

December 2023  
Annual Report of St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
Williamsport, PA 17701  
"To know Christ and to make Christ known"



## Saint Mark's Lion

The Venetian lion normally has wings, very often holds a book below its paw, and sometimes is completed by a halo around its head. These three elements (wings, book, halo) reveal it as a symbol of Saint Mark the Evangelist, patron saint of the city.

According to a tradition started in the 2nd century AD, each of the four Evangelists is represented by a winged creature: lion, bull, eagle, human. This set of four creatures was also used in relation with the divine presence in the Old Testament.

Also, the lion has been associated with power, courage and strength since ancient times. What better symbol for the prestigious Venetian Republic?

*"Pax tibi Marce"*

So, now we know that the book the lion is holding stands for the gospel of Saint Mark.

Have you tried to read the Latin sentence written in it?

It says *"Pax tibi Marce, evangelista meus"*, which translates as "Peace to you Mark, my evangelist". According to legend, while Saint Mark was visiting the Venetian lagoon in the 1st century AD, a storm put him in danger, but an angel appeared to him and reassured the saint with those words.

The Annual Report of  
St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
142 Market Street  
Williamsport, PA 17701

December 2023



Prepared By  
Joseph Baur, Administrative Assistant



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## REPORT OF THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Ralph Zeigler

Dear Fellow Members of St. Mark's Lutheran Church:

How does one say "thank you" to the members of this congregation who together strive *"to know Christ and to make Christ known"*?

What a sense of gratitude we all feel for the many gifts shared – not only the financial support, but also the countless hours volunteered in caring for the church and in supporting the ministry to which we all have been called. On behalf of Church Council, please accept our gratitude.

We are ever mindful of those who serve as members and officers on Council; those who chair or serve on any of the dozen or so standing committees; those who contribute to and participate in worship services; those who help to maintain the church property; those who support programs and activities; and those who contribute so much to the life of this congregation. One only needs to read the church newsletter and bulletins to know how active this parish is. For all of that and more, accept our appreciation.

To those serving as officers on the Council – Mel Wentzel, Vice President; Vicki Haussmann, Secretary; and Debra Buckman, Treasurer – a special note of appreciation. Your dedication to St. Mark's is ever present. For that commitment, please accept my personal thanks.

My personal gratitude for the blessings of our staff – for Pastor Vasey...capable, thoughtful, and respectful...a well-informed leader for our congregation...a humble servant of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ; for our gifted organist, Sam Robinson, whose talents enrich our worship; for our welcoming and creative administrative assistant, Joe Baur; for our dedicated bookkeeper, Jackie Baysore, who shares her business acumen; for our volunteer financial secretary, Herb Poff, who is an exceptional resource for our congregation; and for the crew from Choice Cleaners for their ongoing care of our facility.

Finally, we extend sincere appreciation to Ed Gair and Mel Wentzel who are completing two terms each on Council. Please know that we are grateful for your gifts of time and service, and that we look forward to your continuing involvement in this parish.

It has been both humbling as well as an incredible honor to serve the past two years as president of our congregation. Your confidence and support have been so very much appreciated. God knows our needs and has provided abundantly for them ... by way of the Cross, in the Waters of Baptism and as he comes to us in His Holy Supper. What greater gifts could we possibly want? What greater gifts could we possibly need? As we have been richly blessed, may we be a blessing to others.

May God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – keep us ever in His grace.

In His name,

Ralph Zeigler, Council President  
St. Mark's Lutheran Church



FROM THE PARISH REGISTER  
(as of November 6, 2023)

# Saint Mark's Lutheran Church

Members Received by  
Public Affirmation of Baptism

Richard D. Bates, Jr.  
4/8/2023

Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod

Conditional Baptism

Ray Huff  
10/29/2023

Deaths of Members

Joyce Simpson Hershberger 1/14/23

Harold D. Hershberger, Jr. 2/8/23

Roxanna Lucille Larsson 5/23/23

Charlotte Elizabeth Reitz 8/26/23

Shirley Louise Vognet 9/18/23

Steven R. Bieber, Jr. 10/5/23

Diana E. Zeigler 11/22/23



## REPORT OF THE PASTOR

Reverend Brian Vasey

### Annual Report of the Pastor (2023)

*I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15:1-5)*

Traditionally when we hear or read this text we interpret “abide” to mean, “rest; to be at peace; to be comforted”. Certainly abide has that connotation. But it also communicates to us an activity in the living of life. Jesus teaches us that when we abide in him we bear much fruit. To abide in Jesus therefore means not only to rest and be comforted, but also “to do”; to be his hands and feet; to respond as Jesus would respond; to be the church!

In 2023 this congregation known as St. Mark's Lutheran Church has responded to this call of our Lord. We have “abided” in Christ and thus have “borne fruit”:

+ We have remembered the promise that comes to us in Christ; the promise of God's love for us and all people as the church through worship and Christian Education (Sunday School and Small Group Study). We identify as, “The community of believers and saints brought together by the Holy Spirit for the preaching of the Word and the administration of the holy sacraments in accordance with the Gospel (Augsburg Confession VII).”

+ We have proclaimed the Good News of Christ and in Christ here and abroad through the support of our synod and various ELCA Missionaries and Missions.

+ We have participated in the ministries of Operation Christmas Child, Church World Service (CROP Walk), Lutheran World Relief and Heifer Project International.

+ We have offered prayers, practical help, medicine and food to neighbors near and far by supporting Diakon Ministries, Family Promise of Lycoming County, the City Ministerium of

Williamsport, the United Churches of Lycoming County, and Lutheran Disaster Response.

This is who we are. This is whose we are. We are the church. We are the Body of Christ. We minister because Christ has ministered to us. If we cease to minister because of anything- COVID 19 (which is still with us), the current wars in Ukraine and Israel, lack of funds, apathy- we cease to be the church, we cease to be the people of Christ.

On Sunday, December 3, we began the Season of Advent and thus a new Church Year. Advent is an opportunity to look at the past with fondness and thanks and to the future with hope. Many of our accomplishments in 2023 should be looked at with great satisfaction: Resolving “what time to have worship” with dignity and respect for each other; exploring Christian Education taking place at other times than just on Sunday morning; a more intentional relationship with “Little Lambs” pre-school; exploring ways to use our building as good stewards while respecting it as “holy space”. Yes, we have accomplished a great deal in ministering in our Lord's name in 2023. Many have made this reality: The leadership and officers of our Church Council, Committees, and Church Staff both paid and volunteer; the warmth and continued caring of members and friends of our congregation. As pastor I thank you for your work on behalf of Christ for the sake of the world. We have much for which to give thanks and praise to God! But at the same time we realize we should not, we cannot rest only on past laurels. We need to move forward in the hope of Christ. We will!

Martin Luther said many times in his ministry, “Have faith! Grace abounds!” We go forward in this new church year ever clinging to the promises of God through Christ the vine. In him we have and will continue to abide and bear much fruit. With the guiding of God's own Spirit we will continue to know Christ and to make Christ known.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Brian Vasey

Advent, 2023



## REPORT OF THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Mel Wentzel

(Vice-President Church Council and Personnel  
Committee Chair)

Committee Members

Gary Weber, Candy Dewar, Helen Schramm,

September 20, 2023

St. Mark's Personnel Committee Report 2022-2023

Mel Wentzel, Church Council Vice President (Personnel Committee Chair)

Greetings and God's Blessings upon you,

This has been an interesting year with trying to hire new personnel to help St. Mark's continue moving forward. Thank you to all who help and support our good work here at St. Mark's.

Last year we hired Choice Cleaning Services to do a thorough cleaning of the church building. We cannot say enough about how they have worked tenaciously to maintain a clean St. Mark's. They also helped tremendously to strip and clean the Little Lambs area hallways and several rooms. They continue to help wherever they can such as setting up and taking down tables and chairs for events in Fellowship Hall. Thank you to Choice for doing such a noticeably great job.

Joe Baur continues doing a great job in the capacity of Administrative Assistant and is always available to help in any way he can. He has enhanced our weekly bulletins, our letterheads and The Lion. Thank you, Joe.

We are glad to see that our Bookkeeper, Jackie Baysore has agreed to stay on and we have been fortunate to have her continue the great job maintaining the financial duties of St. Mark's. Our thanks and best wishes go to Jackie for all of her continuing accomplishments. I would like to thank Jackie Baysore, Herb Poff, Pam Jensen, Deb Buckman, Wanda Fortin, Jackie Kinney, Ralph Zeigler and Vicki Haussmann for all of their help in getting settled until we elected Deb and installed her as our new Treasurer. Thank you, Deb and best wishes in your new position.

We have been trying to hire a part-time Sexton since the unfortunate passing of Lou DeSeau in April, 2022. Currently, there are no inquiries of interest as the result of multiple newspaper advertisements. Hopefully, with God's help, we will be able to fill this position at some point in the future. Several unsuccessful candidates have necessitated the need for volunteers. We have been and will continue to have multiple volunteers fill the sexton's duties on an as needed basis.

Last, but not least, Sam Robinson continues to perform wonderful music for us here at St. Mark's. His preludes, hymn selections, postludes and the entire incidental playing have not gone unnoticed. We have been truly blessed with the music that enhances and invigorates our congregation each and every week. Our congregants have even been staying to enjoy the postlude in its entirety. Thank you, Sam.

I would like to thank the members of this important committee, Gary Weber, Candy Dewar, Helen Schramm, Pastor Vasey and Ralph Zeigler, Council President. These folks have been a tremendous help to the successful advertising, interviewing and hiring of all personnel, spending hours on the process.

Special Thanks to Candy Dewar who makes sure the staff is celebrated on special occasions and dates. She provides small gifts and tokens of our appreciation for the important work they do every day to the benefit of St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

And, finally, I want to personally thank Pastor Vasey and President Ralph Zeigler for their support, guidance and tireless efforts as we progress through the challenges and successes of the Personnel Committee as well as the Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Mel Wentzel

Council Vice President (Personnel Committee Chair)





## REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Sam Robinson

### Report from the Director of Music

The passage of time continues to amaze. I find it hard to believe that 2024 will be my fourth year at St. Mark's. I am so grateful for the opportunity to share music with the congregation every week, and I look forward to many more years of service.

This fall, we continued to welcome four choral singers to the 10:30am service: Alanna Ramos, Olivia Ciabattari, Chase Bower, and William Ciabattari. These gifted musicians have allowed us to continue with high quality choral anthems on selected Sundays. We look forward to increasing the number of Sundays with choral music in 2024.

Currently, the Mighty Möller requires some large and costly repairs to revitalize its full potential. There are several "dead" (inoperable) notes throughout the organ. There are several reasons why this happens in a pipe organ. First, this organ is an electro-pneumatic instrument, which means that there are several relay boards that send a signal from the organ console to the pipes to create a sound. Right now, one of our internal relays is failing. Because of this, certain pipes are not reliably getting the signal to play at the right time. Parsons (our organ builder) is recommending a new solid-state relay that will replace the deteriorating existing one. In 2016, they completed this work on another division of the organ.

The other principal reason for dead, inoperable notes is a result of worn-out leathers. There are thousands of leather components of an organ. Pneumatic actions have either a small, circular leather pouch or a tiny leather-covered bellows for every pipe in the instrument. These allow air pressure to open and close the valve underneath each pipe. Joints in the wooden wind chests are gasketed with leather strips. Wooden pipes that have movable stoppers use leather as packing so that the stopper is airtight. Reservoirs and bellows are jointed or hinged with strips of leather. Leather lasts a long time in an organ, usually about 50 years. Parsons is recommending the replacement of certain leather pieces that are no longer functioning properly—all of which are over 60 years old from the installation in 1959. They have served us well, but it is time for some major work.

Aside from the building itself, the Möller Organ may be the church's largest and most valuable asset. It serves the congregation and the community every week of the year without fail. In this community, there is no organ that compares to the versatility, the magnificence, and reliability of our Möller. We are blessed to have this instrument at St. Mark's, and I am beyond blessed to have the opportunity to play it week after week. Please see the attached recommendations from Parsons for more specifics on the repairs needed to the organ. I hope my above words were helpful in translating some of the organ-specific language.

Respectfully submitted,

Samuel Robinson

Director of Music & Organist



REPORT OF THE  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
Joseph Tobias Baur III

It has been a pleasure serving the family and members of Saint Mark’s again this past year. With the Covid epidemic wrapping up I worked on reviewing and reworking the weekly parking program here at the church. Finding those who no longer needed parking and a few who were beginning to park again and collecting some back rent. This has opened up some spots and I am working on filling as many as possible. We have picked up six new parking contracts in the past 2 months. If you know anyone who is looking for parking, the rates are well below the ones available in the city proper. New projects include updating databases for flowers and parking lot. This allows quicker turn around for billing and a update on what parking revenues are collected and what spots are available. The updated Congregation Directory is my priority in the New Year. I am working on having a proof by the middle of January. I want to thank my monthly crew who helps put the “Lion” together and ready to mail out. I thank everyone who has complimented me for the weekly bulletin and the monthly newsletter, everyone seems to enjoy the bright bold colors. I am always ready for new ideas and suggestions to make it even better.



REPORT OF THE MEMORIALS COMMITTEE  
Carl and Beverly Hieber (Co-Chairs)

The purpose of the Memorial Committee is to proclaim Jesus Christ to each other and to the whole world through the thoughtful use of special gifts given to the congregation in memory of members and friends of the parish.

Gifts have been received in memory of the following members in the past year:

- JOYCE HERSHBERGER
- HAROLD HERSHBERGER
- ROXIE LARSON
- SHIRLEY VOGNET

Carl & Beverly Hieber, Co-Chairs



## REPORT OF THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

Becky Miller Pryor (Interim)

Members: Robert Miller, Deb Buckman, Bob Campbell, Jackie Kinney, Cheryl Williams and Connie Shaible

During this past year there has been a lessening of pandemic restrictions in the community and at St. Mark's. The Parish Life committee is pleased to once again serve others in the name of our Lord.

### **Our activities within the congregation included**

Serving funeral luncheons when asked by the families to do so.

Providing hospitality for church events when requested such as pot luck luncheons, the church picnic and Donut Tuesday. We are pleased to support the other committees who spearhead these events.

With assistance from the Property Committee, the ice maker was repaired and is serviced regularly.

### **Our activities for the community included**

Catering the monthly luncheons for the Center City Pastors of the United Churches of Lycoming County.

Providing twenty-four sandwiches twice per month to New Covenant UCC's Blessing Boxes.

Assisting the Evangelism and Fellowship Committee with providing and packaging desserts for Redeemer's community dinner.

### **Our activities going forward include**

Continuing with all the activities from this year and looking for opportunities to further serve the congregation and the community as we are able.

On a housekeeping note, we will be refreshing the Parish Life office.

Since our chairperson, Janet Jones, relocated to the Reading area, our ability to serve is dependent on having additional congregation members join our committee. Pray and consider becoming a member of Parish Life.

Chairperson: Becky Miller Pryor (Interim)

Members: Robert Miller, Becky Miller Pryor, Connie Shaible with support from Deb Buckman, Bob Campbell, Jackie Kinney and Cheryl Williams.



## REPORT OF THE SAFETY COMMITTEE

Dr. Drew Haussmann (Chairman)

Sally Bjornstad (Secretary)

Members: Herb Poff, Dave Williams, Walter Doebler and Pastor Vasey.

### Annual Report of the Safety Committee-2023

The goal of the Safety Committee is to provide Safety and Security recommendations to the congregation of St. Mark's

The members of the committee are: Dr. Drew Haussmann (Chairman), Sally Bjornstad (Secretary), Herb Poff, Dave Williams, Bud Doebler, Pastor Vasey, and Ralph Zeigler (President of Council).

Building security has been improved through regular maintenance with ACE Lock Co. to ensure that exterior doors are closing properly. The congregation is reminded that when exiting the building that each person should check the door to be sure it is properly closed and locked. Additionally, security cameras were recommended by church council for the exterior of the building. Therefore a number of cameras and a recording device have been purchased and installed through CompuGen to provide video surveillance of our church and parish house. Additionally, audio/video doorbells are being installed at the office and fellowship hall doors, to make it easier to speak with visitors.

After a minor fire occurred in Front lounge, it was determined to enhance our current fire response by adding 2 fire extinguishers, and updating signage in each room to indicate the location of the closest extinguisher.

The AED (Automated External Debrillator) in-service was held in September, to review its proper use and how to respond to a medical emergency.

Respectively Submitted,

Dr. Drew Haussmann (Chairman)

Sally Bjornstad (Secretary)



REPORT OF THE  
EVANGELISM AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Becky Miller Pryor (Chairperson)

Members: Wanda Fortin, Jackie Kinney, Karen Mariano, Linda Rosini and Barbara Thomas

*The purpose of the Evangelism and Fellowship Committee is to proclaim Jesus Christ to each other and to the entire world by sharing Christian love through social, emotional and material support.*

**Our outreach within the congregation included**

Continuing to send greeting cards to our Special Concern folks and others we do not see as often as we wish. Cards were sent at Christmas, Valentine's Day, Easter, July Fourth and Halloween/Autumn.

Continuing the Card Ministry which was reestablished in 2021. In addition to our committee members, congregation members send cards, on a rotating basis, to our Special Concern folks and other members as needed to honor birthdays, anniversaries, thinking of you or get-well greetings as another way to stay in touch.

Assisting the Faith Formation Committee in various activities throughout the year.

Continuing the creation of Welcome mugs begun by the Dancho's.

**Our outreach to our community included**

Hosting one blood drive in Fellowship Hall in partnership with the American Red Cross.

Providing meals during our hosting weeks for Family Promise.

Facilitating the collecting of non-perishable food items, paper products, cleaning supplies and snacks year-round for The United Churches Food Pantry, Shepherd of the Streets, Sojourner Truth Ministries and the Blessing Boxes at New Covenant UCC. We also collect hygiene items for Saving Grace Shelter.

Hosting the annual July Fourth Lawn Party with a music program in the Nave.

Collaborating with the Faith Formation Committee in collecting items and packing Operation Christmas Child boxes and Reverse Advent bags.

Collecting and delivering small gifts to the Ladies of CM-6 at the Selinsgrove Center and their caregivers. This year we will be able to entertain and gift in-person.

Collecting and delivering general Christmas gifts of clothing, watches, wallets and other items for the residents of the Danville State Hospital. We also participated in their Spring shoe drive.

Providing monthly support to Daniel's Closet with our clothing donations.

Supporting Redeemer Lutheran's free community dinner by providing desserts monthly.

Assisting the Parish Life Committee in providing sandwiches twice each month to the Blessing Boxes of New Covenant UCC.

**Our outreach going forward includes**

Continuing with those projects that serve members of the congregation and the community. We will host a Habitat luncheon at the Faith build on Scott Street. We look for other ways to be of service to our congregation and the community. We encourage you to pray and answer Christ's call to serve as our outreach could use more hands and feet.

Chairperson: Becky Miller Pryor

Members: Cathy Fenderson, Wanda Fortin, Jackie Kinney, Karen Mariano, Linda Rosini and Barbara Thomas



## REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Ralph Zeigler (Chairman)

Members: Robert Campbell, Wanda Fortin,  
Linda Rosini, Pastor Vasey

The Nominating Committee is chaired by the president of Council and includes three additional voting members of the congregation appointed by the president for a term of one year. Serving on the Nominating Committee are Robert Campbell, Wanda Fortin, Linda Rosini, Pastor Vasey, and Ralph Zeigler (chair).

With thanks, we recognize two members who are completing their service on Council and extend to them our sincere gratitude:

**Ed Gair**

**Mel Wentzel**

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following names for your consideration for election to Council for three-year terms beginning in January 2024:

**Wanda Fortin**

**Ray Huff (second term)**

**Richard Miller**

**Richard Reitz**

Additional nominations may be made from the floor and require a second to the motion. As a courtesy, however, please confirm with the person being nominated their willingness to serve in that capacity should they be elected to a Council position.

Nominees for the Audit Committee and Lay Delegates to the Annual Assembly of the Upper Susquehanna Synod Conference will be elected by Council at a later date. If you have an interest in serving in either of these capacities, please contact a member of Council. Thank you!

In His name –

Ralph Zeigler, Chair  
Nominating Committee



## REPORT OF THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Drew Haussmann and Ed Gair (Co-Chairs)

Members: Dave Williams, Bob Miller, Glenn Yapple, Deb Buckman, Susan Newcomer, Jim Newcomer, James Newcomer, Carl Albright, Herb Poff.

### PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Property Committee is to proclaim Jesus Christ to each other and all the world by promoting the use of the congregation's physical resources in the support of our Christian Mission. To this end the committee arranged for the promotion, protection, maintenance, repair and expansion of church properties. The Committee supervises the use of the same by the congregation and other organizations so that the facilities are adequate for the functions assigned by the congregation.

The year 2023 posed a number of challenges at St Mark's as we continue to address maintenance needs for the church's large and aging infrastructure.

-Roof- a number of leaks required attention and to better keep ahead of future problems a long term roofing maintenance contract was entered with R H Macron.

-HVAC- Several concerns were addressed related to cooling in Fellowship Hall, and the aging boiler for the Parish House.

-Exterior Grounds- The diligent and routine care by Doc. Albright, Tim Maggs, and others was assisted by landscapers from Vandelinde. Parking lot lighting was repaired, and patching of asphalt cracks completed by M&M Paving.

The investigation for the repair of the tower spire has proven complex and challenging. With at least 3 mechanical failures since the church was built, a new approach is required. A structural engineer is working to give us options that will hopefully allow both an aesthetic and structurally sound solution.

We ask for the congregation's insight and prayer as we hope to find a suitable person to work as our church sexton. Choice Cleaning continues to perform the cleaning duties keeping the building orderly.

We appreciate the time and talents of the other active members of the committee, including Herb Poff, Dave Williams, Bob Miller, Glenn Yapple, Deb Buckman, and Jim & Susan Newcomer.

As we look ahead to 2024 there are a number of projects and repairs, big and small, that we will endeavor to tackle as we strive to preserve and promote the physical space that is the church of St Mark's.

In Christ, Drew Haussmann and Ed Gair, Property Co-chairs



REPORT OF THE  
FAITH FORMATION COMMITTEE

Vicki Haussmann (Chairperson)

Sally Bjornstad, Robert Campbell, Pastor Vasey

## Annual Report ~ 2023

The Faith Formation Committee is committed to our purpose of proclaiming Jesus Christ to each other and to the world through Christian Education as well as through Christian Fellowship.

Christian Education was offered in a variety of ways this past year including: Adult Sunday School class, Lenten and Advent studies, support of Vacation Bible School, and providing devotional materials for the seasons of Lent and Advent. The opportunity to make an Advent wreath to be used at home during the season of Advent encourages us to take time to remember the true meaning of the Christmas season. Christian reading material is available in Front Lounge for congregational use. We were pleased to once again offer a midweek Bible study throughout the month of October.

We realize that Christian Fellowship is also an important part of connecting with and encouraging each other to grow in our faith. In that regard, we were pleased to be able to host many events throughout the year. Our second annual Shrove Tuesday event was a success, and we enjoyed sharing the evening with our friends from St. Luke's. Souper Bowl Sunday, "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday, Operation Christmas Child, and Reverse Advent Calendars provided opportunities to come together to provide outreach to those outside of our congregation. The Progression Milestone saw us celebrating Owen Gair's high school graduation and sending off to York College. The annual church picnic once again provided an opportunity for fellowship in the comfort of Fellowship Hall! And activities such as Backpack Blessing Sunday, Pet Blessing Sunday, Pumpkin Carving, Advent Wreath Making, and Christmas Tree Decorating helped bring us together to celebrate various seasons throughout the year.

A special thank you to both Sally Bjornstad and Bob Campbell who are faithful and committed members of the Faith Formation committee. Thank you for all you do to support the studies, activities, and events that occur at St. Mark's.

As we look ahead to 2024, we will continue to navigate and explore how this committee works as we strive to reinvigorate education and participation for the entire congregation. We are especially committed to expanding Christian Education. We welcome any and all new members to our committee, and we are open to new ideas. Please join in any of our classes and activities. All are welcome!

Vicki Haussmann ~ Chair





## REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Debra Buckman, Treasurer

Committee Members: Diane Bardsley, Wanda Fortin, Jackie Kinney, Herb Poff, Barb Thomas, Phil Thomas, Gary Weber, Ralph Zeigler and Pastor Vasey

The Finance Committee was on hiatus after the church treasurer resigned. The committee met in October, with the new treasurer to plan the 2024 budget. The committee will meet on a regular basis in 2024.

Submitted

Debra Buckman

Treasurer



## REPORT OF THE ARCHIVES AND WEBSITE

Gary Weber

The Archivist is responsible to document and preserve the history of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, both past and present. This is done by way of preservation of photographs, videos, written materials, and artifacts that represent the congregation and its activities. The archivist also accumulates, catalogs, organizes and preserves materials left behind by past generations of members of St. Mark's.

The archives of St. Mark's are kept in a room across from the choir room. If you look at the room, you may find it appears to be in disarray. To some degree that is true. In recent years, the room has accumulated materials from all over the Church, and these materials do need some organization. My view has always been that all should be preserved, whether or not we have the time to organize the materials. If we have saved our heritage, it can be organized at any time – discarded materials can never be retrieved.

Volunteers for archives projects are welcome to contact me.

As always, the St. Mark's Website is where you can read about current activities and past history. The Website, [www.stmarkswilliamsport.org](http://www.stmarkswilliamsport.org), allows our members access to documents, photographs, schedules, news, past issues of The Lion, worship services bulletins and much more.

The Website design is a bit out-of-date and we must update. Although it complies with the latest security requirements, it is not "responsive" which means it does not do well on a phone or other small screen device. There is a consensus that the Website must be upgraded, and quotes will be obtained in the near future.

Gary Weber

Archivist and Webmaster



## REPORT OF THE WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE

Ray Huff - Chairman

Our mission statement contains many elements that are crucial to our ministry.  
To Know Christ, and to make Christ known.

The purpose of the Worship and Music Committee is to see that the worship of God is conducted in good order in accordance with the Bible and the Lutheran tradition.

The Worship and Music Committee, in an oversight capacity, continued to be busy again this year within the congregation, as well as in the community. We have two beautiful spaces for worship. The nave was a sight for Sunday liturgies, weddings, funerals, concerts, and other events. The challenge this year was the COVID-19 impact on the way that we worship.

We are extremely fortunate to have Sam Robinson to lead our worship in word through music. We look forward to Sam, with our help, in rebuilding our music program.

We have gone from having volunteer cantors at the single service in the summer and both services to having young guests lend their talents with our "popup" choir, adding much to our worship.

The Altar Guild was extremely active again this year with the many scheduled and unscheduled activities to keep the church supplies and articles in proper order.

Acknowledgment must be given for the diligent service of our committee members, musicians, the behind-the-scenes helpers, and those who share in the worship leadership roles. Without their assistance, leadership and contributions, our services to the Lord would not be as fulfilling.

In a year of many challenges, Pastor Brian D. Vasey has been leading us in our various forms of worship and discipleship in a most heart-warming way. We thankfully appreciate his efforts for St. Mark's. We are looking at major repairs to the organ that will cost approximately \$72,000.00.

Thanks are due for those who so graciously helped in the many duties to keep things flowing throughout the entire year, especially the committee members: Bev Hieber, Cindy Huff, Linda Rosini, Karen Boone, Diana and Dan Zeigler, Ralph and Lou Ann Zeigler and, of course, Sam Robinson and Pastor Vasey.

We are deeply grateful to Ralph Zeigler for his tireless efforts in the dorsal project. We are getting very close to having a workable plan for the finishing of the project.

Challenges continue each year, in the areas of volunteering, meeting parishioners' needs, and increasing our active membership. It may not be obvious to some, but it truly takes a host of people to keep the church, music and worship services ministering properly. This is most evident during the seasons of Advent and Holy Week, but the need continues every day during the year. There exist many opportunities for volunteer ministry at St. Mark's. Please feel free to contact any member of the Worship and Music committee or Pastor Vasey if you can share in any of the various volunteering capacities. Together we all will continue to praise and proclaim Jesus Christ through His Word and Sacrament.

In closing, God has blessed St. Mark's in so many ways. Sometimes we lose sight of who is in control of things. Let us rejoice in God's wisdom and grace.

UPDATE ON DOSSAL  
REPLACEMENT PROJECT

**Dossal Replacement: An Update for 2023**

Replacement of the dossal cloth behind the altar was first discussed at the February 2020 Council meeting. Council members (and others) noticed that the current white dossal cloth was becoming noticeably dirtier and, in many places, torn and frayed; it needed to be addressed.

At that meeting, Council approved using red fabric when the dossal was replaced again. This was the color originally chosen by the award-winning architect, T. Norman Mansell, who designed our church. It adds some warmth to the chancel and offsets the coolness of the two larger grey screens (one on either side of the dossal) on which the wooden plaques are hung.

We are pleased to report that we are making progress with the dossal replacement project. The current dossal cloth is made up of 21 panels that together create a white backdrop for the suspended cross. The area is approximately 11 feet wide x 36 feet high. It features two multi-color orphreys or bands, one on either side of the dossal. One plan would be to replace the current fabric with red cloth and to reinstall the frames.

A second plan would be to revert to the architect's original design, that of a continuous red cloth from ceiling to floor. Many of the fabrics used for dossal cloths come in widths of 55 to 60 inches. Three sections of fabric would be sewn together to create a single red dossal, taking careful measures to align any patterns in the cloth. Mr. Mansell chose blue as the color for the original two orphreys.

Several companies are able to provide the fabric. While we had hoped to have the cloth replaced by this past year, there was a major setback in finding a company to install the dossal. After looking at several options, we contacted Lundy Construction Company, Williamsport. Following their evaluation, they are certain that they can help us with that part of the project.

St. Mark's is blessed to have a beautiful worship space. Our nave was thoughtfully designed more than 60 years ago and continues to serve us well. The Worship and Music Committee is being deliberative as it seeks ways to assure that our facility retains its splendor. We appreciate your patience and understanding, as well as your thoughts and support.

Respectfully,

Ralph Zeigler, Member

Worship & Music Committee

# 2024 BUDGET REPORT

2024 BUDGET REPORT				
			<u>2023 Budget</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>
<b>INCOME</b>				
Parking Lot Rent		\$ 9,360.00		\$ 6,000.00
Little Lambs Room Rental		\$ 14,594.00		\$ 15,469.00
Room & Hall Rental		\$ 500.00		\$ 700.00
Welker/Capital General		\$ 21,612.00		\$ 21,612.00
Religious Income		\$ 182,975.00		\$ 173,445.00
Fund Transfers		\$ 164,349.00		\$ 189,122.00
<b>Income Totals</b>		<b>\$ 393,390.00</b>		<b>\$ 406,348.00</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>				
Salaries		\$ 134,015.00		\$ 143,749.00
Administrative Benefits		\$ 51,360.00		\$ 39,524.00
General Administrative		\$ 15,260.00		\$ 16,650.00
Worship & Music		\$ 11,800.00		\$ 20,000.00
Christian ED, Youth & Family Min		\$ 2,950.00		\$ 3,150.00
Outreach Ministries		\$ 1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00
Property		\$ 143,880.00		\$ 148,200.00
Benevolence & Charity & Synod Donations		\$ 33,125.00		\$ 34,075
<b>Expense Totals</b>		<b>\$ 393,390.00</b>		<b>\$ 406,348.00</b>
<b>Difference</b>				<b>\$ -</b>