CLARK, Gary &
Donna 03/06

March Birthdays

COMERFORD, Theodore	03/01
HARVEY, Trisha	03/05
KINNEY, Michael	03/11
LARSON, Roxanne	03/15
LABENBERG, Dinah	03/16
BARDSLEY, Diane	03/18
DAVENPORT, Diana	03/18
WEBER, Gary	03/24
HAUSSMANN, Leah	03/25
LARSON, Sara	03/25
BOWER, Jonathan	03/27
EDLER, Sandra	03/28
BITTENBENDER, Mark	03/29
BOWER, Tyler	03/29
HIEBER, Carl	03/29

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

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 570-323-4619 or 570-323-1415
 Mary Beth Lingle, Secretary
mblinge@stmarkswilliamsport.org
 Sam Robinson, Church Organist
strobins@stmarkswilliamsport.org
jbaysore@stmarkswilliamsport.org
 Lou DeSean, Environmental Serv.
stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org
 Ralph Zeigler, Council President
zeigler17702@msn.com
 Mel Wentzel, Vice-President
melvinewentzel@gmail.com
 Vicki Hausmann, Council Secretary
hausstfamily1@comcast.net
 Pam Jensen, Treasurer
prhmi530@aol.com
 Matt Fortin, Stephen Ministry
 570-337-3023
jamacooke@comcast.net
 Debra Buckman
dbuckman@pct.edu or dabuckkman65@gmail.com
 Family Promise Coordinator
 Prayer Chain-coordinator needed
 Sally Bjornstad, Altar Flowers
 5 70-494-6637

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
142 MARKET ST.
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 Fax: 570-323-2452

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 Email: stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org

Non-Profit Organization
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 Williamsport, PA 17701

STAFF OFFICE HOURS
Pastor: The Rev. Brian Vasey
Mon-Thu 9 a.m.-1 p.m. & by appointment
Church Organist: 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