

ST. MARK'S
LUTHERAN
CHURCH



"THE LION"

of ST. MARK'S
December 2022

Volume 2022 Number 12



From the Pastor and Staff of St. Mark's and all who make this place run

May you have the gift of faith, the blessing of hope, and the
peace of Christ's love at Christmas and always.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pastor's Message	Page 3
Upcoming Events	Page 4
Report of Church Council	Page 8
Communion, Usher, Altar Guide	
Lectors info	Page 13
Evangelism and Fellowship	Page 14
Sharing in the Caring	Page 15
Anniversaries and Birthdays	Page 17
Calendar	Page 19
Puzzle Page	Page 7



CONTACT US

Serving the Williamsport Community since 1852

142 Market Street

Williamsport, PA 17701

(570) 323-4619

stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org

OUR SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES:

Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School (for all ages), 9:15 a.m.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

OUR SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES:

Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 am

Sunday School (for all ages), 9:15 a.m.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

The Adult Sunday School Class is currently studying, *Living the Kingdom; Reflections on the Small Catechism*. We meet in the Middle Lounge at 9:15 a.m. All are welcome.

HAPPENING THIS MONTH

Sunday, December 4, The Second Sunday of Advent (Holy Communion, 9:30 a.m.)

One worship time this Sunday and no Sunday Church School

Saint Nicholas Visits us in Worship

Annual Meeting follows worship

Sunday, December 11, The Third Sunday of Advent

Holy Communion, 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Church School (for all ages) 9:15 a.m.

Sunday, December 18, The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Holy Communion, 8 am and 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Church School (for all ages) 9:15 a.m.

Saturday, December 24, The Nativity of Our Lord

"Children's and Family Holy Communion", 7 p.m.

"Traditional Candlelight Holy Communion", 10 p.m.

Sunday, December 25, The Nativity of Our Lord (Holy Communion, 9:30 a.m.)

Only one worship time this Sunday. No Sunday Church School

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 26- 29, THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED,
BUT EMERGENCY MESSAGES WILL BE RETURNED.**

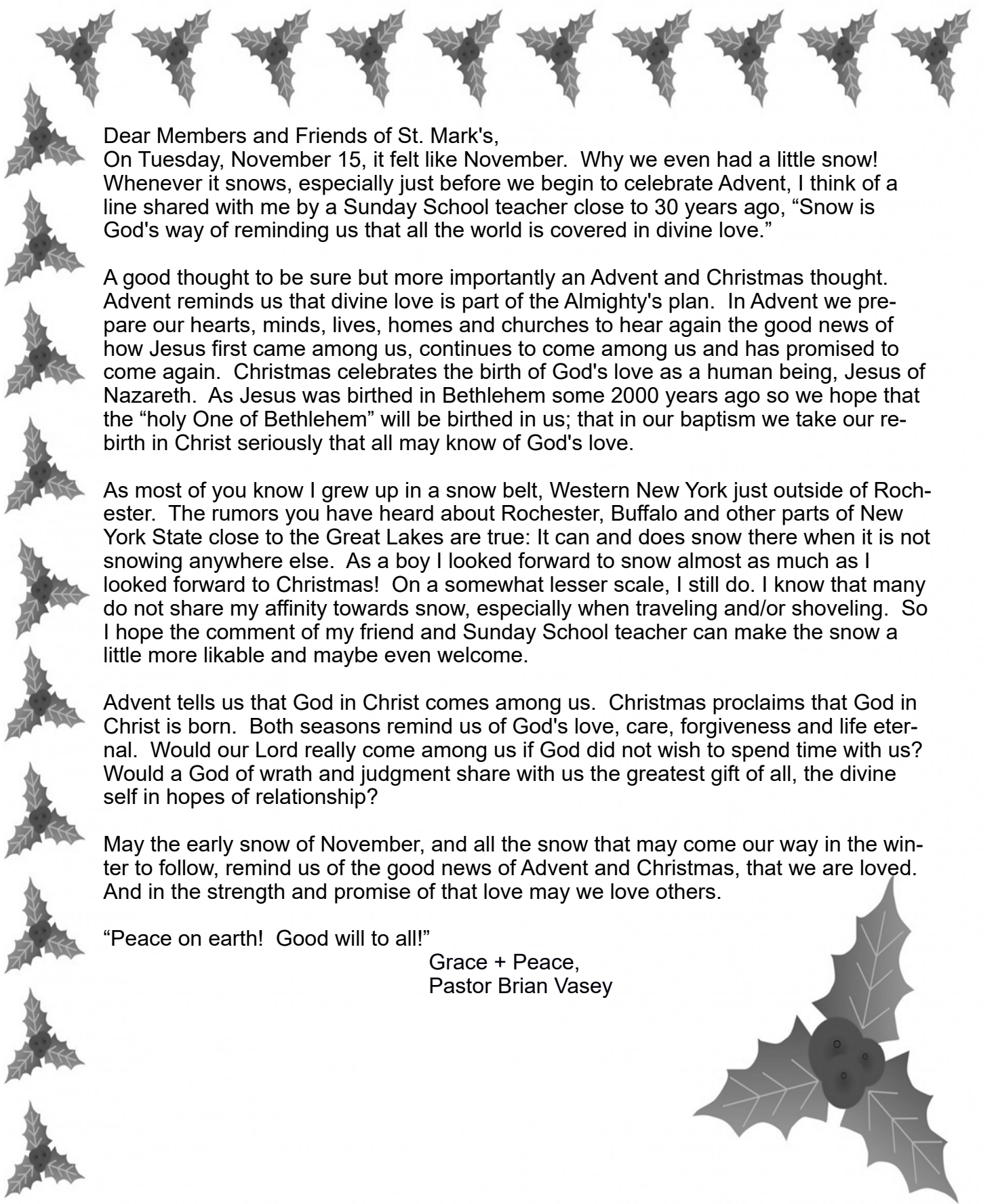
Sunday, January 1, The Holy Name of Jesus (Holy Communion, 9:30 a.m.)

Only one worship time this Sunday. No Sunday Church School

MONDAY, JANUARY 2, 2023, THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED.



Pastor's "Lion" Message for December, 2022



Dear Members and Friends of St. Mark's,
On Tuesday, November 15, it felt like November. Why we even had a little snow! Whenever it snows, especially just before we begin to celebrate Advent, I think of a line shared with me by a Sunday School teacher close to 30 years ago, "Snow is God's way of reminding us that all the world is covered in divine love."

A good thought to be sure but more importantly an Advent and Christmas thought. Advent reminds us that divine love is part of the Almighty's plan. In Advent we prepare our hearts, minds, lives, homes and churches to hear again the good news of how Jesus first came among us, continues to come among us and has promised to come again. Christmas celebrates the birth of God's love as a human being, Jesus of Nazareth. As Jesus was birthed in Bethlehem some 2000 years ago so we hope that the "holy One of Bethlehem" will be birthed in us; that in our baptism we take our re-birth in Christ seriously that all may know of God's love.

As most of you know I grew up in a snow belt, Western New York just outside of Rochester. The rumors you have heard about Rochester, Buffalo and other parts of New York State close to the Great Lakes are true: It can and does snow there when it is not snowing anywhere else. As a boy I looked forward to snow almost as much as I looked forward to Christmas! On a somewhat lesser scale, I still do. I know that many do not share my affinity towards snow, especially when traveling and/or shoveling. So I hope the comment of my friend and Sunday School teacher can make the snow a little more likable and maybe even welcome.

Advent tells us that God in Christ comes among us. Christmas proclaims that God in Christ is born. Both seasons remind us of God's love, care, forgiveness and life eternal. Would our Lord really come among us if God did not wish to spend time with us? Would a God of wrath and judgment share with us the greatest gift of all, the divine self in hopes of relationship?

May the early snow of November, and all the snow that may come our way in the winter to follow, remind us of the good news of Advent and Christmas, that we are loved. And in the strength and promise of that love may we love others.

"Peace on earth! Good will to all!"

Grace + Peace,
Pastor Brian Vasey



MID-WEEK ADVENT SERVICES

MID-WEEK ADVENT SERVICES

On Wednesdays in Advent - November 30 and concluding December 21. Join us in our chapel from 12:15 - 12:45 p.m. as we explore the witness of "Advent Saints"

December 7, Ambrose of Milan (pastor and Hymnwriter)

December 14, John of the Cross, Renewer of the Church

December 21, Katharina von Bora Luther, Renewer of the Church

ALL ARE WELCOME!

NEXT MONTH:

Sunday, January 1, The Holy Name of Jesus (Holy Communion, 9:30 am)

Only one worship time this Sunday. No Sunday Church School

Happy 2023!

Sunday, January 8, Baptism of Our Lord

Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 am

Sunday Church School, 9:15 am

Sunday, January 15, The Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 am

Sunday Church School, 9:15 am

Sunday, January 22, The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 am

Sunday Church School, 9:15 am

Sunday, January 29, The fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 am

Sunday Church School, 9:15 am



Little Lambs Christmas Program

Fellowship Hall 9:00 a.m.

Thursday, December 15th and

Friday, December 16th



CHRISTIANS AGAINST CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM

CHRISTIANS AGAINST CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM

Christian Nationalism identifies human-made governments as lockstep with God's will and seeks to privilege Christians, typically only white Christians. This type of ideology is not only dangerous but distorts the difference between holding government accountable to God as opposed to identified strictly with God's will. Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton reminds us that we must stand against Christian Nationalism and asks all ELCA Lutherans join in [signing the](https://www.christiansagainstchristiannationalism.org/) petition by visiting www.christiansagainstchristiannationalism.org/.

LUTHERAN DAY IN THE CAPITOL SAVE THE DATE: APRIL 27, 2023

Mark your calendar and plan to join Lutherans from around the state for a day of worship, learning and advocacy on April 27, 2023. Plan to stay for a dinner celebration of advocates at the Harrisburg Hilton. Tell your friends and watch here for more information and registration.



NEW OFFICE HOURS

(starting Nov. 27, 2022)

- Pastor Vasey Monday -Thursday
- 9 a.m.—1 p.m. and by appointment
- Joseph Baur (administrative assistant)
- Tuesday - Friday 9 a.m.- 1 p.m.



Think you know Christmas ... Challenge Accepted

1. What Christian group banned Christmas in Boston from 1659 to 1681?
2. Before becoming tied up with Christmas what was Yule?
3. The French word "Noel" is often used around Christmas, but what was its original meaning in Latin?
4. What Roman holiday held from December 17th to the 23rd had a large influence on how Christmas was celebrated?
5. Among Christians who lived in the East, when was Christmas originally celebrated?
6. In what century was the first written use of Xmas?
7. The modern Santa Claus is mainly a mix of what two figures?
8. What political cartoonist is largely responsible for defining what the modern Santa Claus looks like?
9. What was the poem "Twas the Night Before Christmas" originally titled?
10. In what decade did Coca-Cola start using Santa Claus in advertisements?
11. What entrepreneur was the first person to dress up as Santa in his department store and started the tradition of department store / mall Santas?
12. Who did the German Nazi Regime replace Santa Claus / St. Nick with?
13. In what decade did NORAD (North American Aerospace Defense Command, formerly CONAD) start tracking Santa on Christmas Eve?
14. In the song Twelve Days of Christmas , what is given on the 7th day?
15. In what country did Silent Night originate?
16. What was the original title for The Little Drummer Boy?
17. How were the writer of the story Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer and the writer of the song Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer related?
18. What popular holiday song was written during the Cuban missile crisis and was a plea for peace?
19. What jaunty Christmas carol written in 1739 was supposed to be accompanied by slow and somber music?
20. What was the original title for the popular Christmas song Silver Bells, written by Jay Livingston and Ray Evans?



Meeting Minutes

Report of the Secretary for the Council Meeting

Vicki Haussmann, Secretary

“To know Christ and make Christ known”

Report of the Secretary for the Council Meeting held on November 14, 2022 at 6:00 P.M.

- Vicki Haussmann, Secretary

Meeting was called to order by Ralph Zeigler.

Mel Wentzel led us in opening prayer.

Council recited St. Mark's mission statement ~ “To know Christ and to make Christ known.”

Roll call was taken.

Present: Bob Campbell, Wanda Fortin, Ed Gair, Vicki Haussmann, Ray Huff, Pam Jensen, Herb Poff, Linda Rosini, Shelby Weber, Mel Wentzel, Ralph Zeigler, Pastor Vasey. **Absent:** Glenn Yaple

President's remarks:

- Welcome Shelby Weber to council. Shelby was appointed to fill the vacant spot left by Kathy Dancho who moved out of the area.
- Sign up sheets were sent around for 2023 offering collection and council devotions.
- If council members are available, please sign up to help cover one of the many rehearsals and concerts that are upcoming in the Nave.
- Ralph Zeigler and Michael Ochs attended the United Churches of Lycoming County's 76th Annual Assembly. Ralph is appreciative for the participation of St. Mark's in many of the community outreach programs mentioned at the Annual Assembly.

Ratification of Business Since October Meeting:

M(Ed Gair - 2nd Mel Wentzel) SC: CC: 22.11.1 Motion approved and email vote ratified to approve Williamsport Electric Company be hired to assess and/or fix the east parking lot lights which no longer work. This will be done on a time and material basis up to \$5000.00 after which Council will be asked to consider additional funding if needed.

The Secretary's Report: for the month of October was approved as submitted.

The Treasurer's Report: Was not complete for the month of October.

Pastor's report: As submitted by Pastor Vasey.

Report of the Secretary for the Council Meeting

(continued)

Committee Reports:

Evangelism & Fellowship:

- Collections continue for various local organizations.
- Blood Drive will be held Dec. 9th from 11:00-3:00. **Volunteers are needed.**
- Advent and Christmas outreach activities for Selingsgrove Center, Danville State Hospital, and members of the congregation are planned.

Faith Formation:

- Operation Christmas Child shoebox packing was a huge success with many volunteers participating and 79 boxes packed
- Advent devotional materials will be available in Narthex beginning Nov. 27th.
- Reverse Advent calendar bags will be available Nov. 27th.
- Advent wreath making Sunday, Nov. 27th.

Finance:

- 30% budget increase for electricity, heat, and postage.
- Increase in budget for synod benevolence.
- May need to transfer money from funds to cover 2023 budget.
- Include monies in budget for recent addition of monthly storm run-off bill.
- Discussion point ~ Majority of budget directed towards staff salaries and building maintenance with more minimal amounts directed toward ministries and outreach.
Does this budget best align with our mission "To know Christ and to make Christ known?"

M(Finance Committee) SC: CC: 22.11.2 Motion approved to adopt budget and forward to congregation for approval at the Annual Meeting held Dec. 4, 2022.

Little Lambs: Meeting scheduled for Nov. 15, 2022.

Nominating:

M(Nominating Committee) SC: CC: 22.12.3 Motion approved to recommend approval of the following for a three-year Council term beginning January 2023: Debra Buckman, Vicki Haussmann, Nicki Jackson, Helen Schramm, and Ralph Zeigler; final vote by the members of the parish at the Annual Congregational Meeting on Dec. 4, 2022.

Personnel:

- Extend invitation to Deb Kershner to attend annual meeting on Dec. 4 and be introduced to/welcomed by the congregation.

M(Personnel Committee) SC: CC: 22.10.4 Motion approved to hire George Poliska as part-time sexton working 12-15 hours/week plus additional duties as needed.

Property:

- Boilers and heaters have been serviced and are ready for heating season.
- Trees on east side of building have been removed.
- Ice/snow removal has been scheduled.
- Parking lot light repair underway.
- Landscaping tabled until Spring.
- Lawnmower is broken. A new one will be needed.
- Billtown will check Narthex bathroom toilets for proper flushing capacity.

Report of the Secretary for the Council Meeting

(continued)

Publicity:

- "Supplemental email blast" listing upcoming concerts was sent.
- Holiday newsletter will be sent out later this week.

Safety:

- Nothing to report.

Women of the ELCA:

- Open leadership opportunity.

Worship and Music:

- Christmas tree set up for Annual meeting Dec. 4th.
- Greens are needed for Advent wreath.
- Christmas flowers and dedication order forms ready for bulletins.

Unfinished Business:

- **Annual Report:** Thanks to committees for submitting reports to Joe in a timely manner.
- **Growing our Church:** Will be revisited in the new year.
- **Spire Update:** Nothing to report at this time.

New Business:

- Suggestion made to update the (paper) membership directory ~ phone numbers, email, and mailing addresses.
- Discussion on leaving Narthex door unlocked between services on Sunday mornings. Decision to leave door locked and ask George to be available in Narthex from 9:30-10:00 to let people in as necessary.
- Tape will be removed from ends of pews. Social distancing will still be encouraged.
- ELCA Good Gifts catalog is available.

Mel Wentzel led us in closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned.

Next meeting: Monday, December 12, 2022 @ 6:00 PM (Middle Lounge)
***Note this is the 2nd Monday in December.**

Christmas Quiz Answers—No cheating

1. The Puritans

Even though the ban on Christmas was lifted in 1681, Christmas didn't become popular in Boston until the mid-19th century. Puritans also suppressed Christmas in England as well, during the Interregnum.

2. A pagan midwinter festival

It was celebrated by Germanic peoples and was connected to Norse mythology. With Odin being the Yule Father and leading the Wild Hunt across the sky. Yuletide is about two months and falls roughly mid-November to early January. In the middle of Yuletide is Yule. As a fun side note, jolly most likely has its origins in Yule.

3. Birth

You can definitely see why Noel became so synonymous with Christmas.

4. Saturnalia

Saturnalia was one of the most popular holidays in the Roman calendar. It of course involved lots of feasts and drinking and merry making because, you know, they're Roman. But it also involved role reversals where slaves were allowed to be rude to their owners and by some accounts were waited on by their owners. Also, similarly to our modern Christmas, there was lots of gift giving. Especially on December 19th, Sigillaria. Even though the timing is similar, it isn't believed that December 25th was chosen as the date for Christmas because of

Saturnalia. Some people believe that the origin for the date for Christmas was the Roman feast day Sol Invictus which was also on December 25th. And others insist that the date of conception was the basis for choosing December 25th. But really what it all boils down to is that there is a lot of controversy on how December 25th was chosen as the date.

5. January 6th

In the West, Christmas was always celebrated on December 25th. Now, except for a select few, like the Armenians, almost everyone who celebrates Christmas does so on December 25th.

6. The 16th century

The "X" in Xmas comes from the Greek letter Chi which looks like an "X". The letter "X" has long been used as an abbreviation for Christ since the Greek word for Christ begins with what looks like an "X". Christ was often written with the letters Chi (X) Rho (p) which looks like Xp.

7. Saint Nicholas (Sinterklaas in dutch) and Father Christmas, also if you said Odin I'd accept that too

St. Nicholas was a Greek bishop who lived in the 4th century and was famous for his generosity and gift giving. Sinterklaas (Dutch for St. Nicholas) gives gifts on December 5th and is based on St. Nicholas. Father Christmas dates back to at least the 16th century and is the personification of Christmas cheer and is widely considered synonymous with the modern Santa Claus. And for good measure, there might be some Odin thrown in, especially with the tradition of Santa's long beard. And there is Santa's nightly ride, which is pretty similar to Odin's Wild Hunt. But while it doesn't take much of a leap to make comparisons between Odin and Santa, there's not a lot of direct evidence linking them. There are lots of other gift giving figures around Europe and elsewhere but as far as I can tell Father Christmas and Saint Nicholas are the main influences behind Santa Claus as we know him today.

8. Thomas Nast

Thomas Nast drew a picture of Santa Claus for the January 1, 1881 issue of Harper's Weekly and the rest of the media ran with it. It became the visual prototype of the Santa Claus we all know and love. He also drew an earlier version of Santa Claus in the January 3, 1863 issue of Harper's Weekly but it doesn't resemble the modern Santa as much as his 1881 drawing.

9. A Visit from St. Nicholas

It was anonymously published in 1823. It has been attributed to, and claimed by, Clement Clarke Moore but there is some controversy as to whether he actually wrote it.

10. 1920's

There's a myth that Coca-Cola invented the modern Santa Claus and his red and white suit. But there are numerous examples of a Santa Claus as we know him with his red and white suit well before Coca-Cola started their advertising campaign. That being said, their advertising definitely helped to cement the image of the modern Santa Claus in the minds of consumers.

Christmas Quiz Answers—No cheating

11. James Edgar

He owned a department store in Brockton, Massachusetts. He first dressed up as Santa in 1890 to the great delight of his patrons, with children coming from miles around to visit him.

12. Odin

Odin was branded as Solstice man. Catchy super hero name right? They also renamed Christmas trees, changed the words to Silent night, and there were even swastika shaped tree lights.

13. The 1950's (specifically 1955)

The NORAD Tracks Santa program officially started on December 24th, 1955 and has continued every year since. In 2004 Google started tracking Santa as well.

14. Swans a-swimming

There is actually a lot of variation of the lyrics over the years. Some of my favorites include: 11 badgers baiting, 10 asses racing, and 9 bears a beating. Also "calling birds" was originally "colly birds", with "colly" meaning black.

15. Austria

It's original German title was Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht. The lyrics were written by Joseph Mohr in 1816 and the music was composed by Franz Xaver Gruber 1818.

As a heartwarming Christmas miracle, it was sang during the impromptu WWI Christmas truce. Because it was a carol popular in both English speaking and German speaking countries, it was known by both sides. It was sung simultaneously in English and German by the troops.

16. Carol of the Drum

It was written and composed in 1941 by Katherine Kennicott Davis and was popularized by the Trapp Family Singers and the Harry Simeone Chorale.

17. They were brothers-in-law

John D. Marks, the writer of the song Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer, was famous for writing other Christmas songs. Surprisingly he was also Jewish. He wrote Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree, A Holly Jolly Christmas, Silver and Gold, as well as others.

18. Do You Hear What I Hear?

Gloria Shayne Baker composed the music, and the lyrics were written by her then husband Noel Regney. This was a switch from their normal routine of her writing the lyrics and him writing the music.

19. Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Charles Wesley who wrote the original carol expected the carol to be sung with slow and somber music. And it was. Until 1855, when William H. Cummings adapted music that Felix Mendelssohn had composed in 1840 to fit Hark! The Harald Angels Sing. Mendelssohn's music was originally written to commemorate the invention of the printing press.

20. Tinkle Bells

The song was changed after Jay's wife pointed out that tinkle could also mean peeing.



Usher Schedule for December

December 4	9:30 a.m.	Carl Albright, Captain
		Brenda, Owen & Levi Gair
December 11th	8:00 a.m.	Richard Miller Herb Poff
	10:30 a.m.	Tim Maggs, Captain
		Carl Hieber, Chalie Fortin
December 18th	8:00 a.m.	Richard Miller Herb Poff
	10:30 a.m.	Mike Jensen, Captain
		Gary Weber, Sean Jensen, Shelby Weber
December 24	CHRISTMAS EVE	
	7:00 p.m.	Ushers Needed
	10:00 p.m.	Ushers Needed
December 25	CHRISTMAS DAY	
	9:30 a.m.	Carl Albright, Captain
		Brenda, Owen & Levi Gair



Altar Guild for December

Bev Hieber
Audrey Albright

Can You Help?

St. Mark's is looking for additional volunteers for Ushers, Communion Assistants and Lectors.



Lectors For December



December 4	9:30 a.m.	Pam Jensen
December 11	8:00 a.m.	Audrey Albright
	10:30 a.m.	
December 18	8:00 a.m.	Becky Pryor
	10:30 a.m.	Phil Thomas
December 24 (Christmas Eve)	10:00 p.m.	Ray Huff
December 25 (Christmas Day)	9:30 a.m.	Linda Rosini

Note to all Lectors: We have lost some of our folks so we could use some more lectors. So if you know anyone please send their names to me, Joyce Hershberger



Communion Assistants for December

December 4	9:30 a.m.	Deb Buckman & Mindy Wentzel
December 11	8:00 a.m.	Becky Pryor / Drew Haussmann / Jackie Kinney
	10:30 a.m.	Gregg & Kathy Dancho
December 18	8:00 a.m.	Becky Pryor / Drew Haussmann / Jackie Kinney
	10:30 a.m.	Walt Doeblor & Gary Weber
December 24	CHRISTMAS EVE	
	7:00 p.m.	Tim Maggs & Becky Miller
	10:00 p.m.	Ralph & Lou Ann Zeigler
December 25	CHRISTMAS DAY	
	9:30 a.m.	Dan Zeigler

Please arrange replacement if you cannot serve.

Evangelism and Fellowship Committee

Notes for “The Lion” December 2022

Be the Lifeline Patients Need
Give Blood



The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee in collaboration with the North-central PA Chapter of the American Red Cross will hold a **Blood Drive on Friday, December 9, 2022 from 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM in Fellowship Hall.** Please consider being a donor as the Red Cross experiences critical shortages of blood during the holiday season. Call 1-800-733-2767 or visit Red-CrossBlood.org and enter: “St. Marks” to schedule an appointment.

Work commitments prevent all of our committee members from assisting at this event. We are in need of one or two volunteers to assist in bringing equipment into Fellowship Hall, greeting donors, serving snacks and helping to return equipment to the Red Cross van at the end of the Blood Drive. All equipment is packed in suitcases with wheels. We work in two-hour shifts. If you could lend a hand on this day, please contact Becky Miller Pryor at 570-971-4585.

Ongoing Collections at St. Mark’s:



Feeding the
Community

United Churches Food Pantry: Needed are fall/winter side dishes, canned food of all types (meats, vegetables, fruits, etc.), cereal and cake and brownie mixes.

Shepherd of the Streets: Needed are shampoo, conditioner, bodywash, toothpaste and toothbrushes for adults and children, feminine hygiene products, paper towels, Kleenex, shave cream, Band-Aids, Q-tips and dish soap.

Blessing Boxes at New Covenant UCC: Easily prepared food and non-perishable foods like Cup of Soups, individual packs of crackers and cookies, microwave mac & cheese, ramen noodles and individual boxes of ce-



real are needed. Deodorant for men and women and travel size hygiene products are also needed.

Sojourner Truth Ministries: Bleach, Dawn dish detergent, aluminum foil and cooking oil are needed.

Many of the items requested for these ministries are perfect for use in the Advent bags.

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 Coat Room.

Parish Life Activities

Gifts for Danville State Hospital

As we have done in years past, we will be collecting Christmas gifts for the residents of Danville State Hospital. Please consider providing a modest gift to ensure all residents will have gifts to open on Christmas morning. We supply general gifts that can be used where they are most needed. This need is greatest for those residents who arrive at the hospital in November or December.



Items being requested this year for both men and women include socks, hats, gloves, scarves, batteries (size AA and AAA), inexpensive wallets and watches, underwear, sweatshirts, sweat pants, t-shirts and slippers in sizes large and up.

Regular sizes of body wash, shampoo, conditioner, body lotion and deodorant are also requested.

All donations should be left unwrapped and placed in the tub in the Narthex. Thank you for any assistance you can give to this outreach.

Donations for Danville State Hospital are due Sunday, December 11, 2022.

Christmas Party at the Selinsgrove Center



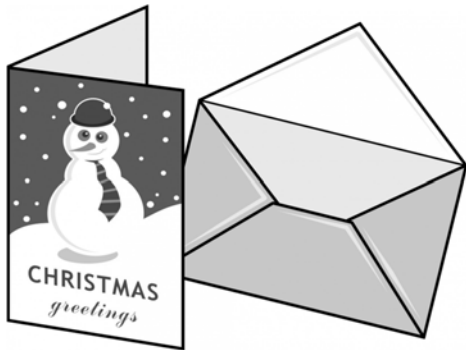
For the third year in a row, our annual in-person Christmas party for the Ladies of CM-6 at the Selinsgrove Center has been cancelled due to the pandemic. As disheartening as this is, we still can gift the ladies and in doing so assist the staff in providing a joyous Christmas party. We are in need of cozy slipper socks, pudding cups in all flavors, moisturizing body wash and money to offset the cost of items not donated. We will also take a basket of individually wrapped snacks for the caregivers.

Monetary donations may be made payable to St. Mark's with the memo line indicating "Selinsgrove Party." Thank you in advance for

any help you are able to give.

Donations for the Ladies of CM-6 are due by Sunday, December 11, 2022

Christmas Greetings for Special Concern Folks



The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee will provide Christmas cards on Sunday, December 11, 2022 to congregation members to mail to our Special Concern Folks and others we do not see as often as we wish. Please consider taking a card or two from the table in the Narthex, write a brief message, sign your name, apply postage and send it in time for Christmas. Thank you for helping us send more Christmas cheer.

Sharing is caring

Sharing in the Caring

The Bible states, "For the poor will never cease out of the land; therefore, I command you, you shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in the land.

(Deuteronomy 15:11 RSV)

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee has again been blessed with a quantity of paper Polish stars and felt ornaments handcrafted by Lou Ann Zeigler. The funds raised from these ornaments will benefit the United Churches Food Pantry. Mona Rundio, Coordinator, states there is a need for \$15.00 supermarket gift cards to be used by families for the purchase of meat, dairy, fresh fruit and vegetables.

The ornaments are free to anyone who wishes to have one. Our only request is that you consider making a modest monetary donation, that when combined with other donations, will be used to purchase supermarket gift cards for the United Churches Food Pantry. Ornaments will be available in the Narthex before each service during Advent.

Please consider supporting this project and our other ongoing collections and projects during this special time of year.

Ongoing Events at Redeemer Lutheran:

Community Dinner on Thursday, December 8, 2022 beginning at 5:00 PM.

All are welcome. This is a take-out meal available at the curb.

Donated Clothing may also be dropped off at Redeemer on Thursday, December 8, 2022 from 3:00 – 4:30 PM. Winter weather brings the need for warmer clothing and sturdier shoes for adults and children. Blankets, sheets and afghans are also accepted. If you have a large quantity of clothing that cannot wait until the monthly drop-off, please contact Redeemer's church office (leave a message) at 570-322-2333 to make an appointment.

Daniel's Closet Distribution of free seasonal clothing on Saturday, December 17, 2022 from 8:30 – 11:00 AM. **Please note this distribution is one week earlier due to Christmas.**

Thank You for Dessert: The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee thanks Jackie Kinney, Wanda Fortin, Barb Thomas, Janet Jones, Bob Miller, Ralph and Lou Ann Zeigler and Becky Miller Pryor for providing 120 servings of cake for Redeemer's November Community Dinner. We are certain those who received a meal enjoyed not only the meal but also the dessert. This month Jim and Susan Newcomer will provide 120 packets of Christmas cookies for Redeemer's meal. Thank you, Jim and Susan.



BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

Marie Elkin	December 1
Sara Jones	December 1
Rob Ott	December 2
Beth Fillnow	December 3
Robert Miller	December 3
Edgar Miller, Jr.	December 3
David Elkin	December 4
Larry Lundy	December 6
Brittany Lynch	December 7
Laura Schreckengast	December 7
Emma Elkin	December 9
Orion Snyder	December 11
Ernest Lason	December 12
Megan Catino	December 13
Alverda Comerford	December 14
Lyndsl Stugart	December 15
Derek Gilbert	December 17
Marlene Vollmer	December 17
Ryan Clokey	December 18
Michael Jensen	December 18
Martha Hopley	December 19
Fred Thayer	December 19
Zachery Zimmerman	December 19
Daryl Lewis	December 22
Jacquelyn Miller	December 22
Judith Fortin	December 23
Sarah Young	December 23
Hannah Ramsauer	December 26
Helen Schramm	December 28
Amalie Robertson	December 30
Cynthia Huff	December 31



Becky Miller and Thomas Pryor

December 21

Rachel and Joseph Reiter

December 29





For those who asked and anyone else interested

Here is Shirley's address.

We are sure she would love to have some Christmas cards from her St. Mark's Family.

Shirley Vognet

715 Happy Trails

Austin, AR 72007



December 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
November 27	November 28	November 29	November 30	1	2 Chamber Choir and Orchestra Nave 7:30 p.m.	3
4 Holy Communion 9:30 a.m. (No Sunday School) ANNUAL MEETING after service	5	6	7 Mid-week Advent Service 12:15 p.m. Subject: Ambrose of Milan	8	9 Red Cross Blood Drive 11:00 am to 3:00 p.m.	10
11 Holy Communion 8:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	12	13	14 Mid-week Advent Service 12:15 p.m. Subject: John of the Cross	15 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">Little Lambs Christmas Program in Fellowship Hall 9:00 a.m. December 15 & 16</div>	16	17
18 Holy Communion 8:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	19	20	21 Mid-week Advent Service 12:15 p.m. Subject: Katharina von Bora Luther	22	23	24 Children's and Family Holy Communion 7 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Holy Communion 10 p.m.
25 Holy Communion 9:30 a.m. (No Sunday School)	26	27	28	29	30	31
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;">CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;">SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2023 HOLY COMMUNION 9:30 A.M. One Worship Service No Sunday School Monday, January 2, 2023 Church Office Closed</div>						

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

142 MARKET STREET

WILLIAMSPORT, PA 17701

Address Service Requested

Phone: 570-323-4619

Fax: 570-323-2452

Website: www.stmarkswilliamsport.org

Email: stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

Permit No. 257

Williamsport, PA 17701

LABEL

Church Office 570-323-4619 Fax 570-323-2452

Website: stmarkswilliamsport.org

Main e-mail: stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org

bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org

570-323-4619 or 570-523-1415

srobison@stmarkswilliamsport.org

zeigler17702@msn.com

melvineventzel@gmail.com

hausfamily1@comcast.net

prhmfj530@aol.com

jgmacookie@comcast.net

dabuckman65@gmail.com

Is Needed

570-494-6637

Rev. Brian Vasey, Pastor

Sam Robinson, Church Organist

Deb Kershner, Bookkeeper

Ralph Zeigler, Council President

Mel Wentzel, Vice President

Vicki Hausmann, Council Secretary

Pam Jensen, Treasurer

Janet Jones, Parish Life

Debra Buckman, Family Promise Coordinator

Prayer Chain Coordinator

Sally Bjornstad, Altar Flowers

STAFF OFFICE HOURS

Pastor: The Rev. Brian Vasey

Church Organist: Sam Robinson

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

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

Sexton: Position Open

Bookkeeper: Deb Kershner

Administrative Assistant: Joseph Baur

Tuesday through Friday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

