



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 2026



Pastor's Lion Message for May 2026

Pastor's "Lion" Message May, 2026

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, "Brothers, what should we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:37-38).

Recently, at my weekly pastors' bible study, a colleague commented on the above scripture, "It's still the Easter Season. So why is one of our readings all about the Holy Spirit? Pentecost is when we should be preaching about the Holy Spirit and not before."

He was joking to be sure but perhaps you have wondered the same thing, not as a jest but as an honest inquiry. The Day of Pentecost in 2026 is May 24. Traditionally in the life of the church Pentecost is the day and season we preachers emphasize the role and work of the Holy Spirit. So why in my preaching and in some of the readings associated with various Sundays that are not part of Pentecost, is the Holy Spirit mentioned?

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pastor's May Message	Page 1
Sundays in May	Page 2
Book Study/ Blood Drive	Page 3
Envelopes	Page 4
May Worship Leaders	Page 5
May Birthdays/Anniversaries	Page 6
Family Promise/LRW/OCC	Page 7
Council Minutes	Page 8
Evangelism & Fellowship	Page 11
CML Summer Schedule	Page 14
May Calendar	Page 15

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

Pentecost is the commemoration of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. It is not the “birthday of the Holy Spirit”. The Holy Spirit has always been, always is and always will be. The Holy Spirit is not a junior God. The Holy Spirit is not subservient to God. The Holy Spirit is not an “it”. We come to know God in Jesus Christ as a result of the Holy Spirit working through the means of grace (Scripture and preaching; Holy Baptism; Holy Communion). The Holy Spirit introduces us to Christ. To know Christ is a “holy experience”. To know Christ is not a result of our efforts.

It is a “good thing” to mention the Holy Spirit in the life of the church throughout the year and not just on the day or season associated with Pentecost. The Holy Spirit is always with us witnessing to us of God's love in Christ so that we may tell others.

Rejoice and celebrate the work of God the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and always!

Grace + Peace,
Pastor Vasey



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

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

Sunday, May 3, The Fifth Sunday of Easter
8 am Holy Communion
9:15 am, Sunday School
10:30 Holy Communion

Sunday, May 10, The Sixth Sunday of Easter
8 am Holy Communion
9:15 am, Sunday School
10:30 am Holy Communion

Sunday, May 17, The Seventh Sunday of Easter *The*
Sunday after the Ascension
8 am Holy Communion
9:15 am, Sunday School
10:30 am Holy Communion

Sunday, May 24, The Day of Pentecost
8 am Holy Communion
9:15 am, Sunday School
10:30 am Holy Communion

Sunday, May 31, Trinity Sunday
The First Sunday after Pentecost
8 am Holy Communion
9:15 am, Sunday School
10:30 am Holy Communion

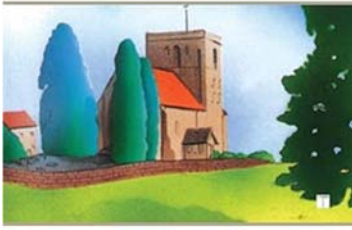
ALL ARE WELCOME!

++ Please note: Sunday, May 31 will be the last Sunday St. Mark's will offer two worship services until Sunday, September 13. From June 7 – September 6, there will be ONE WORSHIP TIME, 9:30 am and Sunday School will be on “Summer Vacation”.

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.



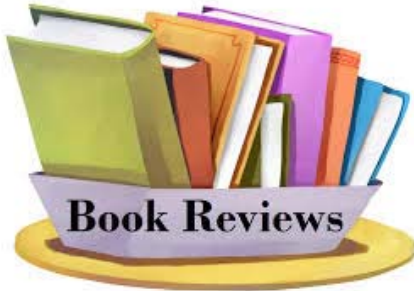
When you or a loved one has a change of address, telephone number or email, please contact the church office at 570-323-4619 or stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org. Please direct your intentions whether or not to share this information with our church family.

BLOOD DRIVE

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee, in collaboration with the North Central PA Chapter of the American Red Cross, will hold a **Blood Drive on Friday, May 15, 2026 from 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM in Fellowship Hall**. Please consider being a donor or encourage friends and family as the Red Cross experiences critical shortages of blood and the need is great. Call 1-800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: "St. Marks" to schedule an appointment.



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).



MAY Worship Leaders

Please arrange for a replacement if you cannot serve.



Communion Assistants

May 3	
8:00 AM	Jackie Kinney
10:30 AM	Ralph & Lou Ann Zeigler
May 10	
8:00 AM	Nikki Jackson
10:30 AM	Deb Buckman & Mindy Wentzel
May 17	
8:00 AM	Becky Pryor
10:30 AM	Gary & Shelby Weber
May 24	
8:00 AM	Drew Hausmann
10:30 AM	Ralph & Lou Ann Zeigler
May 31	
8:00 AM	Jackie Kinney
10:30 AM	Phil Thomas & Dan Zeigler



Lectors

May 3	
8:00 AM	Candy Dewar
10:30 AM	Donna Boston
May 10	
8:00 AM	Nikki Jackson
10:30 AM	Karen Mariano
May 17	
8:00 AM	Becky Pryor
10:30 AM	Mary Ann Stiller
May 24	
8:00 AM	Drew Hausmann
10:30 AM	Theresa Furman
May 31	
8:00 AM	Vicki Hausmann
10:30AM	Shelby Weber



USHER
SCHEDULE

Ushers

May 3	
8:00 AM	Miller/Poff
10:30 AM	Gary & Shelby Weber
May 10	
8:00 AM	Miller/Poff
10:30 AM	Glenn Yaple & Mel Wentzel
May 17	
8:00 AM	Miller/Poff
10:30 AM	Gair Family
May 24	
8:00 AM	Miller/Poff
10:30 AM	Tim & Debb M./Dick Reitz
May 31	
8:00 AM	Miller/Poff
10:30AM	Gary & Shelby Weber



Altar Guild

Altar Guild

Cindy Huff & Linda Rosini

May
Birthdays

Mel Wentzel	5/1
Jacob Schreckengast	5/2
Grace Schreckengast	5/5
H. Vincent Bardsley	5/12
Thomas Waffenschmidt	5/12
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
Norma Prato	5/26
Walt Haussmann	5/27
Owen Gair	5/30

May
Anniversaries

Megan & Shawn Cartwright	5/10
Rev. Brian & Joanne Vasey	5/24
Mike & Pam Jensen	5/30



FAMILY PROMISE

Our next hosting will 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

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, Solar Powered Calculators, Metal Nail Clippers, Nerf Footballs, T-Shirts or Dresses**

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)



April 2026

Minutes

St. Mark's Lutheran Church Council Meeting – April 20, 2026

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm.

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

Deb Buckman provided the opening prayer.

Secretary's roll call by Cindy Todd

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

Members absent – Richard Reitz, 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 March including Lectionary Group Study, Conference meeting, City Pastor's lunch, Williamsport Home Holy Communion and Leadership Development Synod meeting.

Doug and Celina Hasko were received into membership on Sunday, April 12.

FACILITIES REQUESTS 2026.04.01 Evangelism and Fellowship submitted a request to use Fellowship Hall for this year's blood drives May 15, September 21 and December 11. 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 – July 4th Lawn Party has been cancelled, church picnic will be held on Sunday, July 12. Balance of activity surrounds Pastor Vasey's ordination and retirement celebrations.

Council Minutes Continued

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 – made several recommendations to save money on expenses.

FC 2026.04.01 TO CHANGE INSURANCE COVERAGE AS RECOMMENDED BY CHRIS FELLON THROUGH SUSAN RAMSAY AT CHURCH INSURERS AGENCY LLC. APPROVED.

FC 2026.04.02 TO CHANGE ELECTRIC AND GAS PROVIDER TO AMERICAN POWER & GAS AT THE FOLLOWING RATES FOR THE NEXT 12 MONTHS. POWER .0889/KWH (FROM .1268), GAS .299/HCF (FROM .334). APPROVED.

Little Lambs – Mother’s Day tea 5/8, Donuts with dad 5/14.

Memorial Committee – no meeting. Committee asked to consult auditors on how to properly zero out funds still showing in older memorial accounts. Approval granted.

Nominating – No Report

Parish Life – see Evangelism and Fellowship.

Personnel – Ray shared synod information regarding the process for beginning the call process.

Property – the first payment has been made for replacing the Parish House roof. The next payment will be due when materials are ordered.

Publicity – we will begin to look for a new publicity person for St. Mark’s. The position is currently filled by Pastor Vasey.

Worship and Music – next meeting is May 31.

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.

NEW BUSINESS

CC 2026.04.01 – TO RECOMMEND SCOTT SEYLER FOR ENTRY TO THE NEXT AUTHORIZED LAY WORSHIP LEADER (ALWL) TRAINING SESSION. M/Pastor Vasey, 2nd/Lou Ann Zeigler. APPROVED.

Ray shared information from Synod including Transition Checklist and the Guide for Congregation Councils When a Pastor Resigns. Ray also shared more information about the call committee. These documents and discussions will prepare us to begin the coverage and call process when it is appropriate to begin that process.

Closing Prayer by Deb Buckman and Ray Huff

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM

Next Meeting – May 18, 2026



The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee Articles for The Lion

Of May 2026

Thank You for Sending Easter Cheer

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee extends heartfelt thanks to the many members of the congregation for their willingness to send Easter greetings to our Special Concern folks and others we do not see as often as we wish. With more than seventy cards to be sent, it took many hands to spread the blessings of this glorious season. May you be blessed in all the ways you blessed others.

More Easter Thanks

The Parish Life Committee extends a heartfelt thank you to Church Council and members of the congregation for their generous food donations and assistance with hosting Easter Hospitality. From set-up, to hosting, to clean-up and laundry all went smoothly due to the many helping hands. A good time was had by all.

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 April, 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: With the rising cost of groceries, the Pantry continues to see an increase in clients. Any non-perishable item is gratefully accepted and appreciated. **P.S.** Cereal Sundays will return beginning in June.

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. Dollar Stores are good resources for items reasonably priced.

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.

Sandwiches / Hot Weather Items: With summer approaching, we need to account for the hot weather that impacts the shelf life of our usual sandwiches. Parish Life is accepting donations of shelf stable packets of StarKist Deli Tuna Salad and Chicken Salad. A container is in the Narthex for donations.

Sojourner Truth Ministries: Mayonnaise, napkins and lemonade or ice tea mix (any flavor.)

Saturday Lunch at STM: The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee in fellowship with New Covenant UCC will host lunch on May 23, 2026 at Sojourner Truth Ministries. Check our Sunday bulletins for items needed to host 60 -75 guests.

Card Ministry: The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee thanks the congregation for their donations of assorted cards. Also thank you to Deb Buckman for sending cards in April. Michele Owen will send cards to our Special Concern folks this month.

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, May 14, 2026 beginning at 5:00 PM until all meals are distributed. This is a take-out meal available at the curb. All are welcome.

This month's clothing drop off is Thursday, May 28, from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM. In April, there was a transition to spring clothing and jackets. Please consider donating summer clothing. Shoes for adults and children along with blankets, sheets, throws and crocheted afghans are also accepted

Daniel's Closet: Distribution of free seasonal/summer clothing is Saturday, May 30, 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.

Update on John Tartline

As you already know, John Tartline is the grandson of Phil and Barb Thomas. He continues to be stationed in Iraq. He is safe and doing well. But due to the conflict with Iran, he is not receiving mail. Please continue to keep John, his parents, Phil and Barb in your thoughts and prayers as we wait for the end of this conflict. When John is once again receiving mail, we will notify you.

Habitat for Humanity Building Blitz

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee is joining up to one hundred volunteers for Habitat for Humanity's "Building Blitz," June 6 and June 7 on Scott Street in Williamsport. We will be helping to serve lunch to the many volunteers expected to be present. Please be checking May Bulletins for more details and the ways you can help.

Spring Cleaning

The Parish Life Committee has been extra busy on Wednesdays for the past few months. We have cleaned, added new shelf paper and organized every drawer and cupboard in the church kitchen and Fellowship Hall. This could not have been done without the assistance of Devin Owen, Becky Pryor and Cheryl Williams and her miracle cleaner GP 66. An extra special thanks, to Herb Poff for creating labels for every drawer and cupboard. Stop over and see how easy it is to find just about anything.



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 campaumluther.org/summer

REGISTER
TODAY!



or go to
campaumluther.org/summer

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

follow us!



May 2026

							Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
											1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9						
8:00AM Holy Communion 9:15AM S. School 10:30AM Holy Communion 175th Anniv. Mtg. Symbols Mtg.		5:30PM E & F	Sandwich Crew Men's Fellowship	Set-up for Tea	10-11:30AM Mother's Day Tea L. Lambs							
10	11	12	13	14	15	16						
8:00AM Holy Communion 9:15AM Sunday School 10:30AM Holy Communion	Sandwich Crew		Set-up for Donuts	10-11:30AM Donuts with Dad L. Lambs 1:00PM Pastors' Luncheon	BLOOD DRIVE 11A-3P							
17	18	19	20	21	22	23						
8:00AM Holy Communion 9:15AM Sunday School 10:30AM Holy Communion	6:00PM Council		Sandwich Crew 2:00PM Williamsport Home Communion									
24	25	26	27	28	29	30						
8 & 10:30am 9:15 Sun. School PENTECOST	Sandwich Crew			4-6PM Clothing drop-off @ Reedmer Lutheran		8:30AM-11:00AM Daniel's Closet						
8 & 10:30AM 9:15am TRINITY SUN.												