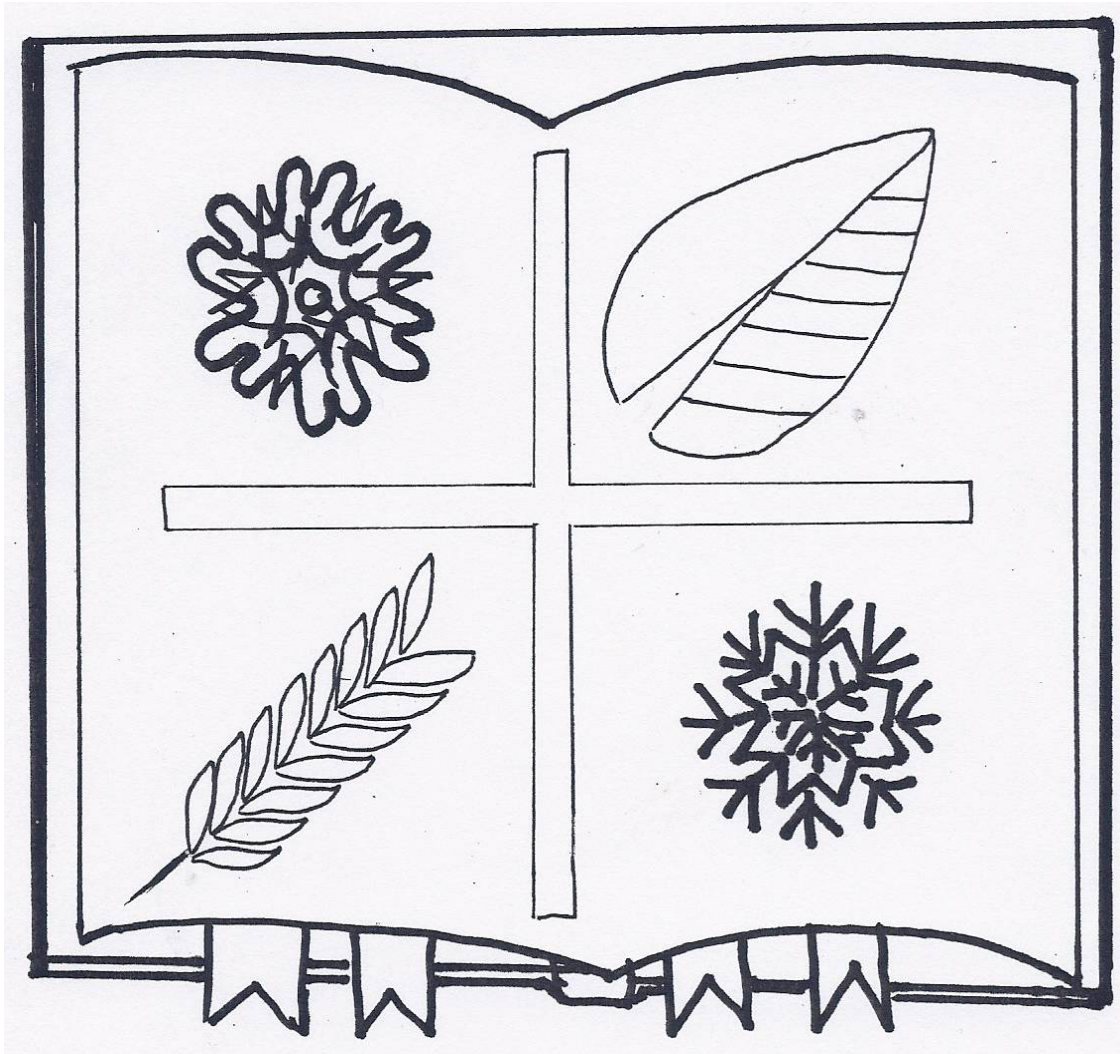


# Seasons of God's Blessings



## The Annual Report

May 6, 2012

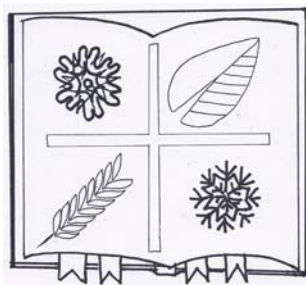
**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**

**142 Market Street**

**Williamsport, PA 17701**

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**FROM THE PARISH REGISTER IN 2011**

**BAPTISMS**

Breanna Lee Bower..... August 14, 2011  
 Jonathan D. Lynch ..... November 6, 2011  
 Dalton Nash ..... November 20, 2011

**FIRST COMMUNIONS**

Sean Jensen ..... November 20, 2011  
 Dalton Nash ..... November 20, 2011

**AFFIRMATION/CONFIRMATION**

Jarrett Eyer ..... September 9, 2011  
 Dustin Pelleschi ..... September 9, 2011

**RECEIVED BY AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Lynn Detwiler  
 Adam Ziotta

**RECEIVED BY LETTER OF TRANSFER**

- Ed, Lorraine, Evan & Jarod Barone
- The Rev Steve and Linda Shipman from United Lutheran Lock Haven

**SENT BY LETTER OF TRANSFER**

- Dan Boone to Sharon Lutheran Church Gibsonville, NC
- Trish, Theoron & Kara Hershey to St. Luke Ann Jackson to St. Luke

**WEDDINGS**

None

**MEMBER FUNERALS**

Kathryn Calvert..... May 12, 2011  
 Harold Davis ..... May 31, 2011  
 Nancy Bohartz ..... June 10, 2011  
 Luther Doebler ..... July 28, 2011  
 Ardath Houser ..... October 11, 2011  
 Jean Gulliver ..... December 7, 2011  
 Ruth Homan ..... March 2, 2012  
 Frank Vognet ..... March 8, 2012  
 June Decker..... April 22, 2012

**NON-MEMBER FUNERALS**

Helen Hurley ..... May 13, 2011  
 John Bower ..... May 14, 2011  
 Betty Fry ..... June 11, 2011  
 Josephine Coleman ..... November 23, 2011  
 Carol Smith ..... January 14, 2012  
 Ira Tuxford ..... February 10, 2012  
 Dwayne McCulley ..... April 22, 2012

**NEWLY ENROLLED IN CATECHETICAL STUDY**

Ben Haussmann  
 Dalton Nash  
 Dawson Owen  
 Stefan Weber  
 Evan Barone

## **SYNOPSIS OF THE MINUTES OF CONGREGATION ASSEMBLIES**

Special Congregation Assembly March 25, 2012

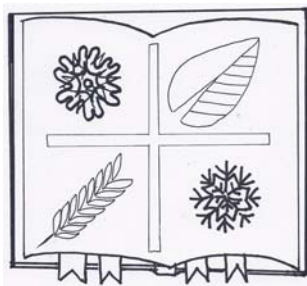
- The bid of Barr Construction for replacement of the nave roof in the amount of \$20,334 was ratified by the congregation.

Special Congregation Assembly December 11, 2011

- The budget for 2012 was adopted

Annual Congregation Assembly, May 15, 2011

- Elected Dan Zeigler, Walt Haussmann, Bonnie Eyer, and Ray Huff to terms on Council.
- Accepted the Annual report to the congregation.
- Thanked retiring members of the Council



## **MESSAGE TO CONGREGANTS**

St. Mark's has just entered its 161st year as an active Lutheran congregation in Williamsport. We celebrate the rich history and traditions of St. Mark's, and the people who have made possible this long history of service to the Christian community. Past Congregation Council President Gary Weber's words ring true again this year and I will not add or subtract from them. He wrote, and I agree that:

*At the same time, as members, we must work hard to maintain and update the traditions of the Church. St. Mark's has a dedicated and hard working pastor and staff, but only part of the effort required to offer regular worship and other essential Church services is performed by the paid staff. Volunteers perform so many of the functions we take for granted as we worship – decorating the nave, washing communion cups, acolytes, ushers, communion servers, assisting ministers, bulletin staplers. Our Sunday school teachers help make worship more meaningful. During the week, money counters, gardeners, handymen (and*

*women), Web site and Lion contributors all go beyond the call of duty to perform routine, but essential responsibilities. And those of us who like to eat have seen the dedication of the kitchen volunteers to the success of many events involving the service of food.*

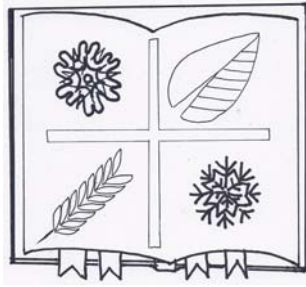
I thank Gary for all of his help in my first year on council and as president.

One group of our members who serves the Church in a most important way is perhaps the least recognized. The Congregation Council meets monthly to conduct the business of St. Mark's. Many difficult decisions are placed on the backs of these dedicated individuals – financial, personnel, policy and planning are all regularly addressed by Council. This year Council is losing three of its members – Jane Zimmerer, who has served for the last two years as secretary; Clinton Eppleman, who has moved to the Harrisburg area, and Michelle Ramsauer. We thank them for their service. I would be remiss if I did not publicly thank Carl Hieber for his very important work as the chair of the Mutual Ministry Committee. He is stepping down as chair and will remain on the committee.

As this year's president, I have seen, first-hand, the countless hours and care that Council members and the many other volunteers have given and continue to give to St. Mark's. I marvel at the capacity of many of our members to give freely and frequently of their time. At the same time, we should all recognize that many hands make for light work. Light work in that the onus is not just on a few but gladly shared by many. Light work in spreading the Light through the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Cindy and I share duties in the Stewardship Committee. Too many times we all feel that Stewardship is mainly concerned with finance. Of course, the financial health of St. Mark's is important to us and to the succeeding generations who will reap the benefits of our sound decisions. But Stewardship is also our allocation of Time and Talent that we give to the Lord through our service at St. Mark's and beyond. We all have something to offer. It could be transportation for a shut in, help with the various fellowships throughout the month, a telephone call to a member who has been sick or missing. These are not huge, earth-shaking tasks, but certainly vital ones to those who see that we care.

Thanks to all of those who make St. Mark's what it is. I have enjoyed and learned much in this first year in working with Pastor Elkin, the council, and the committees. Their reports follow.



### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

*Ray Huff, Council President*

Another year in our life at St. Mark's has passed. I remember the first time that I worshiped at St. Mark's. The building, the sanctuary, the magnificent music... what a legacy from the saints who made this all possible for us! I still am awestruck whenever and wherever I am in the church and take very seriously the role which we have assumed.

In our community, changes and challenges swirl around us. At St. Mark's, we are continually looking outside of our doors to those in need in our neighborhood. In the past few years, Pastor Elkin and Becky Miller Pryor have been very actively promoting the Family Promise program, to help homeless families. The program now has the support needed to begin operation and St. Mark's is wonderfully assisting the homeless in this program. Our efforts in the past year extended well beyond supporting Family Promise. We continue to support the Shepherd of the Streets, local ministries, and those who come to the door for a chance at daily bread. These and many other efforts will continue to be the focus of St. Mark's social outreach in our community.

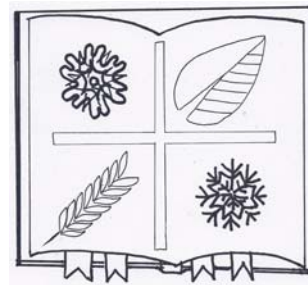
We have opportunities to reach out to others in the community as well. We have many new neighbors in the community. Neighborhoods around the church have become non-existent, but we have many souls to reach as people come to the Williamsport area as a result of new opportunities and accompanying challenges involving our natural resources.

With the economic difficulties of the time, it should come as no surprise that St. Mark's is facing budgetary concerns. The 2012 budget that was approved by the congregation in December included a deficit of nearly \$30,000.00. The members of St.

Mark's realized that programs could be affected after an apparent shortfall in initial pledges and met the challenge. This deficit will be met, in the near term, by transfers of income and principal from investments. Our members continue to support the church to the best of their abilities. What is problematic is that our attendance has been decreasing at our services. We have a stunning building, outstanding personnel, and excellent programs for all. We must strive to support all three.

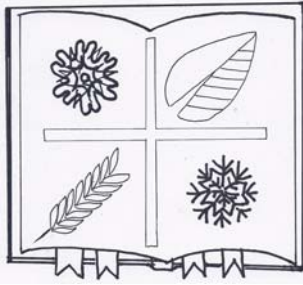
In the past year I have enjoyed working with Pastor Elkin, the staff, council and the committees, which support the congregation and its endeavors. Thanks to all for their work this year. Their reports follow. Challenges face us to be sure. We face the future knowing that great things are happening at St. Mark's!

*~ Ray Huff*



### **CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP** **elected or appointed**

The Rev. Kenneth R. Elkin, Pastor  
Ray Huff, President  
Gregg Dancho, Vice President  
Ken Shafranko, Treasurer  
Jane Zimmerer, Secretary  
Jungwha Kim, Director of Music  
Bernadette Jones, Youth & Family Ministry  
Michele Owen, Youth and Family Ministry  
Kathy Eshelman, Stephen Ministry Leader  
Mel Wentzel, Director of *The Way*  
Gary Weber, archivist  
Bonnie Eyer  
Dinah Labenberg  
Michele Ramsauer  
Nick Buckman  
Bob Miller  
Walter Haussmann  
Dan Zeigler  
Tim Maggs  
Clinton Eppelman



## **A WORD FROM THE PASTOR**

*The Reverend Kenneth R. Elkin*

- Here are a few of the things that are on the list of activities as reported regularly to the Council each month:
- Most importantly, the Pastor prepares to lead the congregation in the celebration of Word and Sacrament in the Holy Communion twice each Sunday.
- The Pastor and others plan and lead additional services: the praying of Morning Prayer each weekday, year-round, the singing of Evening Prayer on Wednesdays in Lent, the praying of the Mid-Day office on Wednesdays in Lent, the services of Ash Wednesday and Holy Week, the Great Vigil of Easter as the highlight of the year, and Christmas Eve services.
- Music is an important focus in the life of the parish, and we have now completed one year of working together with Jungwha Kim, our parish musician, who is very diligent in preparing and discharging her responsibilities.
- The Pastor and Mel Wentzel continue to lead *The Way* to encourage and strengthen members.
- The Pastor and Kathy Eshelman continue to lead Stephen Ministry and its one to one caring ministry.
- The Pastor concluded his service as Vice-President of Family Promise in December and continues to be supportive through our congregational hosting weeks, and recruiting of other congregations.
- The Pastor, Bernadette Jones, and staff led the biennial catechetical camp for youth.
- The Pastor led various Sunday forums on summer Sundays and Sunday School sessions through the year, as well as other Bible studies.
- The Pastor led staff meetings each week for calendar and planning purposes throughout

the year.

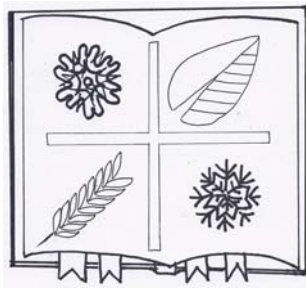
- The Pastor officiated at a number of parish funerals, non-member funerals, and several family funerals including uncle and father.
- The Pastor helped to organize our portion of the Amazing Grace tour of local churches.
- The Pastor has become the host for the gathering of the city pastors monthly meeting.
- The Pastor attends the annual and local retreats of the Society of the Holy Trinity, an international organization of 300 or more Lutheran pastors.
- The Pastor prepared and preached at a service opening a workshop for the American Guild of Organists.
- The Pastor prepared and led a service on Veterans Day.
- The Pastor was joined by Bernadette Jones and Gary Weber as the team for the annual Iron Chef competition this year with Balls Mills U.M. Church.
- The Pastor as the Vice President of LSM urged the organization to try to regain its focus.
- The Pastor participated in numerous committee meetings conversations, discussions, telephone consultations, visits, and other events, using an average of about 260 hours per month engaged in ministry responsibilities.
- There is a problem, however, in that despite good words to the contrary, some still understand ministry to be something that is the exclusive domain of the pastor. It should rather be that which the pastor leads, inspires, and guides but in which all the members participate according to their abilities and opportunities. This idea must become strongly rooted, and very quickly!

**Part II:** An annual report should not only be a **look back** but also a **look ahead**, so the following are goal statements prepared by the Pastor for the coming year, in hopes that members of the congregation might also make them theirs as well.

- Every person who wishes to be known as a member of St. Mark's will desire to be together in worship somewhere in the body of Christ every Sunday unless impeded by grave illness.
- Each member of the Council and committees

will be involved in some aspect of Christian education, and be urging others to join in as well.

- Additional groups at varying times of the week will be formed to accommodate these studies.
- A new Stephen Ministry training group will be formed.
- Members will recognize their responsibility to share with family, friends, and neighbors the joy they feel in connection with the Lord Jesus, and invite them to worship, study, and serve with us.
- Candidates and mentors for *The Way* will be identified and recruited.
- The pastor will continue the development of video resources for the thoughtful reflection of persons both inside and outside the congregation.



## **MUTUAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE**

*Carl Hieber, Chairperson*

*The purpose of the Mutual Ministry Committee is to proclaim Jesus Christ to each other and to all the world by keeping the Pastor and staff advised of conditions within the congregation and to interpret to the congregation the ministry of our professional leaders.*

**MEMBERS:** Ruth Rees, Nancy Larson, Bob Schultz, Bud Hershberger, Kathy Eshelman, Pastor Kenneth Elkin, Carl Hieber, Ray Huff, Council President

### **The Role of Mutual Ministry in the Life of St. Mark's**

*The "Working Description of Committee Functions" adopted by Council in September, 1999, continues to guide the committee's activities.*

### **ACTIVITIES**

1. Thanked departing Committee members, Bud Hershberger and Bob Schultz for their dedicated service to the committee. Kathy Eshelman was welcomed as a new member.
2. Pastor Elkin gave a report on staff reviews. Carl Hieber, chairperson, attended these interviews. This practice will be continued.
3. Salary recommendations for the staff were given to the Finance Committee for consideration.
4. Ray Huff and Carl Hieber met with Pastor Elkin for his annual review and a report was given to the committee members. In the future the outgoing council president and the Mutual Ministry chairperson will conduct the reviews.
5. Richard Wagner, Financial Secretary, resigned June, 2011. Mutual Ministry accepted the recommendation of the Search Committee, Carl Hieber, Chairman, Ken Shafranko, Ray Huff and Pastor Elkin, to offer the part-time position to Graydon Yearick. Graydon accepted the job in July, 2011. The job description and pay scale was revised by the committee.
6. Activities and events in parish life and their impact on the life and work of our pastor, staff and members were discussed.
7. It is the responsibility of the Mutual Ministry Committee to review the working description of all committee's approximately every ten years. The following committees have been reviewed:

Property Committee  
Finance Committee  
Social Ministry Committee  
Worship and Music Committee  
Mutual Ministry Committee

We are very fortunate to have an outstanding staff at St. Mark's. We thank Pastor Elkin, Jungwha Kim, Director of Music, Lou DeSeau, Sexton, Bernadette Jones, Coordinator of Youth and Family Ministry, Michelle Owen, Director of Sunday School, Graydon Yearick, Financial Secretary and Susan Mahserjian-Smith, Church Secretary for their dedicated service to St. Mark's and its members. We also thank the many volunteers who assist the staff on a regular basis.

*~ Carl Hieber*



## **WORSHIP AND MUSIC**

*Gregg Dancho, Chairperson*

*The purpose of the Worship and Music Committee is to proclaim Jesus Christ to each other and to all the world by Word and Sacrament in and beyond the congregation. To this end the Committee shall 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 very busy again this year within the congregation, as well as in the community. Some of our oversight responsibilities include: Acolytes, Alter Guild, Assisting Ministers, Children's Church, Columbarium, Communion, Greeters, Lectors, Nursery, and Ushers.

This year, however, the Worship and Music committee had an emotional beginning. It was with great sorrow that we said "Goodbye and God Bless" to our long-time friend and Music Director, Richard "Dick" Lakey. Dick was responsible for composing much of the music used at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, as well as many memories.

We are blessed and were very pleased to welcome Jungwha Kim into our family at St. Mark's as our new Music Director. Jungwha was a student at the renowned Juilliard School of Music, and she continues to dazzle the congregation with her skill and perfection with our organ. In addition, she continues to receive accolades with her intricate music selections and training of her musicians. It seems as if she is intent upon us raising increasingly creative and wonderful music to heaven.

The Altar Guild was extremely active again this year. With their rigorous scheduled activities to keep the church supplies and articles in proper order. Additional communion assistants, lectors, greeters, acolytes, and assisting ministers were introduced this year. These volunteer positions offer continued service opportunity for our congregation, and provide much needed help to enable the church

to function in good order. More opportunities continue to exist for assistance in several areas

Non-perishable food, flowers, quilts, clothing, and financial contributions were disseminated to support various community, and global efforts. Outreach programs helped in our community by providing home communion for those people unable to attend regular church services; caroling was also available for the disabled at Selinsgrove Center, and parishioners in our community.

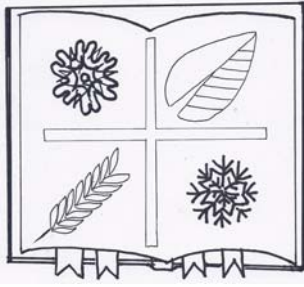
Children's church continues to be held in the Chapel regularly, with very good attendance. Child-sized chairs are there for our very young children church attendees. Due to soaring heating costs, the chapel was utilized more for weekday and evening Lenten services and helped to defray some of our fuel expense. Unfortunately this year, we were unable to staff the Nursery as we have in the past years. Family members may still feel free to stay and utilize it, though.

Grateful acknowledgement must be made for the exceptionally diligent service of our committee membership, the talented choral, solo, and instrumental music and musicians. Without the assistance, leadership and contributions of all of them, our services and praise to the Lord would not be as fulfilling. The committee would also like to express appreciation and thankfulness to Pastor Elkin and Jungwha Kim – their leadership in both areas of worship and music is truly inspirational.

Challenges for the upcoming year are mainly focused in the areas of volunteerism, meeting parishioners' needs, and increasing congregational membership. It may not be obvious to most people that it truly takes a host of people to keep the church, music, and worship services ministering properly, regularly. This is most evident during the Christmas season and Holy Week, but this need continues every day of the year. There exists numerous opportunities for volunteer ministry here at Saint Marks.

We all have gifts that were bestowed upon us. Please feel free to contact any Worship and Music Committee member, to see if we can help you share your gifts with many, for a most worthy cause – to proclaim Jesus Christ to all, through his Word and Sacrament at St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

*~ Gregg Dancho*



### **REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**

It was very venturous year for everyone at St. Mark's church to work with me who am a novice as a Lutheran Musician. It is appreciating to know how much the right liturgical music makes difference in worship. I was overwhelmed how much preparation needs to be done especially for Holy Week, but in the end it translates us to the other side of high liturgy meaningful and significant on Easter Day.

#### **To summarize musical journey during this year:**

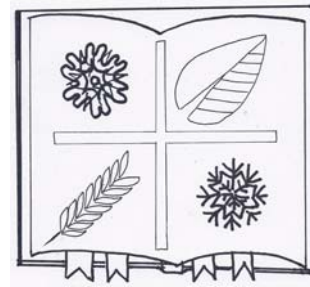
- ♪ Summer musicians provided their commitment to enhance our summer worship
- ♪ Working with Children at VBS
- ♪ Music Camp with Children under the title "Moses and the Freedom Fanatics"
- ♪ July 4th Community Celebration
- ♪ Organ Presentation was shared with pastor Elkin for Amazing Church Tour Group – 8/6/11
- ♪ Affiliation to Williamsport AGO (American Guild of Organist) and PTMA (Pennsylvania Music Teachers Association)
- ♪ Youth Choir's debut
- ♪ Assisting Christmas Pageant for Family Service on Christmas Eve
- ♪ Participation in performance with Williamsport Civic Chorus
- ♪ Working with Senior Choir, Adult Bell Choir, and Family Handbell Choir throughout the year
- ♪ Handbell will be polished by senior handbell ringers before summer break
- ♪ New Organ Company, Parsons Pipe Organ Builder, was hired due to unsatisfactory result from existing organ company, Fabry.
- ♪ Senior Choir initiated their recognition week-off twice a year.

#### **Plans for next year will be:**

- ♪ to thrive existing music groups – senior choir, adult bell choir, family bell choir
- ♪ to collaborate with youth coordinator in order to entrench and enlarge youth choir

- ♪ to assist with youth coordinator for VBS, Music Camp, Christmas Pageant, and any possible activities
- ♪ to encourage youth musicians
- ♪ to provide opportunities to guest musicians or groups to enhance our worship and music ministry
- ♪ to recruit and expand our musical groups
- ♪ to find local musicians for July 4th celebration to make a more successful local program

I cannot express my gratitude enough to all musical groups, individuals, worship and music committee, staff, councils for their support, encouragement, commitment, and prayers. Kudos and everlasting thanks will continue. It is my hope that they will embody in musical statements in order to glorify and praise God.



### **REPORT OF THE COORDINATORS OF YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY**

*Youth and Family Ministry Coordinators  
Michele Owen and Bernadette H. Jones*

*The purpose of the ministry of these Coordinators is to proclaim Jesus Christ to each other and to the entire world by planning and administering the total educational program of the parish, as well as its youth and family ministry program. To this end, the Youth and Family Ministry Coordinators supervise educational opportunities, celebrations and fellowship activities for all youth and adults, in and beyond the congregation, in the Christian faith as found in the Bible and the Lutheran tradition.*

#### **Sunday Church School:**

1. For curriculum, we continue with Augsburg's SPARKS program which is lectionary based. The materials are very "user friendly" and reinforce each Sunday's lesson with the children.
2. Our youth were divided into the following configuration based on numbers, age, and/or grade level: preschool (3-4 year olds)—kindergarten; grades 1—2; grades 3—4; and



- grade 5.
3. Our middle school class of 6-8 graders continues with the *To Know, to Live, to Grow* program by Augsburg Fortress.
  4. The confirmation class includes eight members who meet on the third Sunday of every month with their families, mentors, Pastor and Bernadette. They all have been involved in a variety of service projects.
  5. Lou DeSeau and Bob Jones continue teaching the high school class. The curriculum revolves around topics of concern with the students and revisits prayer and parts of the service. The class is consistently attended by 6-8 youth.
  6. The monthly rotation schedule for teachers continues to be successful, although volunteers are sparse.
  7. Pastor Elkin led the adult class in the Crossways room.
  8. The Middle Lounge Class for adults was led by Kathy Dancho on a variety of subjects.
  9. Vacation Bible School, Group's *PandaMania*, was held in June, 2010. Roughly three dozen children attended, with 11 teen assistants and two dozen adults in teaching/support positions.
  10. Adult forums were presented in the Crossways Room each Sunday through the summer.
  11. We hosted Lutheran Shared Ministry's School of Religion in October.
  12. We organized the Thirteenth Annual Youth Retreat for confirmands in January.
  13. The Way, a process of faith formation, under the leadership of Pastor Elkin and Melvin Wentzel continued. Three candidates affirmed their baptism and became members of St. Mark's on the Great Easter Vigil, April 7, 2012.
  14. Children's Church continued on a once a month schedule during the school year.
  15. A joint celebration for all Sunday Church School attendees was held in Fellowship Hall during the Sunday Church School hour at Easter.

#### Youth and Family Ministry Activities:

1. Passing on Faith remains a keystone of our family ministry at St. Mark's. Milestones celebrated this year: Receiving blankets for newborns; First Communion; Baptismal Lunch with faith chests for recently baptized; Prayer Pillows were given to children ages 2-4; children in kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade received "All the Languages of the Good News" bags; third graders received Holy Communion and their Bibles; The Blessing of the

- Keys was offered to those youth who became new drivers; "Progressions," the milestone for those young adults leaving for college, the military or business and their parents was celebrated; and The Wedding Anniversary Milestone was observed for those couples married for 50+ years.
2. The youth of St. Mark's provided the entertainment for the annual Women's Dinner.
3. The Annual Church Picnic was held at Montoursville's Indian Park.
4. A dinner/pool party was held for first and second year confirmands, their families and mentors on July 11, following the confirmation camps.
5. St. Mark's Church Music Camp was held for one week last summer. The intergenerational cast of 26 rehearsed *Moses & the Freedom Fanatics* for performance Saturday evening, August 6, 2011.
6. Two of our youth were confirmed on the first day of Sunday School, 2011. A reception for the families was held afterward.
7. Teen Movie Night continues for our youth on the fourth Sunday of every month. There is a consistent attendance on these evenings.
8. A group pack'n'wrap for Operation Christmas Child was held in November. Participants packed 53 shoe boxes with small gifts for needy children around the world.
9. A group of 17 traveled to Corning to view the museum and design gifts.
10. Family Advent Wreath Making & Luncheon was attended by over two dozen people on the first Sunday of Advent.
11. Kids' Morning Out was cancelled because of an absence of registrations. This will be changed to a Kids' Night Out in 2012.
12. The 11 participants attending the Christmas Cookie-Baking event produced the cookies sent for our shut-ins.
13. Christmas Caroling was conducted by 23 carolers, visiting all of our shut-ins who were at home.
14. The children and youth presented *The Simple Gifts of Christmas* at the Christmas Eve service.
15. Well over 60 pieces of winter warmers, scarves, hats, and gloves were collected for those in need. Over two dozen teddy bears were collected and given to local shelters.
16. Bread-baking this year was led by Pr. Elkin and Bernadette: our kitchen was once again filled with laughter and the wonderful smell of baking bread.

17. Ed Gair continues crafting our Faith Chests for the Baptism Milestone; John & Ruth Burkholder continue with ornaments and keepsakes for various milestones.
18. We trained five new acolytes in January.
19. We sent 6 of our youth to the Youth Quake/Zone event in Pittsburgh over the last week in January. Bernadette and four others accompanied them.
20. The John Bower Sunday Church School Basketball League for our youth began in December and continued on through February of 2012. Our youth created three teams. Coach Rick Robertson headed the teams with Mike Jensen and Kirk Owen assisting him.
21. 55 cans of soup and \$132.50 were collected for "Souper Bowl Sunday," held in February.
22. Two of our youth to the middle school retreat at Camp Mt. Luther.
23. A family bowling party was held March 24; 20+ attended.
24. Michele again led Lenten childcare for children to experience materials that relate to each evening's lesson in chapel.
25. Fun Night continued as a monthly event until early this year, when it was cancelled due to lack of participation.
26. The confirmation class went to southeastern PA.
27. Bernadette again held an egg-dyeing session for adults and older youth; attendance remains high.
28. The Annual Easter Egg Hunt and breakfast with Pastor Elkin was held on Saturday, April 7, 2012: well over 50 were served.  
The children bagged jelly beans and included a card with a special prayer to hand out to the congregation on Easter Sunday. The nine youth who participated were especially helpful.
29. The St. Mark's Old Fashion Church Family picnic is scheduled for Sunday, June 3, 2012.
30. Summer Choir Camp will be held in August. The program is yet to be decided.
31. Nick Buckman schedules acolyte volunteers.
32. Family hand bell choir continues under the direction of Jungwha Kim.

#### Outreach/Continuing Education:

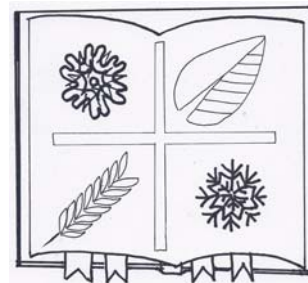
1. A float was designed and executed for the annual Little League Parade; flyers providing all of our contact information were distributed en route.
2. Bernadette attended Little Lambs Open House with flyers about St. Mark's and Sunday School.
3. Several of our youth attended the *See You at the*

*Pole* events on September 22, 2010, at their various schools.

4. The youth of St. Mark's held a fundraising dinner in December. Part of the proceeds went toward their January trip; the balance is being used for the *Project Heifer* charity.
5. Our involvement with United Campus Ministry continues.
6. Finals week Survival Kits were packed and sent to our youth in college. They were very much appreciated.
7. Iron Chef Williamsport, our fundraiser for Family Promise of Lycoming County, raised over \$3500 this year. Our youth servers contributed over \$400 from their Tips for a Promise.
8. Bernadette is actively assisting with the advancement of Lutheran Shared Ministry.
9. Gary Weber has been instrumental in getting Youth and Family information on St. Mark's website. To that end, we have provided him with text and photographs of our events.
10. Assistance continues for the YouTube videos

~ Bernadette H. Jones

~ Michele Owen



#### **SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE**

*Becky Pryor-Miller, Chairperson*

*The purpose of the Social Ministry Committee is to proclaim Jesus Christ to each other and to all the world by providing opportunities to share Christian love. To this end, the committee will address social needs by leading the congregation in extending Christian compassion and helpfulness to the aged, ill, orphaned, and persons of all ages in need.*

Since assuming the chairmanship of this committee in June 2004, it has been my goal to continue with many of the long-standing activities of this committee and to expand our congregation's service to our community in additional ways,

primarily through our work with Family Promise of Lycoming County.

In fulfilling those goals many members of the congregation assisted with various activities throughout the year. Our outreach to the community included

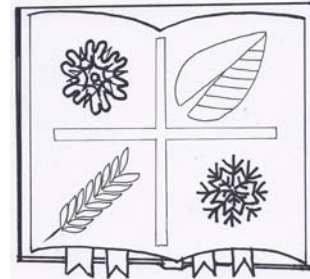
- Our second year of hosting homeless children and their families through our association with Family Promise of Lycoming County. Jane Zimmerer and Becky Miller Pryor are co-coordinators for hosting at St. Mark's. Larue Dieter is the scheduling coordinator. Many members of our congregation have made significant commitments to this ministry which occurs four weeks per year. This is by far the most significant work of the Social Ministry committee.
- Hosting the community on our front lawn for the Fourth of July festivities. We provided refreshments, information about St. Mark's, a patriotic program in the Nave and good cheer to more than 400 people.
- Providing food and monetary donations to St. Anthony's Center.
- Entertaining the 16 residents of the Selinsgrove Center with songs, a story, and gifts for the residents and their caregivers. It was our most engaging visit to date with the ladies of CM-6.
- Providing sweatshirts, socks, watches, slippers, and the like for Christmas gifts to 20 residents of the Danville State Hospital.
- Collecting hygiene items and making monetary donations to the Shepherd of the Streets Emergency Fund.
- Supporting the work of The Pregnancy Care Center by providing clothing and baby items through our association with the Newberry Branch of NGA (Needlework Guild of America.)
- Welcoming the ongoing assistance from Gary Weber in posting this committee's activities on our web site.

Pastor and other members of the congregation provide service to our community and beyond by volunteering locally at St. Anthony's Center, Shepherd of the Streets and the Family Promise Day Center.

Many other opportunities to reach out in Christian love to our neighbors exist. I encourage you to pray and answer Christ's call to serve.

**We can do no great things – only small things with great love. - Mother Teresa**

*~ Becky Miller-Pryor*



### **STEPHEN MINISTRY**

*Kathy Eshelman, Stephen Minister Coordinator*

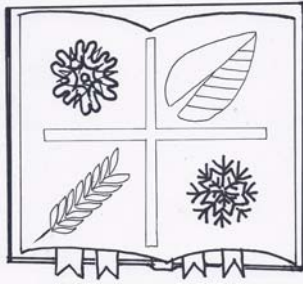
*The purpose of Stephen Ministry is to proclaim Jesus Christ to each other and to all the world by providing process in which Stephen Leaders train, organize, and supervise lay persons known as Stephen Ministers to provide effective Christian Care to others.*

St. Mark's enrolled in the Stephen Series in December of 1997. Stephen Ministers continue to be linked in one-to-one relationships with care receivers. Our dedicated St. Mark's Stephen Ministers meet on a monthly basis on a Thursday. We begin with Morning Prayer and then have our meetings for guidance, support and relevant continuing education.

Care receivers are being served and concerned persons are being visited. Current Stephen Ministers are: LaRue Dieter, Catherine Lundy, Connie Shaible, Lou DeSeau, Carl Weaver, Jane Angle, Henrietta Tyson, Gladys Knauss, Shirley Kinney, Larry Lehman and Mary Schultz. Pastor Elkin and Kathy Eshelman serve as Stephen Leaders.

With the assistance of the congregation, Stephen Ministry will continue to identify potential care receivers and will provide support to those in need.

*~ Kathy Eshelman*

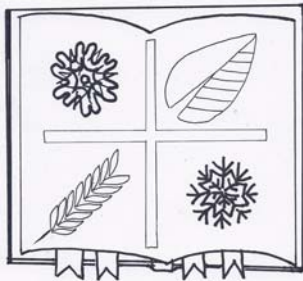


## **PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE**

*Bob Jones, Chairperson*

*The purpose of the Parish Life Committee is to proclaim Jesus Christ to each other and to all the world by encouraging mutual care and fellowship within the congregation and presenting to the public a Christian image, which will reflect favorably on the work of Christ through this congregation.*

*~ Robert Jones*



## **PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

*Paul Zimmerer, Chairperson*

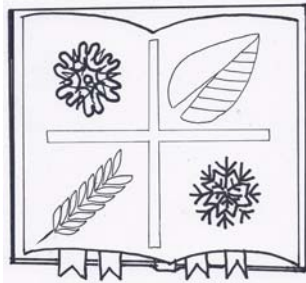
*The purpose of the Property Committee is to proclaim Jesus Christ to each other and all the world by promoting the use of the congregation's physical resources in the support of our Christian Mission. To this end the committee arranged for the promotion, protection, maintenance, repair and expansion 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.*

1. Preventative boiler maintenance and yearly inspection completed by L&L Boiler
2. Courtyard large pine tree was removed and stump ground by Plocinski Tree Service
3. Assorted receptacles were installed throughout the church
4. Changed electrical supplier to save money

5. Installed MESH signal extenders for organist computer
6. Installed air conditioner and valance in organist office
7. Power washed front stone wall and portico ceiling
8. Painted the portico ceiling
9. Repaired foundation wall leaks and painted wall
10. Repaired north sidewalk
11. Plaster repairs by M R Logue – Parish House and Confirmand Room
12. Replaced gooseneck sink faucet in the kitchen
13. Trimmed trees in the courtyard, and also along the east, west and north sides
14. Removed cherry tree from the north side - stump removed by Plocinski Tree Service
15. Replaced courtyard fountain pump
16. Located and dug open the courtyard drain
17. Installed doorbell on east side for Family Promise guests
18. Painted Narthex bathroom soffit
19. Updated sound system – SV2
20. Had discussions regarding landscape improvements to the courtyard
21. Had discussions about old and drafty choir hall windows being replaced
22. General landscape trimming, cleanup, weed control, grass fertilizer, grass mowing, etc. throughout the year
23. Spring cleanup day, mulching of flowerbeds and weeding
24. Renewed Orkin termite control contract
25. Kitchen splashguard material installed
26. Portico poles painted
27. Added new mats to the choir hallway
28. General parking lot repairs
29. Shelves for archives made and installed in the old choir room
30. New hooks installed for nave banners
31. Assorted light repairs throughout the church as needed
32. Boxes of old records were shredded
33. Old rusty folding chairs hauled away for salvage
34. Cabinet doors and stage areas were painted
35. Assorted repairs and upgrades as needed at Little Lambs
36. Obtained bids for roof replacement – awarded to Barr Construction (will be completed in 90 days)

This past year the property committee has been very active with the members volunteering numerous hours of work on the aforementioned projects. Additionally, Tim Maggs has volunteered one day each week to assist Lou DeSeau with property related projects.

~ Paul Zimmerer



**FINE ARTS COMMITTEE**

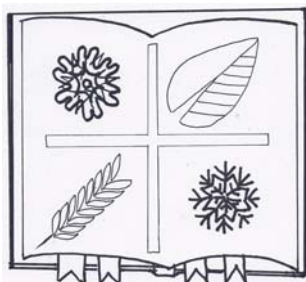
*Joyce Hershberger*

*It is the task of the Fine Arts Committee to proclaim Jesus Christ to each other and to the world by searching out what is good, true and beautiful to serve as aids in the proclamation of the Gospel.*

Our primary task this year is to determine a plan to redesign and update the courtyard. The years have taken their toll on the plants and trees and as a result the former beautiful area looks a little sad. We met with a representative from Ettinger’s to discuss how we could improve the space and formulated a plan. The Property Committee and the Finance Committee reviewed and approved the plan but a problem with drainage had to be dealt with before anything else could be done.

We are revisiting the plan and hope that we can put it into action in the spring or early summer. My thanks to my faithful committee: Bob Miller, Jane Larson, Lucille Weaver and Pastor Elkin for all their interest and support.

~ Joyce Hershberger



**LIAISON COMMITTEE**

*Joyce Hershberger*

*It is the task of the Liaison Committee to proclaim Jesus Christ to each other and to all the world by maintaining the connection between the Little Lambs Pre-School and the congregation.*

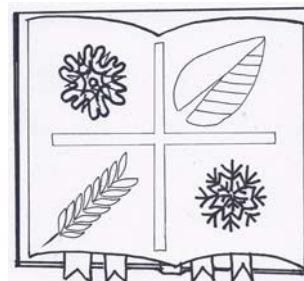
It is the task of the Liaison Committee to proclaim Jesus Christ to each other and to all the world by maintaining the connection between the Little Lambs Pre-School and the congregation.

Our committee meets at least quarterly with the director of Little Lambs to co-ordinate dates of special events, discuss items of concern to either group and just keep the lines of communication open.

Thanks to Nancy Larson, Bernadette Jones, Lou DeSeau, Pastor Elkin and Holly Tillman (Director of the School.)

Little Lambs has been most beneficial to St. Mark’s both in helping with expenses and providing an opportunity for us to present programs that are offered.

~ Joyce Hershberger



**STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

*Ray & Cindy Huff*

*The purpose of the Stewardship Committee is to proclaim Jesus Christ to each other and to all the world by initiating programs for the development of good use of all of the resources entrusted to us by God*

Consecration Sunday was on October 16, 2011. Prior to that Ken Shafranko, Lou Kolb, and Karen Boone gave Temple Talks. Pastor Shipman gave the sermon on Consecration Sunday.

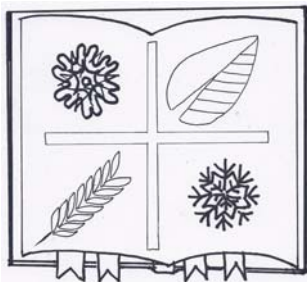
Our congregation’s finance committee selected the *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual

principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

Sixty members signed up for the breakfast and 57 signed up for the lunch. Many more showed up for breakfast. A huge “Thank You” to Bob Jones and his crew for doing such a great job in not only preparation, but also in making the difficult look easy in accommodating the overflow crowd.

Pledges totaled under \$140,000.00. A fourth “Temple Talk” was given by Ray Huff on October 30. The purpose of the talk was to put some urgency in pledging so that drastic steps would not have to be taken at the December 11 congregational meeting. It was noted that members are giving all that they can. A major hurdle is that fewer people are attending church and the other members who have in the past generously contributed have either left the church or have gone to their eternal reward. Giving estimates rose by over \$60,000.00 and the cuts were not necessary.

Respectfully submitted,  
~ *Cindy and Ray Huff*  
*Chairs, Stewardship Committee*



### **ARCHIVES COMMITTEE**

*Gary Weber, Chairperson*

*It is the purpose of the Archives Committee to keep and protect the heritage of the St. Mark's Lutheran Church.*

St. Mark's archives are maintained in two places. In boxes and stacks in closets in the High School Sunday School room and in digital form on St. Mark's Website, [www.stmarkswilliamsport.org](http://www.stmarkswilliamsport.org). Both the physical records and the digital records are moving to new and improved display and storage facilities.

The physical records are moving to a new storage area, a dedicated Archives room located across from the choir room. In the past few months,

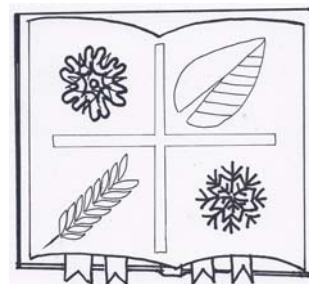
Bob Miller and Lou DeSeau constructed shelves that will hold archive record storage boxes. The room also contains wooden shelves for storage of printed material and objects. The move will occur this spring. The facility will allow better access to the records and also will, hopefully, provide a permanent location for the records.

One problem with the “cold storage” of archive records is that the rich history of the church is hidden and not displayed to congregation members. The Website provides additional access to records, but not all of the records have been scanned and copied to the Website. Bob Miller has begun the process of constructing a display cabinet for archival materials. The cabinet will be located in the Middle Lounge. This project will allow the Archivist to display materials on a rotating basis, for the perusal of all who pass through.

The Website continues to offer up-to-date articles and information. Over 3300 photographs have been posted – from April's Easter egg hunt to the first St. Mark's (then known as the English Evangelical Lutheran Church of Williamsport). The site contains articles of recent church activities and 160 year old historical materials. The sermon archive includes all sermons from the past five years.

Websites do require their own maintenance and, in the past several months, St. Mark's site was suddenly hit with an unexpected blow, that caused several problems with the operation and appearance of the site. The company that hosts our site upgraded its computers, disabling some of the technology that allowed pages in our site to work properly. Several hundred pages have been corrected, but with nearly 1000 pages of material, the process will take some time to complete. Your archivist is working hard to complete the project.

*~ Gary Weber, Archivist*



**MEMORIALS COMMITTEE**

*Carl & Beverly Hieber, Chairpersons*

*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 to the congregation.*

Gifts have been received in memory or honor of the following members and friends of the parish in the past year:

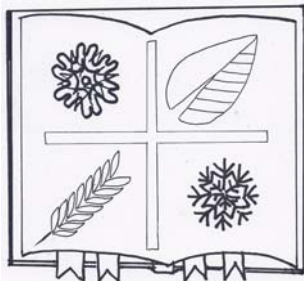
In Memory:

- |                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| Arthur Kline        | Harold Davis     |
| Jack & Doris Fortin | Luther Doebler   |
| Ruth Homan          | Jean Gulliver    |
| Charles Ditchfield  | Anna Staidle     |
| Helen Ochs          | Richard Elkin    |
| Robert Jones        | Frank Vognet     |
| June Decker         | Kohler Endowment |

In Honor of:

Ralph & Elda Zeigler

*~ Carl & Beverly Hieber*



**FINANCE ANNUAL REPORT**

*Ken Shafranko*

*The purpose of the Finance Committee is to proclaim Jesus Christ to each other and to all the world by managing the financial resources of the congregation.*

**St. Mark's Financial Position as of 12-31-2011**

The congregation's financial picture as of year end is essentially sound. We closed the year in a favorable cash position and we are current with our bills. The investment account exhibited something of a negative performance during 2011, ending about \$42,000 lower than where we started out the year. The end of year balance for the investment

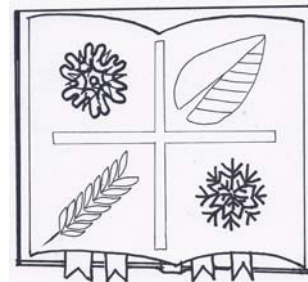
account was \$1,008,672. Budget performance was quite good with income 0.6% short of plan and expenses 0.3% over plan. That differential was easily managed within our ongoing cash balance.

Looking forward to 2012 we foresee a shallow decline in giving as our membership continues to decline. Those who continue in membership are giving generously which helps our financial stability but the decline in envelopes and pledge receipts will cause us to rely more heavily on the investment account's performance as a source of cash for continuing operations. We will have to continue to monitor the performance of the investment account closely and exhibit cautiousness about expenses.

We will be faced with some extraordinary expenses as the building will require ongoing maintenance and some of those items we will face represent significant expenditures. The roof comes to mind as an example of such a building related issue.

The finance committee welcomes any member of the congregation who can assist us with planning and monitoring the financial health of the congregation and its assets.

*~ Ken Shafranko, Treasurer*



**WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**

*Shirley Hill, Chairman*

*The purpose of the Women of the ELCA is stated as a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit. We commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our calling, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.*

The Women of St. Mark's is one of 7,000 units of the Women of the ELCA. Teaming together, this organization responds to God's call to discipleship, both locally and globally. Our own group follows a long-standing tradition of spreading the message of grace and love.

When Williamsport was a small country town with dirt roads, the early German Lutherans had been worshipping together for twenty-five years. The first English-speaking Lutheran church, which eventually became St. Mark's, was officially organized in 1852. From the beginning of this new church, the first women's group was called the Female Industrial Society, later known as the Cotta Society. They contributed half the amount of money to purchase a city lot for the future church. In 1905 the Dorcas Society was organized for the younger women in the church to sew for the poor and help the needy.

From this humble beginning women have been a strong influence in the growth of St. Mark's. Their presence continues in many capacities. From teaching in the Sunday School to providing food for fellowship events, they serve our own congregation. In addition, they help to minister to the community with Family Promise and donations to Lutheran World Relief.

Quilting has been our focus for many years. We began with using an old-fashioned wooden quilting frame in the church basement. Last year we were

proud to complete 111 quilts, which were given to local flood relief and sent all over the world. We also assembled kits, collected soap, and collected funds to purchase blankets for those in need. Recycling used cell phones and used eyeglasses continues. Recognition is due to our faithful group of women who work at home and on Wednesday mornings to make quilts. They are Lucille Weaver, Grace Arner, Ruth Sherlinski, Shirley Hill, Ernestine Doane, Elsie Sechler, Roxie Larson, Jane Kline, and Alona Hopler.

The profit from our rummage sale, chaired by Becky Miller Pryor, resulted in contributions in the amount of \$1,500.00 to twelve charities, both local and global.

Bernadette and Michele organized an enjoyable Women and Children's Dinner with entertainment by our own young people. Bob Jones supervised a delicious meal prepared by men from our church. We urge younger women to join in our activities. We offer pleasant fellowship while ministering to the needs of others. Our gratitude to the people of St. Mark's for their support is heartfelt. We could not carry out our projects without the help of the congregation bringing in quilt and kit materials, soap, and rummage sale items.

*~ Shirley Hill, Chairman*

*~ Jane Kline, Treasurer*



**ST MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
FINANCIAL REPORT  
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2011**

**GENERAL FUND:**

<b>INCOME:</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>
Envelope: Pledges	\$ 248,335.00	\$ 240,000.00
Other Religious Income	\$ 14,009.50	\$ 10,950.00
Parking Lot/Rentals	\$ 21,000.00	\$ 18,500.00
Transfer From Investment Fund	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 31,047.00
Welker/Capital-General	\$ 23,914.80	\$ 16,000.00
Welker/Benevolence-General	\$ 2,657.20	\$ 2,000.00
Heat Envelope Income	\$ 100.00	\$ -
Synod Donations	\$ 1,170.00	\$ -
Bequests	\$ -	\$ -
Total Income	<b>\$ 316,186.50</b>	<b>\$ 318,497.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>		
Staff	\$ 205,119.23	\$ 204,427.00
Administration	\$ 14,664.39	\$ 14,900.00
Worship & Music	\$ 4,300.64	\$ 2,950.00
Christian Ed/Youth	\$ 3,520.23	\$ 6,150.00
Property	\$ 64,229.34	\$ 63,045.00
Benevolence & Charity	\$ 27,581.14	\$ 27,025.00
Total Expenses	<b>\$ 319,414.97</b>	<b>\$ 318,497.00</b>
<b>INCOME LESS EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$ (3,228.47)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

**DEDICATED BENEVOLENCE INCOME:**

Hunger, Food, Blankets, G Missions, St. Anthony Shepherd, Thanks-Offering, Mossy Foot, Misc,	\$	3,663.91
Capital Income	\$	3,271.00
Organ Fund	\$	491.00
Theological Fund	\$	135.00

**MEMORIAL FUND:**

Balance as of January ber 31, 2010	\$	<b>25,301.24</b>
Gifts	\$	2,690.00
Disbursements	\$	(2,059.32)
Balance as of Decemb ber 31, 2011	\$	<b>25,931.92</b>

**INVESTMENT FUND:**

Balance as of January 1, 2011	\$	<b>1,050,888.11</b>
<b>Income:</b>		
Gifts, Various Transfers & Reclassifications	\$	2,828.87
Interest/Dividends	\$	24,397.88
<b>Total Income</b>	\$	<b>27,226.75</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>		
Fees	\$	(11,384.43)
Various Transfers & Reclassifications	\$	(5,000.00)
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	\$	<b>(16,384.43)</b>
<b>Market Value Change</b>	\$	<b>(53,058.40)</b>
Balance as of December 31, 2011	\$	<b>1,008,672.03</b>

**Women of the ELCA  
St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
Williamsport, PA 17701  
Treasurer's Report  
(Prepared by Jane Kline, Treasurer)  
April 5, 2012**

**Checking Account**

	Balance April 28, 2011	\$57.83
Income:		
	Women's Dinner Proceeds	\$159.90
	Transfer from Savings	1550.00
	Adjustment from May 2010	99.00
	<i>Total Income</i>	<u>\$ 1709.90</u>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1767.73</b>
Expenses		
2011	2 <sup>nd</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter ELCA Commitment	100.00
	Ad for Bazaar	28.95
2012	4 <sup>th</sup> quarter - ELCA Commitment	50.00
	Stamps	8.80
	ELCA (International Disaster)	50.00
	NGA (New Garment Agency)	100.00
	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter Women of the ELCA Commitment	50.00
	St. Mark's (Family Promise)	150.00
	Shepherd of the Street	250.00
	United Churches	150.00
	Camp Mt. Luther	200.00
	St. Anthony's Center	150.00
	Williamsport/ Lyco Habitat for Humanity	100.00
	Church Women United	100.00
	Lutheran World Relief (Quilt/Kits Shipping Fund)	100.00
	ELCA Domestic Disaster Response	50.00
	American Rescue Workers	100.00
	<i>Total Expenses</i>	<u>\$1737.75</u>
	<b>Balance 4-5-12</b>	<b><u>\$ 29.98</u></b>

Savings Account

Balance April 27, 2011 \$ 2968.07

Income:

Interest (April 2011-April 2012)	\$ 2.99	
Profit – Fall Bazaar – Main Floor Tables	1000.57	
Profit – Fall Bazaar - Kitchen	85.65	
Profit – Fall Bazaar – Misc	75.00	
Profit – Fall Bazaar – Little Lambs	50.00	
Miscellaneous	2.00	
Change for Bazaar	300.00	
Thrivent Matching Funds for Bazaar	<u>333.00</u>	
Total Deposits		<u>\$1849.21</u>
		\$4817.28

Withdrawals:

Change for Bazaar	300.00	
Transfers to checking	1650.00	
Women’s Dinner Musician	<u>70.00</u>	
Total Withdrawals		<u>\$2020.00</u>

**Balance Savings 4-5-12 \$ 2797.28**