

**SAINT
MARK'S
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**



**“THE LION”
of ST. MARK’S**

“To know Christ and to make Christ known.”

AUGUST 2023



Pastor's “Lion”

Message for August, 2023

{The righteous} are not afraid of evil things (Psalm 112:7)

Bad news comes in many different forms, shapes and sizes. It can be as general as the evening news or as specific as the doctor's report. Often our physical response is instantaneous: A racing heart, sweating palms, growling stomach, or a pounding head. I remember how when I was a boy my mom, when receiving bad or uncomfortable news, would always clear her throat! But no matter what our physical reaction our spiritual response does not have to be one of panic. We can remain calm and rooted in faith.

Psalm 112, especially verse seven, reminds us that the righteous- that includes us because of our baptism- need not be afraid of evil or bad tidings. This does not mean that we never experience fear. It means that when fear and bad news come knocking on our door, we run to Jesus.

Continued on Page 2

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.
 jbaur@stmarkswilliamsport.org

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



Summer Hospitality

The summer months are once again upon us and with them come long, lazy days, swimming, camping, s'mores, suntans, and all sorts of fun, summery things. At St. Mark's, **summer also means a single service beginning at 9:30 AM.**

We look forward to sharing hospitality with each other after the 9:30 service, and ask that you please consider signing up to share a few treats ~ nothing fancy is required! Perhaps find a friend to help make the load just a bit lighter. Sign-up sheets may be found in the "Hospitality Binder" on the "Hospitality Table" in the Narthex. We look forward to spending a little time together on these Summer Sunday mornings. Thank you for helping!



The Adult Sunday School Class is on "Summer Vacation" but will begin to meet again on Sunday, September 10. Watch your Lion and our Web Page for more information.

A lack of fear is not something we can manufacture on our own or out of our own will. It is not something we can purchase at the "Spiritual Gifts Store". It is the result of the presence of God in our lives. Jesus promised never to leave us, which means that even in the midst of devastating or unwelcome news, we are not alone.

Jesus is with us. When fear threatens to overtake us, we can and should keep our bibles nearby. We can and should go to God in prayer. We can and should remember our baptism. These are reminders that God is near; reminders that in the Lord we live and move and have our being. The more we focus on God's presence and the love of God (the true meaning of the Gospel), the less power fear and the news of evil will have over us.

When physically afraid, trust the message of the Gospel and rest in the Lord.

Grace + Peace,

Pastor Brian Vasey



Pastor Vasey has a new cell phone Number: 272-788-0161. Please use this number as his primary telephone number when he is not available by the church telephone or the church email. Thank You!



SUNDAYS IN AUGUST:

Sunday, August 6, The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Communion, 9:30 am

Sunday, August 13, The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Communion, 9:30 am

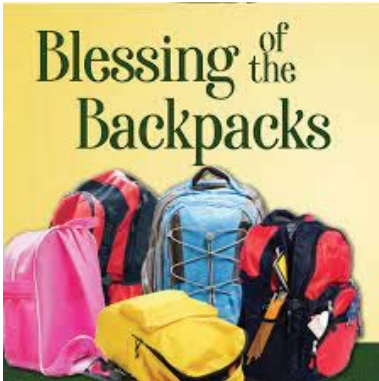
Sunday, August 20, The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Communion, 9:30 am

Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday, August 27, The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Communion, 9:30 am



BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Please join us Sunday, August 20th during our 9:30 AM worship service as we bless our backpacks for the upcoming school year. All students, teachers, and educators are encouraged to bring your backpacks as we prayerfully send you into the 2023-23 school year.



+ When you or a family member are ill, have a crisis of faith, or have a personal concern of which you wish to make the pastor aware, please contact him directly by church office telephone (570-323-4619) or email (bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org). Do not assume the pastor will know of your need any other way.



+ When you or a loved one has a change of address, telephone number or email, please contact the church office at 570-323-4619 or stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org. Please direct your intentions whether or not to share this information with our church family.

RIDDLE OF THE MONTH You can hold me in your left hand, but not in your right. What am I?

Answer: Your right elbow.



Lutheran World Relief News

It is that time of year when the LWR kits are assembled in anticipation of shipping in Oct. Our goals this year are 60 school kits, 15 personal care kits, 5 sewing kits, and 10 baby care kits. Directions for the kits are included with this Lion. You do not have to do an entire kit if you do not

want to but if you could provide a part of a kit, that would be great. Ex. good used dark hand towels or those extra nail clippers you have. Everyone can participate because if you don't want to do a kit, a monetary donation to help ship the kits would be great. On your check to St. Marks, put LWR kits on the memo line. Thanks to all who have participated in the past - let's keep up the good work. If you have questions please contact me - Deb Buckman

A copy of what to include in the kits is on the next page



Family Promise

A big shout out to Becky Pryor who took over for me when I wound up in the hospital. Thanks to all of our dinner providers for the week - there were no complaints from the clients so everything must have been OK. Our next hosting is in October. More information later.

Operation Christmas Child



Our shoeboxes are getting closer and closer to being filled with just three more months of collecting to go! We bet you might have a good guess as to what August collections might be. Did you say school supplies? Then you are absolutely correct!

In August we are indeed collecting **School Supplies** ~ crayons, pencils, pens, erasers, colored pencils, rulers, scissors (both kid and adult sizes).... you get the picture! Keep an eye out for those great sales that have already started?!? (And is it really time to think about back to school? Summer slow down!)

mer slow down!)

These items (or any others you find) may be placed in our red, OCC bin located in the Narthex. Thank you,

No Council Notes this month due to the summer break

Lutheran FABRIC KIT

World Relief

♦ 2 pieces of cotton or cotton blend fabric (NO knits or 100% polyester). Each piece should match on of the sizes below. Fabrics do not need to match in size, color or pattern.

2 1/2 yards of 58"-63" wide OR

3 yards of 42"-45" wide OR

4 yards of 24"-37" wide

- ♦ 2 spools of matching or neutral colored general purpose thread, 250-300 yards long.
- ♦ Fold the thread and one of the pieces of fabric and tie with string or yarn.

PERSONAL CARE KIT

- ♦ 1 light weight bath towel 20" x 40" to 52" x 27" Dark color (fast drying if possible).
- ♦ 2 bath size bars of soap in original wrapping. NO mini or hotel size please.
- ♦ 1 adult toothbrush in original package - if you buy a multipack of brushes, place one in a business size envelope and seal.
- ♦ 1 sturdy comb - remove packaging. NO picks or fine-toothed combs.
- ♦ 1 metal nail clipper (ones with attached file are OK) - remove packaging.
- ♦ Wrap all items in the towel and secure with string or yarn or ribbon.

SCHOOL KITS

Place the following in the drawstring backpack. Remove all excess packaging. No rubber bands.

4 notebooks - 70 to 80 sheets each, wide or college ruled. NO loose-leaf paper please. No composition books.

1 ruler - 30 centimeters or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other. Plastic, wood or metal.

1 pencil sharpener

1 pair of blunt scissors - safety scissors with embedded steel blade



BABY CARE KIT

Sizes newborn to 24 months can be included

Used items in good condition can be used

2 lightweight cotton T-shirts. NO onesies or snap crotch

2 long or short sleeved gowns or sleepers (NO feet) - pajama sets of top and pants can also be used.

2 blankets - medium weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn - 36" to 52" square

4 cloth diapers. Fold flat preferred.

1 jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with hood or include a baby cap.

2 pairs of cotton socks.

1 hand towel, dark color.

2 bath size bars of gentle soap in original wrapping. NO mini or hotel size please.

2 diaper pins or large safety pins.

Secure everything inside one of the blankets and secure with the diaper pins.

5 unsharpened #2 pencils secured together with a rubber band.

5 black or blue ballpoint pens secured together with a rubber band. NO gel pens please.

1 box 16 or 24 crayons.

1 eraser - 2 1/2 inches.

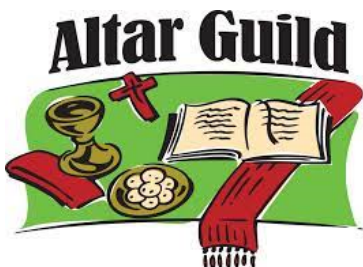
Secure by drawing the string on the backpack.



Usher Schedule for August

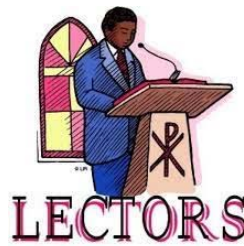
SUMMER SCHEDULE 9:30 SERVICE ONLY

August 6	Carl Albright, captain Brenda, Owen and Levi Gair
August 13	Tim Maggs, captain Carl Hieber, Charles Kuntz
August 20	Gary Weber, captain Shelby Weber, Dick Reitz
August 27	Matt Fortin, captain Glenn Yaple, Bud Doebler



Altar Guild for August

Cindy Huff
Linda Rosini



Lectors For August

SUMMER SCHEDULE 9:30 SERVICE ONLY

August 6	Phil Thomas
August 13	Gary Weber
August 20	Linda Rossini
August 27	Brenda Gair

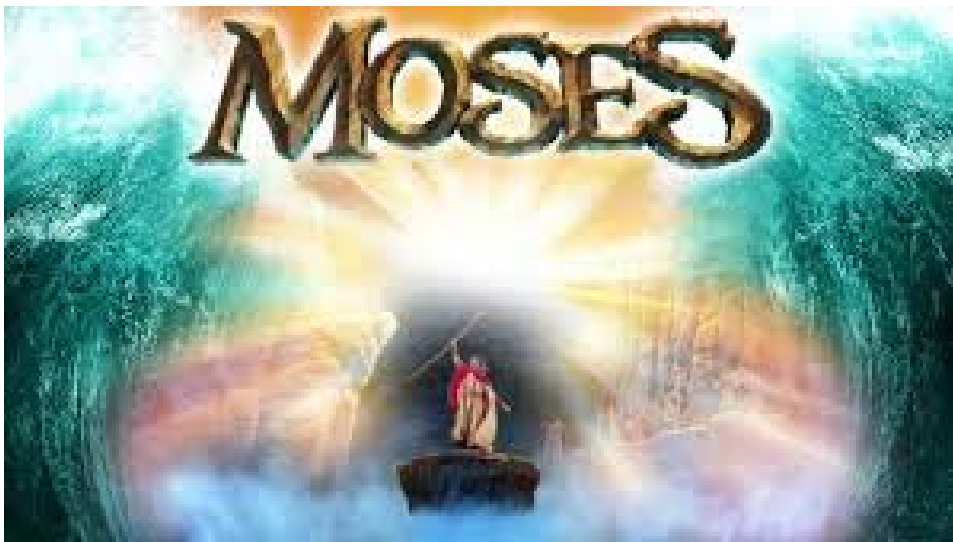


Communion Assistants for August

Communion Assistants Please arrange replacement if you cannot serve.

SUMMER SCHEDULE 9:30 SERVICE ONLY

August 6	Matt and Wanda Fortin
August 13	Ralph and Lou Ann Zeigler
August 20	Carl and Audrey Albright
August 27	Deb Buckman and Mindy Wentzel



SIGHT AND SOUND “MOSES” BUS TRIP, SEPTEMBER 20.

Our bus to see “Moses” at the Sight and Sound Theatre has been filled! The cost of the trip is \$139.00/person and checks should be made payable to Cheryl Williams by August 13, 2023. The bus departs from Beiter's Parking Lot (540 Montgomery Pike, Williamsport) 6 am on September 20. Please park your car in the West End Parking Lot of Beiter's. Questions may be directed to Mrs. Cheryl Williams (570-327-1627). Send checks to Mrs. Cheryl Williams, 249 Johnson Drive, Williamsport, PA 17701.



**OUR SUNDAY MORNING
SERVICES FOR SUMMER
BEGINNING JUNE 4, 2023
Holy Communion, 9:30 a.m.
ALL ARE WELCOME!**



Random Bricks By Joseph Baur



To keep members of the church update on new address, phone number, change in marital status or anything else that needs updated, you will see

in the weekly bulletin and the “Lion” , updates on the information.

If you have any information that needs to be update, please send an email to jbaur@stmarkswilliamsport.org or call the church office at 570-323-4619, Tuesday through Friday 9 a.m.- 1 p.m.

Thank You

Two of my Favorite LEGO builds are on display in my office this month. Stop by and check them out.

Thank you to everyone who invited my wife and I to the picnic. We had a great time and everyone was so nice. Can't wait to do it again next year.

As we enter August we start to look forward to the end of the summer heat. World records of high temps being broke every day. I know I am looking forward to fall and hoping the temps are much cooler, I have to dig a hole to put my new flagpole in.

So remember to :

- **Stay hydrated**
 - **Pause on outdoor exercise**
 - **Wear natural fibers, loose-fitting, breathable, and lightly-colored clothing that can reflect the heat**
 - **Plan your car trips for cooler hours during the day**
 - **Never ever leave children or pets inside a parked vehicle in the sun**
 - **Walking the streets with a damp cloth on the back of your neck**
 - **At home, keep the blinds down low and the windows open**
 - **If it's too hot for you to place your hand on the road for longer than five seconds, then it's too hot for you to be taking your pet for a walk**
 - **Watch for signs of heat stroke or heat exhaustion**
 - **Check on relatives and neighbors, especially older people who live alone**
- Avoid coffee and alcohol as they are dehydrating**



Evangelism and Fellowship Committee Articles for The Lion

August 2023



Spring Cleaning? Redecorating? Moving? Got Stuff?

The Bazaar Room is all but full, but the Evangelism and Fellowship Committee and the Women of St. Mark's are still accepting 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. There is a good chance we can sell them.

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

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. Please do not leave items on the stairs or blocking the door into the basement. Extra boxes for your convenience are available in the Bazaar Room.

We will need many volunteers to get our sale in order. We are hopeful that the Lycoming College Girls' basketball team will bring the tables and treasures from the basement. Starting on Monday, September 11, 2023 we will then work to unpack and display all that we have.



Cereal Sundays

For food insecure families with children there is no vacation from hunger during the summer. In July we helped to ease that burden with our cereal collection. The congregation donated **54 regular-sized boxes** of cereal and **50 single-serve boxes** of cereal!

Our next Cereal Sunday is August 13, 2023.

Can we beat our July collection of 104 boxes of cereal?

Card Ministry

Thank you, Audrey Albright and Mel Wentzel for spreading cheer during the month of July. We are still in need of Thinking of You and Anniversary cards. These cards may be placed in the Evangelism and Fellowship mailbox. Thank you for any assistance you can give.

October School of Religion



The Faith Formation Committee is pleased to once again be offering the opportunity to grow in our faith through the October School of Religion. Please join us Wednesdays in October from 12:10 -12:45 for education and discussion as we look to enhance our faith life. You are invited to bring a brown bag lunch to munch as Pastor Vasey uses this time to teach. What is the topic you ask? Tune in next month to find out.....



Open Williamsport

Open Williamsport is a program through Lycoming College that works to integrate inner-city and urban first-time college students to life in Williamsport. The college is welcoming the faith community to participate alongside them, whether that be a

home cooked meal, fellowship or an outreach event. There is an outreach event that St. Mark's can easily participate in happening soon.

New Covenant UCC will be the staging site for a community service project happening the first week these students arrive at Lycoming College. This particular event will be August 21, 2023.

One of the anticipated community service projects at this gathering is assembling hygiene kits for Shepherd of the Streets' clients. New Covenant UCC is accepting donations of hygiene items (the usual SOS requests) to use that morning.

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee is requesting that members consider donating one or more items to deliver to New Covenant by August 14. All of our local "Dollar" stores have hygiene items at bargain process. Items may be placed on the table in the Narthex.

Ongoing Collections at St. Mark's:



Ongoing Events

Blessing Boxes at New Covenant UCC: Monetary donations toward the cost of preparing 80 sandwiches per month are greatly appreciated. Checks may be made payable to

St. Mark's with the memo line indicating Parish Life. Also needed are easily prepared foods like Cup of Soups, individual packs of crackers and cookies, microwaveable mac & cheese, ramen noodles and individual boxes of cereal. Travel size hygiene items are also needed.

United Churches Food Pantry: Needed are cake mixes, cans of frosting, pasta of all kinds, cans of soup and jars of peanut butter and jelly, especially grape jelly.

Shepherd of the Streets: See the article on Open Williamsport to see how this month's donations will be used. Needed for men and women are Shampoo and Conditioner, Shaving Cream, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Body Wash, Paper Towels, Toilet Tissue, Deodorant and Soap, especially Dove.



Sojourner Truth Ministries (STM): Ketchup, lemonade and ice tea mix, relish, Dixie Bowls and Dixie Luncheon Plates. FYI: STM serves more than **600** meals each week that include both eat-in and brown bag lunches to go.

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

Ongoing Events at Redeemer Lutheran:

For desserts in August, Jim and Susan Newcomer are providing cookie packs for Redeemer's community dinner. Thank you, Jim and Susan.

For desserts in September, the Evangelism and Fellowship Committee will be collecting boxes of Tasty Cakes of any kind for Redeemer's September dinner. Boxes of Tasty Cakes will be accepted starting in late August. Watch for sales at our supermarkets and consider making a donation.

Community Dinner on Thursday, August 10, 2023 beginning at 5:00 PM until all meals are distributed. This is a take-out meal available at the curb. All are welcome.



Daniel's Closet: This month's clothing drop-off at Redeemer is Thursday, August 24, 2023 from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM.

Distribution of free summer clothing is Saturday, August 26, 2023 from 8:30 AM– 11:00 AM. 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.

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 drop off date.



Donna Clark	August 7
Louis Kolb	August 7
Charles Fortin	August 8
Susan Newcomer	August 10
Lynna Robertson	August 10
Gillian Buckman	August 11
Dallas Fortin	August 11
Charles Greevy	August 11
Ruth Ann Bigelow	August 14
Ray Huff	August 14
Carl Albright	August 15
Beverly Hieber	August 15
Stacie Bieber	August 18
Elizabeth Lewis	August 18
Sean Clouser	August 19
Daniel Zeigler	August 23
Janet Jones	August 24
Nathan Clouser	August 26
Jonah Schreckengast	August 28
Shirley Kinney	August 29
Ashton Ott	August 29
Lorraine Barone	August 30
Vanessa Morgan	August 30
Lou Ann Zeigler	August 30
Melinda Wentzel	August 31



Nancy and Ernest Larson	August 1
Donna and Ronald Baker	August 2
Leah and Walter Haussmann	August 3
Mary Ann and Raymond Stiller	August 6
Karen and Bryan Pelleschi	August 7
Rosemary and Robert Clokey	August 10
Deborah and Timothy Maggs	August 10
Laura and Kenneth Schreckengast	August 10
Kathy and Neil Eshelman	August 14
Brenda and Edward Gair	August 14
Karen and Stephen Mariano	August 14
Beverly and Carl Hieber	August 18
Gloria and Charles Greevy	August 26
Ruth and Leonard Sherlinski	August 27
Barbara and Philip Thomas	August 28
Dr. Valerie Doebler and Thomas Waffenschmidt	August 25





ANNUAL BLUE- BERRY FESTI- VAL

Join us in helping the homeless and feeding the hungry in our community!

FREE EVENT

Accepting donations for Sojourner Truth Ministries



SATURDAY, AUGUST 26,
2023

1pm TO 5pm

Free food—blueberry desserts

Voting for the best pie

Kids games—blues band

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

This event is free to attend. We are accepting donations for Sojourner Truth Ministries in Williamsport this year.



NEW ADDRESS

Phil and Barb Thomas

426 Wyndham Court

Williamsport, PA 17701

50 States Word Search

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

Alabama	Hawaii	Massachusetts	New Hampshire	South Dakota
Arkansas	Idaho	Minnesota	North Dakota	Tennessee
Arizona	Illinois	Mississippi	Nevada	Texas
Alaska	Indiana	Montana	New York	Utah
Connecticut	Iowa	Michigan	Ohio	Vermont
Colorado	Kansas	Maryland	Oklahoma	Virginia
California	Kentucky	Nebraska	Oregon	Wisconsin
Delaware	Louisiana	New Mexico	Pennsylvania	Washington
Florida	Maine	New Jersey	Rhode Island	Wyoming
Georgia	Missouri	North Carolina	South Carolina	West Virginia

August



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 <i>Holy Communion</i> 9:30 a.m.	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 <i>Holy Communion</i> 9:30 a.m.	14	15	16 <i>Property Committee 6pm</i>	17	18	19
20 <i>Holy Communion</i> 9:30 a.m.	21 <i>Council Meeting 6pm</i> <i>WCC Board Meeting 6pm</i>	22	23	24	25	26
27 <i>Holy Communion</i> 9:30 a.m.	28 <i>WCC Rehearsal 7pm</i>	29	30	31		

Earth Overshoot Day—the approximate date our resource consumption for a given year exceeds the planet’s ability to replenish – was believed to occur on August 22, 2012. Since 2001, Earth Overshoot Day has occurred an average of three days earlier each year. Today, August 20, is Earth Overshoot Day 2013 and we have now consumed our annual resource allotment for 2013.

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

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Permit No. 257

Williamsport, PA 17701



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Summer Mon 1-3 p.m. & by appointment
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jbaur@stmarkswilliamsport.org

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Jackie Baystore, Bookkeeper
Ralph Zeigler, Council President
Mel Wentzel, Vice President
Vicki Hausmann, Council Secretary
Treasurer - OPEN
Janet Jones, Parish Life
Debra Buckman, Family Promise Coordinator
Sally Bjornstad, Altar Flowers
Joseph Baur, Administrative Assistant