

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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



“THE LION” OF ST. MARK’S APRIL 2022

Pastor's “Lion” Message for April, 2022

Why a Rabbit?

Have you ever wondered how a rabbit became a symbol of Easter? You are not alone. How did a large rabbit (later to be known as the Easter Bunny) ever become associated with delivering colorful Easter eggs? After all rabbits are mammals and don't even lay eggs. If eggs are associated with Easter shouldn't the one associated with delivering eggs be an animal that actually lays eggs, such as a chicken?

Our story actually begins in Germany many years ago. In Germany rabbits have been associated with spring and fertility since before the Christian era. The rabbit was the symbol of Eostra—the pagan Germanic goddess of spring and fertility. This isn't all that surprising when you consider that rabbits are prolific breeders. Rabbits are able to breed at a young age and can produce several litters in a year. It is believed that this pagan symbol of spring and fertility most likely merged with Christian traditions in 17th century Germany. In other words, the Christian Holy Day of Easter, which celebrates the Resurrection of Our Lord became superimposed on pagan traditions that celebrated rebirth and fertility.

But why does a large rabbit bring eggs? According to *Discovery News*, spring being a symbol of rebirth, became associated with eggs and rabbits as symbols of fertility, even though rabbits do not lay eggs. Eventually, the resurrection of Jesus would also be tied into the long standing concept of

rebirth. The first time the “Oschter Haws” (Easter Hare) is mentioned is in 17th century Germanic folklore- the Easter Hare would place colorful eggs in the nests (baskets) of well-behaved children. German immigrants brought this tradition of the Easter Hare (Easter Bunny) to the United States in the 18th century. Over the years, the tradition evolved to include chocolates and toys in addition to Easter eggs.

So there you have it. Rabbits and eggs, originating as pagan symbols of spring and rebirth, eventually became associated with the Holy Day of Easter; the two traditions have merged together to become what some celebrate today.

I am often asked if we as followers of the Risen Christ should celebrate the resurrection with such “Pagan Symbols”. My response is, “Why Not”. As long as the symbols do not become our primary focus or a giant rabbit grace our Nave or Sunday School, “Why Not”? It represents what Christians proclaim: Christ makes the common (even the pagan) holy.

Wishing you a “Hoppy” Easter (I couldn't resist)

Grace + Peace,

Pastor Brian Vasey

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.



CONFIRMATION CLASS IN APRIL: Confirmation class will meet Sunday, April 3, in the Crossways Room. Please remember to bring with you a pen or pencil, your Lutheran Study Bible and your Lutheran Handbook. 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.”

Thanks to everyone who continues to donate Items for our OCC collection. Our many shoeboxes are well on their way to being filled with gifts for boys and girls throughout the world. Our monthly donations to date have included: activity

books, journals, washcloths, soap, knit hats, combs/brushes and toothbrushes. All of these items are a wonderful start to showing kids how much they are loved

In April, we are collecting **Stuffed Animals** (beanie baby size) or **Small Dolls, Hair Accessories,** and **Tape Measures.** These items may be placed in our red OCC bin located in the narthex. Monetary donations are also welcome to help defray the cost of shipping. We hope to also order Grow With Me shoes this year to be included in as many boxes as possible. Checks may be placed in the offering, earmarked OCC. Thank you so much 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

Our first hosting of the year is over and a big thanks to all who helped provide meals for the four families living at the Day Center. The Board of Family Promise is hoping to start the regular rotation of guests through the churches in June, however, everything is up in the air at this time with an option of a hybrid system also where some weeks the guest would stay at the day center. Our next hosting in July 10-16, please mark this on your calendar. Our other hosting weeks are Oct 16-22 and Dec. 11-17. A little information – the guests in the Family Promise system are folks who have become homeless due to one of many factors – some were evicted so the landlord could raise the rent, some have lost jobs and then their home, some are going through divorce and have lost their home. Please pray for these persons.



CHURCH CLEAN-UP

Thanks to everyone who came out on Saturday March 5 to help clean-up our church. Much work was done from dusting to cleaning out areas. Watch for another clean-up date to continue the good work.

NIBBLES FROM THE CHURCH MOUSE



Perhaps it was the pandemic but winter seemed very long this year so it is a special joy to see the daffodils peeking up and the robins in the yard again. Time to think about spring and Easter as the best seasons of the year.

I was thinking about how involved members of St. Mark's have been in the Community Theater League over the years. The Jones family were often part of the cast or the crew and being an integral part of the show was important to all of them. The Buckman family as well often headed up the cast – more recently Nick was one of the

stars in Murder on the Orient Express and Deb Buckman was the property master. After that show closed she went on to star in the Vagina Monologues.

The younger set were certainly not left out- Elizabeth Haussmann starred in the Penguin Project's Seussical Jr. as a beautiful yellow bird. This was not Elizabeth's debut. She starred as Annie in last year's production – I see a big career ahead for her.

I always peruse the Senior Sun looking for familiar faces and saw a few recently. Jane Kline and Jane Larson were observing a class in line- dancing at the Williamsport Home. I remember square dancing with Frank Vognet at Shrove Tuesday dinners and think someone should consider line dancing next year. Also saw a couple pictures of Marian Waldeisen at the Hillside. Always enjoy finding those folks.

Had a chance to see the Wentzel twins on the Penn State website. Sadie sang a lovely solo and Taylor was part of a wind ensemble- beautiful sound.

Enjoy the warmer weather and keep in touch – I know you are all doing wonderful things but if you don't share them how will everyone else know?

Blessings, Joyce Hershberger

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

April 2022.

Easter Greetings

Please help the Evangelism and Fellowship Committee send Easter greetings to our Special Concern Folks and others we do not see as often as we wish. Cards will be available in the Narthex on Sunday, April 10, 2022. Please take a card or two, include a cheery thought and your name, add postage

and mail in time for Easter. Thank you in advance for any help you can give.

Community Easter Egg Hunt

Children from infant to age 12 and special ability adults are invited to New Covenant UCC on Sunday, April 10, 2022 at 2:00 PM for an Easter Egg hunt in their courtyard. Reservations are not required.

Parish Life Committee Updates

The Parish Life Committee with your help has been providing meat and cheese sandwiches the second and fourth Monday of each winter month. We will be providing sandwiches through the end of April. At that time the committee will evaluate how best they can help with New Covenant's Blessing Box. 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:** Items in need are canned meats, fruits and vegetables, microwave meals / soup, cereal and oatmeal, cake or muffin mixes / frostings, jelly and jams, ketchup, mustard and mayonnaise.



Feeding the Community

1. **Shepherd of the Streets:** Items most needed are paper towels, shampoo and conditioner, deodorant, body wash and shave cream all for men and women, Kleenex, hand cream, body lotion, dish soap and small packages of laundry pods.
2. **Blessing Box at New Covenant UCC:** Individual healthy snacks and crackers, Cup of Soups, microwave meals, ramen noodles, juice boxes travel-size hygiene items, combs, toothbrushes and socks (new or gently used) are needed.
- **Sojourner Truth Ministries:** Dawn dish detergent, cooking oil, jars of mayonnaise, garlic powder, ketchup, mustard and aluminum foil.

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, April 14, 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. (Thanks to all who help)
- **Daniel's Closet** Distribution of free summer clothing on Saturday, April 23 beginning at 8:30 am. CDC Guidelines, masks and social distancing will be followed.
- **Donated Clothing** may be dropped off at Redeemer on Thursday, April 14, 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.

Thank You

We received the following card from Redeemer Lutheran Church thanking us for our assistance with their monthly community dinner. It reads.....

Touched by your goodness and lifted by your kindness.

Thank you for your continued support with cookies and containers, etc.

Barb Horn for the Evangelism and Outreach Committee, At Redeemer Lutheran Church.

April Services

Sunday, April 3 Communion 8 AM and
10:30 AM Sunday School 9:15 AM

Saturday, April 9 Palm cross making 9 AM



Sunday, April 10 Palm Sunday
Communion 8 AM and 10:30 AM
Sunday School 9:15 AM

Thursday, April 14 ~ Maundy Thursday
12:15 PM in Chapel
7:30 PM in Nave with foot washing and
stripping the church.

Friday, April 15 Good Friday service 7:30
PM



Saturday, April 16 ~ Easter Vigil 8:00 PM
Begins in the Chapel. Partnering with
Trinity Episcopal Church

Sunday, April 17 – Easter!!
Holy Communion
8 AM and 10:30 AM



Communion Assistants

8 AM
April 3 Drew Haussmann
April 10 Becky Pryor
April 17 Drew Haussmann
April 24 Becky Pryor

10:30 AM
April 3 Deb Buckman & Mindy Wentzel
April 10 Gregg & Kathy Dancho
April 17 Walt Doeblor & Gary Weber
April 24 Ralph & Lou Ann Zeigler

Lectors

8AM
April 3 Candy Dewar
April 10 Becky Pryor
April 17 Vicki Haussmann
April 24 Ruth Rees

10:30 AM
April 3 Karen Mariano
April 10 Pam Jensen
April 17 Phil Thomas
April 24 Kathy Dancho

Holy Week Communion Assistants and Lectors
April 14 12:15 Deb Buckman
7:30 Kathy Dancho
April 16 Chapel – Confirmaands of St. Mark's and
Trinity Episcopal
Nave Gregg Dancho

Ushers

8AM
April 3 Miller/Poff
April 10 Miller/Poff
April 17 Miller/Poff
April 24 Miller/Poff

10:30 AM
April 3 Maggs Team
April 10 Jensen Team
April 17 Fortin Team
April 24 Albright Team

Holy Week
April 14 Maudy Thursday 7:30 PM 2 ushers needed
April 16 Vigil 2 ushers needed

Report of the Secretary for the Council Meeting held on March 20, 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, Ralph Zeigler, Pastor Vasey, Glenn Yaple
Excused ~ Bob Campbell

Ralph Zeigler led us in the opening prayer.

President's remarks

- Copies of St. Mark's Constitution as well as Robert's Rules of Order are available.
- Thankful for all of the work, both seen and unseen, that continues to be done.

The Secretary's Report for the month of February was accepted as presented.

- No additional correspondence this month.

The Treasurer's Report as of February 28, 2022 was accepted as presented.

- An April 13th meeting with our insurance agent is scheduled. Questions regarding policies and coverages will be discussed.

Pastor's report: As submitted by Pastor Vasey.

- Please read pp. 38-60 in Reclaiming the L Word for discussion at April's council meeting.
- Pastor is participating in a lectionary group meeting on Tuesday mornings.
- Partnering with Trinity Episcopal for Easter Vigil. (Remains the traditional vigil and will be held at St. Mark's)

Committee Reports:

Constitution Revision:

- The majority of our church constitution has been reviewed and revised based upon ELCA guidelines. Work is now being turned to the By-laws with the process possibly complete by the end of Spring.

Evangelism & Fellowship:

- Monthly Card Ministry sign-up passed around to council members.

- With congregational help, Easter cards will be 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.

- Collections for various local agencies continue.

- Lenten coin folders are available with collections earmarked for Shepherd of the Street's prescription fund.

- Blood Drives scheduled for July 8th and December 9th.

- Service work has been done on ovens in kitchen.

- Research is being done on replacing broken kitchen refrigerator/freezer unit.

- Next meeting Wednesday, April 6 at 6:00 PM. All are welcome to attend.

Faith Formation:

- Shrove Tuesday Event was a success with 30 in attendance from St. Mark's/St. Luke's.

- Lenten Bible Study continues Wednesdays at 12:15 PM.

- Hannah Haussmann gave Temple Talk on her time at Camp Mount Luther.

- March Clean-Up Day a success with 12 congregational members working together.

- Looking Ahead ~ Confirmation is June 5. HS Graduation will be celebrated June 12.

- Next meeting Thursday, April 7, 2022 at 10:45 AM. All are welcome to attend.

Finance:

- A professional audit will be completed this summer.

- Next meeting Tuesday, April 26, 2022.

Nominating:

- Wanda Fortin, Linda Rosini, and Bob Campbell have agreed to serve on this committee.

Personnel:

- Pastor and Mel Wentzel met with Lou DeSeau regarding his hours ~ Sundays/5 hrs. along with extra hours for special events as Lou is able.

- Choice Cleaning Services has been hired to clean the first floor of our building. Please welcome Bridget if you see her working throughout the week.

-Interviews for secretarial/administrative assistant position will take place March 23.

Property:

- Discussion regarding trees on East side of building being removed by Dincher's.

Information will be gathered as to possibly replacing them based on recommendations from Dincher's.

- Snow removal went well this winter.
- Water flow for toilets needs to be looked into.

Publicity:

- An email blast with Easter information will be sent out.

- An ad for St. Mark's will be placed in the Religion Section of the Sun-Gazette at the end of March.

- An ad for our Easter services will be placed in the Religion Section of the Sun-Gazette.

Safety:

- NTR (Nothing To Report.) (Thanks to Herb for teaching us this "lingo".)

Women of the ELCA:

- A reorganizational meeting will be planned, perhaps during the Sunday School hour, to discuss how to best move forward. **This includes how to move forward with quilting.

Worship and Music:

- Easter Lilies have been ordered.

- Dedications for World Hunger accepted through April 3rd.

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

April 10 ~ Palm Sunday 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM services

April 14 ~ Maundy Thursday (foot washing, stripping the church). Large Cross to be placed.

April 15 ~ Good Friday Services

Noon-3 pm: Meditation in Nave.

Noon-1 pm: Community Service (St. Luke).

7: 30 pm: Tenebrae

April 16 ~ Easter Vigil 8:00 PM

April 17 ~ Easter Sunday

8:00 AM and 10:30 AM

Unfinished Business:

-M(Nominating Committee)SC: CC:

22.3.1 Motion approved to send Mel Wentzel and Ralph Ziegler as delegates from St. Mark's to both the Conference Assembly on April 24 and the Synod Assembly on June 17-18.

-M(Ray Huff - 2nd Herb Poff)SC: CC:

22.3.2 Motion approved to nominate Gregg Dancho as the alternate to the Conference and Synod Assemblies if so needed.

- Audit Committee is looking for names of congregational members who may be interested in helping with the yearly internal audit. This is a once a year commitment for a term of three years.

- Can we devise a questionnaire that gathers information on skills members of the congregation may be willing to share for the good of the building?

- How can we get younger people involved at St. Mark's and how can St. Mark's be a positive influence on younger people? "Community Center" atmosphere ~ video game night, nerf battles? Offer Tutoring? Wednesday Night church services? What committee could spearhead this?

New Business:

-M(Kathy Dancho - 2nd Pam Jensen)SC:

CC: 22.3.3 Motion approved to open the floor for discussion on our mask mandate.

-Discussion on how to move forward in a way that hopefully continues to move forward without having to take steps back.

-M(Pam Jensen - 2nd Mel Wentzel)SC:

CC: 22.3.4 Motion approved to adopt a mask optional policy while continuing with current protocols. (Hand sanitizer/masks remain available, *signs changed stating masks are optional*, bulletins remain on the Narthex table and are used once, seating in pews remains as is, worship remains as is, offering continues to be collected in baskets after service, no hospitality at this point in time.)

- Spire Update ~ Larry Allison is looking at the spire. Information continues to be gathered.

- Certificates from Synod Office denoting donations from St. Mark's will be framed and displayed in the Narthex for members to see.

Ralph Zeigler led us in closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned.

Next Council meeting: Monday, April 18, 2022 @ 6:00 PM (Crossways Room)

Let us rejoice in this day the Lord has made!

We continue with GriefShare 13-week cycle at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Williamsport, PA, on Mondays, 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, 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), and 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

April Celebrations

Anniversaries

FORTIN, Matthew & Wanda	04/03
GOERTZ, Gary & Dee	04/03
ALBRIGHT, Carl & Audrey	04/23
LUKENS, Randy & Jeannette	04/23

Birthdays

EYER, Jenna	04/02
HUFF, Jon	04/02
HARVEY, Tina	04/05
ROSINI, Linda	04/06
BUTTERS, Carol	04/07
WENTZEL, Sadie	04/10
WENTZEL, Taylor	04/10
CLOUSER, Robert	04/11
OCHS, Michael	04/13
BUCKMAN, Ezra	04/14
DOANE, Veronica	04/14
HINDS, Johnny	04/14
BIEBER Jr., Steven	04/15
LARSON, Jami	04/15
HUGHES, David	04/17
ZEIGLER, Diana	04/18
HARTZEL, Cynthia	04/19
BYERLY, Jeffrey	04/20
PELLESCHI, Karen	04/20
KNEEDLER, Catherine	04/21
FISH, Marc	04/23
HAUSSMANN, Benjamin	04/23
MERRIFIELD, Karen	04/26
WELKER, Lisa	04/27
COMERFORD, Audrey	04/28
DITCHFIELD, Ruth	04/29

Help Needed

A prayer list coordinator is still needed for our prayer chain. If you would be willing to take on this task, please contact Pastor Vasey.

Remember to pray for our shut-ins and members/friends who are ill or grieving.

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

Sam Robinson, Church Organist srobinson@stmarkswilliamsport.org

Jackie Baysore, Bookkeeper jbaysore@stmarkswilliamsport.org

Ralph Zeigler, Council President zeigler17702@msn.com

Mel Wentzel, Vice-President melvinewentzel@gmail.com

Vicki Haussmann, Council Secretary haussfamily1@comcast.net

Pam Jensen, Treasurer prhmjj530@aol.com

Janet Jones, Parish Life jgmacookie@comcast.net

Debra Buckman dabuckman65@gmail.com

Family Promise Coordinator

Prayer Chain-coordinator needed

Sally Bjornstad, Altar Flowers 570-494-6637

STAFF OFFICE HOURS

Pastor: The Rev. Brian Vasey

Mon.-Thu. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. & by appointment

Church Organist: Sam Robinson

Summer: Mon. 1-3 p.m. & by appointment

Sexton: Lou DeSeau

Sun. 7 a.m.- noon

Bookkeeper: Jackie Baysore

By appointment

Secretary: Vacant

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

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Website: www.stmarkswilliamsport.org

Email: stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org

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