



# 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.”*

### December

### 2024



### Pastor's “Lion” Message for December 2024

#### Pastor's “Lion” Message December, 2024

*The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen (Luke 2:20).*

The Christmas story according to Luke is strange, almost schizophrenic. It begins with an orderly, dignified, peaceful report: An imperial headcount; a citizen and his wife returning to the city of their birth to be counted; a baby born and wrapped securely; shepherds guarding flocks. Nothing out of place. “All is calm, all is bright”.

And then, all heaven breaks loose! An angel- and by the way angels are presented as terrifying beings which is why their greeting is often, “Fear not”- announces a startling message. Legions of angels fill the air shouting, “Glory! Peace! Goodwill!” Shepherds run, they do not walk in an orderly manor with hands folded, they run to a stable. Onlookers gawk. Chaos abounds.

The Roman Empire had declared peace had come to the world, a Roman peace, the peace brought and enforced by the sword. The Christmas story according to Luke tells of a different peace, God's peace. It breaks into the world as the

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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: OPEN  
 Tuesday through Friday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.  
[jbaur@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:jbaur@stmarkswilliamsport.org)



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

(continued from p. 1)

“Lion of Judah” and dispenses the peace which comes with a sword with the Good News of the Lord's Peace brought by the Prince of Peace; a peace founded in love, understanding, compassion and mercy. A peace that is gift and not reward.

The Good News of Christmas is that God continues to break into our world and into our lives. Not in the orderly way we expect or in the sentimentality we seek to manufacture, but in the unexpected presence of God with us, Jesus our Messiah.

Grace + Peace,

Pastor Vasey

### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

(Tuesday December 24, 2024):

7 pm: “A Children's Candlelight Eucharist”. This service is “family friendly” and will include the Christmas story according to Luke, Christmas Carols appropriate for children, candlelight and Holy Communion.

10 pm: “A Traditional Christmas Eucharist by Candlelight”. This service will include the traditional “Christmas Proclamation”, the Christmas story according to Luke, a Christmas liturgy of familiar Christmas Carols, Choir anthems and Holy Communion.

*Best wishes for a Blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy 2025!*



JOIN US FOR SUNDAY  
WORSHIP IN DECEMBER:  
ALL ARE WELCOME

**Sunday, December 1, First Sunday of Advent**  
**Holy Communion, 8 am**  
**Sunday School, 9:15 am**  
**Holy Communion, 10:30 am**

**Sunday, December 8, Second Sunday of Advent**  
**(Annual Meeting)**  
**One Worship Time, 9:30 am**  
**The Chrismon Service**  
**Annual Meeting and Brunch Follows**  
**Worship**

**Sunday, December 15, Third Sunday of Advent**  
**Holy Communion, 8 am**  
**Sunday School, 9:15 am**  
**Holy Communion, 10:30 am**

**Sunday, December 22, Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**Holy Communion, 8 am**  
**Sunday School, 9:15 am**  
**Holy Communion, 10:30 am**

**Sunday, December 29, “Christmas Sunday”**  
**Holy Communion, 8 am**  
**Sunday School, 9:15 am**  
**Holy Communion, 10:30 am**

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CHURCH OFFICE  
WILL BE CLOSED WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 25  
– SATURDAY, DECEMBER 28 TO CELEBRATE  
THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY!**

**SHOULD YOU NEED A PASTOR DURING THIS  
TIME PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OF-  
FICE (570-323-4619) OR PASTOR VASEY (272-788-  
0161).**

*Merry Christmas and Happy 2025!*



+ 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.



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!

# December Worship Leaders



## Communion Assistants for December

Please arrange replacement if you cannot serve.

December 1

8:00AM Brian Jackson

10:30AM Shelby & Gary Weber

December 8

9:30 AM Dan Zeigler

December 15

8:00 AM Jackie Kinney

10:30 AM Deb Buckman & Mindy Wentz

December 22

8:00AM Drew Hausmann

10:30AM Ralph & Lou Ann Zeigler

December 29

8:00 AM Nikki Jackson

10:30 AM Matt & Wanda Fortin



## December Lectors

December 1

8:00AM Drew Hausmann

10:30AM Ralph Zeigler

December 8

9:30AM Deb Buckman

December 15

8:00AM Vicki Hausmann

10:30AM Linda Rosini

December 22

8:00AM Vicki Hausmann

10:30AM Phil Thomas

December 29

8:00AM Brian Jackson

10:30AM Shelby Weber



## Usher Schedule for November

December 1

8:00 AM Miller / Poff

10:30 AM Jensen Team

December 8

9:30 AM Fortin Team

December 15

8:00 AM Miller / Poff

10:30A M Albright Team

December 22

8:00AM Miller / Poff

10:30AM Maggs Team

December 24

7:00 PM Jensen Team

10:00 PM Fortin Team

December 29

8:00 AM Miller / Poff

10:30 AM Albright Team

## Altar Guild for December

Connie Shaible

Sally Bjornstad

Sarah Young





## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee and the Faith Formation Committee would like to **THANK YOU** for your wonderful support of Operation Christmas Child this year. Due to your generous donations, we were able to pack **75** beautiful shoeboxes, as well as cover the \$750.00 in shipping costs. Not only did we pack 75 boxes, 16 of those boxes were filled with “Grow With Me” shoes, and another 10 boxes were filled with a soccer ball and pump ~ a true blessing indeed! The impact that these gifts will have on kids is truly miraculous. God is at work!

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

Thank you again for your support of this worldwide ministry. We look forward to working with you again in 2025!

### *Wreath-Making*



Please join us on Sunday, December 1st, for our annual Advent Wreath-making event. We will gather in Fellowship Hall during the Sunday School hour (9:15 ish) and create an Advent Wreath for your family to use at home during the Advent season. We will be making our wreaths in

a variety of vessels and containers, using wet floral foam to keep the greens fresh throughout the Advent season. All materials will be provided! Please sign up in the Narthex or RSVP by contacting Vicki Hausmann at (570) 447-3263. We look forward to seeing you there!

\* Materials will also be available after the 10:30 service should you wish to meander on over to Fellowship Hall and create a wreath for your home.



Please join our Sunday School classes beginning at 9:15 AM.

Our Adult Class will meet in the chapel with a topic of study to be determined. We do know there will be no shortage of discussion, learning and laughter as Pastor leads this dedicated class in study.

We look forward to sharing this time of fellowship and study and hope to have you join us! All are welcome!

# December Birthdays

Rob Ott	12/2
David Elkin	12/4
Larry Lundy	12/6
Brittany Lynch	12/7
Laura Schreckengast	12/7
Orion Snyder	12/11
Ernest Larson	12/12
Megan Catino	12/13
Alverda Comerford	12/14
Derek Gilbert	12/17
Marlene Follmer	12/17
Ryan Clokey	12/18
Michael Jensen	12/18
Martha Hopley	12/19
Zachery Zimmerman	12/19
Daryl Lewis	12/22
Judith Fortin	12/23
Sarah Young	12/23
William Hill	12/26
Hannah Ramsauer	



Becky and Thomas Pryor  
December 21





**November 2024**

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

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

Report of the Secretary for the Council Meeting held November 18, 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"*  
Dick Reitz led us in opening prayer.

**M (Ray Huff ~ 2nd Debra Buckman) SC: CC: 24.11.1** Motion approved to ratify two recent email votes. The first email vote approved the purchase of a new dishwasher for the kitchen. The second email vote approved the replacement of Exit signs by Williamsport Electric. Both votes were unanimous in approval.

**Secretary's Roll Call:**

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

**Secretary's Report:** It was noted that the original minutes for the month of October were amended. The amended minutes for the month of October were approved as submitted.

**Treasurer's Report:** The treasurer's report/October statement of activities printed November 14, 2024 was accepted and filed for audit.

- Debra Buckman reviewed/explained pertinent numbers regarding October's income and expense reports. A hard copy of this information can be found in the "Minutes Binder" located in the church office.
- The October budget shortfall was covered by money that was transferred from our investment account in September. No additional investment withdrawals were made.

**Pastor's report:** As submitted by Pastor Vasey for the month of October.

**M (Ray Huff ~ 2nd Herb Poff) SC: CC: 24.11.2** Motion approved to allow the United Churches of Lycoming County to begin and end the October 12, 2025 CROP Walk at St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

**M (Vicki Haussmann ~ 2nd Nikki Jackson) SC: CC: 24.11.3** Motion approved to allow the purchase of two new office computers costing no more than the approved 2024 budgeted expense of \$2500. These new computers will be used by the Administrative Assistant and the Bookkeeper.

**Committee Reports:**

**Evangelism & Fellowship/Parish Life:** Update provided by Wanda Fortin, Liaison

- Committee provided a last minute lunch for Habitat for Humanity on 11/16/24.
- Card Ministry continues. Committee members will be sending Thanksgiving cards.

Congregation will be asked to mail provided Christmas cards to our special concern folks.

## Council Minutes Continued .....

- There is a 2 week “mini collection” (ending 11/24/24) of hygiene products for Shepard of the Streets.
- Christmas collections for our Christmas outreach will begin soon.

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

- 75 OCC boxes were packed and are ready to ship.
- Advent Devotionals and calendars will be available December 1st.
- Advent Wreath Making December 1st beginning at 9:15. Materials will be available in Fellowship Hall after the 10:30 service as well.

**Finance:** Update provided by Debra Buckman.

- Envelopes for Organ Repairs, Roof Repairs, and Heating Fund will be placed in the pews for congregation members to use if they wish to make additional donations to any of these causes.

**M (Finance Committee)** Motion to adopt the proposed budget for 2025 to support the ministry of St. Mark’s Lutheran Church and present it to the members of the congregation for final approval.

**M (Ray Huff ~ 2nd Wanda Fortin) SC: CC: 24.11.4** Motion amended to include the specific amount of \$421,902.00 as the proposed 2025 budget. This was approved.

**M (Finance Committee) SC: CC: 24.11.5** Motion approved to adopt the proposed \$421,902 budget for 2025 to support the ministry of St. Mark’s Lutheran Church and present it to the members of the congregation for final approval.

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

- Next meeting is scheduled for November 25, 2024.

**Nominating:** Update provided by Ralph Zeigler.

**M (Nominating Committee) SC: CC: 24.11.6** Motion approved to present the following nominees for the upcoming Council term and present these names for election at St. Mark’s Annual Congregational Meeting ~ Donna Clark, Cathy Fenderson, Cindy Todd, Lou Ann Zeigler.

**Personnel:** Update provided by Nikki Jackson

- The position of Administrative Assistant will be posted on Indeed.com.
- Personnel meeting will be scheduled to discuss specifics of Administrative Assistant position. Discussion was held as to if this position might take on additional tasks such as publicity or coordinating work that needs to take place in the building.
- Discussion regarding a possible “evaluation” of Choice Cleaners. Is it necessary to clean unused spaces in our building every week? Look into whether Choice Cleaners is paid hourly or if there is a contracted rate.
- Encourage our Clerk of the Works to turn in hours for pay (up to the approved \$10,000 cap), especially when working at the church during typical 9-5 work hours.

**Property:** Update provided by Herb Poff, Liaison

- Finance Committee decided it would be best to postpone the new Parish Hall roof to another year. If the roof is needed sooner, a congregational meeting will be held to discuss and approve this expenditure.
- New Exit signs and emergency lighting will be placed in all areas of St. Mark’s at an estimated cost of \$4,490. A second phase will then need to be completed concerning smoke detectors and pull boxes. Clarification from the fire inspector on expectations/codes will be needed before moving on this.
- Nave circulator pump needs to be replaced. Billtown has been notified.
- Dishwasher will be ordered ~ 5 weeks until delivery.

**Publicity:** Update provided by Pastor Vasey, Liaison.

- Publicity being taken care of by Pastor as needed.

**Safety:** Update provided by Herb Poff, Liaison

- Fire safety issues were discussed. \*\*See above notes in Property Committee.

**Worship and Music:**

- Meeting Sunday, November 24 to discuss upcoming Advent season.
- Bev Heiber is stepping down from altar guild. Help is needed in this area.



## Council Minutes Continued .....

Discussion held regarding the future of St. Mark's. Suggestion made to form an Ad Hoc committee to look specifically at alternative ideas and to brainstorm ideas for long term planning regarding the Parish House and other aspects of our congregational life.

### **Unfinished Business:**

**Growing the Church:** Nothing to report.

**Spire Update:** Nothing to report.

### **Dossal Update:**

-Conversation with both Merhaut and Ecclesiastical Sewing regarding possible fabrics to be used for the dossal.

### **Nesco Resources for Temporary Staffing:**

- Ralph Zeigler will reach out and let Nesco know we no longer need temporary staffing.

### **Congregational Meeting:**

- Sunday, December 8, 2024 following the single service held at 9:30 AM.

\*\* Please consider staying for brunch immediately following the meeting. Please submit a RSVP for this event by December 1, 2024.

- Annual report to the congregation will be made available.

### **New Business:**

**M(Executive Committee) SC: CC: 24.11.7** Motion approved that Council be authorized to elect two lay delegates 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.

Herb Poff will provide church keys to new council members as needed. We also need to have keys returned by those who no longer need them. This is a safety issue as far as knowing where all the keys to the building are located.

Pastor Vasey shared a thank you note and donation received from a woman who once received financial aid from St. Mark's and is now in a position to repay the kindness.

### **Announcements:**

- Please bring an appetizer, treat or goodie to share at our December meeting.

- Installation of new Council members will be January 12, 2025.

Dick Reitz led us in closing prayer.

The meeting was adjourned.

**Next meeting: Monday, December 16, 2024 @ 6:00 PM (Middle Lounge)**

**TO OUR ST. MARK'S FAMILY** Please know how blessed we have felt by the thoughtfulness and many kindnesses shown in the days after the passing of our son, Peter.

Your care and concern, your many prayers ... all have reminded us of the love surrounding us during some incredibly sad days.

For your thoughtfulness, friendship, and many kindnesses, please accept our gratitude. Thank you for walking with us on this journey of faith and hope.

Gratefully —

Lou Ann, Ralph, and Andrew.

## FOR YOUR HOME FOR ADVENT

This year, Advent begins on December 1st. In order to prepare our hearts and minds for the upcoming celebration of Christmas, we encourage you to please take both an Advent devotional booklet and Advent calendar to use at home for daily study. We pray these devotions may guide your heart and quiet your soul throughout this holy season.



## Congregational Meeting



## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The **ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** is scheduled for **Sunday, December 8, 2024 immediately following the 9:30 a.m. single service of worship.**

Among the items to be presented, discussed, and/or voted upon are:

- Annual Report of Committees to the Congregation
- Election of four Council members

Adoption of the 2025 budget to support the ministry of St. Mark's

Any other business that needs to be addressed

Please mark your calendars and plan to participate in this Annual Congregational Meeting. If you need additional information or have items that you would like to discuss, please contact one of the Council officers: Ralph Zeigler, president; Nikki Jackson, vice-president; Vicki Haussmann, secretary; or Debra Buckman, treasurer. Thank you!

## Reverse Advent Calendar

As we count down the 25 days until Christmas, the Faith Formation Committee would like to offer congregation members an alternative to the traditional Advent calendars where a treat of some sort is received. Instead of *receiving* something each day of Advent, we are counting down to Christmas by *giving* something each day of Advent.

What sorts of items are we you ask? This year we are collecting an eclectic mix of non-perishable items: canned goods, cake mixes, funfetti icing, cups of soup, and single serve items for the Blessing Boxes. Personal care items/hygiene products are welcome as well. Please take a holiday bag from the Narthex and each day during Advent place an item in your bag. Please pray that these small items might be a blessing to those who receive them.

Return your filled bag on Christmas Eve. Even sometime in January would be fine! We hope that this Reverse Advent Calendar will be a blessing to your Advent preparations. Thank you for your generosity!



## Evangelism and Fellowship Committee

December 2024

### Be the Lifeline Patients Need: Give Blood

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee in collaboration with the North Central PA Chapter of the American Red Cross will hold a **Blood Drive on Friday, December 6, 2024 from 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM in Fellowship Hall.** Please consider being a donor as the Red Cross experiences critical shortages of blood during the holiday season. Call 1-800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: “St. Marks” to schedule an appointment. Many of us are unable to donate blood. But we can tell family members, friends and neighbors of this life saving event. Please spread the news.

### Gifts for Danville State Hospital

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

**Items being requested this year for both men and women include socks, hats, gloves, scarves, batteries (size AA and AAA), inexpensive wallets and watches, underwear, sweatshirts, sweat pants, t-shirts and slippers in sizes large and up, adult coloring books, word searches and puzzle books (large print) with pens, colored pencils and markers.**

**Regular sizes of body wash, shampoo, conditioner, body lotion, chap stick, toothpaste and toothbrushes, hair brushes and combs, body lotion and deodorant are also requested.**

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

**Donations for Danville State Hospital are due Sunday, December 15, 2024.**

### Christmas Party at the Selinsgrove Center

Our annual Christmas party for the Ladies of CM-6 at the Selinsgrove Center is back on the calendar for Saturday, December 14, 2024. At this time, we are unsure if we can visit in person, but our gifts always bring cheer to the ladies and their caregivers. We are in need of non-refrigerated pudding cups in all flavors and individual packages of snacks (cookies, crackers, chips and Hershey miniatures) for the caregivers.

Donations of pudding cups and snacks can be placed in the tub in the Narthex.

Thank you in advance for any help you are able to give.

**Donations for the Ladies of CM-6 are due by Sunday, December 8, 2024**

### Christmas Greetings for Special Concern Folks

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee will provide Christmas cards on Sunday, December 15, 2024 to congregation members to mail to our Special Concern Folks and others we do not see as often as we wish. Please consider taking a card or two from the table in the Narthex, write a cheery message, sign your name, apply postage and send it in time for Christmas. Thank you for helping us send more Christmas cheer.

### Sharing in the Caring

### Ongoing Collections at St. Mark's:

**United Churches Food Pantry:** Please help our Food Pantry by participating in the Reverse Advent project.

**Shepherd of the Streets:** You also can help the Shepherd's office by participating in the Reverse Advent project.

**Blessing Boxes at New Covenant UCC:** We continue to provide 80-100 sandwiches a month. With your help we also provide hygiene items and microwavable food and grab and go snacks. Donations of snack crackers, cookies and cup of soups are always in need. Monetary donations to cover the cost of sandwich supplies are also in need. Checks may be made payable to St. Mark's with the memo line indicating Parish Life.

**Sojourner Truth Ministries:** Packages of disposable salt and pepper shakers are greatly needed.

**Donations to the Food Pantry, 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, December 12, 2024 beginning at 5:00 PM.

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

**Desserts for Redeemer's Dinner:** Jim and Susan Newcomer will provide 120 cookie packets for this event.

Thank you, Jim and Susan, for your generosity during this season of Advent and Christmas.

**Daniel's Drop-Off:** Thursday, December 19, 2024 from 4:00-6:00. **Please note this drop-off time is one week earlier due to Christmas.** Winter weather brings the need for warmer clothing and sturdier shoes for adults and children. Blankets, sheets and afghans are also accepted. If you have a large quantity of clothing that cannot wait until the monthly drop off, please contact Redeemer's church office (leave a message) at 570-322-2333 to schedule a mutually convenient appointment.

**Daniel's Closet** Distribution of free seasonal clothing on Saturday, December 21, 2024 from 8:30 – 11:00 AM. **Please note this distribution is one week earlier due to Christmas.**

### Still Cleaning? Redecorating? Moving? Making Room for Christmas Gifts?

#### We Need It!

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee and the Women of St. Mark's need your no longer wanted items for our annual fall sale to be held in September 2025.

So, 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. This would be the perfect time to edit all those Christmas decorations and lights you no longer use. If you are unsure as to if your items can be used, speak with Becky Pryor.

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.

## BOOK REVIEW

*We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the prophets. — The Nicene Creed*

“Who is the Holy Spirit? Have you experienced the Holy Spirit in your life and in the world around you?” These questions begin Lois Malcolm’s book *Holy Spirit: Creative Power in Our Lives* (Augsburg Fortress, 2009). She is Associate Professor of Systematic Theology at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. I chose this book because in our recent Bible study of Galatians, Paul admonishes the Galatians to “life by the Spirit.” So who is this Holy Spirit? Malcolm wants us to think of the Holy Spirit not as something disembodied, a “Ghost” as we used to say, but rather as like breath that gives life to the body itself. She is less concerned with what the Holy Spirit is than with what it does. She traces the actions of the Spirit in the Old Testament (the Spirit moving over the face of the waters in creation; the Spirit speaking through the prophets) through Jesus’ ministry (the Spirit descending on Jesus at his baptism; the Spirit he breathes on the disciples in John’s account), to the descent of the Spirit on the early Christians in Acts and the apostolic letters. This review of biblical accounts of the Spirit reminds us that the Holy Spirit isn’t something that just came into the world at Pentecost, but was already there from the Creation.

The second part of her book describes the Spirit’s actions in Faith, Love, and Hope. “The Spirit Creates Faith” is based on Galatians where Paul contrasts living in the flesh versus living in the Spirit where “the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control,” and we are freed from our fears and destructive behaviors. “The Spirit Creates Love” is based on the conflicts described in I Corinthians where a diversity of people and life situations and “spiritual gifts” must, by “discerning the Spirit,” be formed into one Christian community. Finally “The Spirit Creates Hope” because, even as we live in the Spirit, our problems do not all go away. Malcolm calls this “the ‘Already’ and the ‘Not Yet.’” The Spirit directs us to our hope for the life to come.

We often associate Holy Spirit thinking with charismatic or Pentecostal Christianity, but even Lutherans can be filled with the Holy Spirit. This book may help to deepen your understanding of this “mysterious” person we confess to believe in.

A copy of the book will be in the front lounge. Feel free to borrow and return when finished.

*Bob Campbell*

*Faith Formation Committee*



## Pastors' Luncheons Return

Once each month 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.

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



**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!

### **St. Mark's is looking for an Administrative Assistant**

Job Duties include but are not limited to:

- \* Provide assistance and support to the Pastor and Congregation
- \* General clerical duties including weekly church bulletins, annual reports, congregational mailings, and general record keeping
- \* Maintain media contacts for advertising church services and special events
- \* Assist with scheduling church maintenance contractors

Job Qualifications:

- \* Computer proficiency to include Microsoft Word and Publisher
- \* Strong communication and interpersonal skills
- \* Ability to maintain confidentiality
- \* Willingness to obtain required clearances (Acts 151, 34, and 114)

Job Hours:

Part-Time, Mon-Fri, 9am-1pm

Pay:

\$14.00 - \$17.00 per hour (Based on knowledge and experience)

Please forward resume including three (3) references to [nikjax5@yahoo.com](mailto:nikjax5@yahoo.com)

# December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 <i>Holy Communion</i> 8:00AM 10:30AM <i>Advent Wreath</i> Making 9:15 AM	2	3	4 <i>Midweek Worship</i> 12:10PM <i>Executive Com-</i> <i>mittee 2:30PM,</i> <i>Middle Lounge</i>	5	6	7
8 <i>Christmon Service</i> 9:30AM <i>Con-</i> <i>gregational Meet-</i> <i>ing; Brunch</i>	9	10 <i>West Branch</i> <i>Conference</i> 9:30AM	11 <i>Midweek Worship</i> 12:10PM	12	13	14 <i>Bob Miller</i> <i>Funeral 11:30AM</i>
15 <i>Holy Communion</i> 8:00AM 10:30AM <i>Sunday School</i> 9:15AM	16 <i>Little Lambs</i> <i>Liason 3:30PM</i> <i>Council 6:00PM</i>	17	18 <i>Midweek Worship</i> 12:10PM <i>Little Lambs Lunch-</i> <i>eon 10:45AM</i> <i>Williamsport Home</i> <i>Communion Service</i> <i>(Bldg A) 2:00PM</i>	19 <i>Pastors' Lunch-</i> <i>eon 1:00PM</i>	20	21
22 <i>Holy Communion</i> 8:00AM 10:30AM <i>Sunday School</i> 9:15AM	23	24 <i>Holy Communion</i> 7:00PM 10:00PM	25 <i>Office Closed</i>	26 <i>Office Closed</i>	27 <i>Office Closed</i>	28
29 <i>Holy Communion</i> 8:00AM 10:30AM <i>Sunday School</i> 9:15AM	30	31				