



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."*

August

2024



Pastor's "Lion" Message for August 2024

[God] had opened the door of faith for Gentiles (Acts 14:27)

In the church I attended as a boy there is a stained-glass window depicting a heavy wooden door with no outside handle and Jesus standing there knocking. Many interpret this familiar image as Jesus knocking on the door of people's hearts, hoping they will invite him into their lives as Savior and Lord.

Encouraged and invited by The Small Catechism we Lutherans turn toward a much different interpretation. In his explanation of the third article of the Apostles' Creed Luther teaches:

I believe that in my own understanding or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him. But instead the Holy Spirit has called me through the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, sanctified and kept me in true faith.

When looking at this image then, we believe God the Holy Spirit opens the door for Jesus and invites him into our lives.

continued on page 2.....

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pastor July Message	Page 1
Sundays in July	Page 2
Book Reviewers Needed	Page 3
July Lectors and Ushers Schedule	Page 4
Communion Assistants for April	Page 4
Operation Christmas Child	Page 5
July Council Meeting Notes	Page 6
Sight and Sound "Daniel"	Page 6
Summer Hospitality	Page 6
Birthdays/Anniversaries	Page 7
Evan and Fellowship notes	Page 8-10
Family Promise	Page 8
Cereal Sundays	Page 8
Ongoing Events	Page 9
Spring Cleaning	Page 11
Lutheran World Relief	Page 12
A Message from the Bishop	Page 13
Puzzle Page	Page 14
Calendar	Page 15

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

God wills and desires Christ to be so much a part of our lives that God does not leave it to chance or to our own whims and desires. Our God always takes the initiative.

In a reading from Acts the Apostle Paul notes that when Gentiles became believers it was (and is) through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, not by forcing faith upon people, but by opening the door and inviting them in.

Many times we Lutherans “Sell short the Holy Spirit”. Without the Spirit’s ministry and invitation where would we be? On the outside looking in.

We do not need to fear. We do not need to question. God in Christ is with us. No matter we encounter. No Matter what the outcome of the presidential election, in Christ God does not abandon us. Jesus knocks. The Holy Spirit opens the door. And we welcome the God of all creation into our lives for God has already declared us welcome.

Grace + Peace,
Pastor Vasey



JOIN US ON SUNDAY MORNINGS IN AUGUST!

*Sunday, August 4, The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Communion. 9:30AM*

*Sunday, August 11, The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Communion. 9:30AM*

*Sunday, August 18, The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Communion. 9:30AM*

*Sunday, August 25, The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Communion. 9:30AM*

BACKPACK BLESSING
On Sunday, August 18, St. Mark’s invites all who carry a backpack and/or briefcase to bring their “satchel” with them to worship for a blessing as a new school and work year begins. A limited number of school supplies will be available. All are welcome!

Please note:

There will be one worship time, 9:30AM, June 2-September 1, and no Sunday School. Our “Fall Schedule” (Holy Communion, 8AM; Sunday School, 9:15AM; Holy Communion, 10:30AM) will resume on, Sunday September 8, 2024, 8:00AM.



+ 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.

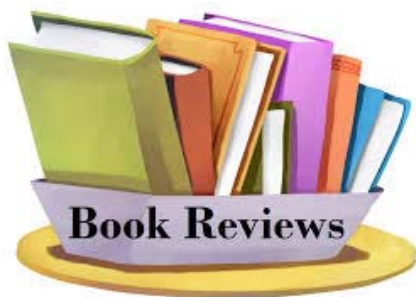


+ When you or a loved one has a change of address, telephone number or email, please contact the church office at 570-323-4619 or stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org. Please direct your intentions whether or not to share this information with our church family.



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.



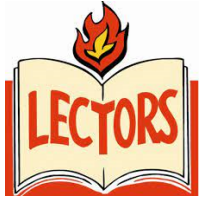
Do you enjoy reading? Do you have an interest in exploring the variety of materials found in our church library? Would you be willing to write a short synopsis of a church library book you read for The Lion? If so, the Faith Formation Committee wants YOU! Please see Vicki Hausmann, Sally Bjornstad, or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

AUGUST Lectors

August 4	Ralph Zeigler
August 11	Nikki Jackson
August 18	Linda Rosini
August 25	Deb Buckman
September 1	Gary Weber

ONE SERVICE 9:30AM



Usher Schedule for August

August 4	Tim Maggs, captain Carl Hieber, Charles Kuntz
August 11	Mike Jensen, captain Pam Jensen, Shelby & Gary Weber
August 18	Matt Fortin, captain Glenn Yaple, Dick Reitz
August 25	Carl Albright, captain Brenda and Levi Gair
September 1	Tim Maggs, captain Carl Hieber, Charles Kuntz



Communion Assistants for August

Please arrange replacement if you cannot serve.

August 4	Deb Buckman and Mindy Wentzel
August 11	Walt Doebler and Gary Weber
August 18	Ralph and Lou Ann Zeigler
August 25	Matt and Wanda Fortin
September 1	Nikki and Brian Jackson

Altar Guild for AUGUST

Bev Hieber and
Audrey Albright



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Our shoeboxes are getting closer and closer to being filled with just three more months of collecting to go! We bet you might have a good guess as to what August collections might be. Did you say school supplies? Then you are absolutely correct!



In August we are indeed collecting **School Supplies** ~ crayons, pencils, pens, erasers, colored pencils, rulers, scissors (both kid and adult sizes).... you get the picture! Keep an eye out for those great sales that have already started!

These items (or any others you find) may be placed in our red, OCC bin located in the Narthex.

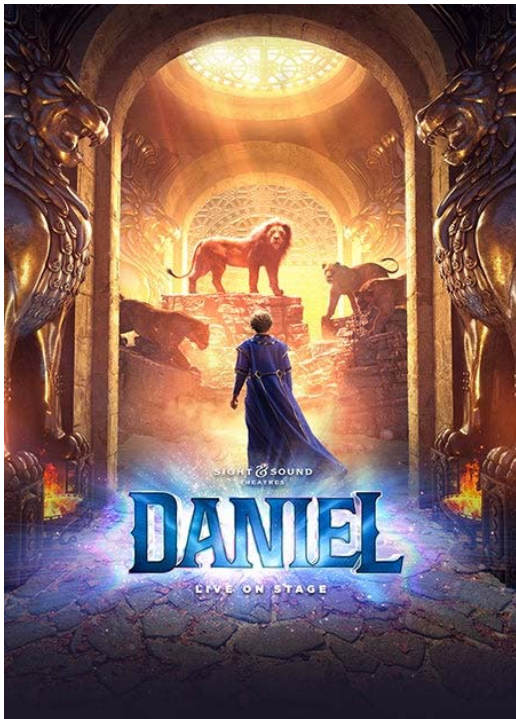
Thank you, thank you, thank you!



St. Mark's Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

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

No Council Meeting Notes for July due to council not meeting in July



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!





Donna Clark	August 7
Charles Fortin	August 8
Ruth Ann Bigelow	August 14
Ray Huff	August 14
Carl Albright	August 15
Beverly Hieber	August 15
Richard Bates, Jr.	August 16
Stacie Bieber	August 18
Elizabeth Lewis	August 18
Sean Clouser	August 19
Daniel Zeigler	August 23
Nathan Clouser	August 26
Jonah Schreckengast	August 28
Shirley Kinney	August 29
Ashton Ott	August 29
Lorraine Barone	August 30
Lou Ann Zeigler	August 30

Nancy and Ernest Larson	August 1
Donna and Ronald Baker	August 2
Leah and Walter Haussmann	August 3
Karen and Bryan Pelleschi	August 7
Deborah and Timothy Maggs	August 10
Laura & Kenneth Schreckengast	August 10
Kathy and Neil Eshelman	August 14
Brenda and Edward Gair	August 14
Karen and Stephen Mariano	August 14
Beverly and Carl Hieber	August 18
Jane and Paul Zimmerer	August 24
Carol and David Butters	August 25
Gloria and Charles Greevy	August 26
Barbara and Philip Thomas	August 28
Valerie Doeblor and Thomas Waffenschmidt	August 30

Quick Update on Me and Fred:

Thank you all so much for the prayers and cards, they are so kind and help me when things get a little down. Chemo is going as well as can be expected. One more round and I will get a PET scan to see how much Fred as suffered (shrunk).

Thank You, Joe Baur, Your Administrative Assistant

Evangelism and Fellowship Committee Articles for The Lion

August 2024

July Fourth Celebration at St. Mark's

Once again, we celebrated God and country on our front lawn. As the night progressed, more folks joined us for refreshments and fellowship. Sam Robinson entertained more than eighty folks in the Nave with his program of "Disney on Pipes." The fireworks did not disappoint as the evening concluded.

Although there is no cost for any of our street hospitality or for the concert in the nave, we do collect donations on behalf of the United Churches Food Pantry and the Shepherd of the Streets. This year \$280.00 was shared equally by these two programs. The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee thanks the congregation not only for their unwavering support of this event, but to the many members of the congregation that "worked" the event from set-up to clean-up. Without this dedication, our celebration would not have been able to span more than two decades and still be going strong.

Upcoming Evangelism and Fellowship Activities

Friday, August 2, 2024: Red Cross Blood Drive in Fellowship Hall from 10:30 -3:00 with set-up beginning at 9:30.

Saturday, August 10, 2024: This committee will serve its third Habitat for Humanity luncheon to volunteers working on the Faith Build on Scott Street in Williamsport.

We could use some help with either of these events. If one or both of them interest you, speak with Becky Miller Pryor.

Card Ministry: Thank you, Glenn Yapple for your assistance in sending cards during July. Leah Hausmann is our volunteer for August.

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. At this time, the Pantry is in particular need of single-serving containers of cereal.

Our next Cereal Sunday is August 11, 2024.

Can we beat our July collection of 72 boxes of cereal?

Ongoing Collections at St. Mark's:

Sojourner Truth Ministries (STM): Brown lunch bags, jars of mayo and Dawn dish detergent. 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, pop top cans of Chef Boyardee pasta, 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 this summer. 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. Also see the information concerning Cereal Sunday, August 11, 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 August, Jim and Susan Newcomer will once again provide cookie packs. Thank you, Jim and Susan, for your unwavering commitment to this outreach.

September's Desserts: Starting in mid-August, the Evangelism and Fellowship Committee will be collecting boxes of Tastykake cupcakes of all kinds for Redeemer's community dinner.

Community Dinner on Thursday, August 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.

Daniel's Closet: This month's clothing drop-off at Redeemer is Thursday, August 22, 2024 from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM. Light-weight clothing is still being accepted.

Distribution of free clothing is Saturday, August 24, 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.

Pastors' Luncheons Return

Starting Thursday, September 12, 2024 and meeting monthly through May, local Pastors will meet for lunch and fellowship at St. Mark's. The Parish Life committee takes the lead on this event and we are in need of new volunteers to assist in the preparation, serving and clean-up of this event. Speak with Becky Miller Pryor if you can provide a salad or dessert, would like to help prepare the entrée or assist with cleaning up afterwards.

FALL SALE POSTPONED

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 to be successful. Due to an insufficient number of items at this time, the decision has been made to postpone our sale until September 2025.

If you have yet to gather things for the sale, there is still time. If you have already donated items, there is more time to look again at your treasures and decide what can be donated.

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. If you are unsure as to if your item can be used, speak with Becky Pryor.

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


Family Promise



Our next hosting is the first week in September. We will provide dinner on Sun. through Fri. Tues. dinner will be done by our partner church. Remember, you can make food, you can take the ingredients to make food so the guests can cook, or you can order take-out. If you want you can stay and visit with the guests also. Please let me know if you are willing to help, Deb Buckman



Sunday School Resumes September 15





Remembrance Day

August 6th at 6 p.m.
at the Yasui Peace Tower on the corner of Pine Street and Little League Blvd to mark the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings in 1945

Dr. Robert S. Yasui commissioned the Peace Tower in the mid-1980s. He hoped that it would provide a place of meditation for the community, a place where those struggling with obstacles in their life might find rest. If you happen to find yourself in the area, listen for the beautiful chimes that play. At night, the Tower is well lit and seems to beckon you to come and take a minute to reflect on the bench that surrounds it. The plaque on the Tower reads, "Dedicated...to the humanity that makes us all one."

From August 6th to the 9th, 1945, more than 200,000 people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki lay dead from the use of the first atomic bombs. Since August 1945, many thousands more have died, and continue to die, from the radioactive fallout of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.



Hosted by The Christian Social Concerns Committee of the United Churches of Lycoming County

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 you 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

Lutheran World Relief



Lutheran World Relief

Hi – it is that time – kits! St. Marks want to make its mark so how about 70 school kits, 10 personal care kits, 10 baby kits and 10 sewing kits. The directions are in the narthex or you can contact me, Deb Buckman for information. The bags for school kits are also in the narthex as well as plenty of erasers, pens, pencils and other items. For personal care kits there are combs and nail clip-

pers. Diapers and diaper pins are also available. Completed kits can be place in the tub under the table with the supplies on it. D Buckman dabuckman65@gmail.com 570-323-1707 Walmart and Staples have notebooks and other items on sale. Watch for the coupons for JoAnn's for fabric. TG Maxx is a good place for the baby kits. Kits are due by the end of September



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!



Bishop Eaton Addresses Political Violence

7/16/2024 5:30:00 PM

For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us (Ephesians 2:14).

Just a few weeks ago in my June column for *Living Lutheran* I wrote, "I can't think of an election cycle more fraught and divisive than this one. People all across the political spectrum claim that life as we know it is on the line. It's not possible to agree to disagree—one must decide and put a stake in the ground. There is the potential for violence." That potential is now a reality after last weekend's shooting at a Trump campaign rally that killed Corey D. Comperatore and injured other attendees. I am thankful that former President Trump's injury was minor and pray for his recovery alongside those affected.

I also wrote, "But division and violence don't have to be our inevitable future." I believe this and that God calls this church to say a definitive "no" to political violence now and in the future. Political violence has a long history but no place in democracy. This church belongs to God, and our unity in Christ is a grace-filled and healing gift in a fractured society. As the ELCA we have theological and community resources to meet this moment through worship, discipleship and civic engagement.

In the face of violence, God's resolve for peace in human communities is unshakable. In proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ's forgiveness, healing and new life, the church addresses the ultimate root of violence. God calls us as church together in this moment to hear and embody this good news by embracing our identity as peacemakers through active civic engagement grounded in our baptismal identity and our institutional witness to foster justice, racial and social equity, reconciliation, and healing with compassion and imagination.

Last weekend's shooting has distressed and destabilized our nation. Political violence breeds fear and can set in motion cycles of violence that will further shatter us. Consider how, as individuals and communities in our life together, you will:

- Confess and confront the violent tendencies within ourselves and our society.
- Resist use of dehumanizing language about people with different political leanings.
- Build bridges of curiosity and compassion with people who think differently.
- Find ways to cultivate the practices of nonviolence in civic life.

Our inevitable future belongs to God. In this certainty and bound together in Christian hope, consider how you can join me in ongoing prayer and actions for our nation, a peaceful election season, the safety of candidates for office, and a bold and life-giving witness of our church in the time ahead.

In Christ,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

- ADVENTURE
- AMUSEMENT PARK
- AUGUST
- BACK TO SCHOOL
- BACKYARD
- BICYCLE
- CAMPFIRE
- CAMPING
- CORN ON THE COB
- FARMERS MARKET
- FIREFLY
- FLOWERS
- FRUIT
- FUN
- GRILLING
- HOT
- HUMID
- LAKE
- PLAYGROUND
- POPSICLE
- RELAXATION
- ROAD TRIP
- SAILBOAT
- STATE FAIR
- SUMMER
- SUNFLOWER
- SUNNY



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

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



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 2 3

4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Holy Communion
9:30AM

11 12 13 14 15 16 17

Holy Communion
9:30AM

18 19 20 21 22 23 24

Holy Communion
9:30AM

25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Holy Communion
9:30AM

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
142 MARKET STREET
WILLIAMSPORT, PA 17701
Address Service Requested
 Phone: 570-323-4619
 Fax: 570-323-2452
 Website: www.stmarkswilliamsport.org
 Email: stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org



JUNE Edition

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

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