



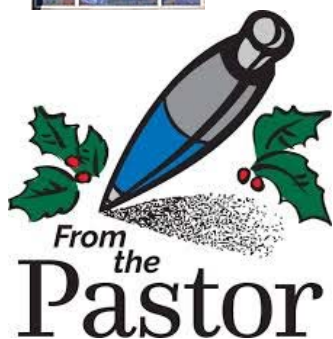
SAINT MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

“THE LION” of ST. MARK'S

A Monthly Newsletter by and for the members of St. Mark's

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

FEBRUARY 2024



Pastor's "Lion" Message for February, 2024

From
the
Pastor

On Wednesday, February 14 we begin the Season of Lent. Lent is the time of six weeks before Easter. It commemorates the time of Jesus' suffering, death and crucifixion before he victoriously rises from the dead. Sundays during this season are called "Sundays in Lent" rather than "Sundays of Lent". The reason for this is that every Sunday, regardless of the church season in which it falls, is a "mini-Easter". Sundays remind us that Jesus rose from the dead on "the third day" following his death.

This year, in addition to the Sunday services and traditional somber tone of Lent, St. Mark's will observe the Lenten Season with a detailed study of Holy Week. This study, based upon the Passion from the Gospel according to Mark and ideas put forward in the book, The Last Week, by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan, will bring us face to face with issues facing Jesus' during his last week on earth. Borg and Crossan seek to lead us through what can often be a complicated maze of the Holy Week

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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



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

experience to a glorious resurrection celebration. The first passion of Jesus was not simply the week before Easter. It was a week in which the human experience was changed forever; where God sought to counter the world's message of hate with love and redemption.

Our study begins Wednesday, February 21 at 12:10 pm in Fellowship Hall. We will continue to meet on every subsequent Wednesday in Lent at that time as scripture, insight and discussion leads us through the passion narrative according to Mark. The text, The Last Week will be available but will not be required reading. Its purpose is to serve as a guide, and will not our primary resource.

All are welcome to join us for these discussions, the length of which will be approximately 35-40 minutes. Bring a bag lunch if you so desire (beverages will be provided). Accompany Jesus through Holy Week and gain a fresh perspective for Mark's account and the way of the cross in which Jesus walked.

Grace + Peace,
Pastor Vasey

A "book report" on *The Last Week* can be found on page 13 of this "Lion"

St. Mark's will observe "Shrove Tuesday" (February 13) with our third annual "Fastnacht Day" or Donut Day event. We invite everyone to join us in Fellowship Hall beginning at 5:30 for light refreshments and Fastnachts (of course!).

More details on Page 9

JOIN US ON SUNDAY MORNINGS IN FEBRUARY!

Sunday, February 4, The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

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

Sunday, February 11, The Transfiguration of Our Lord *The Souper Bowl of Caring*

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

Sunday, February 18, The First Sunday in Lent

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

Sunday, February 25, The Second Sunday in Lent

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

LENT BEGINS ON ASH WEDNESDAY (FEBRUARY 14).

TWO WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

12:05 pm in our Chapel
(Ashes and Holy Communion)
7 pm in our Nave (Ashes and
Communion)

ALL ARE WELCOME!



+ 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.

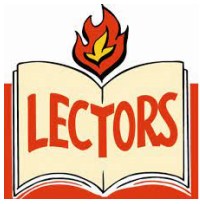
The office is working on an updated Church directory so please update any information ASAP to insure the directory is up to date.



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.



February Lectors

February 4	8:00AM	Candy Dewar
	10:30AM	Ralph Zeigler
February 11	8:00AM	Nikki Jackson
	10:30AM	Linda Rosini
February 14	ASH WEDNESDAY	
	12:05PM	
	7:00PM	
February 18	8:00AM	Becky Pryor
	10:30AM	Deb Buckman
February 28	8:00AM	Brian Jackson
	10:30AM	Audrey Albright



Usher Schedule for February

February 4	8:00AM	Herb Poff and Richard Miller
	10:30AM	Matt Fortin, captain Glenn Yaple, Dick Reitz
February 11	8:00AM	Herb Poff and Richard Miller
	10:30AM	Carl Albright, captain Brenda & Levi Gair
February 14	12:05	Tim Maggs, captain
	ASH WEDNESDAY	
	7:00	
February 18	8:00AM	Herb Poff and Richard Miller
	10:30AM	Mike Jensen, captain Pam Jensen, Shelby and Gary Weber
February 25	8:00AM	Herb Poff and Richard Miller
	10:30AM	Matt Fortin, captain Glenn Yaple, Dick Reitz



Communion Assistants for February

Please arrange replacement if you cannot serve.

February 4	8:00AM	Jackie Kinney
	10:30AM	Deb Buckman & Mindy Wentzel
February 11	8:00AM	Drew Haussmann
	10:30AM	Walt Doebler & Gary Weber
February 14	ASH WEDNESDAY	
	12:05PM	
	7:00PM	
February 18	8:00AM	Nikki Jackson
	10:30AM	Matt and Wanda Fortin
February 25	8:00AM	Becky Pryor
	10:30AM	Ralph and Lou Ann Zeigler

Altar Guild for February

Connie Shaible, Sally Bjornstad and Sarah Young



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 January 15, 2024 at 6:00 PM
- Vicki Haussmann, Secretary

Meeting was called to order by Ralph Zeigler.

Council recited our defining mission ~ *“To know Christ and to make Christ known”*

Pastor Vasey led us in opening prayer.

Secretary's roll call was taken.

Present: Debra Buckman, Wanda Fortin, Vicki Haussmann, Ray Huff,
Nikki Jackson, Richard Miller, Herb Poff, Richard Reitz, Helen Schramm, Shelby Weber,
Glenn Yaple, Ralph Zeigler, Pastor Vasey

President's remarks:

- Welcome to Wanda Fortin, Dick Miller, Dick Reitz, and Ray Huff (2nd term).
- We appreciate your willingness to serve on Church Council.

Election of Officers:

M(Debra Buckman ~ 2nd Shelby Weber) SC: CC: 24.1.1 Motion unanimously approved to elect Ralph Zeigler as President of 2024 Church Council.

* Ralph reviewed the duties of the vice-president according to St. Mark's By-Laws.

M(Shelby Weber ~ 2nd Ray Huff) SC: CC: 24.1.2 Motion unanimously approved to nominate Nikki Jackson as Vice-President of 2024 Church Council.

M(Shelby Weber ~ 2nd Helen Schramm) SC: CC: 24:1.3 Motion unanimously approved to close nominations for vice-president .

By acclamation, Nikki Jackson is elected VicePresident of 2024 Church Council.

M(Debra Buckman ~ 2nd Shelby Weber) SC: CC: 24.1.4 Motion unanimously approved to nominate Vicki Haussmann as Secretary of 2024 Church Council.

M(Ray Huff ~ 2nd Helen Schramm) SC: CC: 24.1.5 Motion unanimously approved to close nominations for secretary.

By acclamation, Vicki Haussmann is elected Secretary of 2024 Church Council.

M(Ray Huff ~ 2nd Shelby Weber) SC: CC: 24.1.6 Motion unanimously approved to nominate Debra Buckman as Treasurer of 2024 Church Council.

M(Shelby Weber ~ 2nd Nikki Jackson) SC: CC: 24.1.7 Motion unanimously approved to close nominations for treasurer.

By acclamation, Debra Buckman is elected Treasurer of 2024 Church Council.

Publicity: Update provided by Pastor Vasey.

- Pastor Vasey submitted the ad for our Christmas services.
- Email sent to invite other congregations to our Shrove Tuesday event.
- Thanks to Gary Weber for sending email blast regarding church cancellation on Jan. 7.

* If there are ideas for better communication for emergency situations, please let the executive committee know.



Committee Reports:

M(Nikki Jackson ~ 2nd Debra Buckman) SC: CC: 24.1.8 Motion unanimously approved to reappoint Herb Poff as Financial Secretary.

Secretary's Report:

M(Herb Poff ~ 2nd Helen Schramm) SC: CC: 24.1.9 Motion approved to accept December's council minutes as submitted.

M(Ray Huff ~ 2nd Herb Poff) SC: CC: 24.1.10 Motion approved to accepted the minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting as submitted.

The Treasurer's Report: Statement of Activities was provided by Jackie Baysore.

- Deb Buckman reviewed the end of year statement of activities.
- This is a line item budget. If there are any questions moving forward, please contact Deb Buckman or anyone on the executive committee.

Pastor's report: As submitted by Pastor Vasey.

- Monthly Holy Communion service at Williamsport Home is open to all in the Williamsport community.
- The niece of Roxie Larson has gifted an olive wood Nativity to St. Mark's.

Committee Reports:

Evangelism & Fellowship/Parish Life: Written report as submitted by Becky Miller Pryor.

- Help is needed for the Center City Pastors lunch in both March and April.
- Various outreach ministries continue.

Faith Formation: Update provided by Vicki Haussmann.

- Appreciation for support of Reverse Advent Calendar Collection.
- Appreciation for all the help with our "Christmas Clean-Up".
- Souper Bowl Sunday is Feb. 11.
- Shrove Tuesday event Feb. 13th at 5:30 PM.
- Lenten Bible study on Wednesdays using the book The Last Week as a guide.
- Lenten outreach project of Birthday Cake Boxes for United Churches Food Pantry.

Finance: Update provided by Debra Buckman.

- Meeting February 5, at 5:30 PM.
- Discussion will focus on paperwork pertaining to memorials.

Little Lambs: Update provided by Pastor Vasey.

- Meeting January 29th.

Nominating: Update provided by Ralph Zeigler

- NTR

Personnel:

- NTR

Property: Update provided by Herb Poff, Liaison.

- Meeting on Jan. 17 to discuss the boiler issues in the parish house.
 - Pipes need to be replaced.
 - Possibility of using mini splits for heat/air conditioning?
 - Idea presented regarding possibly placing solar panels on roof?

Unfinished Business:

- Committee will collect proposals from various companies regarding ideas as how to best address fixing the boiler issue.
- If bids are needed, committee would like to bring in a consultant to lay out exactly what work needs to be done. This will enable the bids to be accurately compared.



Safety: Update provided by Herb Poff, liaison.

- Committee is meeting quarterly.

Worship and Music: Updated provided by Ray Huff.

- Thanks for help decorating/undecorating for the Christmas season
- Reminder that appointments for Synod Assembly are needed.
- Current Advent Wreath is getting difficult to maneuver due to size.

Thoughts of

perhaps replacing live greens with artificial greens, or using a different wreath form.

ent wreath form.

- Sam has been in touch with the Ithaca College Choir who is looking to possibly perform a concert in St. Mark's Nave on May 5th. Choir members would need to be fed.

- Next meeting January 21 after 10:30 service.

Unfinished Business:

- **Growing our Church:** Will be revisited next month.
- **Spire Update:** Lundy's is waiting for a lift to be able to cap the spire. Since the tarp that is currently covering the spire roof seems to be holding, this may be on hold until spring. There is an engineer working on a proposal for a replacement spire.
- **Dossal Update:** Meeting with Adam Miller of Merhaut Company on January 16 @1:30. Proposals on fabric will be presented.
- **Parson's Pipe Organ:** Proposal has been approved. Ralph Zeigler will sign the contract although work won't begin for 6-9 months.

New Business:

- **Sign Up Sheets:** Sign up sheets for Council devotions and offering collection were passed around.
- **Parliamentarian:** Shelby Weber has agreed to be Parliamentarian for our council meetings.
- **Offering Envelopes:**

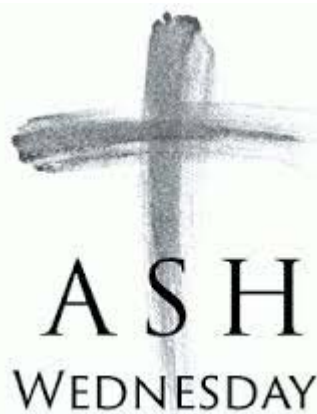
- Question raised as to if the wording should be changed on the envelopes dedicated to directing monthly special donations. The executive committee and Pastor will look

this with Herb.

at

Pastor Vasey led us in closing prayer.

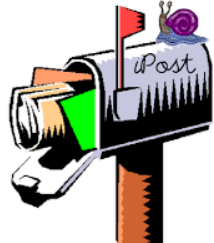
The meeting was adjourned.



The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 14. We encourage you to please find several devotional booklets in the Narthex that may aid you in your daily study throughout this Lenten season. We pray these seasonal meditations will help prepare your heart and mind as

we move through this season of Lent heading toward our celebration of Easter.

Mail Call



FROM: Camp Mount Luther

We are grateful for your recent gift. Your support makes it possible to do outdoor ministries in this part of Pennsylvania. It was a good summer here at camp. We enjoyed about 388 campers who were able to participate in our off-site camps this year.

Chad W. Hershberger, Executive Director



Summer Camp Information on Web: Our website now has information on this year's summer camp programs, along with a schedule. Check out the [summer camp page](#) to start planning. Brochures have been mailed to campers and will soon be on their way to churches. Online registration for this summer will soon be available on our website.

This year's summer camp season will begin on June 23 and run until August 2. There are programs for all ages from elementary to senior high, and for adults and families. If you're looking for a place where your child can grow in faith and have fun doing it, Camp Mount Luther is that place. Don't settle for second-rate summer programs. Camp Mount Luther has been giving kids fun, exciting, faith-filled, outdoor experiences for 60 years. If you have questions about our summer programs, feel free to reach out to us at cml@campmountluther.org!

FROM: Blessing Box

We are so appreciative and grateful to be partners in ministry with Saint Mark's. Thank you for all you do and may you and your families be filled with the joy of the seasons.

Pastor Brad and the Blessing Box Team @NCUCC

FROM: Family Promise

Through your generosity and partnership, we are "breaking the cycle" of homelessness and poverty. Family Promise is successful in assisting 93% of families who graduate our program in not experiencing homelessness again. Thank you for your donation.

Jenny Hull, Executive Director



**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

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.



The Baltimore Ravens? The Kansas City Chiefs? The San Francisco 49ers? The Detroit Lions? What on earth do these names even mean? It means that the football season is drawing to a close and Super Bowl Sunday is quickly approaching.

Whether you are a football fanatic or are just in it for the snacks, "Souper Bowl Sunday" gives us a wonderful opportunity to also think about others in our community. This year "Souper Bowl Sunday" is February 11th, which means there are 2 full weeks in February to collect cans of soup. Our "Famous Football Tubs" will be in the Narthex ready to accept your donations of soup (or other non perishable food) on Feb. 4th and Feb.11th. If you prefer, monetary donations may also be made (checks should be earmarked for Souper Bowl of Caring). Monetary donations will be used to purchase grocery store gift cards to be donated to the Code Blue Ministry hosted at First Church.

Please pray this simple prayer that started the Souper Bowl of Caring 30+ years ago: Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat.



Shrove Tuesday Fellowship

St. Mark's will observe "Shrove Tuesday" (February 13) with our third annual "Fastnacht Day" or Donut Day event. We invite everyone to join us in Fellowship Hall beginning at ***5:30 for light refreshments and Fastnachts (of course!). Our event will include gathering in the courtyard to burn last year's palms

for ashes to be used as our ashes for repentance and mortality on Ash Wednesday. We will conclude our time together with a brief liturgy of prayer and praise as we "Bury the Alleluia" in preparation for Lent. This promises to be a day of fun and meaning as we prepare to begin our Lenten pilgrimage in anticipation of the Easter Season. If you would like a ride, please contact Vicki Hausmann at (570) 447-3263. We are happy to pick up and take anyone home! We look forward to seeing you!

*** Please note the earlier start time of our event this year. This is to accommodate those who would also like to attend the Williamsport Symphony which begins at 7:30 PM. There will be plenty of time to attend both events. We look forward to seeing you!



Thank You!



Both the Faith Formation and Evangelism and Fellowship Committees send a HUGE Thank You to the members of St. Mark's for your participation in this year's Reverse Advent Calendar Collection. We recently were able to deliver over two hundred and fifty personal care items to the Williamsport YWCA in support of Wise Options and Liberty House. Diapers, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, body wash, lotion, paper products, razors, shaving cream, shampoo, conditioner ~ the list of items received is truly amazing. Thank you for helping to "Make Christ Known" to those in need this New Year!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



We continue collecting items for our Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes with the goal of packing 75 shoeboxes in 2024.

Our February collection will be:
Toothbrushes/Toothbrush Holders
Washcloths (preferably dark in color)
Knit Hats
***T-shirts** (cute or plain, long sleeve or short, any will do)
***Socks/Undies**

Choose one, choose all! Donations may be placed in the red, OCC bin located in the Narthex. As always, thank you for your continued generosity!

Lenten Service Project Birthday Cake Boxes



The Faith Formation and Evangelism and Outreach committees are excited to embark on a Service Project during this season of Lent. The United Churches Food Pantry recently shared that they are unable to use grant money to purchase items such as cake mixes and frosting. This means families are often unable to celebrate birthdays with a birthday cake. We would like to change this by collecting items that will then be assembled into "Birthday Cake Boxes". A sample of a Birthday Cake Box will be in the Narthex for perusal. However, please do not feel you have to put an entire kit together yourself (although you are certainly more than welcome to do so). Bringing in individual items will allow us to assemble

Birthday Cake Boxes toward the end of the Lenten season. Josie from My Party Store has graciously donated 14 packs of candles, so we would love to see if we can assemble 14 (or more) Birthday Cake Boxes.

Items needed are: cake mixes and frosting (any flavor), a case of Sprite (one can of Sprite can be used in place of the eggs and oil), birthday napkins, small party favors, Happy Birthday signs, and sprinkles. The cake pans/lids will be provided by the committee. All items may be placed in the bin in the Narthex.

Evangelism and Fellowship Committee Articles

February 2024

Valentine's Day Greetings



The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee needs the congregation's help in sending Valentine's Day greetings to our Special Concern Folks and others we do not see as often as we would like.

Cards will be available in the Narthex on Sunday, February 4, 2024 before and after each service. Please add a cheery message, affix a stamp and mail in time for Valentine's Day. Thank you for any assistance you can provide.

Card Ministry



The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee thanks members of the congregation for their assistance with this outreach. Openings to send cards in 2024 are available. A sign-up sheet is available in the Narthex. Everything is supplied but you! Thank you, Jackie Kinney for sending cards in January.

Help Needed for Parish Life



The Center City Pastors, a group of twelve, meet the first Tuesday of the month at St. Mark's at 1:00 PM. The Parish Life Committee prepares and serves a lite lunch for them. During the months of March and April we are in need of help preparing lunch on March 5 and April 2. We are also in need of a dessert for each meal. Speak with Becky Miller Pryor if you can assist with this event.

Ongoing Collections at St. Mark's:



United Churches Food Pantry: Needed are items that the pantry is unable to purchase with grant money. Small cans of coffee, sugar, flour, salt and pepper as a set of shakers, cooking oil, cake and brownie mixes and cans of frosting.

Shepherd of the Streets: Needed are shampoo, conditioner, bodywash, tooth paste and toothbrushes for adults and children, feminine hygiene products, paper towels, Kleenex, hand and dish soap.

Blessing Boxes at New Covenant UCC: Easily prepared foods like Cup of Soups, individual packs of crackers and cookies, microwave mac & cheese, ramen noodles and individual boxes of cereal are needed. Travel size hygiene items are also needed.

Monetary donations for making sandwiches for the Blessing Boxes. Checks can be made payable to St. Mark's with the memo line indicating Parish Life.

Sojourner Truth Ministries: Bleach, Dawn dish detergent, brown lunch bags, plastic wrap and foil.

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:



Community Dinner on Thursday, February 8, 2024 beginning at 5:00 PM until all meals are distributed. This is a take-out meal available at the curb. All are welcome.

The Parish Life and Evangelism and Fellowship Committees provide desserts each month to support Redeemer's dinner. This month Jim and Susan Newcomer will provide Valentine cookie packets for dessert. Thank you, Jim and Susan for your generous help.

For desserts in March, we are requesting brownie mixes. Donations can be placed in the Narthex.

This month's clothing drop off at Redeemer Lutheran is Thursday, February 22 from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM.

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.

Daniel's Closet Distribution of winter clothing is **Saturday, February 24, 2024 from 8:30 – 11:00 AM**. Winter weather brings the need for warm clothing and sturdier shoes and boots for adults and children. Blankets, throws and afghans are also needed.

This month's clothing drop off is Thursday, February 22 from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM.

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.

Got Stuff?

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee and the Women of St. Mark's need donations for our annual Fall Sale. We will need many more donations if we are to have a sale in 2024.



We are accepting holiday decorations, housewares, linens, toys, small working electronics, gadgets, dishes, jewelry, lamps, art work and the list goes on. If you don't want it, we probably can sell it.

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

Please place your donations in boxes small enough for us to lift and place them in the Bazaar Room in the basement. If you cannot get to the basement, leaving them on the second landing in the back stairwell is helpful.



The Gospel According to Mark

2004 Lenten Bible Study

The Faith Formation Committee will offer Bible study from the Gospel of St. Mark during Wednesday in Lent. Mark offers a day-by-day account of Holy Week from Palm Sunday to Easter morning. One resource we consulted, which studies Mark's account, is *The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach About Jesus's Final Days in Jerusalem*, by Marcus J. Borg and John Dominic Crossan (Harper, 2006).

All are welcome! The study begins Wednesday, February 21, 12:10PM in Fellowship Hall and concludes Wednesday, March 20.

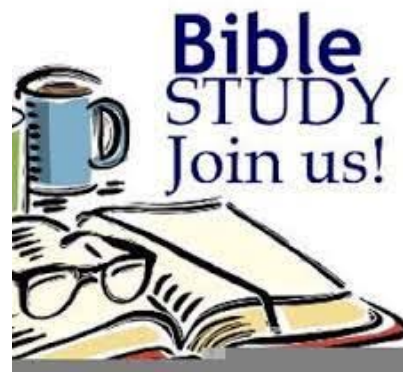
The writers say their purpose is "to tell and explain, against the background of Jewish high-priestly collaboration with Roman imperial control, the last week of Jesus' life on earth ...as given in the Gospel of St. Mark." (viii) Thus, the authors see social justice as Mark's theme: Jesus and the Kingdom of God are to be understood primarily in terms of non-violent resistance to the "domination systems" (like Rome) that create and "legitimize" injustice (like Jerusalem high-priest, elders and scribes). For example, the story of the Widow's Mite is interpreted not as the widow giving all she has to God, but as indictment of the Temple authorities for exploiting the poorest Jews. Many traditional concepts such as "atonement" and "sacrifice", get new interpretations: "Jesus did not die for the sins of the world...he was killed because of the sins of the world..." (162) "The political meaning of Good Friday and Easter sees the human problem as injustice and the solution as God's justice. (211) Because Mark ends his Easter account with no physical appearances of Jesus, Borg and Crossan downplay a physical resurrection in favor of a transformed Jesus who leads us to a transformational resurrection of our own as we continue Jesus's work to establish the Kingdom of God against the "domination systems" of this world.

Whether or not one accepts this reading of Mark (I was skeptical), the authors offer many insights to the historical situation, for example the importance of the Temple in Jewish life, and they bring out the connections between Jesus's words and the Hebrew Scriptures, as Jesus's references to the "Son of Man" and the visions in Daniel. Comparisons with other Biblical accounts of Holy Week are also enlightening.

Our Lenten Bible study is based on Mark, not this book, but we can use some of its interpretations as points for discussion. A copy of the book will be available for anyone who wants to try it.

All are welcome! The study begins Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at 12:10PM in Fellowship Hall and concludes Wednesday, March 20th.

Bob Campbell
Member, Faith Formation Committee



CELEBRATE BIRTHDAYS

Michael Reitz	February 6
Margie Doebler	February 8
Joseph Baur	February 10
Gloria Greevy	February 10
Lisa Lewis	February 13
Emily Newcomer	February 13
Michele Owen	February 13
Elsie Sechler	February 13
Rick Robertson	February 17
Donna Elkin	February 21
Brandon Pelleschi	February 21
Rev. Brian Vasey	February 26
Gary Clark	February 27
Special Once every 4 year Birthdays	
<i>Jane Kline</i>	<i>February 29</i>
<i>Ralph Zeigler, Jr.</i>	<i>February 29</i>

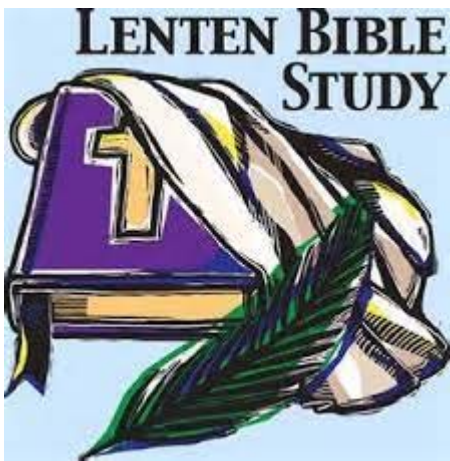


Diane and H. Vincent Bardsley
February 18



CENTER CITY PASTOR'S LUNCH

This month's luncheon will be Tuesday, February 6, 2024 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.



Lenten Bible Study

The Faith Formation Committee is pleased to be offering the opportunity to grow in our faith through a Lenten Bible Study Series. Please join us in Fellowship Hall on Wednesdays throughout Lent from 12:10 -12:45 for education and discussion. We will be using the book The Last Week by Marcus Borg and John Crossan as a guide for this study. (Hint: Bob Campbell has given us a little “sneak peak” into what this book entails in his library book review found in the February Lion). You are invited to

bring a brown bag lunch to munch as Pastor Vasey uses this time to teach. We look forward to learning and growing together beginning February 21st. All are welcome!

OUR SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES:



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



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!

Loose Bricks

By Joe Baur



Scavenger hunts are fun, ones that have a different twist are even better.

The internet is abuzz with the tiny duck craze. These tiny ducks look like the classic rubber bath toy but are only 1/2 inch tall. The Tiny Duck prank started a few years ago when someone hid some around his house while his parents were on vacation. It has taken off with homes, work places and even neighborhoods being “pranked” with little ducks.

Did you know if you own a jeep you can also be “ducked”. So if you see a jeep with a lot of ducks on the dash then they were “ducked”.

Well here at the church we are going to do it a little different. No ducks will be wondering around the building but small wooden crosses, like the one pictured below.

So keep your eyes open and look for them anywhere (main floor only). If you find one and want to keep it I also have some small chains for you to hang them on your keychain or whatever.

Just drop me a note that you found one and where, so I can hide more

So have fun and good luck.



UPCOMING CAMP EVENTS



February 11, 2024: Mount Luther Sunday

The Upper Susquehanna Synod Council has designated Transfiguration Sunday each year as “Camp Mount Luther Sunday” to help promote outdoor ministries in the synod. Camp Mount Luther is an extension of our ministry together and we hope all congregations will join in celebrating outdoor ministries by offering financial support, keeping the camp staff in prayer, and by participating in the numerous events and activities this ministry offers.

February 11, 2024: Taste of Camp

Hungry for camp but can't wait until the summer? Always wanted to try camp but not sure you'll like it? Camp Mount Luther has an event for you! On February 11, 2024, from 2:00-4:00 p.m., you can get a Taste of Camp! Enjoy songs, food, games, a campfire program, information on the 2024 program, and more! Those who attend will get Camel Bucks to spend in the camp store this summer. Campers from synod congregations who attend this event (or sign up to be a camper with the director) will get Camel Bucks for all their congregation's Summer 2024 campers.



United Campus Ministry Soup Sale

Donation: \$12.00 per quart

Checks payable to "United Churches of Lycoming County - Campus Ministry"

All soup is freshly homemade and then frozen.

Quantities are limited...first ordered, first served!

Mail Payment and Order Form to:

United Churches of Lycoming County

202 East Third Street

Williamsport, PA 17701

Orders are due no later than **February 23, 2024.**

Order Form

<u>Type</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
Beef and Barley.....	_____
Broccoli and Cheddar.....	_____
Chicken Corn Chowder.....	_____
Chicken Noodle.....	_____
Ham and Bean.....	_____
Hot Sausage and Shrimp Gumbo.....	_____
Hungarian Mushroom.....	_____
Spinach, Sausage, and Tomato Tortellini.....	_____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Please select **PICK UP** or **DELIVERY** below:

_____ Pick Up - New Covenant UCC, 202 East Third Street, Williamsport
 Friday, March 15th - 8:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.

OR

_____ Delivery - Friday, March 15th
 Delivery Address: _____

**Thank you for supporting United Churches of Lycoming County
 Campus Ministry!**

February

- AQUARIUS
- CANDLELIGHT
- CARNATION
- CHOCOLATE
- COZY
- CUPID
- FEBRUARY
- FIREPLACE
- FRIENDSHIP
- GROUNDHOG DAY
- HEART
- HUG
- KISS
- LEAP YEAR
- LOVE
- MARDI GRAS
- PINK
- PISCES
- PRESIDENTS DAY
- RED
- ROMANCE
- ROSES
- SKIING
- SNOW
- SWEETHEART
- VALENTINE
- WINTER

WORD SEARCH DIRECTIONS: Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.



February



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 2 3

4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Holy Communion 8:00AM
 Holy Communion 10:30AM

Finance Committee 5:30PM ML

City Pastor's Lunch 1PM ML
 Evan & Fellowship Meeting 5:30PM ML

11 12 13 14 Ash 15 16 17

Holy Communion 8:00AM
 Holy Communion 10:30AM
 Souper Bowl

Shrove Tuesday Fellowship 5:30PM ML

Wednesday 12:05 Chapel (Ashes and Communion) 7:00PM Nave (Ashes & Communion)

18 19 20 21 22 23 24

Holy Communion 8:00AM
 Holy Communion 10:30AM

President's Day Office Closed

25 26 27 28 29

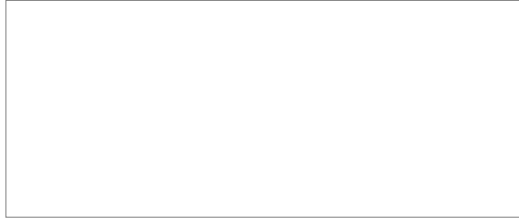
Holy Communion 8:00AM
 Holy Communion 10:30AM



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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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 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

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 Baysore
By appointment
Administrative Assistant: Joseph Baur
Tuesday through Friday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
jbaur@stmarkswilliamsport.org
January Edition