



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.*

June

2025



Pastor's Lion Message for June 2025

Pastor's "Lion" Message June, 2025

*In distress you called, and I rescued you
(Psalm 81:7)*

A quick reading of biblical history might cause us to conclude, "You know those Israelites were truly a fickle people. Look at the evidence:

God delivered them from slavery, yet
their gratitude was short-lived

Moses went to the mountain to receive
the 10 Commandments and in his absence
the people started to worship a
pagan god.

God delivered them from their enemies
the Philistines, and they forgot God's
generosity and began to adopt Philistine
traditions.

Some People of God"!

Before we rush to judgment though, I would urge us to exercise caution. As people of God today we need to ask ourselves could we be guilty of some of the same things. What idols have we subtly slid into place on the altars of our hearts? True, we have not sinned in the same detail as Israel's sins, but we have sinned as they have sinned. It's the old truth of our faith: Scripture doesn't teach us that we have sinned *because* Adam and

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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



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

Eve sinned as much as it teaches we sin *as* Adam and Eve sinned. Luther agreed, “Whatever your heart clings to and confides in, that is really your god (*Large Catechism*).”

Summer will very soon be upon us. There will be many more distractions all clamoring for our attention: Nice weather, longer daylight, more time with family. If we are not careful we can elevate to top priority these distractions to the point they displace our true God. Family, work, free-time, country, possessions are all important, but in their proper perspective. Only the One, True God should be the object of our unconditional praise and devotion.

Grace + Peace,
Pastor Vasey

**SUNDAY JUNE 1 WE BEGAN OUR
“SUMMER SCHEDULE”: ONE WOR-
SHIP TIME AT 9:30 AM. OUR FALL
SCHEDULE WILL RESUME SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 7, 2025.**



JOIN US FOR SUNDAY
WORSHIP IN JUNE ALL
ARE WELCOME!!

**Sunday, June 1, 2025, The Seventh Sunday of
Easter**

Holy Communion, 9:30 am

Sunday, June 8, 2025, The Day of Pentecost

Holy Communion, 9:30 am

Wear an article of Red Clothing to Worship

Sunday, June 15, Trinity Sunday

Holy Communion, 9:30 am

**Sunday, June 22, The Second Sunday after
Pentecost**

Holy Communion, 9:30 am

**Sunday, June 29, The Third Sunday after
Pentecost**

Holy Communion, 9:30 am

ALL ARE WELCOME! JOIN US!

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!

Please join us on **Sunday, July 13th** 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 Haussmann at (570) 447-3263. We look forward to sharing time with you on July 13th!



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.



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). Should you choose to donate, don't forget to put your name on the envelopes 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

THANK YOU for the many cards, prayers, and support during Carl's illness. His faith was important to him in his life. He was blessed to have a loving church family. Your expressions of sympathy are greatly appreciated.

*Blessings,
Bev Hieber & Family*



JUNE Worship Leaders

Please arrange for a replacement if you cannot serve.



Communion Assistants

| | |
|---------|-----------------------------|
| June 1 | |
| 9:30 AM | Matt & Wanda Fortin |
| June 8 | |
| 9:30 AM | Shelby & Gary Weber |
| June 15 | |
| 9:30 AM | Ralph & Lou Ann Zeigler |
| June 22 | |
| 9:30 AM | Deb Buckman & Mindy Wentzel |
| June 29 | |
| 9:30 AM | Matt & Wanda Fortin |



Ushers

| | |
|---------|------------------------|
| June 1 | |
| 9:30 AM | Maggs Team, Dick Reitz |
| June 8 | |
| 9:30 AM | Weber Team |
| June 15 | |
| 9:30 AM | Fortin, Yaple, Wentzel |
| June 22 | |
| 9:30 AM | Gair Team |
| June 29 | |
| 9:30 AM | Maggs Team, Dick Reitz |



Lectors

| | |
|---------|---------------|
| June 1 | |
| 9:30 AM | Donna Clark |
| June 8 | |
| 9:30 AM | Shelby Weber |
| June 15 | |
| 9:30 AM | Brenda Gair |
| June 22 | |
| 9:30 AM | Becky Pryor |
| June 29 | |
| 9:30 AM | Ralph Zeigler |

Altar Guild

Mel & Mindy Wentzel

June Birthdays

| | |
|-----------------|------|
| Grace Arner | 6/3 |
| Ed Barone | 6/3 |
| Sean Jensen | 6/3 |
| Breanna Bower | 6/7 |
| Jenn Robertson | 6/10 |
| Ruth Sherlinski | 6/15 |
| Wanda Fortin | 6/16 |
| Brandon Fortin | 6/20 |
| Richard Reitz | 6/21 |
| Cheryl Williams | 6/22 |
| George Poliska | 6/28 |
| April Clark | 6/30 |
| Cindy Todd | 6/30 |

June Anniversary

| | |
|------------------------|------|
| Charles & Ann Kuntz | 6/18 |
| Gary & Shelby Weber | 6/18 |
| John & Brenda Bower | 6/21 |
| Jim & Susan Newcomer | 6/23 |
| Drew & Vicki Haussmann | 6/28 |



FAMILY PROMISE

Our next hosting for Family Promise is Sunday, June 15 through Saturday, June 21. As in the past St. Mark's is responsible for providing the dinners for Sun. through Fri. At this point there are still openings for Monday and Friday, if you are willing to provide a meal for either of these dates that would be great. Remember - it can be something you make, ingredients to make a meal, take out, or delivery. Right now there is a full house - 4 families - but this is subject to change. St. Mark's is also responsible for providing items for breakfast and lunches. If you wish to donate for this expense (or better yet, volunteer to do that shopping) you can place your check in an envelope and mark it for Family Promise hosting. If you have questions, please contact Deb Buckman at (570) 971-9321.



Lutheran World Relief - soon school supply sales will begin so remember that we need spiral bound notebooks (70 pages), boxes of crayons (24 count), rulers (with both metric and English scales), blue or black ink pens (Bic or other brand) and scissors with blunt points. We do not need erasers or pencils as we have them left over from last



Lutheran
World
Relief

year. School bags will be available beginning mid-July. For baby care kits: flannel or knit (light weight) receiving blankets (36" to 54" square), pre-folded diapers (from Amazon), bars of soap suitable for use on a baby, baby socks, and dark hand towels. There will be a tub in the Narthex for items beginning in July. Thanks for all you do in keeping our outreach going. For questions, please contact Deb Buckman at (570) 971-9321.



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.



Council Minutes

May 2025

Minutes

St. Mark's Council meeting- May 19, 2025

Call to Order: 6:00 pm

Council recited the Defining Mission Statement

Deb Buckman narrated a timely story for us.

Secretary's roll call:

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

Ralph Zeigler gave the presentation of the Worship and Music Committee's recommendation for the proposed dossal and orphrey. This presentation was the result of five years of exhausting research by Ralph, Lou Ann, and the committee.

WM2025.05.01 The Worship and Music Committee recommends that we proceed with the dossal project as follows:

That we contact A. T. Merhaut (Allison Park, PA) to draft contracts: (1) for dossal fabric from arte/grossè (Belgium company) in the "Saxony" pattern in deep red color, to reupholster the 21 panels comprising the current dossal, and (2) for the fabrication of the orphrey from Slabbinck (Belgium company) in Terlenka blue fabric with a decorative band (#3364) in the middle with the option of decorative galloons along the sides of the orphrey.

That we contact A. T. Merhaut to determine whether the fabric (through the manufacturing process) meets any of the fire codes that may satisfy local requirements.

That we contact Lundy Construction Company (Williamsport) to draft a contract based upon their recommendation for the removal of the current 21 dossal panels so that they may be properly reupholstered and then reinstalled to create the new dossal, and to install the orphrey.

Council Minutes Continued

- **That we contact The Barn Fabric Center (Williamsport) to draft a contract based upon their current recommendations for the fireproofing (if necessary) of the new dossal fabric and the proper reupholstering of the 21 dossal panels. ADOPTED.**

Minutes of the April 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: We had nine services at St. Mark's during Holy Week. Pastor remarked on the three Synod Initiative (Allegheny, Upper and Lower Susquehanna) for the "Go Tell it in the Mountains."

All statistical reports have been completed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Evangelism and Fellowship: We will be hosting supper one night for VBS. Cereal Sunday, Blood drive in the fall, and 4th of July celebration.

Faith Formation: Next meeting- May 6 @ 10:45 am. The May book study will center on the novel *Joshua*. The church picnic will be in Fellowship Hall on July 13. Next meeting: June 12.

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

CC 2025.05.02 Little Lambs: (Todd/Huff) Wanda Fortin resigned from Little Lambs and Donna Clark volunteered to assume the role. Adopted.

Nominating: No report.

Personnel: No report.

Property: Deb Buckman presented the report. Spring cleaning will also include a dumpster for items that are no longer needed.

Council Minutes Continued

Publicity- The electronic billboard will give information for the Fourth of July activities.

Safety- No report

Publicity: No report

Safety: No report.

Worship and Music: Geraniums will be ordered for Pentecost.

New business:

EC2025.05.03. Motion to move the June council meeting to Monday, June 9, 2025. Adopted.

EC2025.05.04 The Executive Committee recommends Council NOT meet in July for “summer recess”. Should items arise that need more immediate attention, we will conduct business via email. Adopted.

The 175th Anniversary of the founding of St. Mark’s will take place in 2027~ March 7, 1852 congregation was formed. April 5, 1852 congregation celebrated their first communion. (March 7, 2027 is a Sunday). Looking to form a committee to plan for this celebration.

Civic Choir Board Meetings~ May 19 and June 16

God’s Work-Our Hands will be observed on September 7.

Sight and Sound presentation of *Noah!* will be on September 24, 2025. Cheryl Williams is organizing it ant cost is \$177.76

Deb Buckman led us in closing prayer.

The meeting ended at 7:45

Next Meeting: June 9, 2025, 6:00 PM



Evangelism and Fellowship Committee Articles for The Lion

June 2025

Our Fourth of July Celebration Needs You!



It is time to begin preparations for our annual July Fourth lawn party. We have been celebrating God and Country with our community for more than two decades. Please consider donating any of the following items. A tub for donations is in the Narthex.

We will also need help with setting up, serving and cleaning up that evening and the next day. Be looking for those sign-up sheets in the near future.

- 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.) Checks may be made payable to St. Mark's with the memo line designating July Fourth Celebration. Thank you for any help you can give.

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.

Cereal Sundays



For food insecure families with children there is no vacation from hunger during the summer months. With schools no longer serving breakfast or lunch, a family's food budget is stretched even tighter. 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 June, July, August and September to collecting boxes of cereal of any kind and in any size including the double boxes from Sam's Club. Donations will be given to the United Churches Food Pantry and any single-serve boxes will be given to the Blessing Boxes at New Covenant UCC. Donations may be placed in the tub in

the Narthex. Last year we donated more than 300 assorted boxes of cereal! Please consider supporting this initiative. Thank you.

The dates for these special cereal collections are

- * Sunday, June 8
- * Sunday, July 13
- * Sunday, August 10
- * Sunday, September 14

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 white and brown sugar, wide egg noodles, canned corn, canned hams, Spam, cans of pork and beans, chunky soups, shrimp ramen noodles and salt and pepper sets.

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 size 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, June 12, 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 June, The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee is providing 120 servings of brownies for Redeemer's community dinner. We need help from the congregation. We are accepting boxes of brownie mix and monetary donations to cover the cost of eggs, cooking oil and plastic bags. Checks may be made payable to St. Mark's with the memo line indicating Evangelism and Fellowship. **If you wish to bake brownies or assist with packaging the brownies, please speak with a committee member.**



Daniel's Closet Distribution of free spring/summer clothing on Saturday, June 28, 2025 from 8:30 – 11:00 a.m.

In addition to clean, 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, June 26, 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.



New Outreach Activities

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee is reaching out to the community in new ways.



- * On June 7, we will partner with New Covenant UCC to host a luncheon at Sojourner Truth Ministries. We are planning for 75 guests.
- * We have been asked by United Churches to host a light supper for the participants of this summer's VBS (July 13 -July 17) at St. John's-Newberry UMC. More information on specifics in the July newsletter.
- * On July 11, we will host a **Red Cross Blood Drive** from 11:00 – 3:00 in Fellowship Hall. We are told supplies of blood are critically low. Please consider being a donor or encouraging others to donate. More information will be available in the July Lion.
- * We have spoken with Habitat for Humanity and are on the list of volunteers to host a luncheon later this summer. More details will be available when we have a specific date.

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.



Through Operation Christmas Child, Samaritan's Purse is sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with millions of boys and girls in more than 100 countries each year. Many of these children have never before received a present or heard the true

meaning of Christmas—until they open a gift-filled shoebox from a person like you. Thank you for helping us to deliver the Gospel through the gift of a simple shoebox.

In June, we are collecting: ~ **small balls (no super balls please), yo-yo's (light up if possible), bungee cords, screwdrivers**

Monetary donations are also welcome to help offset the \$10.00/box cost for shipping our shoeboxes. This \$10.00 also provides devotional material for every child who receives a shoebox. Checks may be made to St. Mark's with OCC in the memo line.

These items, or any other treasures you may find, may be placed in our red, OCC bin located in the narthex. Thank you!

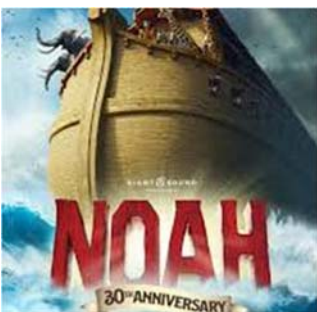
*The age ranges for the boxes we fill are 2-4, 5-9, and 10-14
(both boys and girls)

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

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.

June 2025

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|-----------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| | | 5:30pm Evangelism and Fellowship | | | | |
| 8 9:30AM Holy Communion | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 10:45am Faith Formation | 13 | 14 |
| 2:30PM Old Immanuel Dedication | 6pm Council | | | 5PM Redeemer Dinner | Synod Assembly | Synod Assembly |
| 15 9:30AM Holy Communion | 16 7:00PM Civic Choir | 17 9:30AM West Branch Conference | 18 2:00PM Williamsport Home | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| Family Promise Hosting begins | Pastor Vacation | Pastor Vacation | Pastor Vacation | Pastor Vacation | Pastor Vacation | Pastor Vacation |
| 22 9:30AM Holy Communion Family Promise Hosting ends | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 Daniel's Closet Drop-off 4PM-6PM | 27 | 28 Daniel's Closet 8:30AM-11PM |
| Pastor Vacation | | | | | | |
| 29 9:30AM Holy Communion | 30 | | | | | |

United Churches of Lycoming County
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Sunday July 13th- Thursday July 17th

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

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



REGISTRATION FORM

One form per participant:

Participants Name: _____

Address: _____

Age: _____ Grade Completed: _____ Church Affiliation: _____

Emergency Contact Information:

Emergency Contact Name: _____

Relationship: _____ Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

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

Attending Nightly Supper: ☐ Yes ☐ No

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

How did you hear about our VBS? _____

Photo Release: 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

Please drop off or mail information by Sunday July 6th to any participating church or to the office of:
Saint John's Newberry UMC, 2101 Newberry Street Williamsport, PA 17701 or email: secretary@stjnumc.com

Participating Churches: Christ Episcopal, First Church of Christ Disciples, New Covenant UCC, Saint John's Newberry UMC, St. Luke and St. Mark's Lutheran, Sojourners Truth Ministries, and Trinity Episcopal.