



# 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.*

## May

## 2025



### Pastor's Lion Message for May 2025

*And when Jesus had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold two men stood by them in white robes, and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This same Jesus who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way you saw him go into heaven (Acts 1:9-11)."*

On Thursday, May 29 the church celebrates Ascension Day. Ascension Day commemorates Jesus' return to heaven 40 days after the resurrection. Contrary to Hollywood and popular opinion, Jesus did not rise and ascend on the same day. That is one of the reasons why Easter is looked upon as a season lasting seven weeks- it's biblical.

Ascension is important to commemorate and celebrate in the life of the church for seven reasons (and not just because 7 is one of those biblical numbers):

1. It signals the end of Jesus' earthly ministry; the Son returns to the Father.
2. It symbolizes victory. All that Jesus had come to do has been accomplished.
3. It marks the return of Jesus' heavenly

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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  
Bookkeeper: Jackie Baysore  
By appointment  
Administrative Assistant: Michele Owen  
Tuesday through Friday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.  
[stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org)



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

glory. His glory is “no longer veiled”.

4. It gives further confirmation to the name of “Jesus” (The Lord saves).
5. It affirms Jesus preparing a place for us.
6. It inaugurates Jesus' role as high priest.
7. It sets the pattern for Jesus' return

Most of the time churches do not give Ascension Day much notice; barely a mention on the calendar. That's a shame. Ascension Day presents the opportunity to acknowledge that our faith is not in “a man” but in the “Son of God”. It reminds us who is in charge and how our God is not limited by time and space. It further constitutes that because our struggle is not against flesh and blood our victory over death and all evil is not a hollow one. Jesus is our champion. Jesus is our victorious Savior and Lord who reigns from on high throughout all eternity. The Ascension proclaims that Christ is all and in all.

Celebrate our Lord's Ascension and give glory to God now and always as it proclaims our God reigns!

Grace + Peace,  
Pastor Vasey



JOIN US FOR SUNDAY  
WORSHIP IN MAY. ALL  
ARE WELCOME!!

**Sunday, May 4, The Third Sunday of Easter**

**Holy Communion, 8 am**

**Sunday School, 9:15 am**

**Holy Communion, 10:30 am**

**Sunday, May 11, The Fourth Sunday of Easter**

**Holy Communion, 8 am**

**Sunday School, 9:15 am**

**Holy Communion, 10:30 am**

**Sunday, May 18, The Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**Holy Communion, 8 am**

**Sunday School, 9:15 am**

**Holy Communion, 10:30 am**

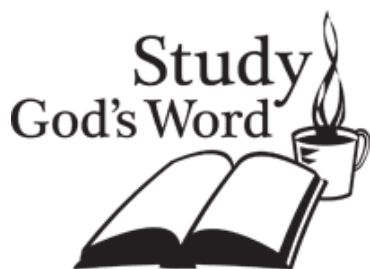
**Sunday, May 25, The Sixth Sunday of Easter**

**Holy Communion, 8 am**

**Sunday School, 9:15 am**

**Holy Communion, 10:30 am**

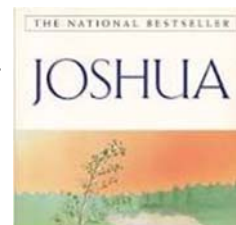
**ALL ARE WELCOME! JOIN US!**



## CHRISTIAN STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

*Sundays, Through May 25, during the traditional Sunday School time (9:15- 10:10 am) we will study the Book of Revelation. Come and join Pastor Vasey as together we rejoice in the promise of God's hope in Jesus Christ through study of this book of New Testament prophecy. All are welcome!*

*Wednesday afternoons at 12:10 pm, Fellowship Hall, beginning May 7 and concluding May 21, we will be discussing the novel, "Joshua; a Parable for Today", by Joseph Girazone. "Joshua" asks the question, "How would the world react if Jesus would return to earth today?" The name Joshua is the English equivalent of the Hebrew name "Yeshusa" (Jesus). Copies of the novel are available from Vicki Haussmann. Join us! All are welcome!.*



## WELCOME!

Good News to share! St. Mark's has hired a new Administrative Assistant! You probably know her due to her serving our congregation as a volunteer: Michele Owen.

I would like to thank all of the volunteers who stepped up to help keep so many of the day to day front office operations at St. Mark's running smoothly these past few months. We are happy to welcome Michele and encourage you to stop by the office and say, "Hello....."  
In Christ, Pastor Vasey



When you or a family member are ill, have a crisis of faith, or have a personal concern of which you wish to make the pastor aware, please contact him directly by church office telephone (570-323-4619) or email ([bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org)). Do not assume the pastor will know of your need any other way.



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



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 Haussmann, 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!

## Envelopes

There are special envelopes in the pew racks for Heat (to pay for boiler repair), Roof (for the roof on the Parish house) and Organ (for repairs and general maintenance). Don't forget to put your name on the envelope so you receive credit on your contribution statement. Please write, on the memo line of your check, how you wish your gift to be used (cash is also accepted).



## Memorials

A reminder that when giving a memorial for a loved one or other church member, please specify where the money is to be allocated. (ex. roof fund, music fund). If you do not specify, your donation will go into the general account.

*In Memoriam*

## ADDRESS CHANGE:

April Clark, 161 S. Main St., Pittston, PA 18640



# MAY Worship Leaders

Please arrange for a replacement if you cannot serve.



## Communion Assistants

May 4

8:00 AM Jackie Kinney  
10:30 AM Matt & Wanda Fortin

May 11

8:00 AM Nikki Jackson  
10:30 AM Deb Buckman & Mindy Wentzel

May 18

8:00 AM Becky Pryor  
10:30 AM Shelby & Gary Weber

May 25

8:00 AM Drew Haussmann  
10:30 AM Ralph & Lou Ann Zeigler



## Ushers

May 4

8:00 AM Miller / Poff  
10:30 AM Maggs Team

May 11

8:00 AM Miller / Poff  
10:30 AM Weber Team

May 18

8:00 AM Miller / Poff  
10:30 AM Fortin Team

May 25

8:00AM Miller / Poff  
10:30AM Albright Team



## Lectors

May 4

8:00 AM Becky Pryor  
10:30 AM Linda Rosini

May 11

8:00 AM Candy Dewar  
10:30 AM Mary Ann Stiller

May 18

8:00 AM Nikki Jackson  
10:30 AM Ralph Zeigler

May 25

8:00 AM Vicki Haussmann  
10:30 AM Phil Thomas

## Altar Guild

Sally Bjornstad, Vicki Haussmann



## May Birthdays

Mel Wentzel	5/1
Jerod Barone	5/2
Robert Clokey	5/2
Jacob Schreckengast	5/2
Grace Schreckengast	5/5
Vincent Bardsley	5/12
Thomas Waffenschmidt	5/12
Catherine Lundy	5/13
Lori Ann Zimmerer	5/13
Karen Mariano	5/14
Jane Larson	5/15
Stephen Boone	5/18
Candy Dewar	5/19
Ken Schreckengast	5/19
Ryan Jensen	5/24
Dawson Owen	5/24
Dustin Pelleschi	5/24
Audrey Albright	5/27
Walt Haussmann	5/27
Owen Gair	5/30

## May Anniversary

Brian & Joanne Vasey	5/24
Mike & Pam Jensen	5/30





Sundays, March 2- May 25 during the traditional Sunday School time (9:15-10:10 am) we will study the Book of Revelation. Come and join Pastor Vasey as, together, we rejoice in the promise of God's hope in Jesus Christ through study of this book of New Testament prophecy. We will be

meeting in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome!

## FAMILY PROMISE

Our next hosting is June 15 - 22 so please mark this on your calendar. If you typically help with hosting and are going away, please notify me so I can find other participants. In Christ's love - Deb



Thank you to all who donated to the call for Lutheran World Relief items for personal care kits. Needed for the fall kits are receiving blankets (medium weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted/ knitted with lightweight yarn-36" to 52" square no polar fleece), baby shirts up to 24 months with no snap crotches, cotton fabric, diapers (flat fold) and items for school

kits (we do not need pencils, erasers or bags.) For more information please reach out to Deb Buckman.



**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 at 570-323-4619 or email

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



**April 2025**

**Minutes**

**St. Mark's Council meeting- April 14, 2025**

Call to Order: 6:00 pm

Council recited the Defining Mission Statement

Pastor Vasey provided a video with a "How Not to" message for the church.

Secretary's roll call:

Members present: Debra Buckman, Cathy Fenderson, Vicki Haussmann, Ray Huff, Cindy Todd, Lou Ann Zeigler, Wanda Fortin, Pastor Vasey. (Donna Clark, Nikki Jackson, Richard Miller, Richard Reitz)- excused

Minutes of the March meeting were reviewed and approved as submitted.

Deb Buckman delivered the Treasurer's Report. The report was accepted and filed for audit.

Pastor's Report: Pastor's Holy Week planning was presented. He reported on the West Branch Conference meeting held on March 30. Information was given on the Good Friday drama. The pastors of Redeemer Lutheran, St. Luke Lutheran, and St. Mark's Lutheran continue to provide pastoral care for the Liberty Parish.

All statistical reports have been completed.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Evangelism and Fellowship: Next meeting- May 6 @5:30 pm.

Faith Formation: Next meeting- May 6 @ 10:45 am. The May book study will center on the novel Joshua.

Finance: Deb Buckman presented the report. Insurance rates have increased.

Little Lambs: Next meeting: May 5 at 12:15 pm.

Nominating: No report.



## Council Minutes Continued .....

Personnel: No report.

Property: Deb Buckman presented the report. Heating, fire safety, grounds maintenance, camera/security, spring cleanup, and additional maintenance issues were discussed. Stability in the communion rail kneelers was addressed and corrected. Discussion on the spire's possible new location took place.

Publicity- The signboard was updated and Easter publicity was submitted to the Sun-Gazette.

Safety- No report

Publicity: No report

Safety: No report.

Worship and Music:

April 17- Maundy Thursday (12:05-C, 7:30-N) Kneel for communion

April 18- Good Friday. 7:30 with dialogue replacing sermon.

April 19- Lilies to be placed at 9:45. Easter vigil- 8:00

Next meeting: May 4 @ 11:45 am.

### **New business:**

**EC2025.04.01. Motion to approve request to make a wiring change to the organ which will enhance the organ's versatility by enabling a useful manual transfer function using the existing digital keying and MSP1000 piston system. The total cost for this upgrade is \$4,000.00. Adopted.**

**CC2025.04.02. (Zeigler/Fortin) Approve Little Lambs use of Fellowship Hall for a:**

**Mother's Day Tea on May 2 and a Donuts for Dad event on May 15. Adopted.**

Easter Hospitality begins at 9:15. The signup was revisited.

Pastor Vasey led us in closing prayer.

The meeting ended at 7:15 pm.

Next Meeting: May 19, 2025, 6:00 PM

## Council Minutes Continued .....

The meeting ended at 7:15 pm.

Next Meeting: May 19, 2025, 6:00 pm



## Evangelism and Fellowship Committee Articles for The Lion

May 2025

### Easter Thanks



The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee thanks the congregation for their help in sending Easter greetings to our Special Concern folks. We are certain these messages brought cheer to those receiving them. Also, many thanks to Deb Buckman for her efforts with the card ministry box. This month Deb Maggs will tend to this outreach.

### We Care for Families

During May and June, when we celebrate Mother's Day and Father's Day, the Evangelism and Fellowship Committee asks that you consider donating hygiene items that are of tremendous help to families with children. We are requesting baby shampoo, baby lotion, baby/kids body wash, baby wipes, tissues and kids' toothbrushes and toothpaste. The Dollar Stores have these items at reasonable prices. Items will be given to the Shepherd of the Streets and may be placed on the table in the Narthex Closet. Thank you in advance for any help that you can give.

### Spring Cleaning? Redecorating? Moving? Got Stuff?

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee and the Women of St. Mark's still need donations for our annual Fall Sale that is tentatively scheduled for September 12 and 13. 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.



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 carry. 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.

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



**United Churches Food Pantry:** Any non-perishable food item is always needed. But the following items are **most needed** at this time. Small bags of sugar, ground coffee, canned tuna, Pop Tarts, salt and pepper sets, mayonnaise.

**Shepherd of the Streets:** See the article **We Care for Families.**

**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.

**Summer Blessing Box Needs:** With summer temperatures it is difficult to provide our usual meat and cheese sandwiches. **The Parish Life and Evangelism and Fellowship Committees are asking for two specific donations. They are Star-Kist Deli Style Tuna Salad and Star-Kist Chicken Salad.** Both come in a foil packet and are ready to eat. These items are able to resist spoiling due to extreme temperatures. A container is available in the Narthex for these specific items.

**Sojourner Truth Ministries (STM):** Air Freshener (light scents,) sugar, mayonnaise, ketchup, and large lunch bags.

**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.**

### Ongoing Events at Redeemer Lutheran:

**Community Dinner** on Thursday, May 8, 2025 beginning at 5:00 p.m. until all meals are distributed. This is a take-out meal available at the curb. All are welcome.

**For desserts in May,** The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee is providing cookies for the community dinner. If you can provide a dozen or two of homestyle cookies (any kind), please have them in the church kitchen on Wednesday, May 7. Our local super markets have a good assortment of this type of cookie at a reasonable price.

**The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee:** Starting in mid-May we are asking congregation members to provide boxes of brownie mix for June's dessert.

**Daniel's Closet** Distribution of free spring/summer clothing on Saturday, May 24, 2025 from 8:30 – 11:00 a.m. In addition to clean, spring and summer clothing in good condition, shoes for men, women and children are always needed. Sheets, blankets, throws and afghans are also accepted.

**This month's clothing drop off is Thursday, May 22, 2025 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 if you are unable to accommodate the new drop off schedule.





### Fourth of July Celebration Will Need You!

It is never too early to begin planning our July Fourth celebration. Toward the end of May, the Evangelism and Fellowship Committee will be collecting needed supplies. Please consider donating any of the following items. A tub for donations will be in the Narthex.

- Bags of individually wrapped candy (Smarties, Tootsie Rolls, Suckers)
- Fruit Snacks
- Individual bags (one ounce) of assorted chips and pretzels
- Bottled water in 8 oz. and 16 oz. sizes
- Cans of soda, both regular and diet. We are accepting both 12 ounce and mini cans of soda
- Bottles of ketchup, mustard and sweet relish. Smaller bottles of ketchup are preferred due to the ease of handling.
- Lemonade and Ice Tea mix
- Snack-size plastic bags
- Trinkets / Kiddie prizes

Money to purchase additional supplies not donated (hot dogs, rolls, condiments, pre-mixed packets of popcorn & oil, trinkets and more candy if needed.) Donated items can be placed in the tub in the Narthex. Checks can be made payable to St. Mark's with the memo line designating July Fourth Celebration. Thank you for any help you can give.

United Churches of Lycoming County  
**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**July 13th - July 17th**

**Free Supper: 5:30-6:00 PM, VBS: 6:00-8:00 PM**  
Designated for ages 4-12,  
and special abilities adults

Held at St. John's- Newberry UMC  
2101 Newberry Street Williamsport

*Cokesbury Kids*  
**ROAD TRIP**  
**ON THE GO WITH GOD**





A great big THANK YOU to everyone who continues to donate items for our Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes! Never doubt that God is using these seemingly small items for good. **“Our economic condition is very poor, so my parents**

**cannot afford to buy toys for me. When I heard that I would get a gift box, I was so excited! Thank you to all of my foreign friends who sent me the toys and other amazing things.”**

–Samia, East Asia

In May we will be collecting Jump Ropes, Hair Accessories, Bungee Cords, Screwdrivers

Monetary donations are also welcome as we would like to include “Grow With Me” shoes in as many shoeboxes as possible this year. Shoes are a requirement to attend school, so receiving a pair is a huge blessing indeed! Checks may be made to St. Mark’s with OCC in the memo line.

These items (or anything else you may find) may be placed in our red, OCC bin located in the narthex. Thank you!

\*The age ranges for the boxes we fill are 2-4, 5-9, and 10-14 (both boys and girls)

Camp Mount Luther's Summer 2025 registration is now open! Find out more information and register at [www.campmountluther.org/summer](http://www.campmountluther.org/summer).



Summer camp brochures are available in the church office.



### *All Aboard The Ark!*

With a catastrophic storm on its way, Noah is given a monumental task: build a boat big enough to save his family from a flood that will cover the entire earth. As Noah endeavors to live faithfully in the midst of an increasingly chaotic world, can he trust that God’s promises run deeper than the rising waters around him?

A bus trip to see **Noah** at the Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA is being organized by Cheryl Williams. This trip is being planned for Wednesday, September 24, the 11:00 AM show. While the bus will be pulling out around 6:00 AM, the early start will certainly be well worth it! Bus fare, show ticket, and dinner at Hershey Farm Inn are all included in the price of \$176.77. If interested, please contact Cheryl Williams at (570) 327-1627.

# May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 8:00AM Holy Communion 9:15AM Sunday School 10:30AM Holy Communion	5 11:00AM Carl Hieber Funeral	6	7 12:10PM "Joshua" study Fellowship Hall	8 1:00PM Williamsport Clergy Lunch	9 6:00PM Wedding Rehearsal	10 2:00PM Cartwright/Louder Wedding
11 8:00AM Holy Communion 9:15AM Sunday School 10:30AM Holy Communion	12	13 9:30AM West Branch Conference	14 12:10PM "Joshua" study Fellowship Hall	15	16 7:30PM WCCO Concert	17 11AM Baur Memorial
18 8:00AM Holy Communion 9:15AM Sunday School 10:30AM Holy Communion	19 6PM Council	20	21 12:10PM "Joshua" study Fellowship Hall  2PM Holy Communion Wmspt. Home	22	23	24
25 8:00AM Holy Communion 9:15AM Sunday School 10:30AM Holy Communion	26	27	28	29	30	31