

**SAINT
MARK'S
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**



"THE LION" of ST. MARK'S

"To know Christ and to make Christ known."

December 2023



CONTACT US

Serving Christ in the Williamsport Community
since 1852

142 Market Street
Williamsport, PA 17701

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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Pastor's "Lion" Message for December, 2023

He who sings, prays twice (Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, 4th century)

Several pastorates ago the church's director of music approached me to preside at a "Worship Service of Music". Her idea was to have music- instrumental and vocal- dominate everything, including the singing of a hymn as the sermon. "Everything", I asked? "Everything", was her response. "The message will be in the music". A novel idea and one that the congregation thoroughly enjoyed. On that Sunday the gospel was proclaimed in words set to music. It was an "English version" of Luther's "Chorale Mass".

Sometimes in the life of the church we don't pay attention to what we are singing. We concentrate only on the melody and not the words. With that in mind I ask us to consider the words of all the Christmas carols we will be singing during the Christmas season. They are more than just familiar songs that we love to sing. Most of them are the truth of the nativity set to music and thus proclaim the gospel.

Do you have a favorite Christmas Carol? Mine is *Hark! The Herald Angles Sing*. It is my favorite primarily because of the words of the third stanza:

Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, Ris'n with healings in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, Born that we no more may die,
Born to raise each child of earth, Born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angles sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

C. Wesley, 1707-1788 (LBW, 60)

In stanza three we have the truth of the gospel revealed to us in verse set to a rousing melody. Jesus is the Prince of Peace who brings forgiveness, new life and life eternal! To sing these words is to proclaim the message of the Christian faith in song!

As you sing familiar carols and songs of Christmas in this Christmas season, whether it be in our worship assembly or in some other setting, pay attention to the words. Meditate on what they are saying. Consider the truth they profess! You too can be an "evangelist in song" and provide "message in your music".

*Grace + Peace,
Pastor Vasey*

***THE SEASON OF ADVENT BEGINS ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3!
JOIN US AS WE PREPARE FOR THE CELEBRATION OF HIM WHO
HAS COME AND HAS PROMISED TO COME AGAIN, EVEN THE
SAME JESUS CHRIST OUR SAVIOR AND LORD!***

OUR SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES IN DECEMBER:

**Sunday, December 3,
The First Sunday of Advent
*A New Church Year Begins***

Holy Communion, 8 am
“Advent Wreath Making”, 9:15 am
Holy Communion, 10:30 am

**Sunday, December 10
The Second Sunday of Advent
*The Chrismon Service (A Service for Decorating the Christmas Tree)***

One Morning Worship Time, Holy Communion, 9:30 am
Our Annual Meeting Follows Worship
Congregational Luncheon follows the Meeting
*See Registration Form for Luncheon

**Sunday, December 17,
The Third Sunday of Advent
*The Ministry of John the Baptizer***

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

**Sunday, December 24,
The Fourth Sunday of Advent
The Good News of the Annunciation
One Morning Worship Time, Holy Communion, 9:30 am (No Sunday School)**

**CHRISTMAS EVE
HOLY COMMUNION SERVICES:
DECEMBER 24, 7 PM, “A Children's and Family Service”
DECEMBER 24, 10 PM, “Traditional Carol Service”**

ALL ARE WELCOME!

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ADVENT MID-WEEK SERVICES

We gather for mid-week services in our Chapel, 12:15 pm, Wednesdays in Advent (December 6, December 13, December 20). Our theme this year is, “Wait, Watch and Wonder”. Please join us for these times of worship which will heighten our awareness and anticipation for the celebration of Christ's coming in the flesh.

PRAYERS FOR HOME USE IN THE ADVENT and CHRISTMAS SEASONS:

A Prayer for Lighting the Advent Wreath:

Come Lord Jesus or Savior, King and Friend. Your love for us shall never end. Amen.

A Prayer Before Opening Christmas Gifts:

Lord Jesus Christ, as we gather to open gifts scattered beneath this tree, turn our eyes and hearts toward you, the greatest gift ever given. Amen.

OUR VERY BEST WISHES FOR A BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY 2024!

Pastor Brian and Joanne Vasey!

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY 2024 TO ALL!

The employees and volunteers of St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

LOOKING AHEAD TO JANUARY, 2024:

- + **The Season after Epiphany begins on Sunday, January 7**
- + **First Council Meeting of 2024 is Monday, January 11, 6 pm**
- + **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is January 18-25**



**PRESIDING BISHOP TAKES
LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

CHICAGO (Nov. 15, 2023) — The Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) appointed the Rev. Michael Burk as presiding bishop pro tempore after its Executive Committee approved Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton's request for a four- to six-month leave of absence, to begin Nov. 17. Prayers for both Bishop Eaton and Bishop Burk.



+ 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.



If you have any information that needs to be updated, 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

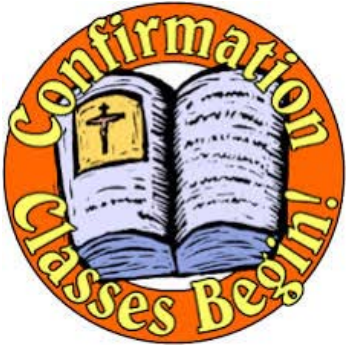


Please remember to use the MEMO line to indicate where the funds are to be deposited. This helps them make sure the funds are directed to the proper accounts.

They Thank You very much in advance.



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.



Dear St. Mark's Church Family,
Phil and I want to thank you for your many prayers and well-wishes during my recent illness. Your prayers and expressions of concern were a source of great strength to us during my lengthy hospital stay and beyond. Thanks to you, through your cards, texts, telephone calls and care packages, we never felt alone. We also want to thank Pastor Vasey for his visits both in the hospital and at home – they brightened our day. We extend our heartfelt

thanks and love to each and every one of our St. Mark's family – we are blessed to be a part of this wonderful congregation.

With extreme gratitude,
Barb Thomas



December Lectors

December 3 8:00AM Vicki Haussmann
 10:30AM Phil Thomas
 December 10 Single Service 9:30AM Brenda Gair
 December 17 8:00AM Candy Dewar
 10:30AM Linda Rosini
 December 24 Single Service 9:30AM Ralph Zeigler
 December 31 8:00AM Nikki Jackson
 10:30AM Gary Weber



Communion Assistants

Communion Assistants for December

Please arrange replacement if you cannot serve.

December 3 8:00AM Becky Pryor
 10:30AM Deb Buckman and Mindy Wentzel
 December 10 Single Service 9:30AM Matt and Wanda Fortin
 December 17 8:00AM Brian Jackson
 10:30AM Walt Doeblen and Gary Weber
 December 24 Single Service 9:30AM Ralph and Lou Ann Zeigler
 December 31 8:00AM Jackie Kinney
 10:30AM Carl and Audrey Albright



Usher Schedule for December

December 3 8:00AM Herb Poff and Richard Miller
 10:30AM Tim Maggs, captain
 Carl Hieber and Charles Kuntz
 December 10 Single Service 9:30AM Gary Weber, captain
 Shelby Weber and Dick Reitz
 December 17 8:00AM Herb Poff and Richard Miller
 10:30AM Matt Fortin. Captain
 Glenn Yapple and Bud Doeblen
 December 24 Single Service 9:30AM TBA
 7PM Tim Maggs, captain
 Carl Hieber and Charles Kuntz
 10PM Carl Albright, captain
 Brenda, Owen, Levi Gair
 December 31 8:00AM Herb Poff and Richard Miller
 10:30AM Gary Weber, captain
 Shelby Weber and Dick Reitz



Altar Guild for

Wanda Fortin and Mindy Wentzel

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

December 2023

Reverse Advent Calendar



The Faith Formation and Evangelism and Fellowship Committees are once again giving congregation members an alternative to the traditional chocolate Advent calendars. And instead of *receiving* something each day of Advent, we are counting down to Christmas by *giving* something each day of Advent.

This year we would really like to focus our efforts on collecting hygiene products for Wise Options and Liberty House shelters. At any point in time these shel-

ters may be housing up to 80 individuals, and hygiene products for women and children are in high demand. Please take a holiday bag from the Narthex and each day of Advent place a hygiene product in your bag. Soap/body wash, shampoo, shaving cream, toothbrushes, toothpaste, loofahs, deodorant, etc. may be found at any of the “Dollar Stores” and would be perfect donations. Please pray that these small items might be a blessing to those who receive them. Return your filled bag on Christmas Eve or New’s Year Eve. Even sometime in January would be fine! All items will be sorted and delivered to the YWCA. We hope that this Reverse Calendar will be a blessing to your Advent preparations. Thank you for your generosity!



The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee and Faith Formation Committee would like to **THANK YOU** for your wonderful support of Operation Christmas Child this year. Due to your generous donations, we were able to pack **83** beautiful shoeboxes, as well as cover the \$830.00 shipping costs. Not only did we pack 83 boxes, 60 of those boxes were filled with “Grow With Me” shoes ~ a true blessing

indeed! The impact that these gifts will have on kids is truly miraculous. God is at work!

We ask that in December you pray for these shoeboxes, asking for God’s blessings on the children who receive these gifts. Pray that their hearts may be touched by God’s love, and that the Good News of Jesus Christ will be planted on their hearts.

Thank you again for your support of this worldwide ministry. We look forward to working with you again in 2024!

"To know Christ and to make Christ known"

Report of the Secretary for the Council Meeting held on
November 13, 2023.

- Vicki Haussmann, Secretary



Meeting was called to order by Ralph Zeigler
Council joined in reciting our mission statement ~ "To
know Christ and to make Christ known".
Ralph Zeigler 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, Mel Wentzel, Glenn Yaple, Ralph Zeigler, Pastor Vasey
Absent (excused): Shelby Weber

President's remarks:

- Appreciation for all that continues to be done in and around St. Mark's.
- Please submit committee summaries for the Annual Report to Joe ASAP.

Secretary's Report: The secretary's report for the month of September was approved.

Treasurer's Report: The treasurer's report for the month of October (printed 11/11/2023) was accepted and filed for audit.

- \$30,000.00 was transferred from investments to help pay bills.
- Debra Buckman reviewed several key points of the proposed 2024 budget.
 - Income/Pledges for 2024 stand at \$162,420.00 at this point in time. It seems that not all pledges were returned so this number may be budgeted on the lower side.
 - Expenses include small raises to our secretary, bookkeeper, organist, and Pastor. There were other adjustments made to committee budgets as well.
- The question "How can we do stewardship better?" was posed and discussed.
 - Set a date for our 2024 stewardship campaign in January.
 - Personal contact ~ "Pony Express", phone call, letter.
 - Multiple Temple Talks (perhaps up to 3).
 - Revisit Consecration Sunday.

-M(Finance Committee) SC: CC: 23.11.1 Motion approved to accept the 2024 budget and present it to the congregation for congregational approval at the annual congregational meeting to be held December 10, 2023.

Pastor's report: As submitted by Pastor Vasey.

- Noted the synod office has moved to the Milton Lutheran Parish. However, continue using Box 36, Lewisburg, PA 17837 for a mailing address, and info@uss-elca.org as the email address.
- October Mid-Week Bible study was well received.
- Synod Assembly will be held June 14-15, 2024.

- Installation of elected Council Members will take place on Sunday January 7th at both worship services.



Committee Reports

Evangelism & Fellowship: Email update provided by Becky Pryor

- Many outreach opportunities are available during the month of December. Please watch The Lion and the bulletin for information.

Parish Life: Email update provided by Becky Pryor

- If you have an interest in serving on this committee or just helping out at an event or two, please contact Becky Miller Pryor. Helping hands are needed!

Faith Formation: Update provided by Vicki Haussmann

- 83 shoeboxes were packed for Operation Christmas Child. 60 of these boxes contained Grow With Me shoes! Thank you for continued support of this outreach ministry!
- Advent Wreath making will be held December 3rd between services.
- Devotional material will be available for use during Advent.

Finance:

- Question was raised as to whether Civic Chorus is "billed" for their usage of Fellowship Hall for their rehearsals. Deb Buckman will look into this. Reminder that St. Mark's does have a Building Use Policy that can be referenced .

Little Lambs: Update provided by Pastor Vasey

- Pastor will make his "Christmas Visit" to Little Lambs on December 11 and 14.
- Little Lambs Christmas programs are December 18 and 19 at both 9:30 and 10:30.

Nominating: Update provided by Ralph Zeigler

- Continued work on procuring nominees for 2024 council members.

Personnel: Update provided by Mel Wentzel

- Volunteers are needed to open/close the building this weekend for both the Veterans Program and the Billtown Brass concert.

Property: Update provided by Ed Gair

- A pinhole leak in one of the basement pipes was recently fixed.

Publicity: Nothing to report.

Safety: Update provided by Herb Poff (liaison)

- Will begin to meet quarterly with next meeting to take place in December.

Worship and Music: Updated provided by Ray Huff

- Many dates and times were outlined for worship opportunities in December.
- 6 1/2 inch poinsettias in red and white will be available to order for \$8.00.
- Information from Parsons Pipe Organ Builders was presented and reviewed. 5 repairs are suggested with 3 of these projects considered to be most pressing at this point in time.
 - The cost for these 3 repairs is \$43,600.00. Options for obtaining these monies may include a designated offering specifically for organ repairs and/or looking at several bequests that have been left specifically to be used for music at St. Mark's.
- Question proposed: should we reconsider installing a humidification system to help maintain the leather reservoirs for the organ?

- **M(Worship and Music Committee) SC: CC: 23.11.2** Motion approved to coordinate the dorsal and organ process by holding services in the chapel while the work is being done.



Unfinished Business:

- **Growing our Church:** Ongoing conversation continues.
 - Please join us for a turkey dinner following the single service and Annual Meeting on December 10, 2023. * Reservations will be needed.
- **Spire Update:** Waiting on a proposal.
- **Dossal Update:** Lundy's Construction is able to install the new dossal. Working on finding fireproof fabric.
- **Industrial Appraisal Co./Revaluation Services:** Deb Buckman and Nikki Jackson continue to work on gathering information regarding an appraisal.
 - Mutual Inspections Bureau out of Harrisburg is another company who does appraisals. *We can also hire someone local to complete a comprehensive appraisal if needed.
 - It was noted that after talking to St. Mark's insurance company, it is not a necessity to have a comprehensive appraisal done. However, it does provide an in-depth cost analysis of all the items St. Mark's owns.
 - It was noted that it would be worthwhile to review the scheduled items found on our current insurance policy. This could be a possible starting point for the comprehensive appraisal.

New Business:

- Information is available concerning the purchase of a video streaming/recording system from Gelnett and Associates, Northumberland at a cost of \$22,533.00
- A meeting will be held after late service on Nov. 19 to review this information, see video feed of how this system would work, and discuss if this is a route St. Mark's should consider.

M(Worship and Music Committee) SC: CC: 23.11.3 Motion approved to send organ repair proposal to the congregation via the December Annual Meeting. Repairs to the organ will be performed by Parsons Pipe Organ Builders, Canandaigua, NY at a cost approximate to \$43,600.00. Options for obtaining these monies may include a designated offering specifically for organ repairs and/or available bequests.

Ralph Zeigler led us in the closing prayer.
The meeting was adjourned.



Next meeting: Monday, December 11, 2023 at 6:00 PM (Middle Lounge)
Please bring a snack to share!!

Evangelism and Fellowship Committee Articles for The Lion

December 2023

Be the Lifeline Patients Need

Give Blood



The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee in collaboration with the North Central PA Chapter of the American Red Cross will hold a **Blood Drive on Friday, December 8, 2023 from 11:00 AM – 2:30 PM in Fellowship Hall**. Please consider being a donor as the Red Cross experiences critical shortages of blood during the holiday season. Call 1-800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: "St. Marks" to schedule an appointment.

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

Gifts for Danville State Hospital

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



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

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

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

Donations for Danville State Hospital are due Sunday, December 10, 2023.

Christmas Greetings for Special Concern Folks



The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee will provide Christmas cards on Sunday, December 17, 2023 to congregation members to mail to our Special Concern Folks and others we do not see as often as we wish. Please consider taking a card or two from the table in the Narthex, write a cheery message, sign your name, apply postage and send it in time for Christmas. Thank you for helping us send more Christmas cheer.

Christmas Party at the Selinsgrove Center



After an absence of three years, our annual in-person Christmas party for the Ladies of CM-6 at the Selinsgrove Center is back on the calendar for Sunday, December 17, 2023! We are in need of cozy slipper socks, pudding cups in all flavors but vanilla, (Vanilla is the only flavor the center serves.) moisturizing body wash and money to offset the cost of items not donated. We will also take a basket of individually wrapped snacks for the caregivers.

Donations of needed items and snacks can be placed in the tub in the Narthex.

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

Donations for the Ladies of CM-6 are due by Sunday, December 10, 2023

let's do
lunch

Luncheon for the Habitat for Humanity Faith Build

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee is providing an on-site luncheon for the twelve-person crew working on Scott Street in Williamsport on Saturday, December 16, 2023. We will be grilling hot dogs and providing other food to compliment a light lunch. We are in need of a case of 16 ounce bottled water, individual bags of chips, two dozen hot dog buns, a jar of sweet pickle chips and cookies or brownies for dessert. These items need to be in the church kitchen by Friday, December 15 during office hours. Speak to a committee member if you can provide an item.



Ongoing Collections at St. Mark's:

Ongoing Collections at St. Mark's:

United Churches Food Pantry: Needed are canned food of all types (meats, vegetables, fruits, etc.), cereal, peanut butter and jelly, puddings and jellos and cake and brownie mixes. Cans of icing are a bonus for families.

Shepherd of the Streets: Needed are shampoo, conditioner, bodywash, toothpaste and toothbrushes for adults and children, feminine hygiene products, toilet paper, paper towels, Kleenex, shave cream, disposable razors and dish soap.

Blessing Boxes at New Covenant UCC: Easily prepared food and non-perishable foods like Cup of Soups, individual packs of crackers and cookies, microwave mac & cheese, ramen noodles and individual boxes of cereal are needed. Deodorant for men and women and travel size hygiene products are also needed.



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

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

Ongoing Events at Redeemer Lutheran:

Ongoing Events at Redeemer Lutheran:

Community Dinner on Thursday, December 14, 2023 beginning at 5:00 PM.

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

Desserts for Redeemer's Dinner: Jim and Susan Newcomer will provide 120 cookie packets for this event. Thank you, Jim and Susan, for your generosity during this season of Advent and Christmas.

Daniel's Drop-Off: Due to the community dinner being the same day, drop off is requested from 3:00

PM – 4:30 PM. This will prevent confusion with folks picking up a meal. Winter weather brings the need for warmer clothing and sturdier shoes for adults and children. Blankets, sheets and afghans are also accepted. If you have a large quantity of clothing that cannot wait until the monthly drop off, please contact Redeemer's church office (leave a message) at 570-322-2333 to make a mutually convenient appointment.

Daniel's Closet Distribution of free seasonal clothing on Saturday, December 16, 2023 from 8:30 – 11:00 AM. Please note this distribution is one week earlier due to Christmas.





Robert Miller	12/03
Laura Schreckengast	12/07
Ernest Larson	12/12
Derek Gilbert	12/17
Marlene Vollmer	12/17
Ryan Clokey	12/18
Michael Jensen	12/18
Martha Hopley	12/19
Daryl Lewis	12/22
Judith Fortin	12/23
Sarah Young	12/23
Hannah Ramsauer	12/26
Helen Schramm	12/28
Amalie Robertson	12/30
Cynthia Huff	12/31



CENTER CITY PASTOR'S LUNCH

This month's luncheon will be Tuesday, December 5, 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.



Becky Miller Pryor 12/21
Thomas Pryor





Family Promise

Our next hosting week begins Dec. 10. Currently there are 3 families with a possibility of a fourth family. More details near the 10th. We need dinners for each night. Remember, you do not need to cook - you can drop off ingredients for a meal so the guests can cook for themselves, or you can do take out or delivery from a restaurant. If you are willing to provide a meal, please let me know



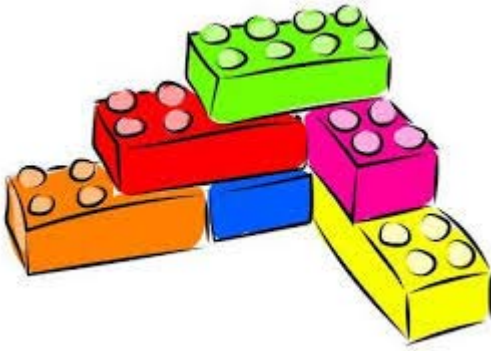
OUR SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES:

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.



Loose Bricks from a Loose Mind

By Joe Baur

I want to thank everyone for there thoughts and prayers during my little heart hiccup recently. Sometimes I need a smack upside my head to remind me to take care of this old body. Your thoughts make me feel so special and like family.

My wife and I would like to wish everyone a joyous and Merry Christmas and a blessed and healthy New Year. Being a part of this church has been such a wonderful journey. The work done in the church and community is so wonderful and needed. Everyone should feel so wonderful for making this mission so fulfilling.

So what to wish for this Christmas? Just look around and the wish is PEACE. We need it everywhere, in our hearts, in our politics, in our world and especially for the children. I am so thankful for my grandchildren and want a world they can grow and thrive in. I may not change the whole world but if I can change a tiny part for them, then they hopefully can see there is hope.

So Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
WOW 2024 upcoming.

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(See Luke 2:1-16)

12-19-2014

IT HAD A STAR ON TOP SO I FIGURED IT SHOULD HAVE A MANGER AT THE BOTTOM



YOU FELLAS WANT 3 MANGERS DOWN.

December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Holy Communion 8:00AM and 10:30AM Advent Begins	4 Safety Meeting 11AM	5	6 Mid-week Advent Service 12:15PM Chapel Evan and Fel- lowship 5:30PM	7	8 Red Cross Blood Drive 11AM-3PM	9
10 Holy Communion 9:30AM Annual Meeting Luncheon	11 Council Meeting 6PM	12	13Worship Committee 12:15PM Mid-week Advent Service 12:15PM	14 Faith Formation 10:45AM	15	16
17 Holy Communion 8:00 and 10:30AM	18	19	20 Mid-week Advent Service 12:15PM Chapel Little Lambs Lunch- eon Noon	21	22	23
24 Holy Communion 9:30AM Christmas Eve Service 7 and 10PM	25 CHRISTMAS	26	27	28	29	30
31 Holy Communion 8:00AM and 10:30AM	Church Office Closed					

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
142 MARKET STREET
WILLIAMSPORT, PA 17701
Address Service Requested

Phone: 570-323-4619

Fax: 570-323-2452

Website: www.stmarkswilliamsport.org

Email: stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

Permit No. 257

Williamsport, PA 17701



Pastor: The Rev. Brian Vasey
Church Organist: Sam Robinson
Mon-Thu 9 a.m.-1 p.m., & by appointment
Summer Mon 1-3 p.m. & by appointment
Sexton:
Bookkeeper: Jackie Baysoe
By appointment
Administrative Assistant: Joseph Baur
Tuesday through Friday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
jbaur@stmarkswilliamsport.org

STAFF OFFICE HOURS

Church Office 570-323-4619 Fax 570-323-2452
Website: stmarkswilliamsport.org
Main e-mail: stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org
Rev. Brian Vasey, Pastor bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org 570-323-4619 or 570-523-1415
Sam Robinson, Church Organist
Jackie Baysoe, 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