

SAINT MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH



"THE LION" of ST. MARK'S

"To know Christ and to make Christ known."

OCTOBER 2023



Pastor's "Lion" Message for October, 2023

I am astonished that you are so quickly turning to a different gospel...there are some who are confusing you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ (Galatians 1:6 and 7).

Tuesday, October 31 is Halloween, "All Hallow's Eve". Halloween is the day before All Saints' Day, the day the church remembers all believers past, present and future. Centuries ago, Halloween proclaimed that believers in Christ have nothing to fear and to look to the saints as examples of this truth. The tradition of donning costumes of ghosts, devils, monsters and the like was to poke fun at such beings. It was to be a "cry of victory" that Christ and Christ alone is Savior and Lord; that in him we place our trust and seek to live our lives.

On Halloween in 1517, Martin Luther nailed to the church door in Wittenburg, Germany, 95 Theses, positions for debate. The 95 Theses were not intended to start a new Church. They sought to reform the church, to return it to its message of faith as trust in the promises of God in Christ, the original gospel message. Luther chose the date of October 31 to make his theses public because of the nature of the day.

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

OUR SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES:

Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 am
Sunday Church School, 9:15 am

ALL ARE WELCOME!



The Adult Sunday School Class meets every Sunday morning at 9:15 am in the Middle Lounge. All are welcome to join us as we continue in our study of **Holy Purpose: The Blessings of Service, Obedience and Faith.**

..... Continued from Page 1

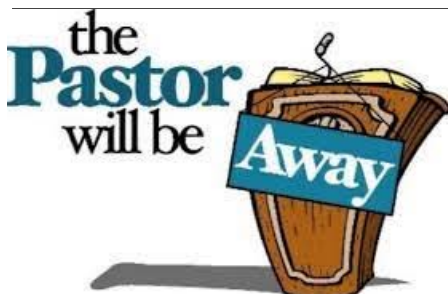
It is this message of trusting in Christ as our only Savior and Lord that we celebrate every October 31, Reformation Day (or as in the case of 2023, October 29, the Sunday closest to October 31). Reformation Day seeks to remind us of the gospel's basic message of trust.

Recently this message has become lost, even "perverted" (Galatians 1:7). Several in the church are teaching a gospel of hate and prejudice. A gospel that condemns specific ethnicities and LGBTQ persons. A gospel that seeks to change history and whitewash the atrocity of slavery. A gospel that condones the beatings of innocent people by law enforcement. A gospel that promotes hoarding of food and other necessities of life based upon politics and nationality. A gospel that puts product and profit ahead of peoples' needs. A gospel that mocks climate change and ecological concerns.

As spiritual descendants of Luther we need to be reminded of the message of Reformation. Reformation calls us back to the true gospel, the only gospel. Re-read Luther's *Small Catechism*. Be reminded of Jesus' summation of the law, "Love of God and love of neighbor" (Matthew 22:37-40). Take time to read the Apostle Paul's entire Letter to the Galatians. These great truths remind us of Christ's mission and how we are to not to wander to a perversion of our own making and another gospel.

This Halloween "scare away" and mock these false teachings of God. Claim the victory of Christ and live the true Gospel that he brought to us.

Grace + Peace,
Pastor Brian Vasey



PASTOR VASEY WILL BE AWAY TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26-MONDAY, OCTOBER 2. SHOULD YOU BE IN NEED OF A PASTOR DURING THIS TIME, PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE (570-323-4619) OR THE REVEREND RON MONTGOMERY (570-584-4465 or rgmontgomery527@gmail.com).



COMING IN OCTOBER

Sunday, October 1, Blanket Sunday

Tuesday, October 3, City Ministerium, St. Mark's , 1 pm
Property Committee, 6 pm

Wednesday, October 4, Finance Committee, 5:30 pm

Sunday, October 8, CROP Walk, 1 pm (St. Mark's)

Thursday, October 12, Faith Formation, 10:45 am

Sunday, October 15, Harvest Home Sunday

Monday, October 16, Church Council, 6 pm

Saturday, October 21, Pumpkin Carving, Fellowship Hall, 5 pm

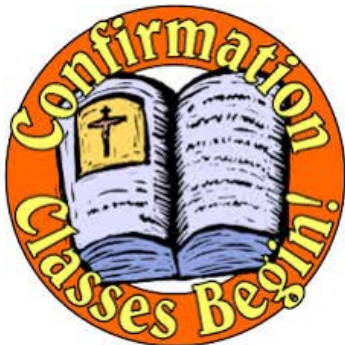
Sunday, October 29, Reformation Sunday



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!



FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES WILL BE HELD SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15 AND SUNDAY OCTOBER 22, 9:30 AM (THIS IS A TWO WEEK CLASS). ANY CHILD KINDERGARTEN-GRADE THREE WHO HAS NOT HAD FIRST COMMUNION INSTRUCTION BUT WOULD LIKE TO IS ASKED TO CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE BY SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1. OLDER CHILDREN, YOUTH AND ADULTS WISHING TO HAVE FIRST COMMUNION INSTRUCTION SHOULD CONTACT PASTOR VASEY.



CONFIRMATION CLASSES (CATECHISM) BEGIN SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 9:30 AM. THIS IS A TWO YEAR CLASS AND MEETS A TOTAL OF 16 SESSIONS (8 PER YEAR). ANY YOUTH WHO HAS COMPLETED GRADE 6 IS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND. CONFIRMATION SUNDAY WILL TAKE PLACE ON SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 2025. ADULTS WISHING TO UNITED WITH ST. MARK'S IN CHURCH MEMBERSHIP SHOULD CONTACT PASTOR VASEY.



+ 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.



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.

The office is working on an updated Church directory so please update any information ASAP to insure the directory is up to date.

SPECIAL REQUEST FROM THE MONEY COUNTERS



Please remember to use the MEMO line to indicate where the funds are to be deposited. This helps them make sure the funds are directed to the proper accounts.

They Thank You very much in advance.



OUR SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES:

Sunday, October 1, The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Communion, 8 am

Sunday Church School, 9:15 am

Holy Communion, 10:30 am

Sunday, October 8, The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Communion, 8 am

Sunday Church School, 9:15 am

Holy Communion, 10:30 am

CROP Walk, 1 pm

Sunday, October 15, The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Harvest Home Sunday

Holy Communion, 8 am

Sunday Church School, 9:15 am

Holy Communion, 10:30 am

Sunday, October 22, The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

Holy Communion, 8 am

Sunday Church School, 9:15 am

Holy Communion, 10:30 am

Sunday, October 29, Reformation Sunday

Holy Communion, 8 am

Sunday Church School, 9:15 am

Holy Communion, 10:30 am

Wear red on this Sunday in celebration of this day!

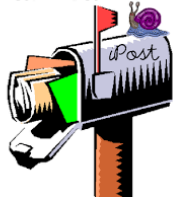
ALL ARE WELCOME!



MAIL CALL

My Kitchen Krew,

Mail Call



Thank you for the way you always did what I asked. Always with a smile. We couldn't have fed so many people without your unwavering help. Thank you for the good-bye luncheon. I will miss you all.

I truly love each and everyone of you. You are true friends.

Janet



October Lectors

October 1	8:00 AM	Becky Pryor
	10:30 AM	Brenda Gair
October 8	8:00 AM	Brian Jackson
	10:30 AM	Ralph Zeigler
October 15	8:00 AM	Drew Haussmann
	10:30 AM	Linda Rosini
October 22	8:00 AM	Vicki Haussmann
	10:30 AM	Gary Weber
October 29	8:00 AM	Candy Dewar
	10:30 AM	Deb Buckman



Communion Assistants

Communion Assistants for October

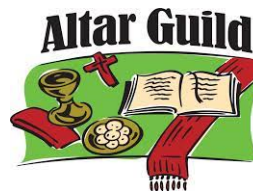
Please arrange replacement if you cannot serve.

October 1	8:00 AM	Brian Jackson
	10:30 AM	Matt and Wanda Fortin
October 8	8:00 AM	Jackie Kinney
	10:30 AM	Carl and Audrey Albright
October 15	8:00 AM	Drew Haussmann
	10:30 AM	Deb Buckman and Mindy Wentzel
October 22	8:00 AM	Nikki Jackson
	10:30 AM	Dan Zeigler and Some one
October 29	8:00 AM	Becky Pryor
	10:30 AM	Walt Doeblor and Gary Weber



Usher Schedule for October

October 1	8:00 AM	Richard Miller and Herb Poff
	10:30 AM	Carl Albright, captain Brenda, Owen & Levi Gair
October 8	8:00 AM	Richard Miller and Herb Poff
	10:30 AM	Tim Maggs, captain Carl Heiber, Charles Kuntz
October 15	8:00 AM	Richard Miller and Herb Poff
	10:30 AM	Gary Weber, captain Shelby Weber, Dick Reitz
October 22	8:00 AM	Richard Miller and Herb Poff
	10:30 AM	Matt Fortin, captain Glenn Yapple, Bud Doeblor
October 29	8:00 AM	Richard Miller and Herb Poff
	10:30 AM	Carl Albright, captain Brenda, Owen & Levi Gair



Altar Guild for October

Bev Hieber and Audrey Albright

St. Mark's Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

“To know Christ and to make Christ known”

The minutes for the September Meeting were not available at the time of printing.



Do you like to craft?

Please join us on Saturday, September 30 for a morning of Fun, Fall Crafting! Our project will involve making some sort of pumpkin ~ ideas are still being generated ~ but all will be super easy and lots of fun to complete! We will meet at 9:30 AM in Fellowship Hall. Coffee and sweets will be provided, along with all craft supplies. If you are planning to join us, please RSVP to Vicki Haussmann at (570) 447-3263 or sign up in the Narthex so we are sure to have enough materials. We look forward to crafting with you!



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. Schedule of topics below.

October “School of Religion”

Please join us on Wednesdays in October (Oct. 4, 11, 18, 25) as we take time to learn and grow in our faith. Our theme will be.....

“Encouraging Spiritual Growth and Discipleship....”

- ~ Through Prayer and Daily Bible Reading
- ~ Through Weekly Worship
- ~ Through Serving In and Beyond the Congregation
- ~ Through Nurturing Relationships

Pastor Vasey will use the book *Real Faith for Real Life* by Michael W. Foss to serve as a starting point for teaching, and just as importantly for discussion. A limited number of copies will be available for those in attendance.

You are invited to bring a brown bag lunch to munch as we meet from 12:10-12:45 in Fellowship Hall. We are excited for this opportunity, and look forward to sharing this time of study and fellowship.

Evangelism and Fellowship Committee Articles for The Lion

October 2023

Our Fall Sale is a Success!

The Women of St. Mark's and the Evangelism and Fellowship Committee recently held their annual Fall Sale in Fellowship Hall and the Crossways Room. Both areas were filled to the brim with treasures of all kinds. This year we chose not to price items but rather to request a donation in support of several non-profits in our community. After an evening and a day of selling we made a profit of \$2,433.00!

The Women of St. Mark's and the Evangelism and Fellowship Committee thank the congregation for their generous donations over the past two years. With a sale of this magnitude, it takes many volunteers to make it successful. The members and friends of St. Mark's did not disappoint us. Our heartfelt thanks go out to Coach Christen Ditzler and the young ladies of the Women's Basketball team at Lyscoming College. Their tremendous energy and enthusiasm had all the treasures and all the tables we could find delivered to Fellowship Hall in a little over an hour. Then the remainder of the week saw dozens of different individuals (members and friends of St. Mark's) working tirelessly at unpacking and organizing hundreds of items. Many of these volunteers came to assist for more than one day.

At the conclusion of the sale, items were sorted and shared with the Newberry Branch of NGA, Operation Christmas Child, Daniel's Closet, Trinity Episcopal/Oxford House, Janet's Floral and the American Rescue Workers.

Our deepest thanks to every person who worked in one way or another to make this sale a success. We could not have done it without you. Extra thanks to the Property Committee for doing yeoman's work both at the beginning and at the end of the sale. The Property crew did all that was necessary to return Fellowship Hall, the Crossways and Bazaar rooms to their pre-sale condition. We are blessed to have such a helping church family. May our Lord and Savior continue to bless all of you.

Update: Cereal Sundays

For food insecure families with children, inflation is hitting especially hard. We have been helping to ease that struggle by collecting boxes of cereal during the summer months.

In September the congregation donated **80 boxes** of assorted cereals.

Our grand total for June, July, August and September is **291 boxes** of cereal donated to the United Churches Food Pantry. Thank you to all who participated. Be looking for this program to return next summer.



Card Ministry

Thank you, Deb Buckman for spreading cheer during the month of September.



The co-chairperson of Parish Life, Janet Jones, has relocated to the Reading area to live with her daughter. She did a fantastic job in this role for many years. Her departure will impact the ability of Parish Life

to meet the food service needs of the congregation. In addition to sandwich making, providing desserts for Redeemer, funeral luncheons and assisting with hospitality for church events, this committee also prepares a monthly luncheon for the Center City Pastors. These lunches resume this month.

If you have an interest in serving on this committee or assisting with a specific activity, please contact Becky Miller Pryor at 570-971-4585.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to Coach Christen Ditzler and the young ladies of the Women's Basketball team at Lycoming College. Their tremendous energy and enthusiasm had all the treasures and all the tables we could find delivered to Fellowship Hall in a little over an hour.



**LYCOMING
COLLEGE**

OCC Shoebox Update



Thanks to your continued generosity, our OCC shoeboxes are just about complete. In fact, they are just about bursting at the seams ~ a great "problem" to have! For the month of October, we will be collecting "Odds N Ends" ~ things that will help us finish each of the 60 (or more) boxes that we will be donating to Samaritan's Purse. School supplies, combs/brushes, bungee cords, screwdrivers, small toys, flashlights, all are welcome! Not a huge fan of shopping? Please

consider donating \$10.00 to help cover the cost of shipping our boxes. Thank you again for your continued support of this outreach project. We are excited to see our boxes come together at our **Shoebox Packing Event** which will be held in Fellowship Hall on **November 12th** after the 10:30 service. Would love to see you there!



Ongoing Collections at St. Mark's:

Blessing Boxes at New Covenant UCC: Thank you to those congregation members who have contributed monetarily to Parish Life. Sandwich making continues. Also needed are ready to eat snacks and microwaveable foods such as cup of soup and mac and cheese.

United Churches Food Pantry: Please consider filling a bag or two with non-perishable food items for Harvest Sunday.



Shepherd of the Streets: Needed for men, women and children are Shampoo and Conditioner, Shaving Cream, Razors, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Body Wash, Deodorant, Feminine Hygiene Items and Soap, especially Dove. Paper Towels and Toilet Tissue are also needed. **THERE IS AN URGENT NEED FOR SHAMPOO, FOR MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN.**

Sojourner Truth Ministries (STM): The After School Program at STM is in need of juice boxes and healthy snacks. **STM is accepting new socks for men, women and children.**

Donations to the Blessing Boxes, the Food Panty, 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 October: Thank you for the many boxes of TastyKake cupcakes that were donated for September's dinner. In October Susan and Jim Newcomer will donate packs of cookies. Thank you, Newcomer's for your generosity.

For desserts in November: We are in need of brownie mixes or the donation of brownies already baked. Brownie mixes may be placed in the kitchen. Speak to Becky Pryor if donating baked brownies.

Community Dinner on Thursday, October 12, 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, October 26, 2023 from 4:00 PM-6:00PM. Especially needed is children's clothing and men's clothing in size small.

Distribution of free FALL clothing is Saturday, October 28, 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.



Saving Grace Shelter

The American Rescue Workers maintain three shelters in Williamsport for people experiencing homelessness. One of those shelters is the Saving Grace Shelter at the corner of Grace and Campbell Streets in Williamsport. It is a 24-bed day-to-day emergency family shelter. Years earlier it was Grace United Methodist Church.

Valerie Fessler, Director of Development and Community Engagement, reports that currently all beds are filled and a waiting list of 38 families exists. Hygiene items are always in need, but many times items specifically for women and children are in very short supply.

From now until November 5, the Evangelism and Fellowship Committee is requesting that congregation members consider donating an item or two from the list below of items specifically for women and children. Donations may be placed in the tub in the Narthex. Thank you for any assistance you can give.

Mother and Child Collection

Moisturizing Body Wash, Body Lotion, Bath Poufs, Moisturizing Soap / Dove, Razors, Shaving Cream/Gel, Feminine Hygiene Items/Tampons, Brushes and Combs, Adult Toothpaste, Toothbrushes for Women and Children, Tearless Shampoo, Children's Toothpaste, Children's Body Lotion, Children's Body Wash and Chap Sticks.

CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS

Glenn Yapple	10/09
Jane Zimmerer	10/09
Gary Chrisman	10/14
Sean Fenderson	10/17
Paige Hanford	10/21
Charles Kuntz	10/24
Richard Miller	10/24
Hannah Haussmann	10/26
Kathy Eshelman	10/27
Andrew Haussmann	10/28
Barbara Thomas	10/29
Deborah Maggs	10/30

Happy Anniversary

Audrey Comerford	10/27
Jake Comerford	
Evelyn Bastian	10/30
Romain Bastian	

Why is a birthday cake
the only food you can
blow on and spit on



and everybody
rushes to get a piece?

- Bobby Kelton

www.photo-party-favors.com

Two golden rules to a
Happy Marriage:

1. The wife is
always right.

2, When you
feel she is wrong
slap yourself and
read rule number 1 again.



BLANKET SUNDAY IS SUNDAY. OCTOBER 1, 2023

10 TIPS & TRICKS FOR GROWING YOUR QUILTING GROUP



Quilting is a delightfully hands-on ministry, and the more hands we have, the merrier. Below are some ideas you shared for growing your groups.

(Bonus: many of these are relevant to kit making, too!)

1

DIVIDE UP THE TASKS.

You don't have to do it all to be a big help. Karen Trebus from Sevierville, Tennessee, says, "Encourage people to help with tasks such as pinning, watching for sales on materials, tying the quilts, donating funds for shipping and last, but certainly not least, praying."

6

ENGAGE PARENTS OF QUILT RECIPIENTS.

If your quilting group makes quilts for confirmands or high school graduates from your congregation, invite their parents or caregivers to come and lay out the squares for the top. Then share about opportunities to get more involved.

2

INVOLVE YOUTH CLASSES.

Reach out to Sunday School, confirmation class and youth group leaders to get the next generation excited. Students can make kits and complete certain steps of the quilt-making process, such as laying out squares and tying quilts. As Marlene Dreyer from Plano, Texas, says, "If you can tie your shoes, you can help us make quilts."

7

EMPOWER PEOPLE TO WORK ON QUILTS AT HOME.

There are many reasons some people work most comfortably at home. Alice Tylutki from Austin, Minnesota, shared, "I suffered a stroke, which leaves me weak and slightly uncoordinated on the left side. I cut and sew a top at home, then take it to my group. I can still contribute — not as many, but a few... It gives me joy."

3

PLAN A "WORKDAY" EVENT.

A one-time event is less intimidating than committing to a regular meeting. Plan a weekend or evening event and invite congregation members of all ages to come to learn and help. Make it fun and rewarding, and they'll be hooked.

8

CONNECT WITH LOCAL QUILTING GUILDS.

Invite them to join one of your meetings, or set up a table at one of their events, to share about your quilt-making for LWR and how your handiwork is blanketing neighbors all around the world with love.

4

PUT OUT AN INVITATION IN YOUR CHURCH BULLETIN.

A simple message like, "Are you recently retired and looking for a way to fill some of your new-found free time serving God and others?" may be the gentle nudge someone needed.

9

REACH OUT TO YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY OR COMMUNITY CENTER.

Set up a table or speak at a community event about your quilting ministry. Share about the quilt-making process and assure folks that they do not need to be skilled quilters to take part.

5

INVOLVE YOUTH CLASSES.

Try offering regular evening or weekend opportunities to quilt with the group, not just weekday sessions. Ruth Fortis from Midlothian, Virginia, shared, "The quilting day at my church is the third Tuesday. Quilting day at my home is every Friday. Community Quilt Day each year is a Saturday so school youth and people that work during the week can participate."

10

FEED THE SHEEP.

Good coffee and snacks are always fool proof incentives, and a supportive atmosphere is just what many of us crave. As Maxine Heuberger from Sheffield, Iowa, shared, "There are many jobs, but most important is the fellowship. We talk, we listen and we laugh a lot. One lady said we were her weekly therapy."




bat	coffin	Halloween	October	skeleton
black cat	costume	happy	party	spooky
broom	creepy	haunted house	pillowcase	trick-or-treat
candy claw	Dracula	jack-o'-lantern	pirate	vampire
n	Frankenstein	mask	pumpkin	werewolf
cobweb	ghost	monster	scary	witch
	graveyard	mummy		





Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 Holy Communion 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	2 WCC Rehearsal 7:00 PM	3 Pastor's Lunch 1:00 PM PM	4	5	6	7
8 Holy Communion 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	9 WCC Rehearsal 7:00 PM	10	11	12	13	14
15 Holy Communion 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	16 Council Meeting 6:00 PM WCC Council Meeting 6:00 PM WCC Rehearsal 7:00 PM	17	18 Executive Committee 12:00 Noon Property Committee 6: PM	19	20	21 Event Fellowship Hall 12-8PM
22 Holy Communion 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	23 WCC Rehearsal 7:00 PM	24	25	26	27	28
29 Holy Communion 8:00 AM 10:30 AM	30 WCC Rehearsal 7:00 PM	31 Halloween				

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
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bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org
Sam Robinson, Church Organist
Jackie Baysore, Bookkeeper
Ralph Zeigler, Council President
Mel Wentzel, Vice President
Vicki Haussmann, Council Secretary
Treasurer - Deb Buckman
Janet Jones, Parish Life
Debra Buckman, Family Promise Coordinator
Sally Bjornstad, Altar Flowers
Joseph Baur, Administrative Assistant

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