

Saint  
Mark's  
Lutheran  
Church



# "THE LION" of ST. MARK'S

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

## January 2024



### Pastor's "Lion" Mes- sage for January, 2024

*Where is the child who  
has been born king of  
the Jews? For we...have  
come to pay him homage  
(Matthew 2:2).*

On Saturday, January 6, the church celebrates The Epiphany of Our Lord, the adoration of the Wise Men (sometimes referred to as "The Little Christmas"). Epiphany is a Greek word meaning, "Manifestation or Manifest in appearance". This day is called Epiphany because we celebrate that Jesus has been made manifest to the entire world. The wise men were Gentiles, non Jews, who traveled a long distance to worship Jesus as Messiah; the One who bridges the gap between sinners and a holy God. Epiphany proclaims that in Christ no one, no matter what their ancestry or nationality needs to feel estranged or fearful of God. In Christ God comes for all people.

Epiphany begins a season usually overlooked and/or written off by the church. It's the "in-between" before Lent begins. Like Christmas before it, Epiphany is to be more than one day. It is to usher in a fresh start. It is to stir us to mission activity in the name of Jesus. It helps bring the truth of our faith into focus- Jesus has come for all people. It is no accident that during the Season after the Epiphany we affirm our baptism, that which sets us apart not for privilege but for service. We are a missionary people, set aside for missionary activity, by our missionary God.

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The calendar this month is a little short on some details. This is due to deadlines and holiday closures.

We will be back in full force for February and February gives us an extra day this year.



CONTACT US

Serving Christ in the Williamsport Community  
since 1852  
142 Market Street  
Williamsport, PA 17701

In the life of the church The Season after Epiphany is sometimes called "ordinary time". This term can be misleading. It is not to define ordinary as nothing distinct or special, but rather ordinary as the norm. The church is always to be involved in mission activity. Proclaiming Christ and Christ's love and acceptance of all people is the church's ministry all the time. It is to be what sets us apart from other religions. In Jesus we see God's grace, God's acceptance come alive. As Jesus is God made manifest among us, so we are to proclaim God's manifestation to all the world.

What begins with the wise men is a story of missional activity. God's model for the church. Epiphany reminds us that we who have beheld God's glory in Christ are sent to share Christ with all the world.

*Grace + Peace,*

## **WHAT GOES UP, MUST COME DOWN!**

**Join us as we "take down Christmas", Saturday, January 13, 10 am. Many hands do indeed make light work!**

### **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](mailto:jbaur@stmarkswilliamsport.org)

### **Sunday, January 7, The First Sunday after Epiphany** ***The Baptism of Our Lord*** ***Installation of Council Members at Both Services***

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

### **Sunday, January 14, The Second Sunday after Epiphany**

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

### **Sunday, January 21, The Third Sunday after Epiphany** ***A Celebration of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity***

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

### **Sunday, January 28, The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

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

## **ALL ARE WELCOME!**

**WANT TO EXPLORE WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A LUTHERAN CHRISTIAN? ADULTS WISHING TO UNITE WITH ST. MARK'S IN CHURCH MEMBERSHIP ARE INVITED TO 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.



### **ALTAR FLOWER PRICE INCREASE**

Hall's Florist has informed us that as of January 2024 the price will increase for Altar Flowers. Due to increases in the cost of flowers and supplier delivery fees they can no longer make vases at the same price.

The price of Altar Flowers will increase from \$25.00 per vase to \$30.00 per vase and delivery fee will increase to \$5.00 per vase, an increase of \$1.00 per vase. Total cost per vase starting in January 2024 will be \$35.00 per vase.



# January Lectors

January 7	8:00 AM	Becky Pryor
	10:30 AM	Karen Mariano
January 14	8:00 AM	Brian Jackson
	10:30 AM	Phil Thomas
January 21	8:00 AM	Drew Hausmann
	10:30 AM	Brenda Gair
January 28	8:00 AM	Vicki Hausmann
	10:30AM	Donna Boston



## Communion Assistants for January

Please arrange replacement if you cannot serve.

January 7	8:00 AM	Drew Hausmann
	10:30AM	Walt Doebler and Gary Weber
January 14	8:00 AM	Nikki Jackson
	10:30AM	Matt & Wanda Fortin
January 21	8:00 AM	Becky Pryor
	10:30 AM	Ralph and Lou Ann Zeigler
January 28	8:00 AM	Brian Jackson
	10:30 AM	Dan Zeigler



# Usher Schedule for January

January 7	8:00 AM	Herb Poff and Richard Miller
	10:30AM	Matt Fortin, captain Glenn Yaple, Bud Doebler
January 14	8:00 AM	Herb Poff and Richard Miller
	10:30AM	Carl Albright, captain Brenda and Levi Gair
January 21	8:00 AM	Herb Poff and Richard Miller
	10:30AM	Tim Maggs. Captain Carl Hieber, Charles Kurtz
January 28	8:00 AM	Herb Poff and Richard Miller
	10:30AM	Mike Jensen, captain Pam Jensen, Shelby and Gary Weber

Head Usher ..... Gary Weber



## Altar Guild for January

Cindy Huff  
Linda Rosini





# St. Mark's Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

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

Report of the Secretary for the Council Meeting held on December 11, 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”.

Ray Huff led us in opening prayer.

Secretary's roll call was taken.

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

## **President's remarks:**

- Thank you for all the help at the various activities that took place in November.
- Thank you for the help in cleaning up the luncheon following our Annual Meeting.  
“Many hands make light work” definitely held true!

**-M(Ray Huff ~ 2nd Mel Wentzel) SC: CC: 23.12.1** Motion approved to ratify the email vote on Nominees for Council.

## **Secretary's Report:**

**-M(Herb Poff ~ 2nd Ed Gair) SC: CC: 23.12.2** Motion approved to accept the November council minutes.

\*Deb Buckman requested that hard copies of email correspondence be placed in her mailbox due to the lack of internet service at her home.

**Treasurer's Report:** The treasurer's report for the month of November (printed 12/9/2023) was accepted and filed for audit.

- Deb Buckman will be checking with Jackie Baysore as to if there has already been a payment on our insurance policy. This is to avoid a duplicate payment.
- Yearly investment money has not been deposited at this point in time.

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

- Midweek Advent services continue.
- Church office will be closed December 25-27.
- Pastor is on vacation December 26-January 2. Ray Huff will be preaching/presiding on

12/31/23.



## **Committee Reports:**

### **Evangelism & Fellowship:**

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

### **Parish Life:**

- 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 always needed!

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

- Devotional material is available for use during Advent.
- Reverse Advent Calendar collections are underway.

### **Finance:** Update provided by Deb Buckman

- Next meeting is in January 2024.
- Deb Buckman is trying to identify where specific bequests should be directed.

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

- Pastor will make his "Christmas Visit" to Little Lambs on December 14.
- Little Lambs Christmas programs are December 18 and 19 at both 9:30 and 10:30.
- Next meeting scheduled for January 10, 2024.

### **Nominating:** Nothing to report.

### **Personnel:** Update provided by Mel Wentzel

- Ed Gair (has been) and is willing to work on the many mechanical issues that have arisen and continue to arise due to our aging building. Ed graciously volunteers the majority of his time. Council is encouraging Ed to submit invoices for the many hours he spends working on these mechanical issues.

### **Property:** Update provided by Ed Gair

- Boiler seems to be functioning well at this point in time.

### **Publicity:** Nothing to report.

### **Safety:** Update provided by Herb Poff (liaison)

- Nine security cameras have been installed around the outside of the building with the main monitor located in the copy room.
- Training with CompuGen will take place on Tuesday, December 12 at 1:00 PM.
- The information from the cameras can be controlled via a phone app.
- \* It is suggested that a policy be drawn up outlining how to give out information found on the video feed and who receives this information. Ex. the cameras catch a car accident and the police would like to look at the feed.
- No loitering signs are available but have not yet been put up around the building.

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

- The Nave looks wonderful!
- The Chrismon service was beautiful. Thank you, Pastor.
- The Advent wreath is becoming difficult to manage due to its size and weight.
  - \* Should we look for something smaller?
  - \* Possible Advent wreath around the Paschal candle?
  - \* Possibly use pedestals with one candle on each pedestal?



#### **Unfinished Business:**

- **Growing our Church:** The luncheon following the December Annual Congregational Meeting was well attended and enjoyed by all. Something to consider hosting again in the new year.
- **Spire Update:** Waiting on a proposal from Jeff Brooks. Lundy Construction will permanently cap the opening until a further decision regarding the spire is made. This will stop further deterioration of the roof.
- **Dossal Update:** Adam Miller is bringing fabric samples on January 16, 2024 at 1:30 PM. All are welcome to attend.
- **Gelnett and Associates Update:** The ball is in our court as to how we would like to proceed with new video equipment. Discussion can continue in the new year.
  - \* Discussion on who will operate new equipment should we move in that direction. Does it make sense to hire a videographer?
- **Parsons Pipe Organ Update:** Organ repairs were approved by the congregation at the Annual Meeting held December 10, 2023.

#### **New Business:**

- The heating pipes located in the basement are deteriorating and will need to be replaced this spring/summer. The property committee is working on obtaining estimates for this major project. There is a chance that small fixes to pinhole leaks will need to be made all throughout the winter.
- Thank you to Ed Gair and Mel Wentzel for your service on council.

Ray Huff led us in the closing prayer.  
The meeting was adjourned.

**Next meeting: Monday, January 15, 2024 at 6:00 PM (Middle Lounge)**

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

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

Report of the Secretary for the Congregational Meeting held December 10, 2023.  
~ Vicki Haussmann, Secretary

- Ralph Zeigler called the meeting to order.
- The congregation recited St. Mark's mission statement:

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

Ralph Zeigler opened the congregational meeting with prayer.

- Vicki Haussmann served as Secretary.
- Shelby Weber served as Parliamentarian.

Shelby Weber declared that a quorum was present.

Ralph Zeigler shared his appreciation to Joe Baur, Administrative Assistant, for his work compiling the 2023 Annual Report. Ralph also encouraged congregational members to read through the committee reports which highlight the many activities that have taken place throughout the past year.

Ralph Zeigler announced the 4 nominees to be elected to serve a three year term on Church Council. The nominees are: **Wanda Fortin, Ray Huff (second term), Richard Miller, and Richard Reitz.**

There were no other nominations from the floor.

**M(Gary Weber ~ 2nd Shelby Weber) SC: CC: 23.12.1** Motion approved to close nominations for Church Council, Class of 2026.

**M(Church Council ~ 2nd Mel Wentzel) SC: CC: 23.12.2** Motion approved to welcome Wanda Fortin, Ray Huff, Richard Miller, and Richard Reitz as Council members beginning their 3 year term in January of 2023.

Welcome to our incoming Council Members!

Debra Buckman, Treasurer, shared some brief remarks on the 2024 operating budget for St. Mark's Lutheran Church. There was no congregational discussion regarding the 2024 operating budget.

**M(Church Council ~ 2nd Mel Wentzel) SC: CC: 23.12.3** Motion to adopt the budget for 2024 to support the ministry of St. Mark's Lutheran Church was approved.

\* Ralph Zeigler reminded congregational members that if questions regarding the budget arise throughout the year, please direct these questions to council members.

Ray Huff was given the floor for an overview of the Worship and Music Committee.

\* Please see Sam Robinson's comments/explanation in the Annual report regarding the organ repairs.

\* Any one is welcome (and encouraged) to join the choir.



**M(Church Council) SC: CC: 23.12.4** Motion approved that the needed repairs to the organ be performed by Parsons Pipe Organ Builders, Canandaigua, NY at a cost of approximately \$43,600.00; funding for this project from designated offerings and bequests.

**M(Executive Committee) SC: CC: 23.12.5** Motion approved that Council elect two lay delegates, including, if possible, at least one member of Church Council, to represent the congregation of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Williamsport, in all business to come before the Annual Assembly of the Upper Susquehanna Synod.

\* Any church member wanting to be considered to serve as a lay delegate should please let a Council member know by February 1st.

Announcements and Acknowledgements:

\* January 7, 2023 ~ Installation of new council members at both services.

\* January 15, 2023 ~ Executive Committee elections

\* Ralph Zeigler shared appreciation:

\* To Ed Gair and Mel Wentzel for their service on Council as their term comes to a close.

\* To all Council members.

\* To Jackie Baysore, Joe Baur, Sam Robinson, and Pastor Vasey.

\* To all volunteers who take care of so many things around St. Mark's.

\* For support as Council President this past year.

Pastor Vasey offered grace for our luncheon.

2023 Annual Meeting was adjourned.



## 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.**



A PERFORMANCE BY THE  
WILLIAMSPORT CHAMBER CHOIR ORCHESTRA

# THE LONG WINTER NIGHT

SAMUEL ROBINSON, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

FEATURING THE VESPERS FROM  
RACHMANINOFF'S ALL-NIGHT VIGIL

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 2024. 7:30PM  
ST. MARKS LUTHERAN CHURCH

ADMISSION:  
\$10 ADULTS  
\$5 STUDENTS



## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

We look forward to continuing the outreach ministry of Operation Christmas Child in 2024, and have set a goal to pack 75 beautiful boxes! These shoeboxes will then be sent to kids around the world toward the end of the year. Monthly collections make this process a little less daunting come November, and we very much appreciate your generous donations throughout the year.

In January, we are collecting:

- Fun Pads (small, activity pads)**
- Journals/Small Notebooks**
- T-shirts\* ("Cute" or plain white. Either is fine!)**
- Socks/Undies\***

These items may be placed in our red, OCC bin located in the narthex.

Thank you for your continued support in helping spread the good news of God's love!

\*Just a note ~ the age ranges for the boxes we fill are 2-4, 5-9, and 10-14 for both boys and girls. This may help with clothing sizes.



Shelby Weber	January 1
James Newcomer, Sr.	January 4
Andrew Zeigler	January 10
Peter Zeigler	January 10
Kathy Kolb	January 12
Matthew Reitz	January 12
Jackie Kinney	January 13
Riley Weber	January 14
Anna Zeigler	January 15
Laura Zeigler	January 15
Donna Boston	January 17
Beth Miller	January 17
Ruth Rees	January 17
Herb Poff	January 21
Neil Eshelman	January 24
Walter Doebler	January 25
Marc Kinney	January 26
Sean Buckman	January 28
Devin Owen	January 30



### CENTER CITY PASTOR'S LUNCH

This month's luncheon will be Tuesday, January 2, 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.



# Family Promise

Thank You to everyone for their help this past month.



## 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.



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!





**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

	1 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	2 Center City Pastor's Lunch 1:00PM	3	4	5 The Long Winter Night (see poster inside) 7:30PM	6 Organ Concert Convent Central 2PM
7 Holy Communion 8 and 10:30 AM	8 Little Lambs Meeting ML— 12:15PM	9	10	11	12	13
14 Holy Communion 8 and 10:30 AM WCC Board Planning Session 2-3PM	15 Martin Luther King Day Church Office Closed Council 6PM	16 Property Committee ML - 6PM	17	18	19 Concert Rehearsal Nave - 6PM	20 Concert Rehearsal Nave - Noon
21 Holy Communion 8 and 10:30 AM Concert Nave 3PM	22 WCC Rehearsal FH - 7PM	23	24	25	26	27
28 Holy Communion 8 and 10:30 AM	29 WCC Rehearsal FH - 7PM	30	31			



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

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Fax: 570-323-2452

Website: [www.stmarkswilliamsport.org](http://www.stmarkswilliamsport.org)

Email: [stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org)

Non-Profit Organization  
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**Permit No. 257**  
Williamsport, PA 17701



## January Edition

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 Baysoe  
By appointment  
Administrative Assistant: Joseph Baur  
Tuesday through Friday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.  
[jbaur@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:jbaur@stmarkswilliamsport.org)

## STAFF OFFICE HOURS

Church Office 570-323-4619 Fax 570-323-2452  
Website: [stmarkswilliamsport.org](http://stmarkswilliamsport.org)  
Main e-mail: [stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org)  
Rev. Brian Vasey, Pastor [bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto: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 Haussmann, Council Secretary  
Treasurer - Deb Buckman  
Janet Jones, Parish Life  
Debra Buckman, Family Promise Coordinator  
Sally Bjornstad, Altar Flowers  
Joseph Baur, Administrative Assistant