



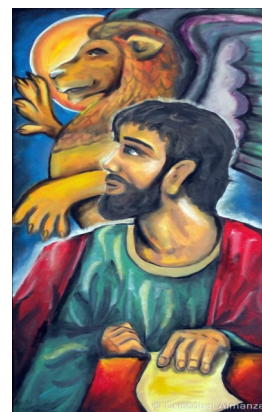
SAINT MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

“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.*

September
2026



The President's Corner for September 2026

Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thanks to everyone for the heartfelt
sendoff for Pastor Vasey and his family. We
honored him in celebration of his Ordina-
tion, as well as in the beautiful luncheon.
Our love was on display in the many busy
hands that worked to make it all happen.
THANK YOU!

We are beginning the call process.
Some may think that we should be further
along in this process, but we needed to wait
until Pastor Vasey retired. Council will be
given a briefing on the Ministry Site Profile
(MSP) by Deacon Sue Ellen Spotts, Director
for Evangelical Mission for the Upper Sus-
quehanna Synod. From that briefing, we will
gather to work on the profile.

It is obvious that we did this call pro-
cess not too long ago. That is true. Howev-
er, we are a much different congregation
than we were when we sought a pastor and
were blessed to have Pastor Vasey agree to
lead us.

After those who choose to participate

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STAFF OFFICE HOURS

An Administrative Interim Pastor will be appointed
by our bishop. Please call the church office.
Church Organist: Sam Robinson
Summer Mon 1-3 p.m. & by appointment
Bookkeeper: Jackie Baysore
By appointment
Administrative Assistant: Michele Owen
Monday 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

gather to work on the MSP (either on Saturdays or after the Sunday service), we will go about the business of discussing our congregation's needs, strengths, and weaknesses. A Call Committee will be established by Council. The committee will consist of two members of council; no officers will be on the committee. We will then select four members from the congregation. The committee will be balanced regarding gender and age.

The call process will be a lengthy one.

For now, we will continue to have one service. I will be here on the first and fourth Sundays of each month. The Synod office will do its best to provide coverage for weeks two and three of each month. I am to continue at Liberty Valley Lutheran Parish. When there are five Sundays in a month (Bishop Miller is here on August 30), we will have members of the congregation helping with the service. There will be no communion on that day.

We have an outstanding congregation. We all have God-given talents that we can share. I think back when I was quite ill and couldn't do my service while Pastor Vasey was on vacation. Vicki Hausmann agreed to begin the service and Phil Thomas read my sermon. They did so well!

The point is this: A gift really means very little if it is not opened or used. We have those gifts. We have an active men's group that wants to study scripture and serve others. We have Evangelism and Fellowship and Parish Life that help to host refreshments after church, help with the United Churches Food Pantry, Shepherd of the



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

Streets, make sandwiches, donate to Sojourner Truth, and on and on.

We have a strong Altar Guild. Everything looks great; how about the DOSSAL? That project took years from start to finish. Our church is stunning- stained glass windows, brick and wood, and spacious seating begging for more occupants.

We have a music program that is second to none. Sam Robinson's musical artistry on our beautiful organ is priceless. He directs a choir, which includes recruits from his various music programs. That's OUTREACH. When he is not available, Megan Cartwright has been willing to learn and has done extremely well.

I hope that this shines some light on our present situation. We are a vibrant church and have so much to offer whoever God has chosen to be our next pastor. All we have to do is find that person.

Blessings,

Ray



JOIN US FOR SUNDAY WORSHIP IN
SEPTEMBER: ALL ARE WELCOME

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

Sunday, September 6, Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
9:30 am Holy Communion

Sunday, September 13 The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
9:30 am Holy Communion

Sunday, September 20, The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
9:30 am Holy Communion

Sunday, September 27, The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
9:30 am Holy Communion

ALL ARE WELCOME!

THANK YOU!

Dear St. Mark's Family,

Thank you so very much for a wonderful Retirement Celebration! Your cards, well-wishes, personal gifts, and cash gift from the congregation are truly phenomenal! My family and I were very blessed to serve as your pastor and family throughout these past seven years. You remain in my prayers as I trust I remain in yours. May our Lord Jesus Christ continue to bless you in your pastoral search and all your ways of ministry.

Grace + Peace,

(Your Recently Retired Pastor)

Brian D. Vasey

The Grace and Peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you!

The Book of Ecclesiastes tells us that, for everything, there is, “*is a season and a time for every matter under heaven...*” So it is that this is the season for me to introduce myself to you, for I will be helping to tend your Parish in this time of vacancy.

First of all, let me tell you that you are in my prayers. The Apostle Paul teaches us that the Church is the “*Body of Christ*” and, therefore we are members of one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Even though I serve “across the river” in another Parish, the Body of Christ cares for its self and knows no boundaries. So it is, I pray for you all and I trust that you will hold me and your brothers and sisters at Messiah in your prayers as well.

Secondly, please never doubt that God will provide. Jesus will not forsake you. He taught us to pray to God our Father, “*Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.*” We should trust in these words, knowing that God indeed will give us all that is good and needed, as we say in the very next petition: “*Give us this day, our Daily Bread.*” I cannot tell you how long this vacancy will last or where the search for a new Pastor will lead, but I can assure you that God indeed will provide.

Thirdly, I would exhort you to prayer always. One of the things people experience in these moments of vacancy is a feeling of loss and powerlessness. As Christians, our prime privilege is calling upon God in our times of need. Pray for the parish of Saint Mark’s! Pray for your Bishop and his assistants who are helping you in this time of need! Pray for the “Call Committee.” Pray for the wellbeing of the congregation. Pray...pray...pray! As Alfred Lord Tennyson wrote: “*More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of. Wherefore, let thy voice rise like a fountain for me night and day.*”

Those things being said, let me tell you a little about myself. I just celebrated my 25th Anniversary of Ordination (2001-2026); over that time I have served five ELCA congregations: Saint Peter, Dillsboro, IN, Cross of Grace, Hurricane, WV, Saint Paul, Morgantown, WV, Christ, Elizabethtown, PA, and Messiah, South Williamsport, PA. I am a member of *The Society of the Holy Trinity (STS)*, which is a type of *order* for Lutheran Clergy. I have two adult sons: James (who is a student at Thiel College) and Michael (who is a student at the Savannah College of Art and Design). I am still finding my way around Williamsport (I started at Messiah in May). You can always reach me through the Messiah Lutheran Church office phone at (570) 326-9171; my “office phone” is linked to my personal cell phone. I am “in the office” Monday-Thursday most mornings and often out visiting in the afternoons, but I love visitors and am happy to make appointments. I usually have a pot of coffee on in the mornings and you are welcome to stop by and have a cup with me! I offer “Noonday Prayer” (which is known by the monastic title *Sext*) every Monday-Thursday and Saturday at 12:00pm in the *Chapel of the Good Shepherd* at Messiah. Fridays are my “day off.”

I look forward to meeting you and getting to know you all a little better in the next weeks and months. Please do not hesitate to call me in case of emergency!

Pax Christi;

Pr. Jerry Kliner, STS

Pastor, Messiah Lutheran Church, South Williamsport, PA



This year, the ELCA celebrates “God’s Work. Our Hands.” Sunday on September 13th. This day is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America – one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee and the Faith Formation Committee, would like to put forward several ongoing projects as service to the neighbors in both our local and global communities. We ask that you:

1. Please consider completing a kit for Lutheran World Relief. Fabric Kits and Baby Care Kits are most needed at this point in time, but any and all kits are welcome. Donations to help offset shipping charges are also welcome.
2. Please consider donating items to the UCLC Food Pantry, Sojourner Truth Ministries, Shepherd of the Streets or to the Parish Life Committee for their sandwich making ministry. A list of most needed items can be found in The Lion or in the bulletin.
3. Please consider donating cereal to our final Cereal Sunday drive. The challenge is to beat our August total of 108 boxes of cereal!
4. Please consider donating blood at the St. Mark’s blood drive Monday, September 21st from 11 AM - 3 PM. \$10 gift cards to Sheetz, Wawa, Dunkin or Wegmans are also being collected to be used as incentives for college students to donate blood.

St. Mark’s is a wonderfully generous congregation, and our committees very much appreciate your continued support in so many areas. “God’s Work. Our Hands.” isn’t just one Sunday for our congregation. However, we are grateful for the opportunity this special Sunday provides to remind us that serving and loving others is what we are called to do. Thank you, St. Mark’s!



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.

Update: If you are curious about this opportunity, join the information session on Zoom, September 3 at 6:30pm. Bishop Miller and Good Shepherd Travel will go over logistics and some information about the sites we will visit.



Young Adults in Global Mission

UPDATE: Hannah has traveled to Chicago for training at the ELCA headquarters. She is meeting the other young adults who will disperse to numerous parts of the world, and they are spending time together and preparing for their next year of service. She is one of four persons who will be traveling to Cambodia. On Sunday, Aug 23rd they boarded their flight and traveled the 22 hours to Phnom Penh, Cambodia's capital city. There she will spend more time learning about the Cambodian people, their language, Khmer, and the culture she will be immersed in. Hannah, and the Haussmann family, appreciate the many ways you have supported her and deeply appreciate your continued prayers.

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so very much for the support you have offered me this summer as I was preparing to begin my call with the Young Adults in Global Missions (YAGM). Spending time worshipping at St. Mark's these past 3 months has been a joy, and reconnecting with so many of you has been truly wonderful. I very much appreciate the financial support, the prayers that are being offered, the stories I have heard regarding mission experiences, and especially the outpouring of notes and well wishes that were delivered by Becky before my departure. Because there were so many cards, I didn't have room in my already jam packed bags to bring them along, but I did take time to read each and every one in my hotel room the evening before leaving. I definitely know I am undertaking this experience with support from my church, and I can't thank you enough for that. I am looking forward to sharing my experience with you this upcoming year. I am sure there will be stories to tell! Thank you again, for everything!

In Christ's Love,
Hannah Haussmann



Harvest Home Sunday

Harvest Home Sunday will be celebrated October 4, 2026. Please pick-up a paper bag in the narthex marked for this event and fill it with non-perishable food items. Our donations will be shared with the United Churches of Lycoming County Food Pantry. Please return bags by Sunday, September 27, 2026 so they can be displayed in the Nave on Harvest Home Sunday.



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 church aware, please contact the church office telephone (570-323-4619) or email (stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org). Please do not assume we 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 the church office 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.

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).



SEPTEMBER Worship Leaders

Please arrange for a replacement if you cannot serve.



Communion Assistants

September 6

9:30 AM Phil Thomas & Dan Zeigler

September 13

9:30 AM Gary & Shelby Weber

September 20

9:30 AM Ralph & Lou Ann Zeigler

September 27

9:30 AM Mindy Wentzel & Deb Buckman



Ushers

September 6

9:30 AM Brenda, Ed & Levi Gair

September 13

9:30 AM Tim & Deb Maggs/Dick Reitz

September 20

9:30 AM Gary & Shelby Weber

September 27

9:30 AM Glenn Yaple/Mel Wentzel



Lectors

September 6

9:30 AM Karen Mariano

September 13

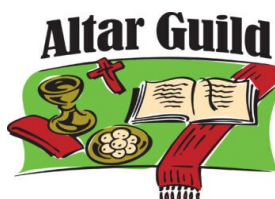
9:30 AM Scott Seyler

September 20

9:30 AM Shawn Cartwright

September 27

Megan Cartwright



Altar Guild

Sally Bjornstad & Vicki Haussmann

September Birthdays

Todd Smith	9/03
Valerie Doebler	9/05
Deb Buckman	9/09
Hudson Ott	9/09
Nolan Ott	9/09
Tim Maggs	9/13
Stefan Weber	9/13
Ron Arner	9/22
Abbigail Robertson	9/26
Dave Williams	9/28

September Anniversaries

Ron & Grace Arner	9/03
Mike & Jackie Kinney	9/03



FAMILY PROMISE



At this time, Family Promise is no longer functioning - thanks to all of you who have helped with Family Promise over the years. Our church was one of the founding members. Our members have been very generous. Please keep up God's work. In Christ's name - thanks - Deb B



It is time to start collecting items for Lutheran World Relief. Staples and Walmart have their school items on sale now. Directions, and an example, for all the kits are in the narthex. Please be generous. Make sure to follow the directions for each kit. A tub will also be in the narthex for your donations. If you do not want to do a whole kit but just want to donate items, please place them in the tub. For the fabric kit, Hobby Lobby and WalMart sell material plus there is always Amazon. It would be great to do 80 school kits this year.

Let's step up and show the world how generous we are at St. Mark's. For question, please contact me - Deb B



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Operation Christmas Child

Thank you to everyone for continuing to donate items for our Operation Christmas Child Collection. Our red bin has been overflowing all year which is absolutely wonderful! This September we are collecting, **Small Games/Puzzles**, and **School Supplies**. Not a huge fan of shopping? Please consider a donation of \$10.00 which will be put toward our \$750.00 (or more) shipping costs.

These items (or any others you find) may be placed in our red, OCC bin located in the narthex.

Your generosity is very much appreciated!



Our Community's annual walk to fight hunger, CROP Hunger Walk, will be held **Sunday, October 11th** at 1:00 PM, on the River Walk in Williamsport. The walk begins here at St. Mark's and you can walk 3, 6 or 9 miles (most of us walk 3 miles).

Join the **St. Mark's Lutheran Church Lions** team to walk or donate. Our goal is \$1,000 (last year we raised \$1,157.00)! Hungry people in developing countries can walk as many as six miles a day for food and water. We walk because they walk. By walking on a fall afternoon, you create awareness to these issues, raise funds and have fellowship with members of the St. Mark's congregation as well as other congregations.

25% of the funds we raise support local hunger agencies and the other 75% is distributed by Church World Service nationally and internationally. In partnership CROP walks support self-help programs, assist after disasters and help address root causes of poverty by providing water systems and tools to grow the food they need.

To register to walk or donate to our team, you can speak with Brenda Gair (text 570-220-8859) or on-line; <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/chw/team/st-marks-lutheran-church-lions>

Click the orange "Make a Donation"

Checks can be made payable to "CWS/CROP"

STONE GABLES ESTATE

A bus trip to **Stone Gables Estate* in Elizabethtown, PA** is being organized by Cheryl Williams. This trip is being planned for **Wednesday, November 18, 2026**.

The bus will be pulling out around 10:30 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 \$151.00 per adult, children are \$107.00.

If interested, please contact Cheryl at (570) 327-1627, **reservations are due by October 5, 2026.**

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





Old Immanuel Lutheran Church Annual Hymn Sing

Mr. Stuart Hague, Certified Lay Pastor in the Presbyterian Church (USA) will be leading the Annual Hymn Sing at Old Immanuel Lutheran Church, 2633 Lime Bluff Road, Muncy, Pa, on Sunday, October 11, 2026, at 2:30 pm. The theme of the service this year is “God’s Grace,” and the music, hymns, and teachings will center around that topic. Joy Barto and Jeff Harvey will provide organ music on the church’s antique pump organ, and the Chancel Choir of St. Andrew Lutheran in Muncy will present “Grace Us, O Lord,” by Joseph M. Martin.

Recently, the church’s roof has received a new coat of paint. In addition, the church’s belltower has been renovated and refurbished, and all the shutters have been repaired and repainted. Further projects include restoration of the windows, walls, and ceiling. A free-will offering will be taken to help offset the cost of these and other on-going expenses.

The church will be decorated for fall, and the weather should be ideal for touring the church and walking the historic cemetery. Light refreshments will be served on the church lawn after the service. Please note that the church does not have running water or electricity, and is not fully handicap accessible. For more information, or to follow Old Immanuel more closely, “Like” “Old Immanuel Lutheran Church” on FaceBook!!!

Jane Kline sustained a fall that resulted in a broken femur. She had surgery and is doing well. If you would like to send her a note/card her address is:

3900 Medical Center Drive
Apartment 144
Fayetteville, NY 13066





St. Mark's is hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive on **Monday, September 21** from 11A-3P. There is a critical need for blood! Here's how you can help:

1. Scan the QR code below or go to www.redcrossblood.org to sign up to donate blood.
2. Encourage friends and family members to donate.
3. Provide \$10 gift cards to Sheetz, Wawa, Dunkin, or Wegmans to be used as incentives for college students to donate blood. Please drop these off in the office or give to Karen Mariano by Wednesday, September 16.





At their July 23rd board meeting, the Upper Susquehanna Synod's (ELCA) Lay Ministry Institute (LMI) entered St Mark's member **Scott Seyler** into the LMI. The LMI trains Lay Worship Leaders to lead worship, preach and preside in congregations of the Upper Susquehanna Synod.

Scott served for five years in US Army Europe (Germany) from 1983-1988 where he met his wife of 38 years, Alexandra. After returning home in 1988, Scott completed his B.A. in German with a minor in International Relations from Bucknell University. He has also completed a year of Master's course work at the U. of Pittsburgh where he worked as a Teaching Assistant. Scott has worked the past 26 years in the forest products industry and is currently the V.P. of International Markets at Northland Forest Products headquartered in Kingston, New Hampshire.

Prior to joining St. Mark's, Scott and Alexandra were members of St Luke's where Scott served on Council including terms as President and Vice President, the Outreach Committee and was a regular reader. Alexandra served on the Education Committee. **Since 2020, Scott has been volunteering to help share the Good News and hymns at area nursing homes, mainly Edenbrook North.**

Alexandra and Scott are blessed with four children and two grandchildren. Their granddaughters Nora and Clara were recently baptized at St. Mark's.

Congratulations, Scott!!!



Belated High School Graduation!

We were remiss with our graduation congratulations back in June, but would still like to acknowledge two very special Loyalsock Township graduates.

Congratulations to our 2026 High School Graduates:

Hudson Ott

Nolan Ott

Hudson and Nolan are both interested in learning an electrical trade/HVAC. They are also working hard to save for cars.

We wish you all the best as you set out on new and exciting adventures! May God shower you with many blessings as you complete this milestone and begin the next step in your journey.

Gracious and caring God, our source of light, we ask for your almighty hand to be upon these graduates as we send them forward. With their classes and grading now complete, may they strive toward excellence in all they do. Amen.





August 2026

Minutes

St. Mark's Lutheran Church Council Meeting – August 17, 2026

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm.

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

Pastor Kliner from Messiah Lutheran introduced himself and his role at St. Mark's. He will be providing interim support for St. Mark's members who need pastoral care and will be handling the monthly service at the Williamsport Home. He will also provide support to Council as needed. Should someone need pastoral care, Pastor Kliner asked for the following information:

Name and need

Which hospital, if a hospital visit is needed

If homebound, address and phone number

Pastor Kliner's phone number is 570-326-9171 (Messiah Lutheran Church).

Scott Seyler provided the opening prayer.

Secretary's roll call by Cindy Todd.

Members present –Shawn Cartwright, Donna Clark, Cathy Fenderson, Wanda Fortin, Ray Huff, Richard Miller, Richard Reitz, Scott Seyler, Cindy Todd, Lou Ann Zeigler and Pastor Kliner.

Members absent – Deb Buckman and Nikki Jackson, both excused.

June meeting minutes were emailed to Council members and are filed in the church office. No meeting in July.

Treasurer's report (Deb Buckman) - report provided.

Pastor's report –

* 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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Evangelism and Fellowship –

September 9 cookies for Redeemer dinner need to be delivered to the kitchen by 10 am.

September 13 is the last cereal Sunday for the summer.

September 21 is the blood drive.

Faith Formation – No report

Finance Committee – No report.

Little Lambs – there was a meeting held including Ray Huff, Gary Weber, Hannah and Atty Zach Dugan regarding the fire alarm system and the City's demands to upgrade our system. Meeting is summarized below.

The Commonwealth of PA issued a license approving Little Lambs.

The City of Williamsport is requiring an upgrade to our system at a cost of approximately \$74,000.

Atty Dugan, Hannah's brother-in-law, is proposing action to assist us in dealing with the City.

There is no fiduciary responsibility for St. Mark's.

Memorial Committee – The committee spoke with St. Mark's auditors and were advised to close old memorial accounts by transferring any remaining funds in those accounts to a fund that might have been used to pay expenses. Essentially, we are replacing monies that have been spent. This is a paper transaction only.

MC 2026.08.01 Transfer \$18,640 from various older dated memorial account numbers to the Organ Fund. APPROVED

Nominating – No report.

Parish Life – Ray offered congratulations to the Parish Life committee for an exceptional job planning and coordinating the farewell luncheon for Pastor Vasey and his family.

Personnel – Exit interview was conducted with Pastor Vasey. Candy Dewar suggested we give gifts to Sam Robinson and Jackie Baysore for their work at St. Mark's, and she took care

Council Minutes Continued

of those gifts. Scott Seyler confirmed that he has been accepted to the Lay Ministry Institute. Congratulations, Scott.

Property – Little Lambs will be asking to rent more space for the fall session. There was an inquiry from Maynard Kohler concerning an endowment for the Sunday School. Ray answered his question. The endowment does exist in the amount of \$25,000. We are able to spend interest only. Ray also let Mr. Kohler know that we currently have no children of Sunday School age attending at St. Marks.

Publicity – Michele will handle publicity for the foreseeable future.

Safety – No report.

Worship and Music – meeting scheduled for August 23 following the 9:30 service.

There was a brief discussion concerning lighting in the Nave, lights go out and come back on, general lighting assessment and evaluation is needed.

Wanda asked for someone to help ensure the candle remains lit in the House of Grace during her absence in September. Cindy and LouAnn volunteered.

175th Anniversary Committee – No report.

OLD/FINISHED BUSINESS

Dossal Project is complete! And a job well done!

NEW BUSINESS

EC 2026.08.01 – Record approval of Bishop Miller’s contract for Ray Huff to supply at St. Mark’s services on the 1st and 4th Sundays of each month through December 2026.

APPROVED

EC 2026.09.02 – Record approval of acceptance of Crop Walk on October 11, 2026. APPROVED

EC 2026.08.03 - Request from Sam Robinson for WSO Billtown Brass Victorian Christmas Concert in St. Mark’s Nave on November 21, 2026. APPROVED.

PC 2026.08.01 Property Committee recommends that we take no further action in the matter of the Fire Alarm systems at this time. APPROVED

COUNCIL MINUTES CONTINUED.....

FC 2026.08.01 Finance Committee recommends that we do not receive or give any donations to Family Promise as it has ceased all operations. APPROVED

EC 2026.08.04 Recommend that we approve request from Sam Robinson for WCCO rehearsals in the Nave on Monday evenings beginning September 7 through April 30, 2027, from 7 – 8:30 pm. APPROVED

DISCUSSION OF NEXT STEPS IN CALL PROCESS

After his meeting with Bishop Miller on August 13, Ray shared the following with Council.

Pastor Spotts will contact Ray concerning the new Ministry Site Profile.

A large group of volunteers will be required to complete the profile, most likely Saturdays or after services on Sundays once Pastor Spotts engages.

Ray will conduct services on weeks 1 and 4 each month. Synod will assist supply persons for weeks 2 and 3. Bishop Miller will be here on Sunday, August 30 (week 5).

Ray will conduct the Christmas celebration.

Exciting challenge – we have a tremendous opportunity to lead services when needed. We did it with Vicki and Phil last year. It's called Service of the Word and does not include communion. Ray mentioned this opportunity to the Lions of St. Mark's, and the men were excited to serve. At a minimum, we will have this type of service when a 5th Sunday occurs (except August).

Ray asked that each Council member send him an email including what we are willing to do to assist in these services.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

September offering collection – Donna Clark (Cindy/LouAnn will cover for Donna on September 13)

September devotions - Deb

Upcoming Committee Meeting Dates –

Worship and Music – August 23 after the service

Lions of St. Mark's – September 9 at 6 pm

Closing Prayer (The Lord's Prayer) led by Scott Seyler.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM

Evangelism and Fellowship Committee Articles for The Lion

Of September 2026

Parish Life Thanks the Congregation

The Parish Life Committee abundantly thanks the congregation for their participation in Pastor Vasey's farewell which saw more than 105 individuals attend. Many thanks go to Ray Huff, Candy Dewar, Vicki Haussmann and Becky Pryor for their efforts in steering the planning of this event. Many thanks to Ralph Zeigler for designing and printing the invitations. Ralph also created and printed the dinner program. Ralph and Herb Poff photographed the day which Gary Weber is assembling. Michele Owen was the go-to person for attendance, announcements and anything else asked of her. Herb Poff and the Lions were invaluable in the set up and tear down of Fellowship Hall.

On the day of the event, many thanks for all the extra help our committee received from members of the congregation too numerous to name. When everything was washed, dried, put away and back in order in a little over two hours, you know you had a lot of help. Finally thank you to Church Council and the Finance Committee for supporting this event from providing funds for the caterer and hosting expenses to gifting Pastor. Blessings to you all.



Cereal and TastyKakes: Update

In August we beat all expectations for donating boxes of cereal and TastyKakes! Jackie and Mike Kinney delivered **108 assorted boxes of cereal** to the Food Pantry in early August. The volunteers at the Pantry were thrilled. Congregation members also donated more than 30 boxes of TastyKakes. This was enough to provide dessert for Redeemer's August dinner AND provide desserts for a day for Sojourner's brown bag lunches. The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee thanks you for so generously answering Christ's call to serve others.

Last Call: Cereal Sundays

Our final Cereal Sunday of 2026 is September 13th. To date we have donated 204 boxes of assorted cereal to the United Churches Food Pantry. For September, can we exceed our August total of 108 boxes of cereal? Donations may be placed in the Narthex on any Sunday up to September 13, 2026. The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee thanks the congregation for their assistance in answering the call to serve those in need.

Cookies for Redeemer's September Dinner

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee sends our heartfelt thanks to members of Church Council who will be donating ALL the cookies needed for Redeemer's upcoming community dinner. This committee never expected to have all the cookies we will need (20 dozen) to be donated by Church Council. But as council member, Donna Clark, stated, "we need to do this." Thank you for answering the call to serve. Blessings to you all.

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 plastic grocery bags and 12 count 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. **Of urgent need are Paper Towels and Shampoo for Men and Women.**

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, plastic bags, 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 tuna salad and chicken salad packets that have been donated. They have been a blessing during the hot, summer days.

Sojourner Truth Ministries: Sojourner Truth Ministries (STM): Needed are Individual Snacks/Breakfast Bars, Large, Brown Lunch Bags Napkins, Mayonnaise, Sugar, Snack-Size Ziplock Bags and Pine Sol or Lysol Cleaner.

Card Ministry: The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee thanks the congregation for their continued donations of assorted cards. Thanks also to Karen Mariano for sending cards in August. This month Nikki Jackson 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, September 10, 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 September: Assorted cookies being donated by our Church Council.

Daniel's Closet: This month's clothing drop off is Thursday, September 24, from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM.
Please consider donating fall clothing for all members of a family. Shoes for adults and children along with blankets, sheets, throws and crocheted afghans are also accepted. FYI: We donated a nice assortment of backpacks, lunch bags and assorted school supplies for Redeemer's Back-to-School giveaway. Thank you to all who participated

. **Daniel's Closet:** Distribution of free seasonal/fall clothing is Saturday, September 26, from 8:30 AM – 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.



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 Sunday service. Mache flower bowls are available in the Pastor's sacristy for your convenience.

Thank You Notes to the Congregation

To St. Mark's Lutheran Church / Women of the ELCA

Dear Barbara Thomas and Ladies,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$250.00. Your support is more than a donation – it is an investment in hope for individuals and families facing some of life's most difficult challenges. Together we are meeting immediate needs while helping people build stronger, more stable futures. On behalf of everyone we serve, thank you for your kindness, your generosity, and your belief in this important work.

With sincere gratitude,

Jennifer Rempe, American Rescue Workers

To the Members and Friends at St. Mark's

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for your recent donation of \$62.50 to Yokefellow Prison Ministry and your continued faithful support to our ministry. We are so grateful for faithful contributors like you who pray for us and give us great support so that we can continue with our mission. Thank you again for your prayers and support. We pray God's blessings 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

To St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Dear St. Mark's Lutheran Church,

Greetings from United Lutheran Seminary! We write with heartfelt gratitude for your continued support and partnership. Your gift of \$125.00 to the United Lutheran Seminary Fund is received with heartfelt gratitude. At this year's commencement, we celebrated 52 graduates representing our various degree programs.

Thank you again for your generosity and for your belief in the transformative power of theological education. Together, we are making a meaningful difference in the world – one graduate at a time.

With sincere gratitude,

Conor Brooks, Vice President for Institutional Advancement

United Lutheran Seminary

To St. Mark's Lutheran

Dear Friends at St. Mark's,

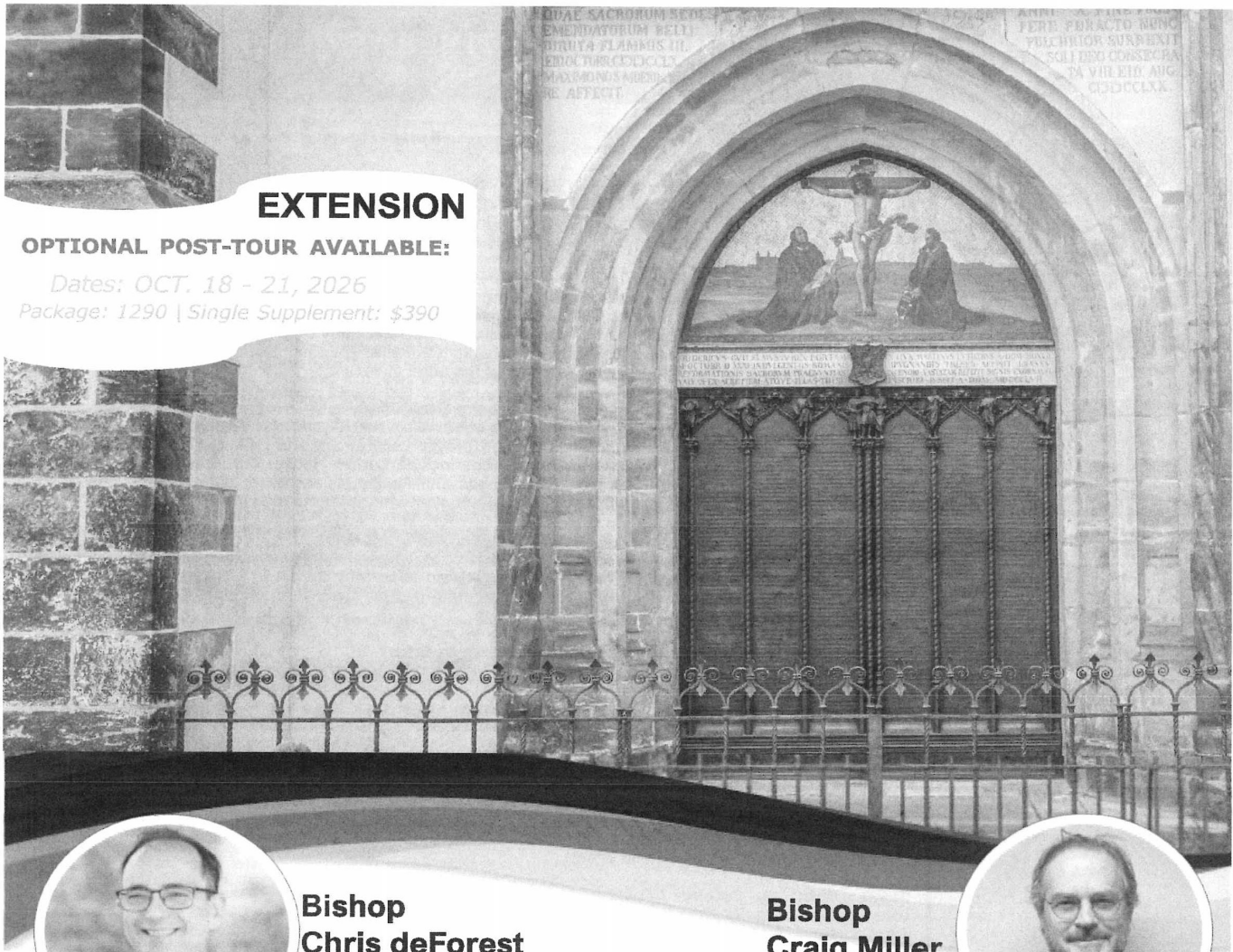
Thank you so much for your donations and support with Redeemer's Back-to-School project. It's truly an encouragement to me as getting enough help with this project can vary from year to year. But I am excited that we have a good supply of filled backpacks for all ages, lunch bags, water bottles and extra fun stuff as well.

Blessings to you all,

Marcie Klingler

Redeemer Lutheran Church



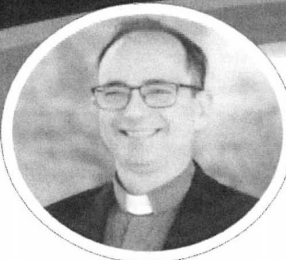


EXTENSION

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
Toll Free: 1-844-659-5263

15th 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!

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

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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

September 2026

Mon		Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
9		1	2	3	4	5
			Sandwich Crew			
			6PM Men's Fellowship			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:30AM Holy Communion			Sandwich Crew			
				5:00PM Redeemer Com- munity Dinner		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:30AM Holy Communion	Sandwich Crew					
Cereal Collection						
	5:30P Finance					
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
9:30AM Holy Communion	BLOOD DRIVE		Sandwich Crew			8:30AM- 11:00AM Daniel's Closet
	6PM Council			4-6:00PM Redeemer Cloth- ing Drop-Off		
27	28	29	30			
9:30AM Holy Communion	Sandwich Crew					
11AM Special Council						