



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

2025



Pastor's Lion Message for August 2025

Pastor's "Lion" Message August, 2025

*Be still and know that I am God (Psalm
46:10)*

Many, many years ago I played trumpet in my high school band. I admit I spent more time with my friends rather than taking time to practice. The name of our band director was Chuck Falconio (he encouraged us to call him "Falcon"). A very nice man who had a passion for the band and the students. Falcon had a favorite saying he would invoke whenever he felt the band got a little too rowdy. "Oh, be still! Don't start! Listen!"

His words remind me often of the admonition of Psalm 46:10, "Be still and know that I am God."

As I look over the lessons appointed for Sundays during the month of August, the words of Psalm 46:10 as well as the direction of my high school band director, seem to be a recurring theme: Be still! Settle down! Take the time to listen to God. Often when we call ourselves people of God we associate that identity with taking action because we already know what God asks of us:

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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
(570) 323-4619

- This is what God needs to do
- This is where God needs to be
- This what we need God to bless
- This is God's will for America
- This is what we need to pray to God for



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

Communication skill experts tell us time and time again effective communication includes listening. Not just hearing, taking time to understand what another is saying. The same is true and even more so with God. To be people of God involves listening.

Spend time with God in Scripture. Incorporate within your own prayer life meditation (silent, sung and spoken) on God's Word. Attend worship and receive Holy Communion often. Remind yourself of your baptism. Let God speak. Often we say to ourselves and others, "I know exactly what God means; what God says", when in truth we are only attune to our own voices. An example of this is the phrase, "God helps them who help themselves." It sounds scriptural doesn't it? It's not. The phrase is not found in the bible. God encourages listening and trusting God's grace, not self-sufficiency.

There are a few precious weeks left to celebrate summer and all the blessings this season brings. Before our lives become even more chaotic, take some time to be with God. Take some time to listen to God. Spend some time in the Word of God. Seek to know what God "says" to us. "Be still! Don't start! Listen!"

Grace + Peace,

Pastor Vasey

**SUNDAY JUNE 1 WE BEGAN OUR
"SUMMER SCHEDULE": ONE WORSHIP
TIME AT 9:30 AM. OUR FALL SCHEDULE
WILL RESUME SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER
7, 2025.**

**JOIN US FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP IN AUGUST:
ALL ARE WELCOME**

ALL ARE WELCOME! JOIN US!

**Sunday, August 3, The Eighth Sunday after
Pentecost**

Holy Communion, 9:30 am

**Sunday, August 10, The Ninth Sunday after
Pentecost**

Holy Communion, 9:30 am

**Sunday, August 17, The Tenth Sunday after
Pentecost**

Holy Communion, 9:30 am

***Blessing of the Backpacks, Bags and
Briefcases***

**Sunday, August 24, The Eleventh Sunday after
Pentecost**

Holy Communion, 9:30 am

**Sunday, August 31, The Twelfth Sunday after
Pentecost**

Holy Communion, 9:30 am

**CHURCH COUNCIL, Monday, August 18,
2025, 6 pm**

SEPTEMBER REMINDERS:

Sunday, September 7

Fall Schedule resumes: Holy Communion, 8 and 10:30 am/Sunday School, 9:15 am

Adult Sunday School Study: Sunday, September 7, 9:15 am, the Adult Sunday

School Class will begin an overview and study of the Gospel according to St. Matthew. We meet in our chapel at 9:15 am. All are welcome! Bring a friend!

Sunday, September 7 is “God’s Work/Our Hands Sunday”. Theme and details will be coming soon!

Wednesday, September 24, “Sight and Sound Bus Trip, Noah”

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.



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.



Backpack Blessing

Please join us Sunday, August 17th during our 9:30 AM worship service as we bless our backpacks for the upcoming school year. All students, teachers, educators, business executives, attorneys, physicians, nurses, in short, 'anyone who carries a bag or satchel' are encouraged to bring their bag with them as we prayerfully send you into the 2025-26 school year.

We pray: Lord bless this backpack and the one who carries it. May they feel your love and protection in all they do. ~ Amen



Please join us as our Sunday School classes resume September 14th beginning at 9:15 AM.

Our Adult Class will meet with an overview and study of the Gospel according to St. Matthew. 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!

175th Anniversary Celebration

The 175th Anniversary of the founding of St. Mark's Lutheran Church (formed as the First English Evangelical Lutheran Church) will take place in early 2027. This milestone anniversary is worthy of celebration, and we would like to begin planning for this special occasion. In an effort to accomplish this task, a 175th Anniversary Committee is being formed with our first meeting on Sunday, September 14th after late service. This will be a preliminary meeting to begin discussion and brainstorming on how we would like to proceed. We are looking for committee members (and hopefully committee co-chairs). If you are interested please come! If you are interested but can't make this meeting, please reach out to Vicki Haussmann. Looking forward to seeing you there!





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). When giving to these causes, be sure to put your name on the envelope so your contribution may be recorded correctly on your contribution statement. Please write on the memo line of your check how you wish your gift to be used (cash is always welcome).



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 be deposited into the “General Account”.

AUGUST Worship Leaders

Please arrange for a replacement if you cannot serve.



Communion Assistants

August 3

9:30 AM Deb Buckman & Mindy Wentzel

August 10

9:30 AM Ralph & Lou Ann Zeigler

August 17

9:30 AM Brian & Nikki Jackson

August 24

9:30 AM Matt & Wanda Fortin

August 31

9:30 AM Ralph & Lou Ann Zeigler



Ushers

August 3

9:30 AM Gary & Shelby Weber

August 10

9:30 AM Fortin, Yapple, Wentzel

August 17

9:30 AM Gair Team

August 24

9:30 AM Maggs Team, Dick Reitz

August 31

9:30 AM Gary & Shelby Weber



Lectors

August 3

9:30 AM Donna Clark

August 10

9:30 AM Karen Mariano

August 17

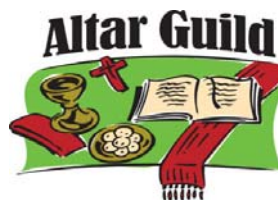
9:30 AM Theresa Furman

August 24

9:30 AM Drew Haussmann

August 31

9:30 AM Deb Buckman



Altar Guild

Cindy Huff & Linda Rosini

August Birthdays

Donna Clark	8/7
Charles Fortin	8/8
Susan Newcomer	8/10
Lynna Robertson	8/10
Gillian Buckman	8/11
Dallas Fortin	8/11
Charles Greevy	8/11
Ruth Ann Bigelow	8/14
Ray Huff	8/14
Carl Albright	8/15
Beverly Hieber	8/15
Stacie Bieber	8/18
Dan Ziegleer	8/23
Johah Schreckengast	8/28
Shirley Kinney	8/29
Ashton Ott	8/29
Lou Ann Zeigler	8/30
Mindy Wentzel	8/31



August Anniversary

Walt & Leah Haussmann	8/3
Bryan & Karen Pelleschi	8/7
Tim & Deb Maggs	8/10
Ken & Laura Schreckengast	8/10
Neil & Kathy Eschelman	8/14
Ed & Brenda Gair	8/14
Stephen & Karen Mariano	8/14
Charles & Gloria Greevy	8/26
Ruth & Leonard Sherlinski	8/27
Phil & Barb Thomas	8/28
Tom Waffenschmidt & Valerie Doebler	8/30



FAMILY PROMISE

Our next hosting for Family Promise is in October. More information to come closer to the hosting week. 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. 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**

Lutheran World Relief - It is that time of year again for making kits. The items for the school kits have already been displayed in the narthex. Please take a bag, or 2, or 3 or more. You will need to provide the notebooks, crayons, ruler and scissors. The ruler needs to have both the English and metric measurements - it can be wood, metal or plastic.

The scissors must be safety round pointed. All the rest of the items are available in the narthex along with the directions.

For baby kits - there is a need for bars of soap - gentle type in original packaging. Pre-folded diapers are available on Amazon.

Sewing kits - please refer to the directions for the correct material sizes.

You do not have to make a complete kit - you can place items in the tub in the narthex.

Bless your work in helping people displaced by flooding, other natural disasters, or war.



**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.



June 2025

Minutes

St. Mark's Council meeting- June 9, 2025*

Call to Order: 6:00 pm

Council recited the Defining Mission Statement

LouAnn led us in devotions.

Secretary's roll call:

Members present: Debra Buckman, Vicki Haussmann, Ray Huff, Cindy Todd, Lou Ann Zeigler, Donna Clark, Richard Miller, Richard Reitz, Pastor Vasey

Minutes of the May 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 shared his Pastoral duties for the month. The bishop will visit us at some point. The Joshua Study concluded. Pastor will be on vacation from June 16-22. Ray will preside and Michele will be in the office for the entire week. The Seylers will be joining the church.

All statistical reports have been completed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Evangelism and Fellowship: Becky needs help for the 4th of August celebration. A signup sheet is in the nave.

Faith Formation: Twenty two birthday bags were filled.. Sunday School is over for the summer, and the study of Revelation is finished. The Church Picnic is on August 13 after the single service. UCLC VBS will be at St. Johns Newberry from August 15-17. Camp Mt. Luther staff will host the CML Summer Day Camp at Trinity Episcopal Church from August 21-25

Council Minutes Continued

Finance: Deb Buckman presented the report. The committee will meet in August to set up separate accounts for memorials. Power Church was discussed from a financial point of view.

Little Lambs: Deciding on date for a meeting.

Nominating: No report.

Personnel: No report.

Property: No report.

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

Safety- No report

Publicity: No report

Safety: No report.

Worship and Music: Sam will provide the *Pedal to the Metal* concert at 7:30 PM on the Fourth of August. The committee will meet in August.

Unfinished business:

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.

New business:

Civic Choir Board Meeting: 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- cost is \$177.76

Synod Assembly: June 13-14

Council Minutes Continued

CC2025.06.01 (Huff/Todd) Moved to investigate the baby grand piano offered to us through Civic Chorus. Sam will check on how it might fit in with our programs.

Lou Ann led us in closing prayer.

The meeting ended at 7:08 PM

***Please note there was no Council meeting in July.**

Next Meeting: August 18 2025, 6:00 PM



Evangelism and Fellowship Committee Articles for The Lion

August 2025



Fourth of July Celebration at St. Mark's

St. Mark's Lutheran Church once again celebrated God, country and community on July Fourth on our front lawn. Many folks came early and stayed late. Folks took trinkets of all types. They munched on fresh popcorn, snacks and candy. They drank lemonade, ice tea, water and soda, and ate more than 200 hot dogs! A good time was had by all.

A program of pop culture music was presented by our organist, Sam Robinson, in our Nave. More than sixty-five folks enjoyed his performance.

In appreciation for our outreach, community members donated \$388.00 to be shared equally by the Shepherd of the Streets and the United Churches Food Pantry. This amount of money is an all-time record for this event!

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee thanks the congregation for their wonderful support of this event. Thank you to all who donated food items or money. Special thanks to all who donated their time, brought family and helped provide hospitality for all who chose St. Mark's as the place to celebrate. More thanks are given to the small but mighty crews who moved all supplies indoors before the fireworks or came the next day to clean up and store our items for next year. Bless you all.

Card Ministry

Thank you, Cindy Todd for spreading cheer during the month of July. We are in need of Thinking of You and Birthday cards for men. These cards may be placed in the Evangelism and Fellowship mailbox. Thank you for any assistance you can give.

Cereal Sundays



For food insecure families with children there is no vacation from hunger during the summer. In July we helped to ease that burden with our cereal collection. The congregation donated **47 boxes of assorted cereal**.

Our next Cereal Sunday is August 10, 2025.

Can we beat our July collection of 47 boxes of cereal?

Hygiene Help for Families

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee thanks the congregation for the many hygiene items that were donated to families who seek help from the Shepherd of the Streets. **Seventy** assorted items that assist families with children were donated.

Ongoing Collections at St. Mark's:



Blessing Boxes at New Covenant UCC: Monetary donations toward the cost of preparing 80 - 100 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, microwaveable mac & cheese, ramen noodles and individual packs of crackers and cookies. Travel size hygiene items and toothbrushes are always in need.

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

United Churches Food Pantry: Needed are pancake syrup, flour, white and brown sugar, chicken noodle soup, Spam, rice, Alfredo sauce, condiments, salt and pepper shakers, mayo, canned fruit/mandarin oranges, honey and wide egg noodles.

Shepherd of the Streets: Needed for men and women are shampoo and conditioner, toothbrushes, toothpaste, body wash, deodorant and bars of soap.

Sojourner Truth Ministries (STM): Needed are ketchup, mustard and relish, sets of salt and pepper shakers, 9 oz. Dixie Bowls large, paper lunch bags and 7 oz. Dixie Dessert Plates.

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

Ongoing Events at Redeemer Lutheran:

For desserts in August: Thank you, Jim and Susan Newcomer for providing desserts in July. For August, the Evangelism and Fellowship Committee needs the congregation's help in providing boxes of **TastyKakes of any kind**. All donations are needed by Sunday, August 10. Check out the sales at our supermarkets for the best buys. Thank you for any help you can give.



Community Dinner on Thursday, August 14, 2025 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 28, 2025 from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM.

Distribution of free summer and back-to-school clothing is Saturday, August 30, 2025 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.

Red Cross Blood Drive

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee recently hosted its first of three blood drives in 2025. Fifteen pints of much needed blood were donated. We learned that those pints could save up to 45 lives! Our next blood drive will be Monday, September 22, 2025 from 11:00 – 3:00 in Fellowship Hall. Please consider donating yourself or telling family and friends of this life-saving event.



Got Stuff?

The Bazaar Room is getting crowded, but the Evangelism and Fellowship Committee and the Women of St. Mark's are still accepting donations for our annual Fall Sale that will be held September 12 and September 13. If you are discovering items, you no longer need or want, please donate them to us. There is a good chance we can sell them.

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

Please place your donations in boxes small enough for us to lift. Donations can be placed in the Bazaar Room in the basement. If you cannot get to the basement, leaving them on the second landing in the back stairwell is helpful.

We will need many volunteers to get our sale in order. We are hopeful that the Lycoming College Girls' basketball team will bring the tables and treasures from the basement. **Please be thinking of when you can help make this year's sale a success. Later in August there will be sign-up sheets.**





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!



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.



A bus trip to Stone Gables Estate* in Elizabethtown, PA is being organized by Cheryl Williams. This trip is being planned for Wednesday, November 19, 2025. The bus will be pulling out around 9:00 AM from Beiter's parking lot. The trip will include bus fare, a meal catered by "Food for Thought Catering", a ride on the Santa Express train, and the National Christmas center followed by the Christmas light drive-thru. All are included in the price of \$145.09 per person. If interested, please contact Cheryl at (570) 327-1627.

* Stone Gables Estate is a biblical faith-based ministry/business. Their mission is to donate 100% of net profits to aid abandoned children worldwide.

August 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	1	2
					Pastor Vacation	Pastor Vacation
3 9:30AM Holy Communion	4	5	6 9:15AM Becky's Sandwich Crew	7	8	9
Pastor Vacation	Pastor Returns					
10 9:30AM Holy Communion Cereal Collection	11 9:15AM Cathy's Sandwich Crew	12	13 2:00PM Holy Communion @ Williamsport Home	14 10:45AM Faith Formation 5:00PM Redeemer Comm. Dinner	15	16
17 9:30AM Holy Communion Boyle Baptisms Backpack Bless- ing	18 12:15PM Little Lambs Liai- son 6PM Council Civic Chorus Board Meeting	19	20 9:15AM Becky's Sandwich Crew	21 Daniel's Closet Drop-off 4PM-6PM	22	23 Daniel's Closet 8:30AM-11PM
24 9:30AM Holy Communion	25 9:15AM Cathy's Sandwich Crew	26	27	28	29	30
31 9:30AM Holy Communion W & Music Mtg.				L & L Boiler		

14th Annual United Churches of Lycoming County Golf Tournament

WHITE DEER GOLF COURSE - VINTAGE COURSE

Friday, September 26, 2025

Registration & Refreshments - 8:00 a.m.

Shot Gun Start - 9:00 a.m. Format - Scramble

Lunch - To Follow

\$110.00 per Golfer Entry Fee

\$440 per foursome

Every golfer receives a Player Package of Grace!

Golfer	Phone	E-mail
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
TOTAL \$ _____		

.....
Send Registration with Payment by September 5th to:

United Churches of Lycoming County

202 East Third Street

Williamsport, PA 17701

(checks payable to "United Churches of Lycoming County")

Phone: 570-322-1110

E-mail - director@uclc.org