



SAINT MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

"THE LION"

of ST. MARK'S

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

*To know Christ and to
make Christ known.*

April
2025



Pastor's Lion Message for April 2025

Galatians 6:14

*But God forbid that I should boast except
in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ...*

On Friday, April 18, 2025, the church (people of God) will observe "Good Friday". The date of Good Friday, the annual commemoration of Jesus' crucifixion before Easter Sunday, varies. It is calculated by way of the date of the Paschal Full Moon (the first full moon after the spring equinox) and always falls between March 22 and April 25. In past years St. Mark's has observed Good Friday by way of a "Tenebrae, the Service of Shadows". This year our Worship and Music Committee offers "something different", a drama within a worship service entitled, "The Temptation of Jesus".

"The Temptation of Jesus", by The Rev. Curt M. Joseph, imagines a conversation between Jesus and Satan while Jesus is being crucified. The character of Satan "tries his best" to convince Jesus to come down from the cross and end his suffering and execution. Jesus remains steadfast and answers the devil's temptation with the traditional seven last words from the cross. The drama's mes-

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Pastor's April Message	Page 1
Sundays in April	Page 2
Bible Study	Page 3
April Worship Leaders	Page 5
April Birthdays/Anniversaries	Page 6
Sunday School	Page 7
Family Promise	Page 7
Council Minutes	Page 8
Evangelism & Fellowship	Page 11
Operation Christmas Child	Page 14
Camp Mount Luther	Page 14
Bus Trip to Sight and Sound—NOAH	Page 14
April 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

sage is a powerful one and seeks to remind us that:

1. Temptations were part of the life of Christ
2. We can only “overcome” temptations when we rely on God in Christ
3. Satan and temptations come to us in many and various forms and nuances

The drama, within our order of worship for Good Friday evening, begins at 7:30 pm, Friday, April 18, in our Nave. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

It is my hope that this Good Friday experience, as well as all of Holy Week, will prepare us for a meaningful and Blessed Easter!

Grace + Peace,
Pastor Vasey



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

Sunday, April 6, The Fifth Sunday in Lent
Holy Communion, 8 am
Sunday School, 9:15 am
Holy Communion, 10:30 am

Sunday, April 13, The Sunday of the Passion
Palm Sunday
Holy Communion, 8 am
Sunday School, 9:15 am
Holy Communion, 10:30 am

Sunday, April 20, The Resurrection of Our Lord
Easter Sunday
Holy Communion, 8 am
Extended Hospitality, 9:30 am
Holy Communion, 10:30 am

Sunday, April 27, The Second Sunday of Easter
Holy Communion, 8 am
Sunday School, 9:15 am
Holy Communion, 10:30 am

THE GREAT THREE DAYS

April 17, Maundy Thursday
Holy Communion, 12:05 pm, Chapel
Holy Communion (foot washing and stripping of altar), 7:30 pm, Nave

April 18, Good Friday
Ecumenical Service, Noon- 1 pm, New Covenant UCC
Drama, *The Temptation of Jesus*, St. Mark's, 7:30 pm

April 19, The Great Vigil of Easter
Holy Communion, 8 pm beginning in our Chapel

ALL ARE WELCOME! JOIN US!



BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

Sundays, March 2- May 25 during the traditional Sunday School time (9:15-10:10 am) we will study the Book of Revelation. Come and join Pastor Vasey as together we rejoice in the promise of God's hope in Jesus Christ through study of this book of New Testament prophecy. All are welcome! We meet in Fellowship Hall.

Wednesdays during Lent beginning March 12 and concluding April 16- Lenten Bible Study, 12:10 pm, Fellowship Hall. Our study this year is discovering what the bible teaches about our reconciliation with God through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ (Atonement). Our study will feature the "5 Traditional Atonement Theories of the Church as Proclaimed in Scripture". All are welcome! Light snacks will be served.

WELCOME!

Good News to share! St. Mark's has hired a new Administrative Assistant! You probably know her due to her serving our congregation as a volunteer: Michele Owen.

I would like to thank all of the volunteers who stepped up to help keep so many of the day to day front office operations at St. Mark's running smoothly these past few months. Church Council has asked me to also extend a very special thank you to Cindy Todd. Cindy your help has been appreciated more than you know. We are happy to welcome Michele and encourage you to stop by the office and say, "Hello....."



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



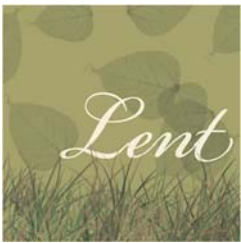
When you or a loved one has a change of address, telephone number or email, please contact the church office at 570-323-4619 or stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org. Please direct your intentions whether or not to share this information with our church family.

Do you enjoy reading? Do you have an interest in exploring the variety of materials found in our church library? Would you be willing to write a short synopsis of a church library book you read for The Lion? If so, the Faith Formation Committee wants YOU! Please see Vicki Haussmann, Sally Bjornstad, or Bob Campbell if you would like to be featured as a



guest columnist in The Lion! We will gladly assist you in finding the perfect book to read for this newly established (although not yet named) column. We look forward to discovering more about the materials found in our library through you. Thank you for sharing your talents in this exciting way!

Please enjoy reading a review of The Secret of the Howling Cave by Sally Bjornstad on page .



We encourage you to please find several devotional booklets in the Narthex that may aid you in your daily study throughout this Lenten season. We pray these seasonal meditations will help prepare your heart and mind as we move through this season of Lent heading toward our celebration of Easter.

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). Don't forget to put your name on the envelope so you receive credit on your contribution statement. Please write which fund you are giving to in the memo line of your check (cash is also accepted).



Memorials

In Memoriam

A reminder that when giving a memorial for a loved one or other church member, please specify where the money is to go (ex. roof fund, music fund). If you do not specify where the monies should be allocated, your donation will go into the general account to pay church expenses.

APRIL Worship Leaders

Please arrange for a replacement if you cannot serve.



Communion Assistants

April 6

8:00 AM Drew Haussmann

10:30 AM Matt & Wanda Fortin

April 13 (Palm Sunday)

8:00 AM Jackie Kinney

10:30 AM Ralph & Lou Ann Zeigler

April 20 (Easter Sunday)

8:00 AM Becky Pryor

10:30 AM Shelby & Gary Weber

April 27

8:00 AM Brian Jackson

10:30 AM Deb Buckman & Mindy Wentzel



Lectors

April 6

8:00 AM Becky Pryor

10:30 AM Deb Buckman

April 13 (Palm Sunday)

8:00 AM Vicki Haussmann

10:30 AM Theresa Furman

April 20 (Easter Sunday)

8:00 AM Drew Haussmann

10:30 AM Karen Mariano

April 27

8:00 AM Brian Jackson

10:30 AM Gary Weber



Ushers

April 6

8:00 AM Miller / Poff

10:30 AM Weber Team

April 13 (Palm Sunday)

8:00 AM Miller / Poff

10:30 AM Fortin Team

April 17 (Maundy Thursday)

Albright Team

April 18 (Good Friday)

Maggs-Reitz Team

April 19 (Easter Vigil)

Weber Team

April 20 (Easter Sunday)

8:00 AM Miller / Poff

10:30 AM Fortin Team

April 27

8:00AM Miller / Poff

10:30AM Albright Team

Altar Guild

Wanda and Matt Fortin

April Birthdays

Linda Rosini	4/6
Carol Butters	4/7
Sadie Wentzel	4/10
Taylor Wentzel	4/10
Robert Klouser	4/11
Michael Ochs	4/13
Ezra Buckman	4/14
Steven Bieber Jr.	4/15
Cindy Hartzel	4/19
Jeffrey Byerly	4/20
Karen Pelleschi	4/20
Benjamin Haussmann	4/23
Audrey Comerford	4/28
Ruth Ditchfield	4/29

April Anniversary

Matt & Wanda Fortin	4/3
Carl & Audrey Albright	4/23





Sundays, March 2- May 25 during the traditional Sunday School time (9:15-10:10 am) we will study the Book of Revelation. Come and join Pastor Vasey as, together, we rejoice in the promise of God's hope in Jesus Christ through study of this book of New Testament prophecy. We will be

meeting in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome!

FAMILY PROMISE

Thanks to all who helped with Family Promise hosting in March including those who donated monies for the breakfast and lunch items. Our next hosting is June 15 - 22 so please mark this on your calendar. If you typically help with hosting and are going away, please notify me so I can find other participants. In Christ's love - Deb



There is a great need for personal care kits for LWR to send to those people affected in NC, CA, and other places due to natural disasters.

A bundling party to make up kits will be held after church on Sunday April 27.

To do this we need items Especially needed are bath towels (20"x40" up to 52"x27" in a dark color),

bars of soap in original wrappers, toothbrushes or multi-brushes in original wrappers, combs and metal nail clippers, small or large. Items can be placed in the bin in the Narthex or bring them on the 27th.



**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..



March 2025

Minutes

St. Mark's Council meeting- March 17, 2025

Call to Order: 6:00 pm

Council recited the Defining Mission Statement

Wanda Fortin led the opening prayer

Secretary's roll call:

Members present: Debra Buckman, Cathy Fenderson, Vicki Haussmann, Ray Huff, Nikki Jackson, Richard Miller, Cindy Todd, , Donna Clark, Wanda Fortin, Richard Reitz, Pastor Vasey. Lou Ann Zeigler- excused

CC2025.03.01. (Todd/Reitz) Helen Schramm requested to resign her council seat. Adopted.

Vicki read a warm "thank you" note from Jane Larson. She and her fellow residents are deeply grateful for Pastor Vasey's worship services at the Williamsport Home Independent Living facility.

Minutes of the February meeting were reviewed and approved as submitted.

Deb Buckman delivered the Treasurer's Report. The report was accepted and filed for audit.

CC2025.03.02. (Huff/Fortin) Approve the email vote giving the property committee approval to proceed with repairs to the boiler at an estimated cost of \$3,600.00 and to replace the third of three circulator pumps at an estimated cost of \$4,000.00. Adopted.

Pastor's Report: Pastor gave an update on the Camp Mt. Luther Campaign. Due to supplies, the cost of the bath house will be around \$40,000.00 over the estimate. We received a citation from CML for Faithfulness to Pledge. Acknowledgment of this will be given on Sunday, April 27.

We will have a Good Friday drama on April 18. It will be different and worthwhile!

There will be a Good Friday service from 12:00-3:00. The planning is continuing for the site at a local church.

Council Minutes Continued

Pastor provided his schedule from March through April. The pastors of Redeemer Lutheran, St. Luke Lutheran, and St. Mark's Lutheran continue to provide pastoral care for the Liberty Parish.

All statistical reports have been completed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Evangelism and Fellowship: Next meeting: April 1 at 5:30.

Faith Formation: Lenten devotionals are available. The Lenten Bible study will center on "Atonement". The committee is looking for gift bags and supplies for the Lenten Collection for the United Churches Food Pantry.

Finance: Deb Buckman presented the report and there was a discussion of fund transfers.

Little Lambs: Next meeting: March 25 at 12:15.

An additional room request (311 and 312) for expansion is still in conversation.

Nominating: No report.

Council discussed the vacancy (Helen Schramm)

CC2025.03.03 (Clark/Jackson) Wait until the next election to fill the vacancy. Adopted.

Personnel: Met on March 7 with Dick Reitz and Cindy Todd to interview two applicants for the vacant Administrative Assistant.

CC2025.03.04 The Personnel Committee recommends hiring Michele Owen for the position of Administrative Assistant at St. Mark's Lutheran Church; hours Tuesday- Friday, 9:00 AM- 1:00 PM at a pay rate of \$18.00/hour. Adopted.

Property: Next meeting: April 8, 5:30

Publicity: No report

Safety: Discussion on securing the doors during the services. Ushers will meet with the Safety Committee.

Worship and Music: April 12- Making palm crosses 9:00 a.m.

April 13- Palm Sunday- Vicki will pin crosses at 8:00 and Shelby and Wanda will pin at 10:30 service.

April 17- Maundy Thursday (12:05-C, 7:00-N) Kneel for communion

April 18- Good Friday. 7:30 with dialogue replacing sermon CC2025. 02.04. Adopted.

Council Minutes Continued

Lilies for Easter services must be ordered by March 27.

Next meeting- March 23 at 11:45

New business:

CC2025.03. 05 (Clark/Buckman) Authorize Cindy Todd to secure a new external hard drive for the church office at a cost not exceeding \$500.00. Adopted.

Elections of Synod Assembly lay delegates: No volunteers for the second lay delegate. Deb Buckman will represent St. Mark's.

Discussion continued concerning a volunteer to be the council parliamentarian.

Wanda Fortin led us in closing prayer.

The meeting ended at 7:32.

Next Meeting: April 14, 2025, 6:00 PM



Evangelism and Fellowship Committee Articles for The Lion

April 2025

Easter Greetings



The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee needs help from the congregation in sending Easter greetings to our Special Concern members. Cards will be available in the Narthex on Sunday, April 13 (Palm Sunday) before and after each service. Please consider taking a card or two, adding a cheery message and placing the cards in the mail in time for Easter.

Many Thanks

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee wish to extend heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the congregation for their generous support of Code Blue at First Church, Redeemer Lutheran's community dinner, Sojourner Truth Ministries and New Covenant UCC in conjunction with the Office of Community Service at Lycoming College.



We were able to deliver more than 600 individually packaged snacks and \$100 in Wegman's gift cards to John and Sue Best, coordinators at Code Blue. We were also able to deliver 120 servings (20 boxes) of TastyKakes to Redeemer Lutheran. Additional boxes of TastyKakes were shared with Code Blue, Sojourner Truth Ministries and the Blessing Boxes at New Covenant UCC. Sojourner Truth Ministries also received lunch bags, sugar, drink mixes, condiments, coffee and even frozen turkey breasts! These items were gratefully received by Chef Dave and the staff at STM. We wrapped up March with donating plastic eggs and assorted fruit snacks and candy for the Easter Egg Hunt to be held at Lycoming College on April 6, 2025 at 2:00 PM. Your response to our many requests was awesome. We are blessed indeed.

- The Center City Pastors, a group of twelve, meet the second Thursday of the month at St. Mark's at 1:00 PM. The Parish Life Committee prepares and serves a light lunch for them. If anyone would like to provide a dessert or other item for a meal, please speak with Becky Miller Pryor.
- The Parish Life and Evangelism and Fellowship Committees make sandwiches for New Covenant UCC's Blessing Boxes on these dates in April: April 2, 14, 16, 28 and 30. Please join us at 9:00 AM on one of these dates if you would like to help assemble sandwiches.

- The above committees are always in need of supplies like rolls, bread, meat and cheese. Speak to Becky Miler Pryor if you can donate an item on one of the dates in March.
- Monetary donations can also be donated to cover expenses related to this outreach. Checks may be made payable to St. Mark's with the memo line indicating Parish Life.



Ongoing Collections at St. Mark's:

- **United Churches Food Pantry:** The most needed items are 1 lb. canned hams, Spam type meats, Vienna sausages, tuna fish, 16-18 oz. jars of peanut butter, jelly and 64 oz. bottles of shelf-stable juice.
- **Shepherd of the Streets:** Needed are conditioner, women's deodorant, feminine hygiene products, paper towels and boxes of tissues
- **Blessing Boxes at New Covenant UCC:** Easily prepared foods like Cup of Soups, individual packs of crackers and cookies, microwave mac & cheese, ramen noodles and individual boxes of cereal are needed. Travel size hygiene items are also needed.
- **Sojourner Truth Ministries:** Bottles of ketchup, boxes of tissues and 9 oz. "Dixie"-style paper bowls.

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

Ongoing Events at Redeemer Lutheran:

- **Community Dinner** on Thursday, April 10, 2025 beginning at 5:00 PM until all meals are distributed. This is a take-out meal available at the curb. All are welcome.
- **The Parish Life and Evangelism and Fellowship Committees,** with assistance from congregation members, provide desserts each month to support Redeemer's dinner. Thank you, Jim and Susan Newcomer for your generous support in providing Easter brownies for April's desserts.
- **Daniel's Closet Distribution** is **Saturday, April 26, 2025 from 8:30 AM – 11:00 AM.** With the changing of the seasons, lighter weight clothing is needed for men, women and children. Shoes, sneakers and sandals along with blankets, bedding and throws are also needed. Daniel Closet's Coordinator, Tracy Fox, reports that the need is



still great for clothing for all adults and children.

- **This month's clothing drop off is Thursday, April 24, 2025 from 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM.**

If you have a large quantity of clothing, please call Redeemer's office (leave a message) at 570-322-2333 to make an appointment. Smaller quantities of clothing may be placed on the stage.



Spring Cleaning?

The Evangelism and Fellowship Committee and the Women of St. Mark's are still in need of donations for our annual Fall Sale which will occur in September 2025.

We are accepting holiday decorations, housewares, linens, toys, small working electronics, gadgets, dishes, jewelry, lamps, art work and the list goes on. **If you don't want it, we probably can sell it.**

We cannot accept anything broken or in poor condition, VCR tapes, text books, encyclopedias, computers, televisions, large gym equipment, cribs or mattresses.

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



Many thanks to everyone who continues to donate items for our OCC collection! Our shoeboxes are well on their way to being filled with gifts for boys and girls throughout the world. Our monthly donations to date have included: activity books, jour-

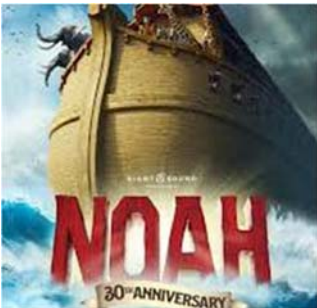
nals, washcloths, knit hats, combs/brushes and toothbrushes. All of these items are a wonderful start to showing kids how much they are loved.

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

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

Camp Mount Luther's Summer 2025 registration is now open! Find out more information and register at www.campmountluther.org/summer.

Summer camp brochures are available in the church office.



All Aboard The Ark!

With a catastrophic storm on its way, Noah is given a monumental task: build a boat big enough to save his family from a flood that will cover the entire earth. As Noah endeavors to live faithfully in the midst of an increasingly chaotic world, can he trust that God's promises run deeper than the rising waters around him?

A bus trip to see **Noah** at the Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA is being organized by Cheryl Williams. This trip is being planned for Wednesday, September 24, the 11:00 AM show. While the bus will be pulling out around 6:00 AM, the early start will certainly be well worth it! Bus fare, show ticket, and dinner are all included in the price of \$176.77. If interested, please contact Cheryl Williams at (570) 327-1627.

April 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 5:30PM E&F Committee	2 12:10PM Lenten Bible Study	3	4	5
6 8:00AM Holy Communion 9:15AM Sunday School 10:30AM Holy Communion	7	8 5:30PM Property Committee	9 12:10PM Lenten Bible Study	10	11	12
13 Palm Sunday 8:00AM Holy Communion 9:15AM Sunday School 10:30AM Holy Communion	14 6:00PM Council	15	16 2:00PM Holy Com- munion at Wil- liamsport Home	17 Maundy Thurs- day 12:05PM Holy Communion, , Chapel 7:30PM Holy Communion (foot washing and stripping of altar), Nave	18 Good Friday Noon-1PM Ecu- menical Service, New Covenant UCC 7:30PM Drama, The Temptation of Jesus, St. Mark's	19 The Great Vigil of Easter 8:00PM Holy Communion, beginning in our Chapel
20 Easter Sunday 8:00AM Holy Communion 9:15AM Sunday School 10:30AM Holy Communion	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 8:00AM Holy Communion 9:15AM Sunday School 10:30AM Holy Communion	28	29	30			