

# SAINT MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



# "THE LION" of ST. MARK'S

*"To know Christ and to make Christ known."*

## MAY 2023



Pastor's "Lion" message for May

*God has gone up with a shout! (Psalm 47:5)*

Thursday, May 18, the church celebrates Ascension Day. Ascension Day remembers Jesus ascending into heaven forty days after Easter Sunday. Ascension Day concludes the Easter Season and reminds us that the Day of Pentecost (May 25, 2023), which begins a new church season, will soon be upon us.

The Ascension is one of those events in the life of Christ that often becomes an after thought. I suspect this is true for two reasons:

1. It is commemorated on a Thursday and not on a Sunday. Forty days since Easter Sunday in 2023 is Thursday, May 18.
2. As described in Luke 24:44-53 (the disciples were told to wait for the power from on high), ascension is a "waiting event". We conclude waiting means not a lot of activity.

The church has let itself be influenced by society on these two fronts. Easter has become known as a day and not a season. Waiting is looked upon as "doing nothing".

Ascension can help us in our understanding regarding life in the church. Easter is a season, not only a day. Waiting involves prayer, study, fellowship, contemplation; clearly not "doing nothing".

Ascension asks us to behold Jesus as God in the flesh. He is the God who dwells with us, touches the earth with divine splendor, comforts us, brings us forgiveness and new life, and at the same time, dwells on high.

I pray that we will not neglect this wonderful and awe-inspiring day which helps keep our feet on the ground while our lives remain focused on Christ, who dwells on high yet is ever with us.

**Grace + Peace,  
Pastor Brian Vasey**

## 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: OPEN  
By appointment  
Bookkeeper: Jackie Baysore  
By appointment  
Administrative Assistant: Joseph Baur  
Tuesday through Friday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

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Serving the Williamsport Community since 1852  
142 Market Street  
Williamsport, PA 17701  
(570) 323-4619  
[stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org)



**SUNDAYS IN MAY:**

**Sunday, May 7, The Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 am**

**Sunday, May 14, The Sixth Sunday of Easter (Mother's Day)**

**Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 am**

**Sunday, May 21, The Seventh Sunday of Easter**

**Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 am**

**Sunday, May 28, The Day of Pentecost**

**WEAR RED ON THIS SUNDAY**

**Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 am**

**ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST  
(SUNDAY, MAY 28) PLEASE WEAR AN  
ARTICLE OF RED CLOTHING TO  
WORSHIP IN COMMEMORATION OF  
THE OUTPOURING OF THE HOLY  
SPIRIT UPON ALL THE EARTH!**

**OUR SUNDAY  
MORNING SERVICES:  
Holy Communion,  
8 and 10:30 a.m.**

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

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**



**PLEASE JOIN US**

**Saturday, May 27, 2023**

Memorial Service for Harold and Joyce Hershberger, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 11 a.m. Reception to follow at the Williamsport Country Club (800 Country Club Drive).

All are welcome!

**Adult  
Sunday School**

The Adult Sunday School Class meets in the Middle Lounge at 9:15 a.m.

All are welcome.



## Operation Christmas Child (OCC)

A great big THANK YOU to everyone who continues to donate items for our Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes! Never doubt that God is using these seemingly small items for good.

**"Our economic condition is very poor, so my parents cannot afford to buy toys for me. When I heard that I would get a gift box, I was so excited! Thank you to all of my foreign friends who sent me the toys and other amazing things."**

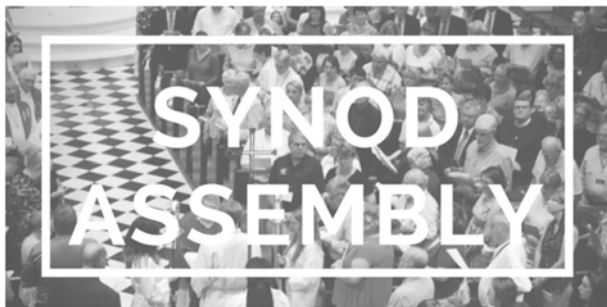
**–Samia, East Asia**

In **May** we will be collecting **Jump Ropes, Hair Accessories, Bungee Cords, Screw-drivers.**



## Lutheran World Relief (LWR)

There is a great need for personal care kits for the victims of the Turkey earthquake and for war victims in the Ukraine. Kits are composed of a bath towel (dark color preferred-regular size not a bath blanket), 2 bars of soap, a comb, a toothbrush, and a nail clipper. You can provide a complete kit or bring in any of the components of the kit and I will make sure to complete the kit. Monetary donations are also welcome - make out to St. Mark's with LWR kits in the memo line.



**SYNOD ASSEMBLY TAKES PLACE JUNE 16-17 AT SUSQUEHANNA UNIVERSITY (Selingsgrove, Pa). PLEASE HOLD PASTOR VASEY, AND OUR ELECTED LAY MEMBERS (MEL WENZEL AND BOB CAMPBELL) IN PRAYER.**

## LOOKING AHEAD TO JUNE



**Sunday, June 4, 2023, Trinity Sunday**

**Sunday, June 11, 2023, The Third Sunday after Pentecost  
*Remembering St. Barnabas, Apostle***

**Sunday, June 18, 2023, The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost  
(Father's Day)**

**Sunday, June 25, 2023, The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost  
*Presentation of the Augsburg Confession***

# **St. Mark's Lutheran Church Williamsport, PA 17701**

## ***“To know Christ and to make Christ known”***

Report of the Secretary for the Council Meeting held on April 17, 2023 at 6:00 P.M.  
- Vicki Haussmann, Secretary

Meeting was called to order by Mel Wentzel  
Council joined in reciting our defining statement ~ “To know Christ and to make Christ known”.  
Ray Huff led us in opening prayer.

Secretary's roll call was taken.

**Present:** Debra Buckman, Ed Gair, Vicki Haussmann, Ray Huff, Nikki Jackson,  
Herb Poff, Helen Schramm, Shelby Weber, Mel Wentzel, Pastor Vasey  
**Absent:** Glenn Yapple, Ralph Zeigler,

### **Vice-President's remarks:**

- Thank you note from Carol Waltz was shared with Council.

**Secretary's Report:** for the month of March was approved as submitted.

**Treasurer's Report:** printed April 15, 2023 was accepted and filed for audit.

**Pastor's report:** As submitted by Pastor Vasey.

- Noted that those in need of assistance has been increasing over the past months. Assistance is needed both in terms of grocery gift cards and even 1st aid supplies.
- Pastoral care for the churches of the Liberty Parish will be offered by Pastor Vasey, Pastor LeCrone, and Vicar Johnson.

## **Committee Reports:**

**Evangelism & Fellowship:** Email update provided by Becky Pryor

- Thank you to Audrey Albright for her donation of 20 handcrafted cards.
- Thank you to Jim and Susan Newcomer for the cookie packets for Redeemer's April community dinner.

\*\* Cakes are needed for Redeemer's May community dinner.

**Faith Formation:** Update provided by Vicki Haussmann

- Easter hospitality was a success with over 50 in attendance!

**Little Lambs:** Update provided by Pastor Vasey

Nothing to report at this time.

**Nominating:** Nothing to report.

**Personnel:** Update provided by Mel Wentzel

- Mel has been unable to communicate with our sexton either by phone or text.

**Property:** Update provided by Ed Gair

**M(Shelby Weber ~ 2nd Mel Wentzel) SC: CC: 23.4.1** Motion approved to place

No Loitering signs and security cameras around the St. Mark's building.

**Publicity:** Holy Week email blast was sent out to congregation.

**Safety:** Update provided by Herb Poff, liaison

- Next meeting May 1, 2023 at 11:00 A.M.

**Worship and Music:** Updated provided by Ray Huff

- Thank you to all who helped make the Lenten season and especially Holy Week a meaningful season.

- Prior to the April 30 meeting, members of the congregation are invited to join the committee for prayerful discussion concerning the pros and cons on a single service vs. two services. If possible, please submit written thoughts and ideas prior to this meeting.

Papers may be placed on the marked table in the Narthex.

\* After this meeting, the worship and music committee will make a recommendation to council for either moving to one service or continuing with two services. A council vote will be the final decision. (What is considered a majority in this vote?).

- Possibility of planting remaining lilies from Easter?

**Parish Life:** Email update provided by Becky Pryor

- Sandwiches are prepared twice a month for New Covenant's Blessing Box.

\* Monetary donations to aid in this outreach are appreciated.

- St. Mark's hosts a monthly meal for the Center City Pastors.

#### **Unfinished Business:**

- **Growing our Church:** Helen Schramm presented the idea of sharing pictures and other St. Mark Memorabilia at a dinner. Many of our members have fond memories of growing up at St. Mark's and would enjoy reminiscing.

- Ecumenical Good Friday service was not well attended. Continue working on opportunities for all to come together for worship and fellowship.

- **Spire Update:** On engineer's schedule for June or July.

- **Dossal Update:** The Merhaut Company located in Pittsburgh will return to look at this project at a date to be announced.

#### **New Business:**

- Suggestion of 12% rent increase (or \$168/month) for Little Lambs expanded space in Parish Hall.

- **Industrial Appraisal Company RE: Appraisal/Reevaluation Services for St.**

#### **Mark's Lutheran Church.**

The appraisal process for St. Mark's is on a 5 year cycle. We need to obtain a physical appraisal (or a "hard cycle appraisal") which will run several thousand dollars. \*\*This appraisal needs someone to be in charge of collecting the needed information (including capital improvements) and to fill out the necessary forms. Jackie Baysore can help with this process. After this is done, appraisals for the following years will run about \$300.00. This appraisal process has already been set in motion through past council action.

Ray Huff led us in closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned.

**Next meeting: Monday, May 15th, 2023 @ 6:00 PM (Middle Lounge)**

## **Evangelism and Fellowship Committee Notes**

**April 2023 CONTINUED**

### **Blessing Box Bath Kits**

During Lent, bath kits were assembled for Lutheran World Relief for distribution in Turkey. Thank you, Deb Buckman for spearheading this much needed project. The Faith Formation and Evangelism and Fellowship Committees are joining together to continue a similar project much closer to home. The Blessing Boxes at New Covenant UCC give bath kits to homeless people who stop by for nourishment and hygiene items.

The foundation of each kit is a bath towel and washcloth which our committees will provide. But we will need assistance from congregation members for additional items to complete each kit. Our goal is to complete ten kits by May.

Items in need are bars of soap, plastic soap dishes, toothbrushes, toothpaste, toothbrush holders, band-aids, inexpensive combs and brushes and small bottles of body lotion. Items can be found inexpensively at the Dollar Tree, Dollar General, Family Dollar or Wal-Mart. Donations may be placed in the tub in the Narthex. Thank you for any assistance you can give.

### **Rise Up Village Bakery**

**What is our mission? Why do a dozen people spend Mondays baking at New Covenant United Church of Christ? Who are we?**

The mission of the Rise Up Village Bakery is to provide training in baking skills and to offer support and guidance for individuals involved with the criminal justice system. Our vision for the graduates of our program is that they will be able to secure gainful employment and be restored to the community. We are volunteers who work alongside the trainees. We share love by serving others.

Trainee referrals come from local agencies. As people transition out of the program, we are always looking for new candidates. Volunteers are also needed to work in the kitchen and in the “front of the house” with labeling and packaging. Please spread the word about our program and our need for participants, both trainees and volunteers.

Currently there are 122 people on our weekly mailing list. The orders for baked goods are often as much as 30 loaves of bread, 100 rolls, 80 muffins and over 60 dozen cookies. On Mondays we start baking at 8:00 a.m. and orders can be picked up between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. We have become a “well oiled machine” and have learned how to “dance” around each other in the kitchen!

To receive weekly notifications of what we will have available for Monday pick up, please sign up for our email list at [riseupvillagebakery@gmail.com](mailto:riseupvillagebakery@gmail.com). (United Churches' News, March 2023)



## Usher Schedule for May

May 7	8:00 a.m.	Richard Miller Herb Poff
	10:30 a.m.	Matt Fortin, captain Glenn Yapple, Bud Doeblor
May 14	8:00 a.m.	Richard Miller Herb Poff
	10:30 a.m.	Carl Albright, captain Brenda, Owen and Levi Gair
May 21	8:00 a.m.	Richard Miller Herb Poff
	10:30 A.M.	Gary Weber, captain Shelby Weber, Dick Reitz
May 28	8:00 a.m.	Richard Miller Herb Poff
	10:30 a.m.	Mike Jensen, captain Gary Weber, Pam Jensen, Shelby Weber



## Lectors For May

May 7	8:00 a.m.	Vicki Haussmann
	10:30 a.m.	Phil Thomas
May 14	8:00 a.m.	Leah Haussmann
	10:30 a.m.	Donna Boston
May 21	8:00 a.m.	Walt Haussmann
	10:30 a.m.	Brenda Gair
May 28	8:00 a.m.	Pastor Vasey
	10:30 a.m.	Linda Rosini



## Communion Assistants for May

Please arrange replacement if you cannot serve.

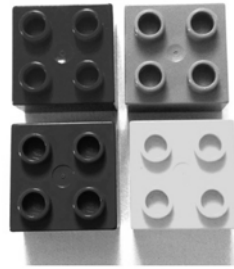
May 7	8:00 a.m.	Drew Haussmann
	10:30 a.m.	Dan Zeigler
May 14	8:00 a.m.	Becky Pryor
	10:30 a.m.	Matt and Wanda Fortin
May 21	8:00 a.m.	Jackie Kinney
	10:30 a.m.	Carl and Audrey Albright
May 28	8:00 a.m.	Drew Haussmann
	10:30 a.m.	Deb Buckman and Mindy Wentzel



## Altar Guild for MAY

Bev Hieber  
Audrey Albright





## Random Bricks

By

Joseph Baur

Thank You all for the wonderful Easter gifts. I am very blessed to have spent the last year with everyone here. I can't believe I have been here one year and can't wait for many more.

By what name do we know these  
May birthday people.

Cheryl Sarkisian, May 20, 1946  
Christopher Wallace, May 21, 1972

Cheryl Sarkisian is Cher

Christopher Wallace is Notorious B.I.G.

## What Does "Mayday!" Mean?

Here's a fun fact: The term "Mayday!" is not related to the "May Day" spring festival, but instead comes from the French phrase "*M'aidez!*," which means "Help me!" If you hear "Mayday!" repeated three times, realize that it is an urgent distress call. (To signal that you need help but are not in a life-threatening situation, repeat the phrase "Pan-pan!" three times when calling for assistance.)

So, now you know all about May Day! As colts and calves kick up their heels, seedlings seek the Sun, and birds call for mates, we humans may join their revels for one day: during spring's "May Day" festival! Even serious-minded folks can put work aside and enjoy Nature's exuberance!

## May is

ALS Awareness Month.

Better Hearing & Speech Month.

National Stroke Awareness Month.

Nurse Appreciation Week.



# Evangelism and Fellowship Committee

## Easter Greetings

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee thanks everyone who sent Easter greetings to our Special Concern Folks and others. We have heard from several recipients who received cards that these greetings were much appreciated. Thank you for being God's hands.

## Card Ministry Seeking Volunteers



The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee needs additional volunteers to send cards to our Special Concern Folks and others for a month at a time. Everything is supplied (cards, stamps, names and addresses) but you. We need volunteers for July, August, November and December 2023. Please speak to Becky Miller Pryor (570-971-4585) if you wish to volunteer for a month.

## Spring Cleaning? Redecorating? Moving? Got Stuff?

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee and the Women of St. Mark's still need donations for our annual Fall Sale that will be held September 15 and September 16. If you are discovering items, you no longer need or want, please donate them to us.



We are accepting holiday decorations, housewares, linens, toys, small, working electronics, gadgets, dishes, jewelry, lamps, art work and the list goes on. If you cannot use it or want it, we probably can sell it.

We cannot accept VCR tapes, text books, encyclopedias, computers, televisions, large gym equipment, broken items, cribs or mat-

tresses.

Please place your donations in boxes small enough for us to lift. Donations can be placed in the Bazaar Room in the basement. If you cannot get to the basement, leaving them on the second landing in the back stairwell is helpful. Extra boxes for your convenience are available in the Bazaar Room.

## Ongoing Collections at St. Mark's:



**United Churches Food Pantry:** Needed are canned meats/vegetables/fruits with pop-top lids if possible. Healthy snacks, cereal/oatmeal, juice/drinks, cake/muffin mixes and frostings, jellies/jams and condiments including tabletop salt and pepper. At this time, the Pantry DOES NOT need green beans, corn, spaghetti, soups or mac and cheese.

**Shepherd of the Streets:** Needed are shampoo, conditioner, bodywash, feminine hygiene products, Kleenex and small packages of laundry pods. Diapers in sizes 5, 6 and 7 and are especially needed.

**Blessing Boxes at New Covenant UCC:** Easily prepared foods like Cup of Soups, individual packs of crackers and cookies, microwave mac & cheese, ramen noodles and individual boxes of cereal are needed. Travel size hygiene items are also needed.

**Sojourner Truth Ministries (STM):** Bleach, Dawn dish detergent and umbrellas for their homeless guests. STM is also in need of clip-on reflectors for bikes, Dixie luncheon plates, disposable 8 oz. cold cups and disposable coffee cups. STM would be especially appreciative of healthy snacks for use in their after-school program.

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

## Ongoing Events at Redeemer Lutheran:

**Community Dinner** on Thursday, May 11, 2023 beginning at 5:00 p.m. until all meals are distributed. This is a take-out meal available at the curb. All are welcome.

**For desserts in May, the Evangelism and Fellowship Committee is seeking donations of assorted cakes in any flavor with any frosting.** Cakes need to be delivered to the church kitchen on Wednesday, May 10 and no later than 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 11, 2023. Please speak with Becky Miller Pryor if you are able to provide a cake.

**Daniel's Closet** Distribution of free spring/summer clothing on Saturday, May 27, 2023 from 8:30 – 11:00 a.m. In addition to clean clothing in good condition, shoes for men, Women and children are always needed. Sheets, blankets, throws and afghans are also accepted.

**This month's clothing drop off is  
Thursday, May 25 from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM.**

If you have a large quantity of clothing, please call Redeemer's office (leave a message) at 570-322-2333 to make an appointment. Smaller quantities of clothing may be placed on the stage if you are unable to accommodate the new drop off schedule.



## MOSES

From the banks of the Nile River to the depths of the Red Sea, MOSES is a spectacular entertainment experience for the whole family!

Set adrift as a baby, Moses is an unlikely hero — until God calls him to lead His people out of Egypt and into the Promised Land. Journey with Moses as he ventures through the wilderness, encounters God

at the burning bush, and ascends to the top of Mount Sinai.

A bus trip to see **Moses** at the Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA is once again being organized by Cheryl Williams. This trip is being planned for Wednesday, September 20, the 11:00 AM show. While the bus will be pulling out around 6:00 AM, the early start will certainly be well worth it! Bus fare, show ticket, and dinner are all included in the price which will be determined based on the number attending). \*\*Please note that the faster we sign up, the lower the price may be. To sign up, please contact Cheryl Williams at (570) 327-1627. We can't wait to hear from you!



Melvin Wentzel	May 1
Jerod Barone	May 2
Robert Clokey	May 2
Jacob Schreckengast	May 2
Grace Schreckengast	May 5
Rosemary Clokey	May 6
H. Vincent Bardsley	May 12
Thomas Waffenschmidt	May 12
Catherine Lundy	May 13
Karen Mariano	May 14
Jane Larson	May 15
Stephen Boone	May 18
Candace Dewar	May 19
Kenneth Schreckengast	May 19
Ryan Jensen	May 24
Dawson Owen	May 24
Dustin Pelleschi	May 24
Norma Prato	May 26
Audrey Albright	May 27
Walter Haussmann	May 27
Owen Gair	May 30



Brittany and Joshua Lynch	May 2
Pamela and Galen Davenport, Jr.	May 15
Joanne and Brian Vasey	May 24
Pamela and Michael Jensen	May 30

## ***Can You Help?***

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

Contact us at [stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org)

**WE KNOW HOW BORING SUMMER CAN GET.**

# CAMP MOUNT LUTHER

**IS HERE TO HELP!**

Like you, we think summer vacation should be fresh and fun, filled with new friendships and new experiences.

Camp Mount Luther offers 400 acres and a host of awesome programs to feed your hunger for adventure.

### **3 EASY STEPS TO YOUR BEST. SUMMER. EVER.**

1. Check out our 2023 Summer Camp brochure and pick your program
2. Register (scholarships are available)
3. Pack your bags and come to camp!

### **OUR PROMISE TO YOU:**

1. You will be safe
2. You will be welcomed
3. You will be loved
4. You will have fun!



**REGISTER NOW!**

*Don't suffer another long, boring summer! Come to camp and create friendships, memories, and faith that will last a lifetime!*



### **CAMP MOUNT LUTHER**

[www.campmountluther.org](http://www.campmountluther.org)

355 Mt. Luther Lane, Mifflinburg, PA 17844

Phone: 570-922-1587 | Fax: 570-922-1118

e-mail: [cml@campmountluther.org](mailto:cml@campmountluther.org)





# Spring Cleaning



Y R U I M B Y Y H N F R K S J F T K G N I P N F  
 R E F L E C T I O N M V Y G A N B Q J V Z M R A  
 D E P P O G H V O L R B Y N C S N D L B F W C N  
 F M A R L W C I W D D S C I C C U J Z I L F T V  
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 E O R S M Y N Z I B E T V R A X T U R S B O H B  
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 A K R K U K E V X C K I X Y R L V N K V V N L H  
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 T S P B S F F V B N K X I J B I V N A G T Q X L  
 L J C X Z K A G N I P O C T D R U R B J S I L S

spring  
 rejuvenate  
 acceptance  
 mantras  
 release

clean slate  
 coping  
 processing  
 affirmations  
 relax

restart  
 repair  
 journaling  
 joy  
 meditation

effort  
 reevaluate  
 cleanse  
 emotion  
 reflection

# MAY 2023

*"In the merry month of May, when green leaves begin to spring, little lambs do skip like fairies, birds do couple, build, and sing."*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 May Day	2 Center City Pastor Lunch Noon	3	4	5	6
7 Holy Communion 8 and 10:30 a.m.	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Holy Communion 8 and 10:30 a.m. <b>MOTHER'S DAY</b>	15	16	17 Executive Com- mittee Meeting 12 Noon  Property Com- mittee Meeting 6:00 p.m.	18	19	20
21 Holy Communion 8 and 10:30 a.m.	22	23	24	25	26	27 Hershberger Memorial Service 11:00 a.m.
28 Holy Communion 8 and 10:30 a.m.	29 MEMORIAL DAY Church Office Closed	30	31			



**ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**142 MARKET STREET**  
**WILLIAMSPORT, PA 17701**  
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Website: [www.stmarkswilliamsport.org](http://www.stmarkswilliamsport.org)  
Email: [stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org)

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**Main e-mail: [stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org)**  
Rev. Brian Vasey, Pastor  
[bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org) or 570-323-4619 or 570-523-1415  
Sam Robinson, Church Organist  
Jackie Baysore, Bookkeeper  
Ralph Zeigler, Council President  
Mel Wentzel, Vice President  
Vicki Haussmann, Council Secretary  
Treasurer - OPEN  
Janet Jones, Parish Life  
Debra Buckman, Family Promise Coordinator  
Sally Bjornstad, Altar Flowers  
Joseph Baur, Administrative Assistant

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