



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.”*

July

2024



Pastor's “Lion” Message for July 2024

*So if the Son makes you free, you will be free
indeed (John 8:36).*

When Jesus makes the above statement to the Pharisees he is proclaiming a new interpretation of God's ways. In ancient Israel the Pharisees (teachers of the law of Moses) taught the people that the way to please God was rigid and narrow keeping of God's commandments. To not keep God's Law meant God's wrath. Jesus countered their teaching with his own interpretation of what it meant to be people of God: A people set free.

How could Jesus make this claim? Jesus proclaimed that he was Son of God. At the time of the first century, “the son” of a deity was considered the very presence of that deity. When Jesus stated that he was “Son of God” or “The Son” he proclaimed that he was God in the flesh, and therefore, his interpretation of all things of God should carry more weight than other teachers.

Jesus preached that he brought ultimate freedom. As followers of Jesus today, this is still our claim. In him we find our ultimate freedom; Jesus has set us free from all burdens of “Law”.

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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

.....Continued from Page 1

- ♦ We are free from all rigid interpretations of scripture
- ♦ We are free from sin and death
- ♦ We are free from hatred of others
- ♦ We are free from fear of others
- ♦ We are free from what others might call us
- ♦ We are free from all that might hinder service to God

As followers of Jesus as Savior and Lord we proclaim that in him we have ultimate freedom!

The question then is what do we do with our freedom? Jesus answers that too. In Matthew 20:28 Jesus said, "...the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve." In John 13:1-17 after he washes his disciples' feet Jesus teaches that serving one another in love (a love for love's sake) should be our example. Our freedom in Christ is a freedom to serve; to love; to care for others. We are free in Christ to help one another. Not to belittle each other. Not to throw insults at one another. Not to be arrogant about political views. Not to call into question how another might or might not celebrate July 4. Jesus sets us free from rigid keeping of law that we might celebrate the gospel as love for one another.

Jesus brings true freedom. Jesus sets us free. The freedoms we enjoy as citizens of the USA, political freedom, are as my Aunt Alice (my godmother) would say, "icing on the cake." Those freedoms are truly wonderful but even if they did not exist we would still be free, free to celebrate and tell of God's love in Jesus Christ; a freedom that is timeless and knows no boundary or burden. "If the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed!"

Grace + Peace,

Pastor Vasey

*That
Sunday
Morning
Feeling*

JOIN US ON SUNDAY MORNINGS IN JULY!

**Sunday, July 7, The Seventh
Sunday after Pentecost**

Holy Communion, 9:30 am

**Sunday, July 14, The Eighth
Sunday after Pentecost**

Holy Communion, 9:30 am

**Sunday, July 21, The Ninth Sun-
day after Pentecost**

Holy Communion, 9:30 am

*Our Church Picnic follows
morning worship. All are welcome*

**Sunday, July 28, The Tenth Sun-
day after Pentecost**

Holy Communion, 9:30 am

***Please note: There will be one
worship time, 9:30 am, June 2-
September 1, and no Sunday
School. Our "Fall Sched-
ule" (Holy Communion, 8 am;
Sunday School, 9:15 am; Holy
Communion, 10:30 am) will re-
sume on Sunday, September 8,
2024, 8 am.***



+ 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.



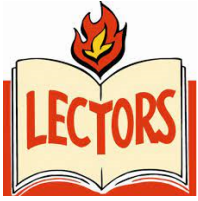
Do you enjoy reading? Do you have an interest in exploring the variety of materials found in our church library? Would you be willing to write a short synopsis of a church library book you read for The Lion? If so, the Faith Formation Committee wants YOU! Please see Vicki Hausmann, Sally Bjornstad, or Bob Campbell if you would like to be featured as a

guest columnist in The Lion! We will gladly assist you in finding the perfect book to read for this newly established (although not yet named) column. We look forward to discovering more about the materials found in our library through you. Thank you for sharing your talents in this exciting way!

SUMMER SCHEDULE STARTS

Holy Communion 9:30AM

JUNE, JULY, AUGUST AND September 1



Summer Schedule One Service

JULY Lectors

- July 7 Brenda Gair
- July 14 Vicki Haussmann
- July 21 Donna Boston
- July 28 Candy Dewar

ONE SERVICE 9:30AM



Usher Schedule for JULY

- July 7 Tim Maggs, captain
Carl Hieber, Charles Kuntz
- July 14 Mike Jensen, captain
Pam Jensen, Shelby and
Gary Weber
- July 21 Matt Fortin, captain
Glenn Yapple, Dick Reitz
- July 28 Carl Albright, captain
Brenda and Levi Gair



Communion Assistants for JULY

Please arrange replacement if you cannot serve.

- July 7 Nikki and Brian Jackson
- July 14 Dan Zeigler and
Drew Haussmann
- July 21 Matt and Wanda Fortin
- July 28 Becky Pryor and
Jackie Kinney

Altar Guild for JULY

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



Operation Christmas Child

It's "Christmas in July" for our Operation Christmas Child Ministry! On our Christmas Wish List this year is ... monetary donations (we are more like teenagers than toddlers I guess!). Monetary donations will be put toward one of two items: shipping costs to help defray the expense of shipping our 60 (or more) shoeboxes **or** soccer balls and pumps. Soccer balls are a wonderful "**WOW**" item to include our shoeboxes. Shoebox recipients share that a soccer ball can also be a gift for an entire village when everyone gathers to play on the pitch. Monetary donations may be placed in the offering plate earmarked for Operation Christmas Child.

School supplies will also be making their entrance onto the scene within the next couple of weeks so crayons, pencils, pencil sharpeners, erasers, and pens are also wonderful donations.

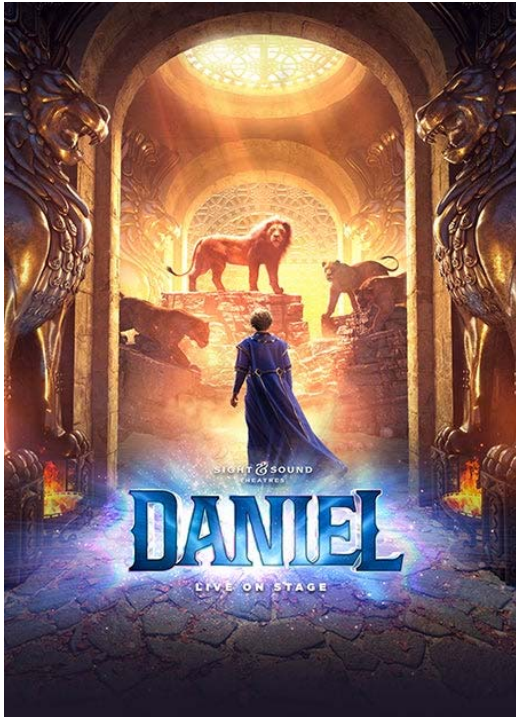
These items (or any others you find) may be placed in our red, OCC bin located in the Narthex. We thank you for your continued generosity! "Merry Christmas in July!"



St. Mark's Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

"To know Christ and to make Christ known"
JUNE Report

No Report was available at time of printing this month



The Bus Trip to see "Daniel" at Sight and Sound Theatre

Wednesday, September 11, 2024. The cost of the trip, which includes the show, meal and bus fare is \$153.00/person. We will depart from the lower west end of Beiter's Parking Lot (Williamsport) at 6 am sharp. Please contact Cheryl Williams (570) 327-1627 to reserve space and to answer any questions concerning the trip.

Summer Hospitality!

The summer months are once again upon us and with them come long, lazy days, swimming, camping, smores, suntans, and all sorts of fun, summery things. At St. Mark's, summer also means a single service beginning at 9:30 AM.

We look forward to sharing hospitality with each other after the 9:30 service, and ask that you please consider signing up to share a few treats ~ nothing fancy is required! Perhaps find a friend to help make the load just a bit lighter. Sign-up sheets may be found in the "Hospitality Binder" on the "Hospitality Table" in the Narthex. We look forward to spending a little time together on these Summer Sunday mornings. Thank you for helping!





| | |
|----------------------|---------|
| Maxwell Hospes | July 3 |
| Philip Thomas | July 4 |
| America | July 4 |
| Corey Hospes | July 6 |
| Dylan Ott | July 9 |
| Nicholas Buckman | July 10 |
| Annika Waffenschmidt | July 12 |
| Levi Gair | July 13 |
| Nancy Larson | July 14 |
| Vicki Hausmann | July 15 |
| Brenda Bower | July 18 |
| Pamela Jensen | July 21 |
| Constance Shaible | July 22 |
| Evan Barone | July 23 |
| Edward Gair | July 24 |
| Shirley Hill | July 25 |
| Gail Greninger | July 26 |
| Ann Kuntz | July 27 |
| John Bower | July 28 |
| Matthew Fortin | July 29 |
| Stephen Dewar | July 31 |

| | |
|---------------------------|--------|
| Cynthia and Ray Huff | July 3 |
| Margie and Walter Doebler | July 5 |
| Elizabeth and Daryl Lewis | July 5 |



Deaths of founding fathers: Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and James Monroe, all key figures in American history, [died on July 4](#). Jefferson and Adams passed away [on the same day](#) in 1826, exactly 50 years after the Declaration of Independence was adopted. Monroe followed five years later in 1831.

A presidential birth: Calvin Coolidge, the 30th President of the United States, was the only president [born on Independence Day](#), specifically on July 4, 1872.

Evangelism and Fellowship Committee

JULY 2024



Fourth of July Celebration at St. Mark's

Join us as we honor God and country on this special day. Bring a friend and a lawn chair. Come early and stay late. Street hospitality begins at 6:00 PM with a performance by Sam Robinson from the movies of Walt Disney at 7:30 PM in our Nave.

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee is still accepting monetary donations to offset the purchase of needed items. Checks may be made payable to St. Mark's with the memo line indicating the July Fourth Celebration.

Cereal Sundays



For food insecure families with children, there is no vacation from hunger during the summer months. We can help ease that burden. In addition to non-perishable food items being donated to the United Churches Food Pantry, the Evangelism and Fellowship Committee is designating the second Sunday of each summer month to collecting boxes of cereal

of any kind and in any size.

Our next Cereal Sunday is July 14, 2023.

Can we match or beat our June collection of 52 boxes of cereal?

Vacation Bible School Supper

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee will host a light supper for the children attending the United Churches' VBS program at St. John's-Newberry UMC on Monday, July 22, 2024 at 5:30 PM. Although our menu or the number of children attending is not confirmed at this time, we would be grateful for monetary donations to purchase food items for the evening. Checks can be made payable to St. Mark's with the memo line indicating the Evangelism and Fellowship Committee.

Ongoing Collections at St. Mark's:

Sojourner Truth Ministries (STM): Lemonade and ice tea mix, ketchup, relish, brown lunch bags, Dixie Bowls and Dixie Luncheon Plates. FYI: STM serves more than **600** meals each week that include both eat-in and brown bag lunches to go.

Blessing Boxes at New Covenant UCC: Monetary donations toward the cost of preparing 80 - 96 sandwiches per month are greatly appreciated. Checks may be made payable to St. Mark's with the memo line indicating Parish Life. Also needed are easily prepared foods like Cup of Soups, individual packs of crackers and cookies, microwave mac & cheese, ramen noodles and individual boxes of cereal. Travel size hygiene items are also needed.

Blessing Box Needs: The Parish Life and Evangelism and Fellowship Committees are asking for two specific donations. They are **Star-Kist Tuna Creations: Deli Style Tuna Salad and Star-Kist Chicken Creations: Chicken Salad**. These items do not need refrigeration and resist spoiling due to extreme temperatures. A container is available in the Narthex for these specific items.

United Churches Food Pantry: Needed are canned vegetables, pasta of all kinds, cans of soup and jars of peanut butter and jelly. See the information concerning Cereal Sunday, July 14, 2024.



Shepherd of the Streets: Needed for men and women are Shampoo and Conditioner, Shaving Cream, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Body Wash, Paper Towels, Toilet Tissue, Deodorant and small packages of Laundry Pods. Feminine hygiene items for women and girls are also needed.

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

Ongoing Events at Redeemer Lutheran:

For desserts in July, Jim and Susan Newcomer will provide cookie packs. Thank you, Jim and Susan, for your continued commitment to this outreach.

Community Dinner on Thursday, July 11, 2024 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, July 25, 2024 from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM.

Distribution of free summer clothing is Saturday, July 27, 2024 from 8:30 AM–11:00 AM. In addition to clean clothing in good condition, shoes for men, women and children are always needed. Sheets, blankets, throws and afghans are also accepted.

If you have a large quantity of clothing, please call Redeemer's office (leave a message) at 570-322-2333 to make an appointment. Smaller quantities of clothing may be placed on the stage if you are unable to accommodate the drop off date.

Did You Know?

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee reaches out regularly to our community in addition to managing the card ministry and helping to host events at St. Mark's in conjunction with the Faith Formation and Parish Life Committees.

In addition to our regular outreach activities this summer, we will be assisting with the church picnic, hosting a blood drive and providing a Saturday lunch for volunteers at the Faith Build in partnership with Habitat for Humanity on Scott Street in Williamsport.

If any of these activities interest you, please consider joining us for one or all of them. Speak with Becky Miller Pryor for details.

Still Cleaning? Redecorating? Moving? Got Stuff?



The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee and the Women of St. Mark's need many more donations for our annual Fall Sale that is tentatively scheduled for September 13 and September 14. If you are discovering items, you no longer need or want, please donate them to us.

We are accepting holiday decorations, housewares, linens, toys, small, working

electronics, gadgets, dishes, jewelry, lamps, art work and the list goes on. If you cannot use it or want it, we probably can sell it.

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

Please place your donations in boxes small enough for us to lift. Donations can be placed 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. Extra boxes for your convenience are available in the Bazaar Room.

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

July 2: National I Forgot Day



**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.



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!



**NO SUNDAY
SCHOOL
During the
Summer**

Please join us on Sunday, July 21st following our worship service, for a church picnic held in Fellowship Hall. This is the best of both worlds as picnic food will be coupled with a bug-free, dry, cool environment! Hotdogs, beverages, and chips will be provided ~ as well as all plates and utensils. **Please bring a dish to share as you are able.**

If you need a ride or if you have questions, please be in touch with Vicki Hausmann at (570) 447-3263.



Submit your email address to:

jbaur@stmarkswilliamsport.org and say you want to receive the monthly "Lion" by email.

Advantages

No waiting for snail mail for it to arrive

Always available to review on your phone, tablet or laptop.



Would you like to pick up your monthly "Lion" here at the church, just let me know. Send me an email at jbaur@stmarkswilliamsport.org or call me at 570-323-4619 or stop by the office and let me know.

Thanks

Joe

UNITED CHURCHES OF LYCOMING COUNTY
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

CAMP FIRELIGHT

Sunday, July 21st - Thursday, July 25th
Held at Saint John's-Newberry United Methodist Church
2101 Newberry Street, Williamsport

New!! Free Supper 5:30 - 6:00 p.m. - VBS 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. each evening
designed for ages 4 - 12 and special abilities adults



Registration Form (one form per child/person)

Child Name: _____

Address: _____

Emergency Contact Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Email: _____ Cell#: _____

Age: _____ Grade Completed: _____ Church Affiliation: _____

New!! Attending the free nightly light supper: ____ Yes ____ No

What special needs/concerns/allergies do we need to be aware of to make this the best experience:

Name of person who will be dropping off/picking up child: _____

Photo Release: Camp Firelight VBS has my permission to use my child's photograph publicly in VBS materials. I understand the images may be used in print publications, online publications, presentations, websites, and social media. ____ Yes ____ No

Photo Signature Acknowledgement _____

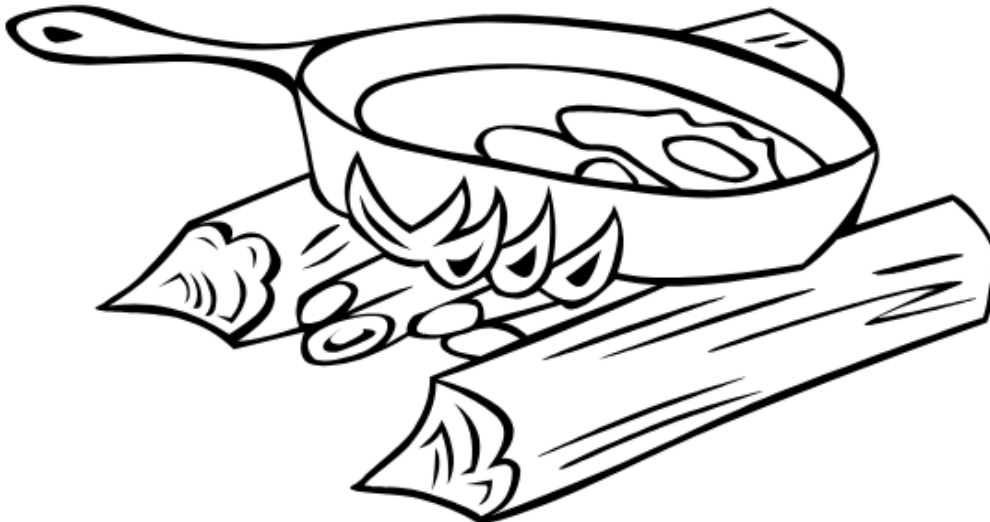
How did you hear about our VBS event? _____

Please drop-off or mail information by Sunday, July 14th to any participating church or to the office of: Saint John's-Newberry UMC, 2101 Newberry Street, Williamsport, PA 17701 or email to secretary@stjnumc.com

Campsite Amenities

S T R U Y G N I P M A L G Q T B E O F E V B L C
 G G X K C D D U I M S H O W E R B L O C K E Y S
 M A L U T G C G B Y T M W X G G Q P G Z B U P H
 W M Z G J N D G S P A C E N T R E P U F U F U O
 I E R L O I R Q R U R R Z V D O O W A C V U D P
 C S N Y K D Z E L E C T R I C H O O K U P R Z E
 X R S P I N E J Y W R E S T A U R A N T I H T T
 F O W R M A R X L R E C E P T I O N R N L L Z W
 I O I M N T I I Z F R T L C X D F K K G A X R A
 R M M S E S H C A F E Z G Q U L X I X U A W A L
 E Y M N W D E T M Q R R X N P D N S N W X A R K
 C U I E P R K M M K V H O A I G O D I L L S H I
 R F N H A A I X L R V D X S W R R R Q X C T L N
 E V G C P H B G D A J A D A Z Y E B P Q E E X G
 A S P T E Q D P O P Y A T X R T I R E L V F A A
 T X O I R L R X G Y Z E G O O K E E I J A A M R
 I J O K S Y K G S A R B O I E W R U X F Q C M E
 O F L X D Q Y R W L I M L T M B I C K H Z I O A
 N U I O N X R M E P N E R D P T F E A Q V L D L
 A U S W U C X F L U T A O S L O P B P N V I P C
 R O K K E U L V C S I K H O P O M R L Y P T Z F
 E X H Z Z E D V O L Q O L P L I A A F C D I C Y
 A M A F B U R H M I G N C O F F C B H P O E R J
 N U Q K J C N F E C S E H C T I P R E P U S S X

- Electric hook up
- Pet walking area
- Waste facilities
- Recreation area
- Drinking water
- Glamping yurts
- Hard standing
- Local produce
- Super pitches
- Swimming pool
- Dogs welcome
- Laundry Room
- Shower block
- Bike trail
- Games room
- Restaurant
- Spa centre
- Bike hire
- Fire ring
- Free wifi
- Newspapers
- Play park
- Reception
- Barbecue
- Campfire
- Kitchen
- Toilets
- Cafe
- Shop
- Pub





Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|----|----|----|---|----|----|
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 Church Office Closed Independence Day | 5 | 6 |
| 7 Holy Communion 9:30AM | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 Holy Communion 9:30AM | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 Holy Communion 9:30AM | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 Holy Communion 9:30AM | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |

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



JUNE Edition

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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
Nikki Jackson, 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