

**SAINT
MARK'S
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

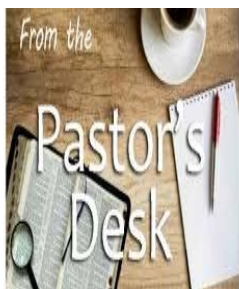


"THE LION"

of ST. MARK'S

"To know Christ and to make Christ known."

November 2023



Pastor's "Lion" Message for October, 2023

***Rejoice always, pray
without ceasing, give
thanks in all circum-
stances (1 Thessaloni-
ans 5:12-22)***

The Apostle Paul wrote these words to the community of believers in Thessalonica some time in the spring of AD 50. Thessalonica was the capital city of Macedonia and an important trade route in the ancient world. Like all major cities of the Roman Empire, in Thessalonica the Roman Emperor was worshipped as divine. To speak out against the Emperor was considered blasphemy and high treason. The early Christians found themselves at odds with their surrounding culture and faced persecution for their refusal to "bend the knee." Paul wrote First Thessalonians to encourage these new believers to hold on to the good news of Jesus; to not permit the threats of the Emperor dissuade them from continuing to embrace and show love in the way of Christ.

To give thanks in all situations is not easy. When we enjoy good health, when there always seems to be enough food, when our homes are places of comfort and security giving thanks is not a hard task. But when illness enters the picture, when food becomes scarce, when our home ceases to be a safe place, gratitude becomes almost non-existent. As I write this the nation of Israel has experienced terrorist attacks, COVID outbreaks in the United States are on the rise, and the teaching of hate masquerading as the Christian faith is running rampant. In the midst of such atrocities, how can we give thanks?

..... Continued from Page 2



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

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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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 Chapel. All are welcome to join us for study, discussion and fellowship.

We give thanks because the Lord is with us! No matter what difficulties we face God's steadfast love never leaves us for our faith is dependent upon God's divine love for us. Jesus has promised that he will never leave us or forsake us. The promise of Christ's presence is the Gospel.

This is the message Paul shared with the Thessalonians. It is why he could tell them to "give thanks in all circumstances". It was not a platitude. It certainly wasn't trust in any political philosophy or way of life. It wasn't a speech to "pull yourself up and stand on your own two feet." It still isn't. To give thanks even when the situation and circumstances don't lend themselves to it, is placing our trust in Christ and not in ourselves. It is divine power of the love of God and not something of our own making. It is the Gospel.

On Thursday, November 23, our nation will observe a National Day of Thanksgiving. Take time to engage in what the name of the day implies and give thanks. Give thanks in all circumstances for what the Lord has given us and offer life as a prayer of gratitude to God.

*Grace + Peace,
Pastor Brian Vasey*

THANK YOU!

Dear People of St. Mark's,

Thank you so very much for your gifts and thoughts shared with me on Pastor Appreciation Day. I thank you for your thoughtfulness and generosity. May our Lord continue to bless you as together we strive to "Know Christ and to Make Christ Known".

*Grace + Peace,
Pastor Brian Vasey*





**“SING WITH ALL THE SAINTS IN GLORY;
SING THE RESURRECTION SONG!”**

The Festival of All Saints will be celebrated on Sunday, November 5. At both services the “Roll of the Honored Dead in Christ” will be read as we remember with thanksgiving for life eternal, the faithful who have died in Christ since last All Saints' Sunday (November 6, 2022). This year's

list of friends and family who are part of “The Church Triumphant” include:

- Joyce Simpson Hershberger
- Harold D. Hershberger, Jr.
- Roxanna Lucille Larson
- Charlotte Elizabeth Reitz
- Shirley Louise Vognet
- Steven Russell Bieber, Jr.



OUR SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES IN NOVEMBER:

Sunday, November 5, All Saints' Sunday
Communion of the Faithful/Stewardship Sunday
 (Daylight Saving Time Ends)
 Holy Communion, 8 am
 Sunday Church School, 9:15 am
 Holy Communion, 10:30 am

Sunday, November 12, The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost
 Holy Communion, 8 am

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

Sunday, November 19, The Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost
 Holy Communion, 8 am
 Sunday Church School, 9:15 am
 Holy Communion, 10:30 am

Sunday, November 26, Christ the King
Last Sunday of the Church Year
 Holy Communion, 8 am
 Sunday Church School, 9:15 am
 Holy Communion, 10:30 am

ALL ARE WELCOME!



LOOKING AHEAD TO DECEMBER, 2023:

- + Advent begins Sunday, December 3
- + Mid-week Advent Services begin Wednesday, December 6 (12:15 pm, Chapel)
- + One Worship Time (9:30 am) on December 10
- + The Annual Meeting is Sunday, December 10, immediately following worship

- + One Morning Worship Time (9:30 am), December 24
- + Two Christmas Eve Worship Times (7 and 10 pm)

THANKS

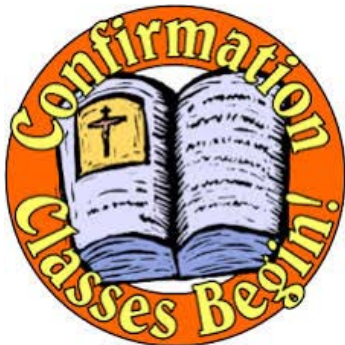


Thank You to everyone who brought food for Harvest Home Sunday, Oct 15. Folks who are food insecure turn to the United Churches Food Pantry when in need. These are the people you help so generously. When fuel bills start to arrive the need is much greater. Please remember to bring non-perishable food and hygiene items throughout the year. A box is located in the narthex.

Worship and Music Committee



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!



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.

NEW CALENDAR YEAR

LOOKING FORWARD

October begins a time of change and of looking forward. Looking forward to a new calendar year at St. Mark's means it is time for our Stewardship Campaign. Stewardship Sunday will be All Saints' Sunday, November 5. Please start thinking about how you wish to pledge support in and for the ministry of Christ through St. Mark's in 2024.

Upcoming projects in this new calendar year will include repair to the roof, a new sound/video system, a new air conditioner for the second floor of the parish house, pipe organ repair, plus the ongoing expenses of cleaning and salaries for paid staff. We have a beautiful building and organ as well as a wonderful staff. Take some time to discern and pray how Christ is asking you to support the work of His church in 2024 through your prayers, presence, gifts and service.

Please complete the "Pledge Card" included in this newsletter and bring it with you to worship on Sunday, November 5.

All Saints' Sunday celebrates the faithful. May the faithfulness of others inspire us to faithfully serve Christ through St. Mark's in 2024 and beyond.

WILLIAMSPORT
CIVIC CHORUS INVITES YOU TO AN
ALL-VIVALDI
Holiday

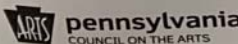
FEATURING
TWO MAJOR WORKS,
THE "*Gloria*"
AND THE
"Magnificat."

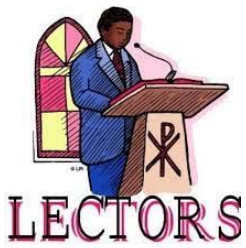
Accompanied by
an 8-Piece
Chamber Orchestra

Sunday, November 12TH
at 3:00 P.M.

Trinity Episcopal Pro-Cathedral
844 West Fourth Street, Williamsport

Tickets available at the door, or at a discount
from R.M. Sides Family Music, Otto's Bookstore
and www.williamsportcivicchorus.org

 **ARTS** pennsylvania
COUNCIL ON THE ARTS



November Lectors

November 5	8:00 AM	Nikki Jackson
	10:30AM	Audrey Albright
November 12	8:00 AM	Drew Haussmann
	10:30AM	Shelby Weber
November 19	8:00AM	Becky Pryor
	10:30AM	Donna Boston
November 26	8:00AM	Brian Jackson
	10:30AM	Karen Marino



Communion Assistants for November

Please arrange replacement if you cannot serve.

November 5	8:00AM	Brian Jackson
	10:30AM	Ralph and Lou Ann Zeigler
November 12	8:00AM	Jackie Kinney
	10:30AM	Dan Zeigler and Carl Albright
November 19	8:00AM	Drew Haussmann
	10:30AM	Matt and Wanda Fortin
November 26	8:00AM	Nikki Jackson
	10:30AM	Carl and Audrey Albright

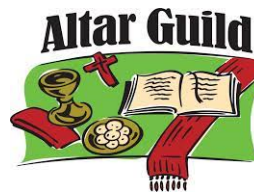


Usher Schedule for November

November 5	8:00 AM	Herb Poff and Richard Miller
	10:30AM	Tim Maggs, captain Carl Hieber and Charles Kuntz
November 12	8:00AM	Herb Poff and Richard Miller
	10:30AM	Gary Weber, captain Shelby Weber and Dick Reitz

November 19	8:00AM	Herb Poff and Richard Miller
	10:30AM	Matt Fortin, captain Glenn Yaple and Bud Doebler

November 26	8:00AM	Herb Poff and Richard Miller
	10:30AM	Carl Albright, captain Brenda, Owen, Levi Gair



Altar Guild for November

Deb Buckman
Leah Haussmann

St. Mark's Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

***“To know Christ and to make Christ known”
There was no Council Meeting in October***

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Congregational Meeting



The **ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** is scheduled for **Sunday, December 10, 2023, immediately following the 9:30 a.m. single service of worship.** In case of an emergency cancelation of the worship service that day (due to weather or other cause), the Annual Congregational Meeting will be moved to the following Sunday, December 17.

Among the items to be presented, discussed, and/or voted upon are

- Annual Report of Committees to the Congregation
- Election of four Council members
- Adoption of the 2024 budget to support the ministry of St. Mark's
- Any other business that needs to be addressed

Please mark your calendars and plan to participate in this Annual Congregational Meeting. If you need additional information or have items that you would like to discuss, please contact one of the Council officers: Ralph Zeigler, president; Melvin Wentzel, vice-president; Vicki Haussmann, secretary; or Debra Buckman, treasurer. Thank you!

ANNUAL WREATH MAKING



Please join us on Sunday, December 3, for our annual Advent Wreath-making event. We will gather in Fellowship Hall during the Sunday School hour (9:15 ish) and create an Advent Wreath for your family to use at home during the Advent season. We will be making our wreaths in a variety of vessels and containers, using wet floral foam to keep the greens fresh throughout the Advent season. All materials will be provided! Please sign up in the Nar-

thex or RSVP by contacting Vicki Haussmann at (570) 447-3263. We look forward to seeing you there!

Evangelism and Fellowship Committee Articles for The Lion

November 2023



Bazaar Room is Open!

This year's Fall Sale was a tremendous success. This would not have happened without the congregation's support both with donations of items and donations of time for all phases of the sale. Because of this outpouring of support the Women of St. Mark's and the Evangelism and Fellowship Committee will once again sponsor the Fall Sale.

The next Fall Sale will tentatively be held on September 13 and 14, 2024.

Donations of items may be placed in the Bazaar Room in the basement. Please place items on the available shelving. Donations must be in small boxes (computer paper boxes or boxes from the Liquor Store work best.) Plastic bags may be used for items such as pillows, blankets and stuffed animals.

P.S. Now through January is the perfect time to box up fall/holiday decorations you no longer need and your children do not want.

Christmas Outreach

Later this month, the Evangelism and Fellowship Committee will be collecting items to gift the Ladies of CM-6 at the Selinsgrove Center. We will be collecting moisturizing body wash, slipper socks and non-refrigerated pudding cups. Monetary donations are welcome for any extra items needed but not donated.



BE A CHRISTMAS ANGEL

We will also be collecting new clothing for the consumers/residents of the Danville State Hospital. Items requested are socks, shirts, inexpensive watches, wallets, slippers, undies, pajamas, sweat pants and sweat shirts for men and women. Sizes large and up are requested.

Look for more information in the Sunday bulletins and for the bins for your donations in the Narthex.

Card Ministry



Thank you, Jane Larson for spreading cheer to our Special Concern Folks during the month of October.

Thanks, is also due to those congregation members who graciously took Autumn/Halloween cards, wrote a cheery message and mailed them to our Special Concern Folks who were certain to enjoy them.

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

2023
CROP HUNGER WALK

BUILDING *global* RESILIENCE

The 2023 CROP walk was a huge success on October 8th! Members from St. James Lutheran Church joined the St. Mark's Lion team and together we raised \$940.00! Thank you for the many generous donations! Of the \$940 raised, 25% (\$235) went to our community and the other 75% (\$705) was distributed by Church World Service nationally and internationally to help people who are hungry. We enjoyed the fellowship of other walkers and although it was a windy day, discussed how those we were walking to represent have to walk in

all types of weather, so we persevered.

We made one more step to Help Stop Hunger. Next year, we hope you can walk with us!

Brenda Gair

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

November brings much excitement for Operation Christmas Child as it is time to pack our shoeboxes! We have been collecting all sorts of items over the past 10 months, and it is now time to pull everything together! We will be packing our shoeboxes in Fellowship Hall on **Sunday, November 12th, after late service**. A light lunch will be served, and a brief presentation will show how meaningful and life-changing these gifts are to the kids who receive a shoebox filled with all sorts of goodies. Plus, packing shoeboxes for others is tons of fun! This promises to be a fun hour with the goal of packing at least 60 boxes to be sent out to children in need.



In addition to our packing event, we will be collecting monetary donations during the month of November. Samaritan's Purse asks for a **\$10.00** donation to help cover the cost of shipping each shoebox. This \$10.00 donation also helps Samaritan's Purse train and equip local churches to use the Ministry Partner Guide. This resource teaches churches how to share the Good News of the Lord Jesus Christ in a child-friendly way. Your donation also provides The Greatest Gift Gospel Booklets, which are written in the children's language and distributed along with shoebox gifts.



Ongoing Collections at St. Mark's:

Ongoing Collections at St. Mark's:

Blessing Boxes at New Covenant UCC: Monetary donations for sandwiches are always welcomed. Also needed are ready to eat snacks and microwaveable foods such as cup of soup and mac and cheese.



need.

United Churches Food Pantry: Non-perishable food, healthy snacks and regular sizes of assorted juices are needed

Shepherd of the Streets: Shampoo and Conditioner, Shaving Cream, Razors, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Body Wash, Deodorant, Feminine Hygiene Items and Soap, especially Dove for men, women and children are needed. Paper Towels and Toilet Tissue are also needed. **SHAMPOO for men, women and children continues to be an urgent**

Sojourner Truth Ministries (STM): The After School Program at STM is in need of juice boxes and healthy snacks. Spices and jars of mayonnaise are needed for the kitchen.

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

Ongoing Events at Redeemer Lutheran:

Ongoing Events at Redeemer Lutheran:

For desserts in November: The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee will be providing brownies for this month's meal. We still need brownie mixes. We will be baking at church on Wednesday, November 8. Speak to or call Becky Miller Pryor (570-971-4585) if you would like to help bake or to donate already prepared brownies.

Community Dinner on Thursday, November 9, 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, November 16, 2023 from 4:00 PM-6:00PM. Especially needed are children's clothing and men's clothing in size small. **Please note this is a week earlier due to Thanksgiving being the following week.**

Distribution of free FALL clothing is Saturday, November 18, 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 are also accepted. **Please note this is a week earlier due to Thanksgiving being the following week.**

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.



John Bower	November 7
Ann Kuntz	November 7
Brenda Gair	November 8
Cathy Fenderson	November 9
Chele Fredericks	November 9
Becky Miller Pryor	November 9
Elizabeth Hausmann	November 13
Donna Baker	November 18
Ronald Baker	November 18
Ray Reams	November 21
Sally Bjornstad	November 23
James Newcomer, Jr.	November 23
Nancy Bieber	November 25
Stephen Dewar	November 25
Ashley Miller	November 25
Lucia Walz	November 26
Shelly Clokey	November 27
Katlin Jensen	November 27



CENTER CITY PASTOR'S LUNCH

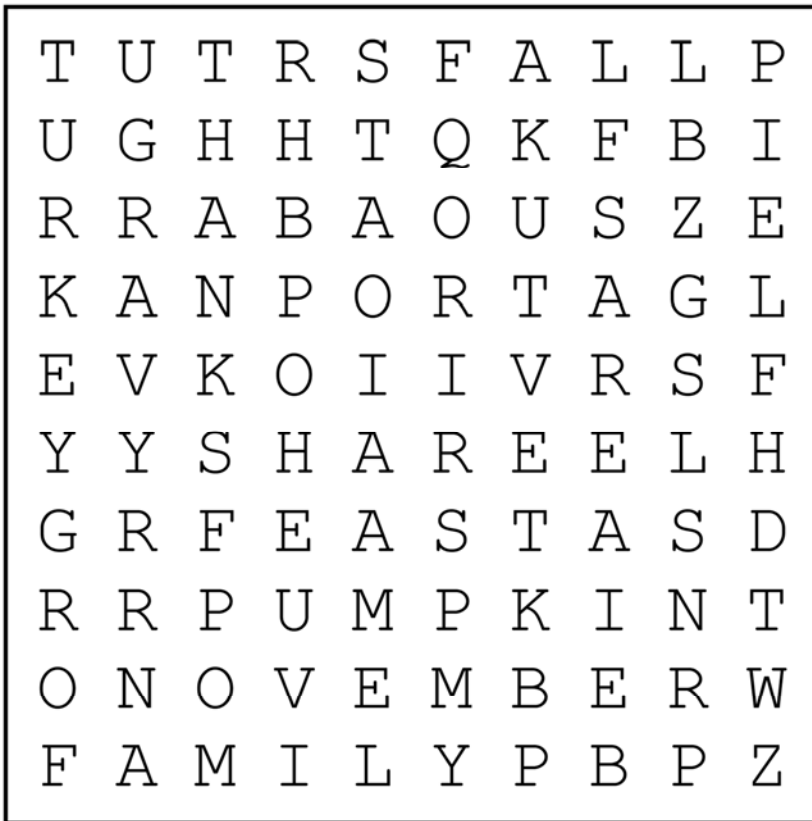
This month's luncheon will be Tuesday, November 7, 2023 at 1:00PM. We are looking for additional help with this meal. Speak with Becky Miller Pryor if you enjoy setting / decoration tables or could provide a dessert. Generally, twelve pastors attend.



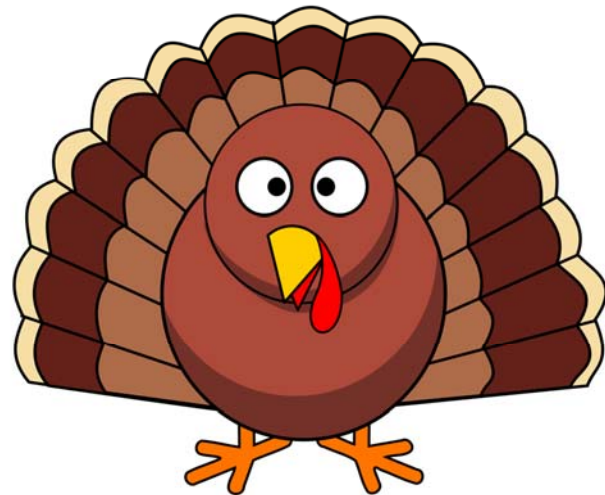
Jennifer and Rick Robertson	November 5
Candace and Stephen Dewar	November 18
Cheryl and David Williams	November 19
Lou Ann and Ralph Zeigler, Jr.	November 19
Mary and Robert Clouser	November 20
Judith and Charles Fortin	November 26
Melinda and Melvin Wentzel	November 30

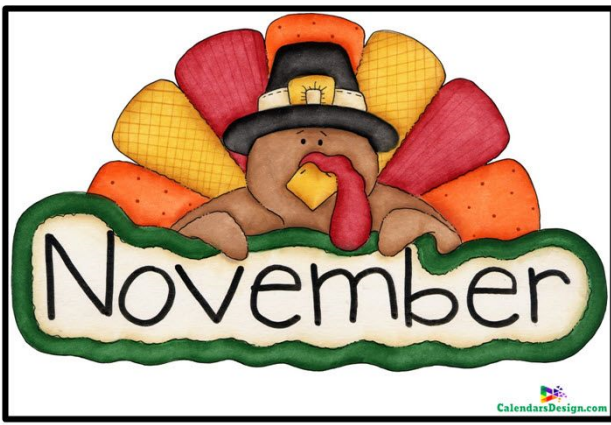


Thanksgiving Word Search



- Word list:
- FALL
 - FAMILY
 - FEAST
 - GRAVY
 - HARVEST
 - NOVEMBER
 - PIE
 - PUMPKIN
 - SHARE
 - SQUASH
 - THANKS
 - TURKEY





- Aviation History Month
- Child Safety Protection Month
- National Adoption Awareness Month
- National Caregivers Appreciation Month
- National Diabetes Awareness Month
- National Epilepsy Month
- National Model Railroad Month
- National Novel Writing Month
- Native American Heritage Month

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1	2	3	4 World Community Day 10AM Hesbon Park UMC
5 Holy Communion 8:00AM Holy Communion 10:30AM Daylight Savings Ends	6 WCC Rehearsal 7PM	7 Election Day	8	9	10 Veterans Day	11
12 Holy Communion 8:00AM Holy Communion 10:30AM	13 WCC Rehearsal 7PM Church Council Meeting 6PM	14	15	16	17	18 Lycoming Veterans 9-11:30AM Billtown Brass Concert 5PM
19 Holy Communion 8:00AM Holy Communion 10:30AM	20 WCC Rehearsal 7PM	21 DEADLINE for DECEMBER LION	22	23 Thanksgiving Church Office Closed	24	25
26 Holy Communion 8:00AM Holy Communion 10:30AM	27	28 PREPARING AND MAILING OUT THE DECEMBER LION	29	30		

Envelope Number _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Address _____

Apt. Number _____

Name _____

_____ \$ per year

_____ \$ per month

_____ \$ per week

OR

OR



My/Our Commitment 2024 is

In response to God's love and as a concrete expression of my/our faith in and commitment to Christ and his church, I/we plan to make the following commitment in my giving.

MY COMMITMENT FOR CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH

Cut here and return the filled out information section to Saint Mark's by any of these ways

- ◇ Drop in collection box
- ◇ Drop off at the Church office
- ◇ Mail to Saint Mark's



CHURCH WOMEN UNITED OF LYCOMING COUNTY

World Community Day 2023

Living a Legacy of Love: Doing God's Work

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do"

Ephesians 2:10 (NV)

Saturday, November 4, 2023 10:00AM

Heshbob Park UMC 2898 Hesbon Road Williamsport

Refreshments to follow Worship Celebration

Registration begins at 9:30AM

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

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Main e-mail: stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org

Website: stmarkswilliamsport.org

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

Rev. Brian Vasey, Pastor bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org 570-323-4619 or 570-523-1415

Sam Robinson, Church Organist

Jackie Bayshore, Bookkeeper

Ralph Zeigler, Council President

Mel Wentzel, Vice President

Vicki Hausmann, Council Secretary

Treasurer - Deb Buckman

Janet Jones, Parish Life

Debra Buckman, Family Promise Coordinator

Sally Bjornstad, Altar Flowers

Joseph Baur, Administrative Assistant

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:

Bookkeeper: Jackie Bayshore

By appointment

Administrative Assistant: Joseph Baur

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

jbaur@stmarkswilliamsport.org