



SAINT MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

"THE LION"

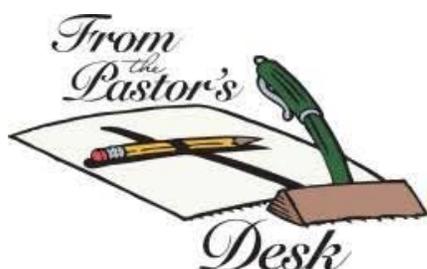
of ST. MARK'S

A Monthly Newsletter by and for the members of St. Mark's

*To know Christ and to
make Christ known.*

April

2026



Pastor's Lion Message for April 2026

Pastor's "Lion" Message April, 2026

*Suddenly Jesus met them and said,
"Greetings!" (Matthew 28:9)*

An eight year old boy was once asked if he knew what Easter meant. He thought for a moment and then said with great enthusiasm, "Surprise!"

That is a pretty accurate description, especially of that first Easter Sunday, "Surprise!" The news for those who visited the tomb, those who first heard news about Jesus following his crucifixion, expected to see and hear about a dead corpse. Instead they encountered a risen Christ! They were surprised by the unexpected!

Everyday, during my morning commute, I pass by a cemetery. Sometimes I see people at graves remembering friends and loved ones with various memorial items: Flowers, balloons, stuffed animals. Some bring a chair on which to sit as they remember, and/or pray.

Picture the scene of the cemetery where Jesus was laid following his crucifixion. According to the evangelist Matthew, Mary

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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

Magdalene and another Mary visited his grave once the Sabbath was over. They had brought items as well; items associated with remembering in death their friend. But when they arrived they encountered one unexpected thing after another: No guards, no stone in front of the tomb, no dead body. And then, an angel who told them the good news of resurrection! As if that wasn't enough they encountered Jesus himself. Surprise!

As we celebrate the good news of the risen Christ among us may we also, like these women, be filled with wonder, the wonder of the unexpected. Don't let the annual celebration of Easter dampen the good news of the risen Christ. Surprise! Jesus lives! He who once was dead lives and he brings the good news of resurrection and life eternal to all who embrace the possibility.

May the surprise of the unexpected be the good news we share this Easter. In life, in death, among the living and the dead, Jesus lives! Embrace the surprise!

Grace + Peace,
Pastor Vasey



JOIN US FOR SUNDAY
WORSHIP IN APRIL - ALL
ARE WELCOME!!

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

**Sunday, April 5, The Resurrection of Our
Lord (Easter Sunday)**

**8 am Holy Communion
Hospitality in Fellowship Hall, 9:15 am
10:30 Holy Communion**

**Sunday, April 12, The Second Sunday of
Easter**

**8 am Holy Communion
Sunday School, 9:15 am
10:30 am Holy Communion**

**Sunday, April 19, The Third Sunday of
Easter**

**8 am Holy Communion
Sunday School, 9:15 am
10:30 am Holy Communion**

**Sunday, April 26, The Fourth Sunday of
Easter**

**8 am Holy Communion
Sunday School, 9:15 am
10:30 am Holy Communion**

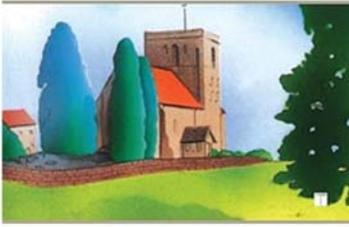
*West Branch Conference Assembly,
2 pm Redeemer Lutheran Church*

ALL ARE WELCOME!

THE NATIONAL BESTSELLER

May Book Study

JOSHUA AND THE CHILDREN



JOSEPH F.
GIRZONE
AUTHOR OF JOSHUA AND JOSHUA'S FAMILY

The Faith Formation Committee is pleased to once again be offering the opportunity to grow in our faith through a 3 week book study using the novel Joshua and the Children written by Joseph Girzone. We will meet on Wednesdays from 12:10-12:50 beginning May 6th. Copies of this book are currently available in the Narthex. Please feel free to take a copy and get a head start on reading if you are so inclined! We are looking forward to continuing Joshua's story and hope that you will join us!



**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.



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.

Williamsport Civic Chorus Concert

Stage to Song

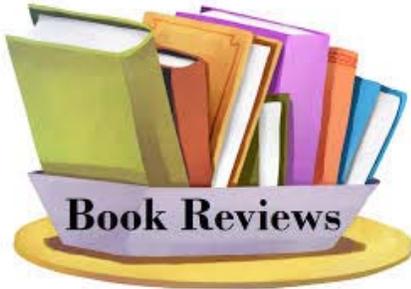
Sunday, April 19th at 3PM in the Clerestory Room, Pajama Factory, 1307 Park Ave. , Williamsport

Favorites from Rogers and Hammerstein, Sondheim and Disney Films.

Tickets available at Robert M. Sides, Ottos Bookstore, or at the door.



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.



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!

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).



APRIL Worship Leaders

Please arrange for a replacement if you cannot serve.



Communion Assistants

April 5	
8:00 AM	Nikki Jackson
10:30 AM	Ralph & Lou Ann Zeigler
April 12	
8:00 AM	Drew Haussmann
10:30 AM	Gary & Shelby Weber
April 19	
8:00 AM	Becky Pryor
10:30 AM	Deb Buckman & Mindy Wentzel
April 26	
8:00 AM	Brian Jackson
10:30 AM	Matt & Wanda Fortin



USHER
SCHEDULE

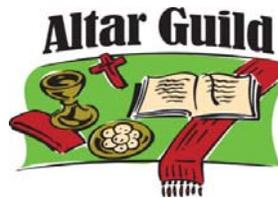
Ushers

April 5	
8:00 AM	Miller/Poff
10:30 AM	Gary & Shelby Weber
April 812	
8:00 AM	Miller/Poff
10:30 AM	Fortin/Yaple/Wentzel
April 19	
8:00 AM	Miller/Poff
10:30 AM	Gair Family
April 26	
8:00 AM	Miller/Poff
10:30 AM	The Maggs/Dick Reitz



Lectors

April 5	
8:00 AM	Nikki Jackson
10:30 AM	Gary Weber
April 12	
8:00 AM	Vicki Haussmann
10:30 AM	Phil Thomas
April 19	
8:00 AM	Becky Pryor
10:30 AM	Deb Buckman
April 26	
8:00 AM	Brian Jackson
10:30 AM	Ralph Zeigler



Altar Guild

Altar Guild

Gary & Shelby Weber

April
Birthdays

Linda Rosini	4/6
Sadie Wentzel	4/10
Taylor Wentzel	4/10
Michael Ochs	4/13
Ezra Buckman	4/14
Sara Neal	4/17
Cindy Hartzel	4/19
Ben Haussmann	4/23
Karen Merrifield	4/26
Bunny Ditchfield	4/29

Happy Birthday



April
Anniversaries

Matt & Wanda Fortin	4/3
Ryan & Danielle Kane	4/9
Carl & Audrey Albright	4/23



FAMILY PROMISE

Our next hosting is April 19 –25th. Contact will be made before Easter. Our next hosting will then be in July and then November. Thank you so much for your help in this outreach. If you have any questions, please contact me— Deb Buckman.



Winter is just about over and the stores will be putting the winter clothing on sale. This is a good time to look for those 0-24 month sweaters/coats/sweatshirts. Also winter pajamas (remember, no feet) - 2 piece pajamas are OK. Some stores are still having "white sales" where you can get bath towels and hand towels cheap - remember, no bath blankets (too big). Have fun shopping. Deb Buckman



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Many thanks to everyone who continues to donate items for our OCC collection! Our shoeboxes are well on their way to being filled with gifts for boys and girls throughout the world. Our monthly donations to date have included: activity books, journals, washcloths, knit hats, combs/brushes and toothbrushes. All of these items are a wonderful start to showing kids how much they are loved.

In April, we are collecting **Stuffed Animals** (beanie baby size) or **Small Dolls, Hair Accessories, and Tape Measures**. These items may be placed in our red, OCC bin located in the narthex. Monetary donations are also welcome to help defray the cost of shipping. We hope to also order Grow With Me shoes this year to be included in as many boxes as possible. Checks may be placed with your offering, earmarked OCC. Thank you so much for your generosity!

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



March 2026

Minutes

St. Mark's Lutheran Church Council Meeting – March 16, 2026

This month's council meeting began with a presentation and discussion with Bishop Craig Miller from the ELCA Upper Susquehanna Synod. Bishop Miller explained the process for calling a new pastor to St. Mark's after Pastor Vasey's retirement in August. Notes from that meeting will be filed with this month's council meeting minutes in the church office.

Meeting called to order at 6:48 pm.

Council recited the defining mission statement – To Know Christ and To Make Christ Known

Bishop Miller provided the opening prayer.

Secretary's roll call by Cindy Todd

Members present – Deb Buckman, Shawn Cartwright, Cathy Fenderson, Wanda Fortin, Ray Huff, Nikki Jackson, Richard Miller, Richard Reitz, Scott Seyler, Cindy Todd, Lou Ann Zeigler and Pastor Vasey.

Members absent – Donna Clark, excused

Treasurer's report (Deb Buckman) – The report was accepted and filed for audit.

Pastor's Report (Pastor Vasey) – Pastor presented his pastoral duties for February along with Lectionary Group Study, Conference meeting, City Pastor's lunch, Williamsport Home Holy Communion and Leadership Development Synod meeting.

Doug and Celina Hasko will be received into membership on Easter Sunday.

FACILITIES REQUESTS 2026.03.01 Little Lambs requested the use of Fellowship Hall on May 8, 2026 (Mother's Day Tea) and on May 15, 2026 (Donuts with Dad). (M Lou Ann Zeigler, 2nd Richard Reitz). APPROVED.

Council Minutes Continued

FACILITIES REQUEST 2026.03.02 Megan Cartwright requested the use of Fellowship Hall on Tuesday evenings, spring and fall, for Williamsport Youth Chorus practice. (M Shawn Cartwright, 2nd Scott Seyler). **APPROVED.**

The pastors of Redeemer Lutheran, St. Luke Lutheran and St. Mark's Lutheran continue to provide pastoral care for the Liberty parish.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Evangelism and Fellowship – planning Habitat lunch on June 6; Blood drives scheduled for May 15, September 21 and December 11; Easter cards for special concern members will be available on Sunday, March 15, in the narthex; the committee thanked Lou Ann Zeigler for handmade Easter eggs and treat bags for shut ins; Men's group is planning a June breakfast.

Faith Formation – book study planned for May 6, 13 and 20, Joshua and The Children, a sequel to the study of the book, Joshua.

Finance Committee – moving \$20,000 from investments to the general fund in March.

Little Lambs – facilities use request covered under Pastor's Report.

Memorial Committee - The Memorial Committee made three motions to Council, described below. There was no discussion.

MC 2026.03.01 RECOMMEND transfer of \$1,000 in memorial donations to the Dossal fund. APPROVED.

MC 2026.03.02 RECOMMEND transfer of \$625 in memorial donations to the Organ fund. APPROVED.

MC 2026.03.03 RECOMMEND that if memorial donations for a single decedent are less than \$250 in total, families do not need to be notified when those monies are spent. The Memorial Committee will direct these smaller amounts to appropriate funds and present recommendations to Council for approval. APPROVED.

Little Lambs – No Report

Council Minutes Continued

Nominating – No Report

Parish Life – kitchen staff provided lunch in February. The Pastors donated \$70 which was sent to the United Churches Food Pantry. We are planning Easter hospitality between services on Easter Sunday. Council members signed up for food donations.

Personnel – there was a brief discussion about the call committee. This committee will be formed after our profile is completed. Our constitution specifies that there will be six (6) members on the call committee.

Property – there will be a meeting on March 17 at 5:30 pm to discuss the Parish House roof project.

Publicity – received useful information from the Sun Gazette regarding services during Holy Week.

Worship and Music – volunteers needed to make palm crosses on March 28 at 9 am in Fellowship Hall.

Holy Week services are:

March 29, Palm Sunday (congregational meeting following both services)

April 2, Maundy Thursday Communion (12:10 Chapel, 7:30 Nave)

April 3, Good Friday service at First Church of Christ (Disciples) on Almond Street at 12 noon

April 3, Tenebrae service at 7:30 in the Nave

April 4, Easter Vigil at 8:00 pm beginning in the Chapel

April 5, Easter Sunday (8:00 am and 10:30 am).

175th Anniversary Committee – next meeting will be held May 3 after 10:30 am service.

Council Minutes Continued.....

OLD BUSINESS

Dossal Project – continue to look for a vendor to spray the fabric to meet fire retardant standards.

Signup sheets for monthly Council meeting devotions and offering collection were completed.

CC 2026.03.01 RECOMMEND approval of Pastor Vasey’s letter of resignation letter presented at the February Council meeting. (M Cindy Todd, 2nd Nikki Jackson). With regret and congratulations, the motion was APPROVED.

NEW BUSINESS

All discussions centered around the Parish House roof replacement and the need to schedule the replacement this spring.

EC 2026.03.01 RECOMMEND approval for (vendor’s) bid of \$ TBD for the roofing project over the Parish House. Three proposal requests were sent. ___ bids were received, and Property Committee selected the acceptable bid. APPROVED.

Following final bid and vendor selection, Ray will send emails to all council members for final approval.

EC 2026.03.02 RECOMMEND having a congregational meeting following both services on Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026, to gain approval for the roofing contract. Work will begin in mid to late April 2026. APPROVED.

Closing Prayer (Ray Huff) – the Lord’s Prayer

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM

Next Meeting – April 20, 2026



The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee Articles for The Lion

Of April 2026

Community Easter Egg Hunt

Again, this year St. Mark's and New Covenant UCC have helped sponsor this community outreach. The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee thanks the congregation for their many donations of Easter candy, fruit snacks, plastic eggs and mini cereal bars. The weather was good and the hundreds of children in attendance had a wonderful time.



Sharing in the Caring

Ongoing Collections at St. Mark's:

Members of St. Mark's have given much for a number of projects from December through March, but the need continues. The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee continues to request, on behalf of the vulnerable in our community, for any items listed below that you are able to donate. Thank you for your continued support.

United Churches Food Pantry: Most needed are boxed potatoes, canned pineapple, tea bags, condiments including BBQ sauce and honey.

Shepherd of the Streets: If it keeps a person clean, it is needed. Especially needed are items for babies. These items include wipes, powder, body wash, lotion and shampoo.

Blessing Boxes at New Covenant UCC: Snack items, microwave, single serve food and travel size hygiene items.

Sandwich Crews at St. Mark's: We provide sandwiches weekly to New Covenant's Blessing Boxes. Monetary donations to offset the cost of rolls, meat and cheese are always appreciated. Checks may be made payable to St. Mark's with the memo line indicating Parish Life.

Sojourner Truth Ministries: Mayonnaise, bottles of salad dressings, napkins and ice tea mix.

Card Ministry: This outreach is in need of birthday cards for men and women and Thinking of You cards. Donations may be placed on a table in the Narthex. Thank you for any help you can give.

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



Ongoing Events at Redeemer Lutheran:

Community Dinner: Is on Thursday, April 9, 2026 beginning at 5:00 PM until all meals are distributed. This is a take-out meal available at the curb. All are welcome.

Desserts for April: Jim and Susan Newcomer will provide Easter brownies for Redeemer's dinner. Thank you, Jim and Susan for your dedication to this outreach.

This month's clothing drop off is Thursday, April 23, from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM. In April, there will be a transition to spring clothing and jackets. Shoes for adults and children along with blankets, sheets, throws and crocheted afghans are also accepted

Daniel's Closet: Distribution of free seasonal/spring clothing is Saturday, April 25, 2026 from 8:30 – 11:00 AM.

If you have a large quantity of clothing, please call Redeemer's office (leave a message) at 570-322-2333 to make an appointment for taking your items directly to Redeemer. Smaller quantities can be placed on our stage behind the curtains.



CAMP MOUNT LUTHER SUMMER 2026

2026 SUMMER SCHEDULE

WEEK 1: June 15-19

- **Community Day Camp** (ages 5-12) at Faith, Lewisburg (Mon-Fri, 9am-3pm)
- **Work Week** (ages 13+)

WEEK 2: June 21-26

- **Scooby Doo** (ages 9-12)
- **Mini-Camp** (ages 9-12)
- **X-Teen** (ages 13-17)
- **Adult Grow and Lunch** (ages 18+) (June 23, 10:30am-1:00pm)
- **Off-Site Day Camp** at Trinity Lutheran, McAlisterville (evenings, Sun-Thu)

WEEK 3: June 28- July 1

- **On-Site Day Camp** at CML (ages 5-12) (Mon-Wed)
- **Hammock Outpost** (ages 13-17) (ends Wed at noon)
- **Family Camp** (all ages) (ends Wed at noon)
- **Adult Grow and Lunch** (ages 18+) (June 30 from 10:30am-1:00pm)

WEEK 4: July 5-10

- **Fantasy** (ages 9-15)
- **Mini-Camp** (ages 9-12)
- **SIT** (staff in training) (ages 16-17)
- **Adult Grow and Lunch** (Ages 18+) (July 7, 10:30-1:00)

WEEK 5: July 12-17

- **OhioPyle** (ages 14-17)
- **Off-Site Day Camp** at Trinity Episcopal, Williamsport
- **Off-Site Day Camp** at Zion Lutheran, Sunbury
- **Off-Site Day Camp** at St. Peter Lutheran, Kreamer (evenings, Sun-Thu)

WEEK 6: July 19-24

- **Pirates** (ages 9-15)
- **Mini-Camp** (ages 9-12)
- **Optional Day Backpacking** (ages 13-15)
- **SIT** (staff in training) (ages 16-17)
- **Adult Grow and Lunch** (ages 18+) (July 21, 10:30am-1:00pm)

WEEK 7: July 27-31

- **Off-Site Day Camp** at Zion Lutheran, Turbotville
- **Off-Site Day Camp** with The Table, Bloomsburg at Trinity UCC, Bloomsburg
- **Off-Site Day Camp** at Milton Lutheran, Milton

WEEK 8: August 2-4

- **On-Site Day Camp** at CML (ages 5-12) (Mon-Tue)
- **Classic** (ages 9-17) (ends Tue at 4pm)

***Camp weeks begin Sunday at 4pm and end Friday at 4pm unless otherwise indicated.

This year's curriculum theme is



Together, we will see how God wants us to put on love every day, just like our favorite clothes. At camp, we will learn to show love through kindness, humility, calmness, sticking with what's right, and forgiving others. When we wear love, we help our community grow stronger and share God's love with the world!

Tiered pricing!

Choose the level that works best for you. Scholarships are available.

Day Camp (per day)

\$90 | \$75 | \$60

Mini Camp & Family Camp

\$550 | \$425 | \$345

Week-long Camps

\$1100 | \$850 | \$690

For more information, go to campaountluther.org/summer

REGISTER
TODAY!



or go to
campaountluther.org/summer

Questions? cml@campmountluther.org
More info: campmountluther.org/summer

follow us!



April 2026

							Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
									1	2	3	4	
									<i>Sandwich Crew</i>		<i>Maundy Thurs. 12:10PM Chapel 7:30PM Nave</i>	<i>8PM Easter Vigil</i>	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11							
<i>8:00AM Holy Communion 9:15AM Sunday School 10:30AM Holy Communion EASTER HOSP..</i>	<i>Sandwich Crew WCC</i>				<i>1:00PM Pastors' Luncheon 5PM Redeemer Community Dinner</i>								
12	13	14	15	16	17	18							
<i>8:00AM Holy Communion 9:15AM Sunday School 10:30AM Holy Communion</i>	<i>6:00PM Council WCC</i>		<i>Sandwich Crew 2:00PM Williamsport Home Communion</i>	<i>WCCO Dress Rehearsal</i>	<i>WCCO Concert</i>								
19	20	21	22	23	24	25							
<i>8:00AM Holy Communion 9:15AM Sunday School 10:30AM Holy Communion</i>	<i>Sandwich Crew 6:00PM Council WCC</i>			<i>4-6PM Daniel's Drop-off</i>		<i>8:30AM-11AM Daniel's Closet Distribution @ Redeemer Lutheran</i>							
26	27	28	29	30									
<i>8:00AM Holy Communion 9:15AM Sunday School 10:30AM Holy Communion</i>		<i>6PM Gala Concert</i>											