



# SAINT MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

## “THE LION”

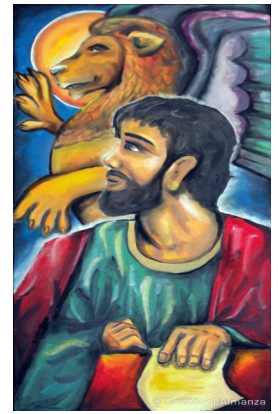
### of ST. MARK'S

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

*To know Christ and to  
make Christ known.*

## July

## 2026



### Pastor's Lion Message for July 2026

#### Pastor's “Lion” Message July, 2026

"But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ." Philippians 3:20

As all of us are aware, July 4 will soon be upon us, our nation's Independence Day. This anniversary of Independence Day is a significant celebration, 250 years commemorating the signing of our Declaration of Independence. In previous years Williamsport's celebration of Independence Day has been second to none:

- Fireworks over the river choreographed to music from our local radio stations
- Street Vendors lining the streets of the city
- Local bands performing
- A “Yard Party” and Organ Concert at St. Mark's

Unfortunately, this year's celebration will be a little less. Due to a security concern fireworks have been moved to the Lycoming County Fairgrounds, downtown celebrations will be scaled back and St. Mark's will not have it's “Yard Party” or Organ Concert.

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pastor's July Message	Page 1
Sundays in July	Page 2
Synod Trip/Church Picnic	Page 3
Young Adults in Global Mission	Page 4
Envelopes	Page 5
July Worship Leaders	Page 6
July Birthdays/Anniversaries	Page 7
Family Promise/LRW/OCC	Page 8
Council Minutes	Page 9
Evangelism & Fellowship	Page 13
CML Summer Schedule	Page 18
YAGM “How to Give”	Page 19
VBS Snowball Mountain Challenge	Page 20
Germany Pilgrimage	Page 22
United Churches Golf Tournament	Page 23
ELCA America At 250	Page 24
July Calendar	Page 25

#### STAFF OFFICE HOURS

Pastor: The Rev. Brian Vasey  
 Mon-Thu 9 a.m.-1 p.m., & by appointment

Church Organist: Sam Robinson  
 Summer Mon 1-3 p.m. & by appointment

Bookkeeper: Jackie Baysore  
 By appointment

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



Serving Christ in the Williamsport  
 Community since 1852  
 142 Market Street  
 Williamsport, PA 17701  
 (570) 323-4619

While this is disappointing it doesn't in any way lessen the meaning of the day. We can still celebrate. We can still revel in the freedoms we enjoy; those we uniquely label as "American". And most importantly as Christians, we can still celebrate the freedom we enjoy in Christ. We are set free by God in Christ to serve one another in love. Our free gift of grace through faith does not ever depend on security concerns, an individual, organization, institution, city or nation. To quote Martin Luther's most famous hymn:

*God's Word forever shall abide, No thanks to foes who fear it;*

*For God himself fights by our side; with weapons of the Spirit.*

*If they take our house, goods, fame, child, or spouse,*

*Wrench our life away, they cannot win the day.*

*The Kingdom's ours, forever!*

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God  
LBW 228, stanza 4

A blessed and safe Independence Day to all! And always remember that on July 4, and all other days as well, while we enjoy "independence" as a nation, we are always "dependent" upon the grace of God as citizens of heaven.

Grace + Peace,  
Pastor Vasey



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

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

***\*OUR SUMMER SCHEDULE OF ONE  
WORSHIP TIME – 9:30 AM.***

**Sunday, July 5, The Sixth Sunday after  
Pentecost**

**9:30 am Holy Communion**

**Sunday, July 12, The Seventh Sunday after  
Pentecost**

*All Church Picnic follows worship in Fel-  
lowship Hall*

**9:30 am Holy Communion**

**Sunday, July 19, The Eighth Sunday after  
Pentecost**

**9:30 am Holy Communion**

**Sunday, July 26, The Ninth Sunday after  
Pentecost**

**9:30 am Holy Communion**

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

## Synod Trip to Germany

A trip to Germany is being planned by our Synod 10/10-10/18 (with an option to stay through 10/21), 2026. There is a flyer with more details available, if you are interested please see the church office. Those wishing to go should keep these dates open.



Please join us on **Sunday, July 12th** 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.

We ask that those in attendance please sign up to bring a dish to share. The sign up sheet for the church picnic can be found in the Narthex, and will help ensure that a variety of dishes will be available for tasting!

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 12th!



Young Adults in Global Mission

Hannah Haussmann has felt called to join Young Adults in Global Mission, an ELCA ministry that invites young adults ages 21-35 into a year of international service. Hannah will "walk" alongside global companions in ministries of justice, education, health and community development. Rooted in the Lutheran value of accompaniment, YAGM emphasizes mutuality, listening and transformation through relationships and countering the harms of colonial Christianity. Volunteers are shaped by the witness of their neighbors and return with a deeper understanding of God's work in the world and their own faith.

Hannah has been assigned to Cambodia. Her work at present is still unknown as that will be determined when she learns where she will be located.

An opportunity to wish her "Godspeed and best wishes" as well as chance to help finance this endeavor will take place at our church picnic (July 12, 2026).

## **Thank You!**

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so very much for your celebration of my 40<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of ordination on Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>. The food and fellowship were wonderful and the gift cards (in amounts of \$40.00 a nice touch). You certainly know how to make a person feel loved and appreciated. May God continue to bless your ministry and the way you care for pastors and their families. Grace + Peace,

*Pastor Brian Vasey*

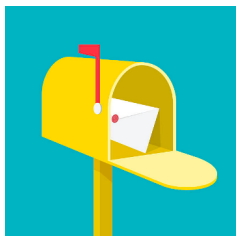


When you or a family member are ill, have a crisis of faith, or have a personal concern of which you wish to make the pastor aware, please contact him directly by church office telephone (570-323-4619) or email ([bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org)). Do not assume the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



**Become  
Part of  
Our  
Church  
Family**

WANT TO EXPLORE WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A LUTHERAN CHRISTIAN? Adults wishing to unite with St. Mark's in church membership are invited to contact PASTOR VASEY at 570-323-4619 or email [stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org).



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

### 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).



# JULY Worship Leaders

Please arrange for a replacement if you cannot serve.



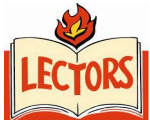
## Communion Assistants

July 5	
9:30 AM	Brian & Nikki Jackson
July 12	
9:30 AM	Deb Buckman & Mindy Wentzel
July 19	
9:30 AM	Theresa Furman & Jackie Kinney
July 26	
9:30 AM	Deb Buckman & Mindy Wentzel



## Ushers

July 5	
9:30 AM	Glenn Yaple & Mel Wentzel
July 12	
9:30 AM	The Gair's/Elizabeth Hausmann
July 19	
9:30 AM	Tim & Deb Maggs/Dick Reitz
July 26	
9:30 AM	Gary & Shelby Weber



## Lectors

July 5	
9:30 AM	Donna Clark
July 12	
9:30 AM	Donna Boston
July 19	
9:30 AM	Brenda Gair
July 26	
9:30 AM	Deb Buckman



## Altar Guild

Mindy & Mel Wentzel

# July Birthdays

Phil Thomas	7/04
Dylan Ott	7/09
Nick Buckman	7/10
Annika Waffenschmidt	7/12
Levi Gair	7/13
Vicki Haussmann	7/15
Pam Jensen	7/21
Connie Shaible	7/22
Ed Gair	7/24
Shirley Hill	7/25
Ann Kuntz (Avis)	7/27
Matt Fortin	7/29
Stephen Dewar	7/31
Ryan Kane	7/31

# July Anniversaries

Ray & Cindy Huff	7/03
Bud & Margie Doebler	7/05
Dick & Josie Miller	7/06

(this is their correct date, not June)



## FAMILY PROMISE



Our next hosting begins on July 5 and then there is a week in November from 11/15-11/21. We are responsible for providing all of the food for the clients during our hosting week. We can use your generosity in this endeavor. You can donate to Family Promise hosting which covers the purchase of breakfast and lunch items. Make the check out to St. Marks and put Family Promise hosting in the memo. If you have questions, email me [dabuck-man65@gmail.com](mailto:dabuck-man65@gmail.com) or call 570-323-1707. God bless for all your help. Deb B.



Information about kits and school bags will be set out the first Sunday in August but you can start collecting the school items now as the sales will be beginning soon. 70-80 sheet spiral notebook (no composition books), pencils, blue/black pens, pencil sharpeners, erasers and rulers with English and metric units. For more information about kits you can go to [lwr.org](http://lwr.org) and click on "get involved". It would be fun to have a kit making day - late September - think about this. Deb B.



## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

It's "Christmas in July" for our Operation Christmas Child Ministry! On our Christmas Wish List this year is ... monetary donations (we are more like teenagers than toddlers I guess!). Monetary donations will be put toward one of two items: shipping costs to help defray the expense of shipping our 75 (or more) shoeboxes **or** soccer balls and pumps. Soccer balls are a wonderful "WOW" item to include in our shoeboxes. Shoebox recipients share that a soccer ball can also be a gift for an entire village when everyone gathers to play on the pitch. Monetary donations may be placed in the offering plate earmarked for Operation Christmas Child.

School supplies will also be making their entrance onto the scene within the next couple of weeks so crayons, pencils, pencil sharpeners, erasers, and pens are also wonderful donations.

These items (or any others you find) may be placed in our red, OCC bin located in the Narthex. We thank you for your continued generosity! "Merry Christmas in July!"



# June 2026

## Minutes

### St. Mark's Lutheran Church Council Meeting – June 15, 2026

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm.

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

Shawn Cartwright provided the opening prayer.

Secretary's roll call by Cindy Todd.

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

Members absent – Donna Clark, Cathy Fenderson and Richard Reitz, all excused.

May meeting minutes were accepted and filed in the church office.

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

Pastor's Report (Pastor Vasey)

\* May 14 was the last City Pastor's lunch until fall and the last meeting at St. Mark's.

\*Pr. Jerry Kliner volunteered to handle Williamsport Home Communion going forward.

\*Cared for Retirement Forms submitted June 15.

\*St. Marks will need a new procedure for the control and distribution of funds to aid the transient and people in need in the community (Wegman's gift cards). Pr. Vasey suggested having Michele Owen contact Council President by email when a need arises. Upon Council President's approval Michele will distribute and record the distribution of gift cards. Council agreed to this plan.

\*Pr. Montgomery will be preaching and presiding at St Marks on August 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>.

\* Pastors of Redeemer Lutheran, St. Luke Lutheran and St. Mark's Lutheran continue to provide pastoral care for the churches known as Liberty Parish.

## Council Minutes Continued .....

\*Pr. Vasey submitted the following:

### **Thank You!**

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so very much for your celebration of my 40<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of ordination. The food and fellowship were wonderful and the gift cards (in amounts of \$40.00, a nice touch). You certainly know how to make a person feel loved and appreciated. May God continue to bless your ministry and the way you care for pastors and their families.

Grace + Peace,

**Pastor Brian Vasey**

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

*Evangelism and Fellowship* – July 4<sup>th</sup> Lawn Party has been cancelled. St. Mark's Church picnic will be held on Sunday, July 12.

*Faith Formation* – Hannah Hausmann will be participating in a mission program through ELCA in Cambodia. Faith Formation requested that we use the July 12 church picnic as a fundraiser for Hannah. There will also be a commissioning service for Hannah on June 22.

**FF2026.06.01 Request for fundraiser for Hannah at the July 12 Church Picnic APPROVED.**

*Finance Committee* – No meeting.

*Little Lambs* – June 1 meeting

problem with utility sink caused by Little Lambs, and they will pay for repair upper hinge on Hannah's office door needs repaired, and Ed will handle.

Little Lambs conducts fire drills every 30 days.

There was discussion around the \$4,500 expense for Susquehanna Fire Protection design drawings versus the existing, approved state inspection for Little Lambs. No invoices have been received and Susquehanna Fire Protection has not been to St. Mark's to begin the work. See motion previously approved below.

*Memorial Committee* – No report.

*Nominating* – No report.

*Parish Life* – No report.

## Council Minutes Continued .....

*Personnel* – No report.

*Property* – discussed utilities

*Publicity* – Michele will handle publicity for the foreseeable future.

*Safety* – No report.

*Worship and Music* – May 31 meeting

Pastor is on vacation July 5. Ray will preach/preside.

Bishop Miller will be involved in the service on August 2, special music provided by Pastor Vasey's family.

We have an abundance of banners, some need cleaned/repared, storage options needed, help needed.

Sam is on an extended vacation after July 5. Megan Cartwright will assume Sam's responsibilities in his absence.

Next meeting August 23.

*175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee* – Next meeting July 19, 10:45 in Middle Lounge.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Dossal Project – upholsterer at the Barn Fabrics plans to begin June 22. Expect to have a start date from Lundy Construction any day.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**EC 2026.06.01 – Record approval of Little Lambs' use of a Bounce House earlier this month. APPROVED**

**EC 2026.06.02 – Record approval of acceptance of Nicent IV Fire Alarm design shop drawing quote (\$4,500.00) from Susquehanna Fire Protection. APPROVED**

**CC 2026.06.01 Request from Sam Robinson for choir rehearsal on June 25, 2026, in our nave for Lycoming County Choir PA250 celebration on June 27 in Brandon Park. M/ Cindy Todd, 2<sup>nd</sup>/Shawn Cartwright. APPROVED.**

## COUNCIL MINUTES CONTINUED.....

July 4 concert announcement, Great Lakes Wind Symphony at Scottish Rite.

Discussion around boundaries – there has been discussion around our sexual harassment policy and Little Lambs day care. Gary Weber provided an assessment that since we have no direct contact with the children at Little Lambs, we do not need a policy.

Discussion of Synod Assembly including discussion around the questions posed at the Synod Assembly meeting. The following were offered as our congregation's strengths: music, lay leadership, hospitality, volunteerism, commitment, positive spirit, respectful council discussions.

Next steps in the call process are slow in coming mostly likely because Pastor Vasey has not yet retired. Ray is in constant contact with Synod officials.

Discussion around continuing the 9:30 service beyond summer to facilitate the transition after Pastor Vasey's retirement.

**CC 2026.06.02 Request approval to continue the 9:30 single service time for the foreseeable future. M/Nikki Jackson, 2<sup>nd</sup>/Shawn Cartwright. APPROVED.**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

July and August offering collection – Shawn

August devotions - Scott

August 2<sup>nd</sup> is Pastor's Last Sunday /Retirement followed by luncheon. Tickets will be \$10.00 and seventy-five attendees are expected.

Lions of St Mark's next meeting – August 5

Closing Prayer (The Lord's Prayer) led by Shawn Cartwright.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM

No Council meeting in July. Next scheduled meeting – Monday, August 17, 2026, at 6 pm.

## The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee Articles for The Lion

Of July 2026

### Pastor Vasey's Retirement Celebration

The invitations for this celebration on August 2, 2026 have been sent. Thank you Ralph Zeigler and Candy Dewar for your assistance in creating the invitations and addressing more than 100 of them.

Please take a moment to learn of the details, check your calendar for your availability to attend and return your reservation by July 15, 2026. If, by chance, you did not receive an invitation, please call the church office at 570-323-4619.



### 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.

We are off to a wonderful start. Look what has already been donated. Can we equal or exceed this amount in July?

**The dates for these special cereal collections are**

**Sunday, June 14... 40 assorted boxes of cereal were donated!**

**Sunday, July 12**

Sunday, August 9

Sunday, September 13

### Heartfelt Thanks from the Parish Life Committee

The Parish Life Committee is a skeleton crew who depends on congregation members for support in hosting a variety of church activities. We are grateful to The Lions (Men's Fellowship) for choosing to host another successful and delicious pancake breakfast. The food was delicious and the fellowship among the attendees was refreshing. How wonderful that the men choose congregational activities as part of their committee's activities. A big plus for Parish Life is that The Lions are excellent at cleaning up. Well done men.

The Parish Life Committee is also grateful for the congregation's assistance in hosting hospitality for Pastor Vasey's fortieth year of ordination. A special thanks is due to Candy Dewar, Jackie Kinney, Vicki Haussmann, Wanda Fortin, Herb Poff and Jim and Susan Newcomer for their delicious donations for this very special occasion. Thank you for always saying "yes" to our requests.

Ongoing Collections at St. Mark's:

Members of St. Mark's have given much for a number of projects throughout 2026, 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. The Pantry is also accepting white grocery bags and egg cartons.

**Shepherd of the Streets:** If it keeps a person clean, it is needed. Dollar Stores are good resources for hygiene 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:** Many thanks to the congregation for the dozens of deli tuna salad and chicken salad packets that already has been donated. Parish Life is still accepting donations of shelf stable packets of **StarKist Deli Tuna Salad and StarKist Chicken Salad**. A container is in the Narthex for donations.

**Sojourner Truth Ministries:** Pine Sol or Lysol cleaner, large size lunch bags, napkins and lemonade or ice tea mix (any flavor.)

**Card Ministry:** The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee thanks the congregation for their donations of assorted cards. Also thank you to Jackie Kinney for sending cards in June. This month Candy Dewar will send cards to our Special Concern folks.

**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, July 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 June:** Jim and Susan Newcomer will provide brownies for this month's dessert. Thank you, Jim and Susan for your ongoing support of our outreach.

**Desserts for August/A Look Ahead:** The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee will be asking for boxes of TastyKakes for Redeemer's dinner on August 13. Please watch for sales closer to this date.

**This month's clothing drop off is Thursday, July 23, from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM.** Please consider donating summer clothing for all members of a family. 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, July 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.



### **Evangelism and Fellowship Outreach Activities**

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee has been busy and will continue to reach out to our community in helpful ways.

On June 6<sup>th</sup>, we helped provide lunch to 100 volunteers at Habitat for Humanity's Building Blitz. We started June 5<sup>th</sup> by preparing 25 ham and cheese and 25 turkey and cheese sandwiches. St. Paul Calvery UMC provided the other 50 sandwiches. Then on June 6<sup>th</sup> Cathy Fenderson and Jackie Kinney worked on site to serve lunch to the 100 volunteers. Again, many thanks to all who donated money or worked on preparing and serving lunch. P.S. In just three days, with yeoman's help from the Habitat Road Trip Crazies, a home was erected from foundation to roof. The interior will be finished in the next several months with dedication expected by December.

We have been asked by United Churches to host a light supper for the participants of this summer's VBS (July 19 -July 23) at St. John's-Newberry UMC. Monetary donations are being accepted. Checks may be made payable to St. Mark's with the memo line designating Evangelism and Fellowship.

### **Receiving Thanks**

We reach out to many programs and ministries. See a few of the thank you notes we have received thanking us for our care and concern.

Dear Friends in Christ at St. Mark's,

Thank you for your recent donation of \$62.50 to Yokefellow Prison Ministry and your continued faithful support to our ministry. We continue to go into our local prisons here and are so glad that we have such faithful volunteers who go into prisons weekly.

Thank you again for your prayers and support. We pray God's blessing over your church family and other ministries. Thank you for co-laboring with us for HIS glory!

For the Glory of the King,

Danesta (Nessie) Whaley, Regional Director Yokefellow Prison Ministry

Thank you again for your prayers and support. We pray God's blessing over your church family and other ministries. Thank you for co-laboring with us for HIS glory!

For the Glory of the King,

Danesta (Nessie) Whaley, Regional Director Yokefellow Prison Ministry

Dear Mrs. Thomas and the St. Mark's Women of the ELCA,

On behalf of everyone at PA-Connect Adaptive Activities, I want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to you, and your congregation members for your incredibly generous donation of \$250.00.

Your donation will be used directly to support our programs, helping us continue to provide impactful and adaptive activities for those we serve. Community support like yours is truly the backbone of what we do. (St. Mark's members Elizabeth Haussmann and James Newcomer are regular visitors to PA-Connect.)

Wishing you and the St. Mark's community continued blessings in your outreach and service.

Thank you,

Laura Jones

Founder and Director of PA-Connect Adaptive Activities Center

Dear St. Mark's Lutheran Church,

Greetings from United Lutheran Seminary. We write with heartfelt gratitude for your recent donation of \$125.00 and for your continued support and partnership. Thank you again for your generosity and for your belief in the transformative power of theological education. Together we are making a difference in the world – one graduate at a time.

With sincere gratitude,

Connor Brooks, CFRE

United Lutheran Seminary

Vacation Bible School 2026

Snowball Mountain Challenge

Where? St. John's-Newberry UMC @ 2101 Newberry Street in Williamsport

When? July 19<sup>th</sup> through July 23<sup>rd</sup>

What time? Dinner 5:30 p.m. VBS 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.



Designated for ages 4-12 and special abilities adults



Did You Know?

If you are experiencing a health event and need medical equipment, St. Mark's has a supply of walkers, canes, port-a-potties, shower chairs, crutches and a medical bed. Call the church office for additional information.

If you provide altar flowers, you may take them home to enjoy after the late service. Mache flower bowls are available in the Pastor's sacristy for your convenience.



# 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

- **Ohio pyle** (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](http://campaountluther.org/summer)

REGISTER  
TODAY!



or go to  
[campaountluther.org/summer](http://campaountluther.org/summer)

Questions? [cml@campmountluther.org](mailto:cml@campmountluther.org)  
More info: [campmountluther.org/summer](http://campmountluther.org/summer)



follow us!

# YAGM HOW TO GIVE

## YAGM VOLUNTEER & GIVING CODE: **Hannah Haussmann: GCS3621**

Your gifts to Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) make a difference!

The YAGM program provides ELCA young adults, ages 21-35, with a life-changing year of service around the world. As the volunteers walk alongside their host communities, they are transformed, engaging in relationships of mutuality, interdependence, solidarity, and trust.

Your donation to an individual YAGM helps support this program. Your gift helps make it possible for our young adults to be formed and informed by our companions and provides an opportunity for young adults to walk with our siblings in Christ around the world every year.

Make checks payable to the “ELCA” with “YAGM” on the memo line. To have your gift designated to an individual YAGM, please include their Giving Code on the memo line and send to

**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America  
P.O. Box 1809  
Merrifield, VA  
22116-8009**

## WITH A CHECK

0001  
Date March 16 20 24  
PAY TO THE ORDER OF ELCA \$ 2,000.00  
Two Thousand and 00/100 DOLLARS  
For YAGM and Giving Code DONOR Signature  
005552222 005552222222 0001

## WITH A CREDIT CARD

Visit [www.elca.org/yagm/give](http://www.elca.org/yagm/give) to donate with a credit card. Select a donation amount and a volunteer’s name from the dropdown menu or make a general gift to YAGM.

Call **800-638-3522** to donate with a credit card. Operators are ready to assist you Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Central Time.

Visit [www.elca.org/yagmsupport](http://www.elca.org/yagmsupport) and click **Donate** on the top right of the page. Search for a YAGM by name to visit their individual Peer-to-Peer fundraising page, click **Donate Now**, and follow the giving instructions.





**St. John's-Newberry UMC**

**Where? 2101 Newberry Street, Williamsport**

**When? July 19<sup>th</sup> through July 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**What time? Dinner 5:30 p.m. VBS 6:00-8:00 p.m.**

**Designated for ages 4-12, and special abilities adults.**

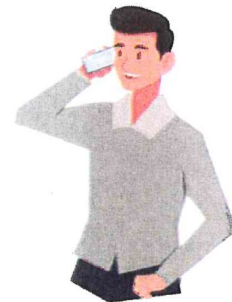
For information, call or contact



**St. John's-Newberry UMC**

**570-326-5569**

or visit our website at



**<https://www.stjnumc.com/be-in-the-know.html#/>**

Participating churches: Christ Episcopal, First Church of Christ Disciples, New Covenant UCC, St. Luke and St. Mark's Lutheran, Sojourner Truth Ministries, and Trinity Episcopal.

**Cokesbury Kids VBS Resources**

Student Registration Form



Please Print

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Family/Guardian Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Numbers: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Last school grade completed \_\_\_\_\_

Home Church (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

How did you hear about us \_\_\_\_\_

Special Needs/Allergies/Medical Information/Medications taking and what for/Other:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contacts

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of person(s) who may pick up this child from VBS; including yourself, must be 18 or older

\_\_\_\_\_

**Photo Release:** St. John's-Newberry UMC/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. I also understand that no royalty, fee or other compensation shall become payable to me by reason of such use.

Parent/Guardian's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

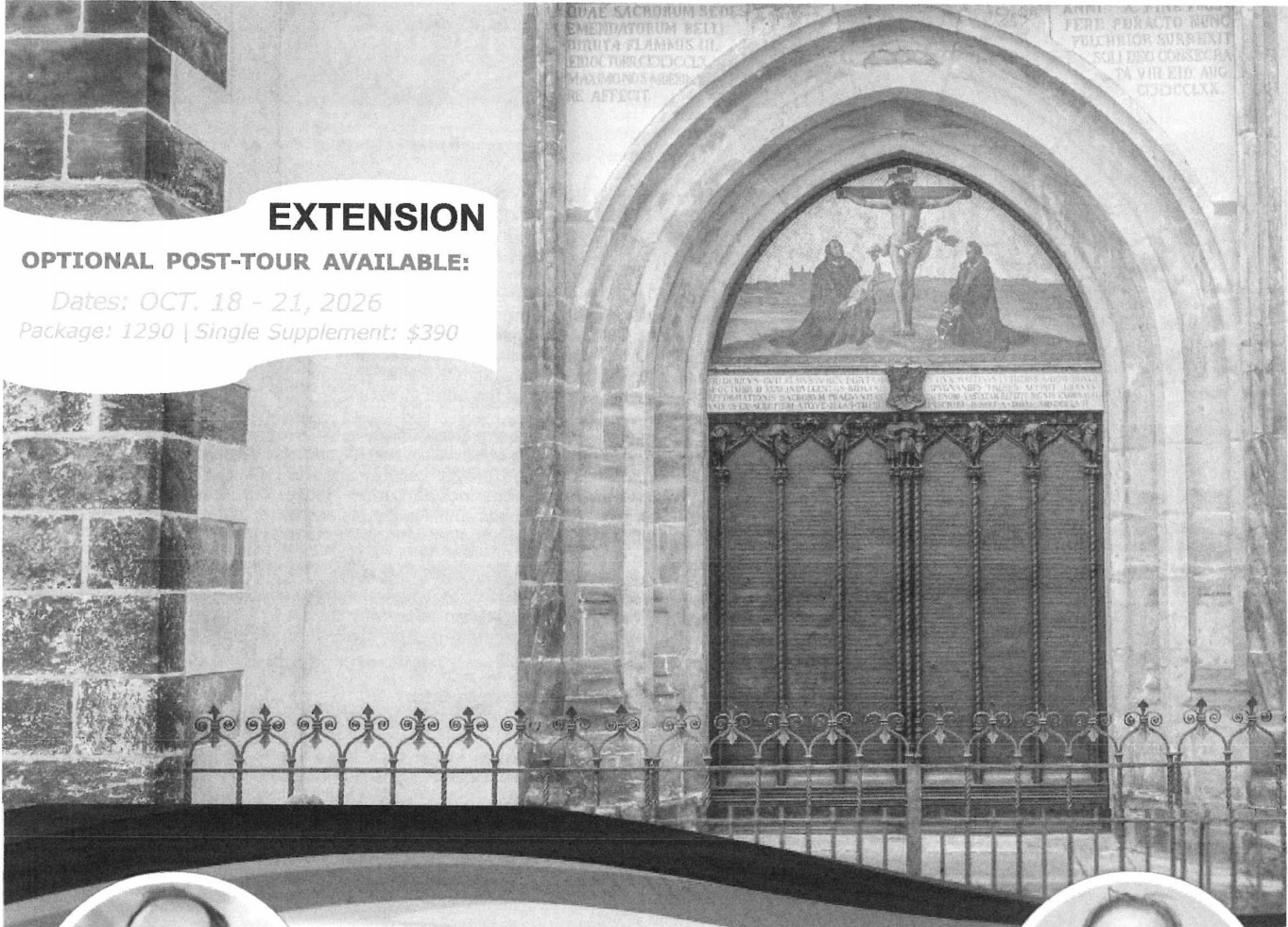
Participating churches: Christ Episcopal, First Church of Christ Disciples, New Covenant UCC, Saint John's-Newberry UMC, St. Luke and St. Mark's Lutheran, Sojourner Truth Ministries, and Trinity Episcopal.

----- (for church use only) -----

Assigned Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Are family members helping with VBS? \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, where? \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies \_\_\_\_\_

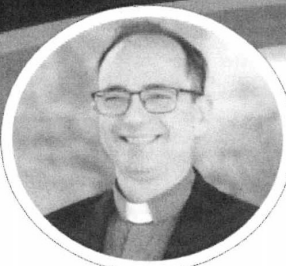


**EXTENSION**

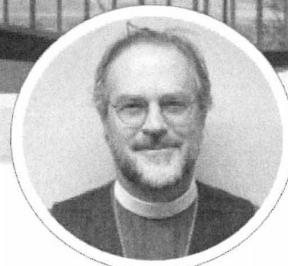
**OPTIONAL POST-TOUR AVAILABLE:**

*Dates: OCT. 18 - 21, 2026*

*Package: 1290 | Single Supplement: \$390*



**Bishop  
Chris deForest**



**Bishop  
Craig Miller**

**Tour Leaders**

October 10 - 18, 2026

Washington, DC (IAD) or Newark, NJ, (EWR)

Package Price: \$4490

# GERMANY

## PILGRIMAGE



**PACKAGE INCLUDES:**

- Round-trip airfare | Accommodations in double occupancy luxury hotels
- Breakfast and dinner daily | sightseeing in a modern, air-conditioned private bus
- English-speaking tour guide | And Much More



Good Shepherd Travel  
[www.goodshepherdtravel.com](http://www.goodshepherdtravel.com)  
 Toll Free: 1-844-659-5263

**15<sup>th</sup> Annual United Churches of Lycoming County Golf Tournament**

**WHITE DEER GOLF COURSE - VINTAGE COURSE**

**Friday, September 25, 2026**

**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!**

<b>Golfer</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>E-mail</b>
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
TOTAL \$ _____		

.....  
Send Registration with Payment by September 10th 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](mailto:director@uclc.org)**



America at 250: Holding gratitude and humility

Dear church,

As we look toward the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, many of us will celebrate with fireworks, parades and barbecues. Independence Day often brings us together with family and friends. Yet there is more that connects us than our communal celebrations. We are also connected through a common vision.

Signed in 1776, the Declaration of Independence proclaims a vision of equality for all people. While there were other nations pushing for equality at the time, the declaration was and is a monumental document in the way it names the aspiration so boldly. As we observe and celebrate the 250th anniversary of that signing, we also affirm the vision of freedom and equality it casts. We can be grateful.

And with contrition and humility, we acknowledge all the ways we have failed to embody that vision. As members of this church, we are called to “pray, participate in, and advocate for civic life in the United States that reflects God’s activity and call, which seek both the well-being of all people and a creation marked by justice and peace” (ELCA social statement *Faith and Civic Life*, p. 89).

As Lutherans, we know the importance of naming realities for what they are. As citizens, we confess the ways we have not yet realized the vision of the Declaration of Independence and, more importantly, as Christians we confess the ways we have participated in or been complicit in failures to live into the vision God provides. This vision is rooted in creation and redemption. God crafts each person in God’s own image and sends Jesus Christ to redeem us, setting us free to follow Christ’s new commandment to love one another.

The history of the United States is complex, and all too often we have fallen short of our stated values. Indigenous peoples across this land have been forced to cede their ancestral homes and pushed to reservations. Women and men have been prevented from voting because of their sex and race and spat on and jailed when they demanded their rights. Japanese American families were interned during World War II. Queer and transgender people’s lives are obstructed by federal and state orders.

There is a photograph of Elizabeth Eckford, one of the nine Black teenagers who integrated Little Rock Central High School in Little Rock, Ark., in 1957. Books under her arm, she faces forward as angry white people crowd behind her. She was just trying to go to school.

Holding both the failures and the vision in our hearts and minds, I invite us to ask ourselves, “What does it mean to celebrate a promise that is real and yet still unfolding? What does it mean to be a people who always live in ‘the already but not yet’?”

This is a central question for us not only as we mark the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence but also in our daily lives as people of faith. The prophets repeatedly remind us of the vision God casts for all of creation, and they call us to account when, as God’s own people, we fall short.

When we fall short, we remember we are rooted in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We think, speak and live out faith through God's future. God's future is resurrection. As a church, we are turned not only to the past but to the future God is making possible right now through us as we love and serve others.

As Lutheran Christians, we believe that God calls us to:

- Remember our connection to each other through baptism, as Scripture teaches us: "We, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another" (Romans 12:5).
- Name sin for what it really is and to repent of it, as the Augsburg Confession and the catechisms remind us.

Serve the common good in society as "earthly measures toward God's intention" (*Faith and Civic Life*, p. 11).

As we celebrate 250 years of the Declaration of Independence, we can hold gratitude and humility, possibilities and shortcomings. We continue to live in the already and the not-yet.

And we hold fast to the most important promise of all: the presence of God with us, the power of the resurrection of Christ, the accompaniment of the Holy Spirit and the ever-unfolding grace of God.

We celebrate this occasion neither as a perfect nation nor as a perfect church but as a people held in God's grace and called into community in service to all neighbors and for the sake of the world God so loves.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Yehiel Curry".

The Rev. Yehiel Curry  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

# July 2026

							Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
									1	2	3	4
									Sandwich Crew			
									6PM Men's Fellowship			
5	6	7	8	9	10	11						
9:30AM Holy Communion			Sandwich Crew						Redeemer Dinner 5PM			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18						
9:30AM Holy Communion	Sandwich Crew		2:00PM Williamsport Home Communion									
CHURCH PICNIC												
19	20	21	22	23	24	25						
9:30AM Holy Communion 175th Anniv. Committee			Sandwich Crew						4-6PM Clothing drop-off@ Redeemer Lutheran			8:30AM-11:00AM Daniel's Closet
26	27	28	29	30	31							
9:30AM Holy Communion	Sandwich Crew											