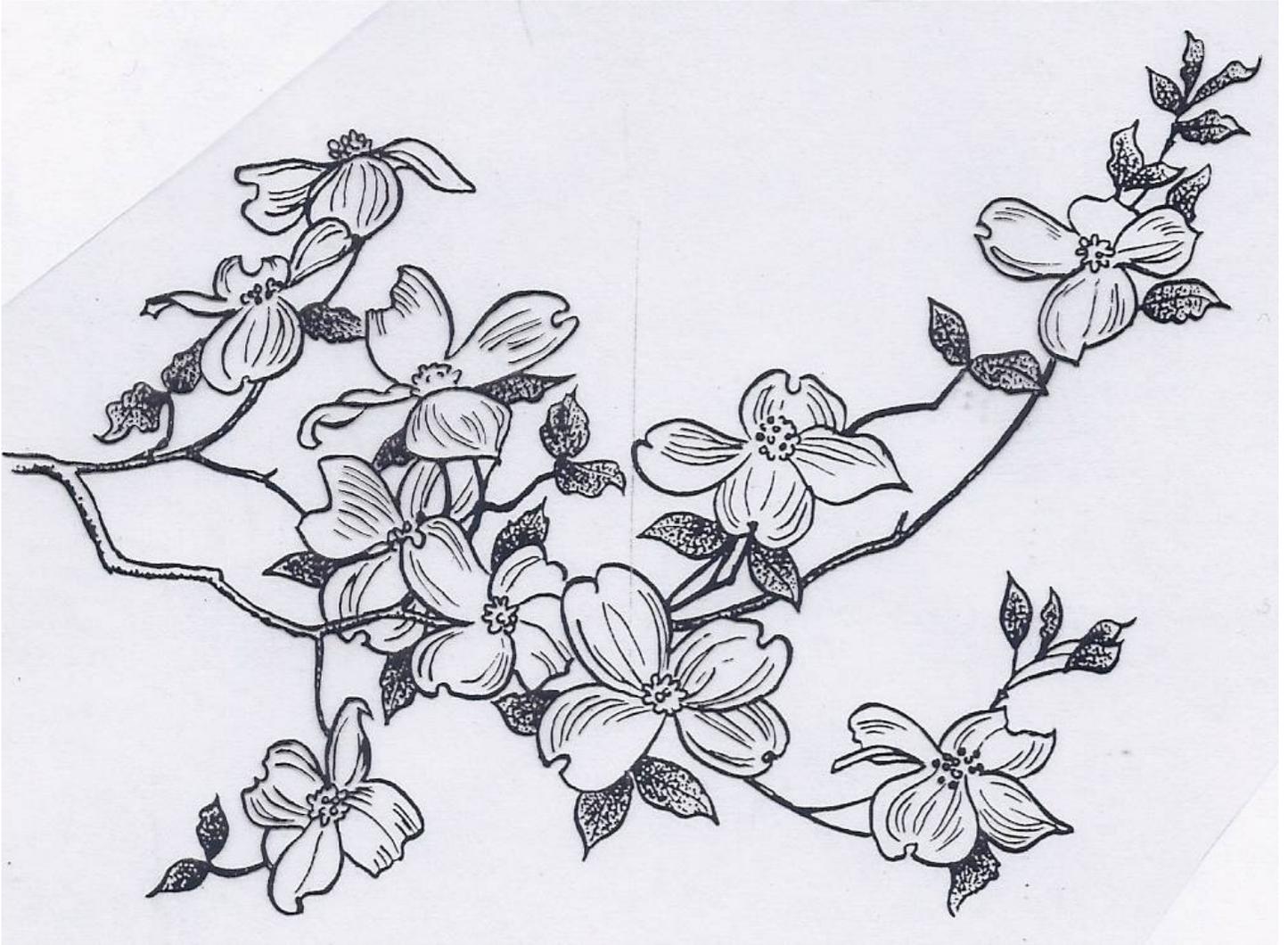


**“You are the
branches”**



The Annual Report

May 19, 2013

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

142 Market Street

Williamsport, PA 17701

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FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

BAPTISMS

Miranda Bardo	July 15, 2012
Scarlett Grace Lynch.....	April 7, 2013

FIRST COMMUNIONS

Elizabeth Haussmann.....	November 25, 2012
Ashton Ott.....	November 25, 2012
Amalie Robertson	November 25, 2012
Jonah Schreckengast.....	November 25, 2012

AFFIRMATION/CONFIRMATION

Ezra Buckman.....	September 9, 2012
Morgan Comini.....	September 9, 2012
Anna Zeigler	September 9, 2012
Laura Zeigler.....	September 9, 2012

RECEIVED BY AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

RECEIVED BY LETTER OF TRANSFER

Matt Fortin	September 9, 2012
Wanda Fortin	September 9, 2012
Paige Fortin.....	September 9, 2012
Brandon Fortin	September 9, 2012
Derek Gilbert	September 9, 2012
Janet Jones	September 9, 2012
Kenneth Schreckengast.....	September 9, 2012
Laura Schreckengast.....	September 9, 2012
Jacob Schreckengast	September 9, 2012
Grace Schreckengast.....	September 9, 2012
Jonah Schreckengast.....	September 9, 2012

WEDDINGS

Adam Zitta & Lynn Detwiler.....	May 12, 2012
Todd Smith & Dana Miller	June 15, 2012
Chad Polak & Lauren Sims.....	September 8, 2012
Jeremy Miller & Danielle Guthrie September 15, 2012
Jed Cruthers & Brandi Kutza.....	October 13, 2012

MEMBER FUNERALS

Aletha Swartz.....	May 23, 2012
Alice Helm	June 3, 2012
Charles 'Chuck' Homan	July 25, 2012
Anne Miller.....	August 11, 2012
Ralph Ziegler, Sr.....	August 15, 2012
Beatrice Doebler	September 12, 2012
Betty Diehl.....	October 6, 2012
Eleanor Sobers	December 7, 2012
William Hill	January 4, 2013
Bill Hibschman	February 13, 2013
Eugene Jacobs.....	April 1, 2013

NON-MEMBER FUNERALS

John Farnsworth..... May 8, 2012
James Shipman..... June 14, 2012
Doris Diehl..... October 17, 2012
Emory Elkin..... December 15, 2012
Evelyn McMahon..... December 27, 2012
Carl Belles..... December 28, 2012
Dorothy Dedlow..... February 28, 2013
Christopher Winters..... March 15, 2013
Heather Susan Angela Santarlasci April 21, 2013

NEWLY ENROLLED IN CATECHETICAL STUDY

Makensie Doebler
Grace Schreckengast
Annika Waffenschmidt
Sadie Wentzel
Taylor Wentzel

NEWLY ENROLLED IN *THE WAY*

Janet Jones December 2, 2012
Jacob Schreckengast December 2, 2012
Kenneth Schreckengast..... December 2, 2012

BIBLE MILESTONE

Elizabeth Haussmann..... November 25, 2012
Ashton Ott..... November 25, 2012
Amalie Robertson November 25, 2012
Jonah Schreckengast November 25, 2012

RECEIVING BLANKET MILESTONE

Scarlett Grace Lynch..... March 17, 2012

SYNOPSIS OF THE MINUTES OF CONGREGATION ASSEMBLIES

Special Congregation Assembly December 09, 2012

- The budget for 2013 was adopted

Annual Congregation Assembly, May 06, 2012

- Elected Shelby Weber, Lou Kolb, and Paul Zimmerer to terms on Council.
- Accepted the Annual report to the congregation.
- Thanked retiring members of the Council: Clint Eppleman, Michele Ramsauer, and Jane Zimmerer.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Ray Huff, Council President

Another year in our life at St. Mark's has passed. We as Christians in this wonderful country are free to worship as we please. At St. Mark's we worship in a way that we hope pleases God. Our church is not centered on what we can get out of it; it is centered on how we can worship, listen, sing, pray and share in all that God has graciously given us. It's not "what's in it for me"; it's what Jesus has done for me and how I/we can do for others.

We have many ways in which we can provide for our brothers and sisters. 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. We have welcomed new members of the community through publicity in the nearby hotels, our Fourth of July programs, and in having community presentations in the church. Visitors get a solid recognition during the service and a written communication of welcome is mailed that afternoon. The feeling is that this is our church, and we want it to be your church as well.

I am continually amazed at the generosity of our members. We have the usual tasks of supporting the physical part of the buildings, the grounds, and

the staff. We take care of the day-to-day needs in our finances and we are quick to help whatever cause or need occurs. We are not only givers; we are cheerful givers. .

We are proud of our heritage and the work of our members and staff to maintain the Lutheran tradition and finding new ways to incorporate it in today's world. We must continue to show our love for Jesus Christ and our support for those causes that further His love. I have the utmost trust that our congregation will do just that.

In the past year I have enjoyed working with Pastor Elkin, the staff, council and the committees, which support the congregation and its endeavors. Council has worked very hard to ensure that what we do starts with a God-centered focus. Three of our council members (plus a congregational member) are enrolled in the Lay Ministry Institute. St. Mark's is alive and well. 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!

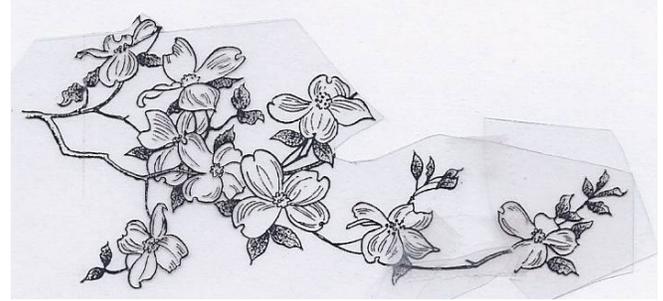
~ Ray Huff



CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP **elected or appointed**

The Rev. Kenneth R. Elkin, Pastor
Ray Huff, President
Gregg Dancho, Vice President
Wanda Fortin, Treasurer
Shelby Weber, 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 additional Council members
Dinah Labenberg
Paul Zimmerer

Nick Buckman
Bob Miller
Walter Haussmann
Dan Zeigler
Tim Maggs
Lou Kolb



A WORD FROM THE PASTOR *The Reverend Kenneth R. Elkin*

“I am the vine, you are the branches,” Jesus reminds us in the Gospel of John. We're stretching that a bit with our illustration this year with not just a vine but a tree...and not just any tree, but a dogwood tree. Its leaves have their life because they are connected to the tree, and by their work they support the work of the tree. They support the growth of new branches and leaves and the production of the unique flowers of the dogwood. These flowers have long been regarded as reminders of the crucifixion of Christ Jesus, since they have two long petals and two shorter petals, “nail” marks at the ends of the petals, and darkened edges or splotches like dried blood. We might think of the faith of St. Paul: “I preach only Christ and him crucified” as the commission for our lives as well. How is it that we as the people of God in St. Mark's are growing and flowering? How are the leaves of our lives contributing to the tree of the church of Jesus Christ which is our life together? How are we showing the world the beauty of the new life in Christ Jesus made possible by his death and resurrection? How is that vision of the final future shaping our decisions and actions in these turbulent days? We Christians should be directed by the future of that resurrection, not just by the past!

Therefore, we're hoping in this annual report to make it more than merely a listing of last year's events, but also to have in these pages some “new shoots”, some fresh ideas to test, as well as recycling ideas from earlier days. There is an old saying that wherever God builds a church, Satan builds a chapel right next door. So to use our natural image today: wherever the tree of the church is

growing, a poison ivy vine is sprouting right alongside and threatening to choke it! We have both growing and weeding to do, with the Word of God as both the hoe and the fertilizer.

The following numbered points are a roughly chronological summary of some of the events during the past twelve months. For those places where you would like to hear more detail, the curious are warmly invited to ask.

1. Two days following our last annual assembly, the Pastor left for Spain, a direct flight to Barcelona, a fast train for Pomplona, and shortly afterward he set out on the pilgrimage route, the Camino Santiago de Compostella. Walking is a very individual thing, but acquaintances are made at the stopping points. This particular loose group was made of up persons from Holland, Belgium, Korea, Italy, Spain, Australia, Canada, US, and more. Some walk utterly alone, while others tend to walk in pairs, at least part of the time. Pastor paired up with a journalist 25 years younger. Pastor's goal was to reach Burgos, but that was one day's walk too far, so he got a local bus and went there in order to see the great cathedral and environs. Total amount walked was just over 100 miles. Then the fast train took him back to Barcelona in about 6 hours.
2. Participated in the parish picnic on June 3.
3. Officiated at funeral or memorial services for eleven members and nine non-members during the period May 2012—April 2013.
4. Led the meeting of the parish staff almost every Wednesday throughout the year.
5. Had wedding planning sessions for several couples in advance of their wedding services.
6. Officiated at five weddings.
7. Led one of the shops each night in Vacation Bible School.
8. Filmed 35 short subjects about the Camino Santiago.
9. Participated in regular monthly sessions of Stephen Ministry;
10. Attended Council meetings and committee meetings throughout the year.
11. Led catechetical make-up sessions.
12. Served as an overnight host for Family Promise here at St. Mark's.
13. Hosted a luncheon for those faithful workers who have helped to fold and collate the Lion for a number of years.
14. Assisted the Property Committee in dealing with a number of contractors for the various projects around the property this year, including the drainage problems in the courtyard, the organ repairs, the sound system, electronic adjustments, tower and spire repair, and nave lighting.
15. 9/10 led the session for Penn College students "Where in the world is Camino Santiago?"
16. 9/24 – 9/28 trip to Mundelein, IL for the annual gathering of the Society of the Holy Trinity; five pastors drove together to minimize costs, 200 were in attendance, 15 new members were received including Pr. Letscher of Montoursville, and Pr. Hathaway who was pastor of the congregation that Pr. Elkin served as organist while in graduate school at Wittenberg University in Ohio in 1971, a hymn-festival was enjoyed at a local church, the Senior of the Society, Dr. Frank Senn, was elected to a three-year term. The preaching, prayers, singing, conversations, presentations,all excellent.
17. School of Religion in October: Led sessions on Genesis with 11 participants.
18. 10/5 stayed overnight as hosts with Pr. Spearly at Trinity U.M. Pennsdale for Family Promise.
19. 10/7 welcomed retired missionary Bette McCrandall to St. Marks
20. Prayed at Life Chain
21. Bible studies continue most Wednesdays at 11:45, working on Psalms.
22. The 6:31A.M. Bible study continues, working on Genesis.
23. various Milestone ministry events during the year, such as 11/04 New Driver milestone, with Riley Weber, 11/25 celebrated First Communion for 4 youth and they also received Bibles
24. 11/04 assisted with Pack and Wrap, with the shoe-boxes for needy kids, worldwide.
25. 11/28 gave a presentation on Camino Santiago for the Ecumenical Luncheon at Pine Street
26. 11/30 and 12/1 participated in the performances of "A Christmas Carol" raising funds for UCM.
27. 12/3 and 12/4 to Danville and served as Chaplain for the Susquehanna Chapter of the Society of the Holy Trinity meeting, preparing and leading 5 worship services; also, was elected by unanimous ecclesiastical ballot to serve as the Dean of the chapter for a three-year term, beginning immediately.
28. 12/4 drove our group to Selinsgrove for the

- annual Christmas party for the 19 residents of CM-6
29. 12/9 organized and led the three groups of carolers who delivered cookies and sang with shut-ins around the parish in the afternoon.
 30. 1/5 led one of the sessions at the 15th annual catechetical day-retreat for four of the LSM congregations held this year here at St. Mark's, with 43 persons participating. My session was on icons, and each participant decouped a small icon to take home. We also went on a brief "field trip" to Holy Cross Church and spoke with Fr. Kovalak there.
 31. 1/12 attended the Authorized Lay Worship leader initial session as mentor for our four candidates
 32. 1.25 met with representative concerning pictorial directory
 33. 1.28 departed for the Society of the Holy Trinity leadership retreat at an Anglican retreat center near Charleston S.C. 24 persons were in attendance from across the country, the deans of all the chapters and the senior of the society. The hours were prayed, plans were made for the year, there was time for quiet, and also time for conversation.
 34. 2.10 participated in Hobby Day displaying and conversations.
 35. 2.10 attended the gathering of Council members with Bp. Driesen at Brick Church
 36. 2.18 led the day-retreat for the Society of the Holy Trinity at Trinity Church, McClure: preaching and presiding at Eucharist, chairing the meeting, and hosting the speaker.
 37. Regular Lenten series was held: Mid-day Prayers, Evening Prayer, with meals and fellowship, scripture focus this year on Luke 15
 38. 20 Sessions of *The Way* were held through the year, concluding on April 21.
 39. Spoke on WRAK with Ken Sawyer and on KISS-FM with Gary Chrisman about Iron Chef and Family Promise
 40. 3/9 Guided three catechetical students and parent on foray to Harrisburg to explore church art and architecture and how it influences the life of the parishes.
 41. 3/17 Iron Chef competition with Lycoming Centre Presbyterian Church, full house of diners
 42. Led our full Holy Week schedule:
 - 3/27-Seder meal with more than 60 participating
 - 3/28-Holy Communion in the chapel at noon and in the nave at 7 PM
 - 3/29-Good Friday Community service in the nave at noon
 - Tenebrae service in the nave at 7 PM
 - 3/30-decorating the nave, egg hunt and children's breakfast.
 - Great Vigil of Easter 8 PM
 - 3/31-Easter Day services
 43. Presided at two Holy Communion liturgies each Sunday, led Morning Prayer most weekday mornings throughout the year, led Evening Prayer and Mid-day Prayer during Lent, encouraged the Council members to lead Prayer at the Close of the Day at Council meetings.
- Additional items beyond the congregation:
44. Met with the CROP walk planning committee, looking toward the event held on October 14, which began in our south parking lot.
 45. The Hometown Heroes event was held on July 14 at 11:00 A.M. on the Mulberry civic green.
 46. Synod Assembly was held in June, with pastor and delegates attending.
 47. Hosted the gathering of Lutheran Shared Ministry at St. Mark's several times during the year.
 48. City pastors meet for breakfast at St. Mark's monthly.
 49. Pastor meets with other ministerial colleagues occasionally.
 50. Served as vacation substitute for the Shepherd of the Streets at several times during the year.
 51. Served as volunteer observer for food safety at swim meet in order to meet city health regulations.
- These and many other activities, conversations, discussions, telephone consultations, visits, and other events were done in an average of 260 hours or more each month in ministry responsibilities.
- Looking ahead:**
1. It is time to start a new series of the Divine Drama Bible Study for the many persons in the congregation who have never thought through the basic course.
 2. It is also time to offer a second course for those who have had Divine Drama and would like to delve deeper into God's Word. This is the source of guidance for all that we say and do.
 3. It is time to resume videotaping of Biblical study topics to go online.
 4. It is time that 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.

5. It is time to begin a new Stephen Ministry training group.
6. It is time that 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.
7. It is time for additional persons to be identified for participation in *The Way* for the new season.
8. It is time for conversations to begin with neighboring congregations about the shape of ministry in our area in the years to come.
9. It is time to share the joy and the information gleaned from foreign travel with the congregation and others who might be curious or interested.
10. It is time to recognize and celebrate the good things that our members are already doing, and encourage their expansion in the name of the Lord Jesus.

~ Rev. Kenneth Elkin



MUTUAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE

Kathy Eshelman, 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, Donna Clark, Bud Hershberger, Kathy Eshelman, Pastor Kenneth Elkin, Carl Hieber, Ray Huff, Council President

During this past year, the following occurred:

1. Pastor Elkin gave a report on staff reviews. Kathy Eshelman also attended these interviews. This practice allows the committee chair to get a glimpse into the responsibilities of the staff.
2. Salary recommendations for the staff were given to the Finance Committee for consideration.
3. Ray Huff and Kathy Eshelman met with Pastor Elkin for his annual review and a report was given to the committee members.
4. Activities and events in parish life and their impact on the life and work of our pastor, staff and members were discussed throughout the year.
5. It is the responsibility of the Mutual Ministry Committee to review the working description of all committees approximately every ten years. That process was started last year and was completed during this past year.

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.

~ Kathy Eshelman



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, Altar Guild, Assisting Ministers, Children's Church, Columbarium, Communion, Greeters, Lectors, Nursery, and Ushers.

We are blessed and were very pleased to have Jungwha Kim as our 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. She has proved to be a wonderful choir director; bringing out the best in the St. Mark's choir. 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.

The maintenance of the church organ continues to grow, with age. This year we have experienced deterioration of the leathers in many of the organ chests. This will become a multi-year task to correct, at a rather large cost. We anticipate that this will necessitate not only utilizing organ-specific donated monies, but additional envelope offerings, and a new budget line item developed for this procedure, as it will become an ongoing maintenance concern.

Other challenges for the upcoming year mainly are 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 continues to exist 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

Being a Lutheran Musician I appreciate prolific resource of Organ Chorale that I can connect Chorale Prelude (interchangeable with Organ Chorale) toward scripture readings and selected hymns. Although in the German Protestant Church Organ Chorale was used to mostly introduce as an introduction prior to people's singing, I use as part

of liturgical voluntary music to reflect musical setting of the given Sunday because of the difficulty to capture the hymn-tune out of Organ Chorale. I grow much into the liturgical music this year and I was able to find resource in a way. That must be one of the reasons of God's call for me to work for Lutherans.

However it was not easy year due to losing few ringers out of adult bell choir. Nevertheless St. Mark's is filled with volunteer musicians that I can call substitutes upon their schedules.

To summarize musical journey during this year:

- ♪ Working with Children at VBS
- ♪ Although Music Camp was not fulfilled, children players were brought to the worship to enhance summer worship by their engagement
- ♪ July 4th Community Celebration with Trumpeter David Bailey
- ♪ Working with little musicians for Family Service on Christmas Eve
- ♪ Working with Senior Choir, Adult Bell Choir, and Family Handbell Choir throughout the year
- ♪ Sanctuary organ is under repair by Parsons Organ company.
Swell motor was replaced.
Pipe chest with water damage was restored.
Re-leathering of Bassoon is soon to be done.
Planned budget is required to provide forthcoming repair (leathering pipes) next year.

Plans for next year will be:

- ♪ to thrive existing music groups – senior choir, adult bell choir, family bell 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

Special thanks go to Ray Huff, president of the congregation, Kathy Eshelman, chair of mutual ministry, and Gregg Dancho, chair of worship and music committee. Kudos and everlasting thanks will also go to everyone who helps our music ministry. All of you are parent force to make our joyful noise to God, our Creator.

All creatures of our God and King, Praise Him, Alleluia!



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

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

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—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 nine 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 *Babylon*, was held in June, 2012. Roughly three dozen children attended, with 14 teen assistants and 17 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 and hosted the Fifteenth 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, March 30, 2013.
14. Children's Church continued on a once a month schedule during the school year. In April, it was planned and led by the confirmands.
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 1st 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; The Wedding Anniversary Milestone was observed for those couples married for 50+ years; 70+, Single, and Still Praising God has become an annual event honoring our senior parishioners.
2. The youth of St. Mark's provided the entertainment pre-show for the LSM's production of "A Christmas Carol" and for their own fundraising dinner in January.
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 in July.
5. A second annual Tweens' Day was held, during which several of our youth went to a member's home to do yard work for them when they could not. They were led by Pr. Elkin and Lou DeSeau.
6. Four of our youth were confirmed on the first day of Sunday School, 2012. A reception for the families was held afterward.
7. A Prayer Team for the benefit of our children and youth is held the 3rd Sunday of each month at noon. This was developed and led by the Comini's.
8. Teen Movie Night continues for our youth on the fourth Sunday of every month. There is a consistent attendance on these evenings.
9. A group pack'n'wrap for Operation Christmas Child was held in November. Participants packed 65 shoe boxes with small gifts for needy children around the world. Enough money was donated to cover the \$7/box shipping.
10. Family Advent Wreath Making & Luncheon was attended by over two dozen people on the first Sunday of Advent.
11. Kids' Night Out was a huge success. Over a dozen of our youth assisted.
12. The 12 participants attending the Christmas Cookie-Baking event produced the cookies sent for our shut-ins.
13. Christmas Caroling was conducted by 17 carolers, visiting almost all of our shut-ins who were at home.
14. Over 150 pieces of winter warmers, scarves, hats, and gloves were collected for those in need. 15 teddy bears were collected and given to local shelters.
15. 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.
16. Ed Gair continues crafting our Faith Chests for the Baptism Milestone; John & Ruth Burkholder continue with ornaments and keepsakes for various milestones. Bernadette wood burns details on some and creates others.
17. We trained seven new acolytes in January.
18. We sent seven of our youth to the Youth Quake/Zone event in Pittsburgh over the last weekend in January. They all wrote comments and expressed thanks which were included in the April *Lion*. Bernadette, Bob, and Eric accompanied them.
19. The John Bower Sunday Church School Basketball League for our youth began in December

and continued on through February of 2013.

Our youth created two teams. Coach Rick Robertson headed the teams with Mike Jensen and Kirk Owen assisting him. Devin participated in his age group with another church.

20. 38 cans of soup and \$162 were collected for "Souper Bowl Sunday," held in February.
21. Bernadette severely broke her arm; Michele and Pr. Elkin picked up the slack for several weeks.
22. A family bowling party was held February 23; 20+ attended. The end-of-season basketball party was held in conjunction with this event.
23. This year's Catechetical Trip was to Harrisburg, exploring the art and architecture of various houses of worship.
24. Michele made available Lenten childcare.
25. The egg-dying session for adults and older youth; was cancelled for this year.
26. The Annual Easter Egg Hunt and breakfast with Pastor Elkin was held on Saturday, March 30, 2013: well over 60 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 eleven youth who assisted were especially helpful.
27. The St. Mark's Old Fashion Church Family picnic is scheduled for Sunday, June 2, 2013.
28. Bernadette and Michele continue to plan the women's dinner.
29. Summer Choir Camp will be held in July. The program is yet to be decided.
30. Nick Buckman continues to schedule acolyte volunteers.
31. Family hand bell choir continues under the direction of Jungwha Kim.

Outreach/Continuing Education:

1. Flyers for Holy Week services and others for St. Mark's were designed and distributed to the downtown hotels and visitors center.
2. Bernadette attended Little Lambs Open House with flyers about St. Mark's and Sunday School.
3. We, again, conducted and hosted the LSM production of *A Christmas Carol* dinner theatre benefitting UCM. Over \$1200 was raised.
4. The youth of St. Mark's held a fundraising dinner in January. Part of the proceeds went toward their January trip; the balance is being used for the *Project Heifer* charity.
5. Bernadette went to jail for the Muscular Dystrophy Association in February and raised over \$1500 for that charity.

6. Our involvement with United Campus Ministry continues.
7. Iron Chef Williamsport, our fundraiser for Family Promise of Lycoming County, raised over \$4500 this year. Our youth servers contributed over \$400 from their Tips for a Promise.
8. Bernadette is active with 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 third year of hosting homeless children and their families through our association with Family Promise of Lycoming County. Becky

Miller Pryor is the coordinator for hosting at St. Mark's. Larue Dieter and Jackie Kinney are the scheduling coordinators. 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 19 residents of the Selinsgrove Center with songs, a story, and gifts for the residents and their caregivers. It is this chairperson's opinion we are better Christians for making this trip each year to visit with the ladies of CM-6.
- Providing more than 35 general gifts of sweat-shirts, socks, pajamas, slippers, and the like for Christmas gifts to the 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 and Daniel's Closet by providing clothing and baby items through our association with the Newberry Branch of NGA (Needlework Guild of America.)
- Being grateful for the assistance of Lou DeSeau in any and all ways requested.
- 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, Daniel's Closet 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. This past year, we studied the series "Journeying Through Grief" created by Dr. Kenneth C. Haugk and also explored sections of the book, Don't Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart, also written by Dr. Haugk.

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 support and 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. Barr Construction replaced the nave roof shingles
2. Cleaned up courtyard, removed overgrown bushes, trimmed others
3. Courtyard soil graded, raked, and reseeded
4. Trimmed assorted trees and shrubs throughout the year as needed

5. Power washing of stone facing completed
6. Spring cleanup day and mulching project
7. Steel plates at side doors replaced
8. Cleanup and removal of numerous rusty basement chairs
9. Spoke with Penn Tech College / college students to design courtyard landscaping
10. A variety of inside and outside painting projects identified and completed
11. Weeds sprayed and pulled throughout the summer
12. Water fountain repaired
13. Approved boiler maintenance, tune up, cleaning agreement
14. Plocinski Tree Service removed large tree in the courtyard, committee cleaned up branches
15. Update electric provider as rates change
16. Tiadaghton Contractors repair of courtyard/ building water leaks in an innovative way.
17. Purchased dehumidifier for the basement
18. Repaired basement walls from previous water leaks
19. Cleaned up branches and tree debris from September storm damage
20. Windows on south side repaired and others submitted on warranty claims
21. Removed old large cherry tree on north side
22. Planted Heiber/Hershberger anniversary tree
23. Tower roof repaired and trap door constructed
24. Spire damage repaired, powder coated maroon, and re-installed
25. Aluminum fascia around front lounge east window installed.
26. Stainless fascia and trim constructed for around the dishwasher
27. Constructed 4x4 and 4x8 stage extensions
28. Approved snow plowing contract
29. Nave lighting replaced with LED power saving bulbs
30. Painted all portico support poles
31. Reviewed property insurance update
32. Approved organ damage repair
33. Hot water line replaced in basement
34. Chapel furnace repaired
35. Installed kitchen backsplash
36. Kitchen walls washed and painted
37. Furnace tube replaced in #2 boiler unit in nave

GOALS for next year

1. Complete window warranty replacement
2. Landscaping design of courtyard by Penn Tech students

3. Complete courtyard landscaping
4. Re-landscaping the front of the church
5. Replace broken sidewalk sections
6. Parking lot surface repairs
7. Install east side exterior lighting
8. Continue building maintenance and repairs as needed

Again this past year members of the property committee have completed many of the above projects and volunteered numerous hours of time and energy. Tim Maggs continues to donate one morning each week to assist Lou with a variety of 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.

~ 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.

We have quarterly meetings to review space requirements, repairs that need to be made, charges

and fees and any other matter that impacts the church, especially the Christian Education program.

The school director informs us about dates for graduation, special events, open houses and the like to make sure there are no conflicts with church events.

I found in my files a discussion of how things would operate that was dated 1997 – that is pretty amazing! Over those years we have enjoyed a situation of mutual respect, of total co-operation and a commitment to have a Christian based child care program as part of St. Mark’s.

I am grateful to Holly Tillman, school director, Nancy Larson, Bernadette Jones, Lou De Seau and Pastor Elkin for their continued work with this important mission of our congregation.

~ 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 21, 2012. Prior to that Joyce Hershberger, Jackie Kinney, and Gary Weber 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-four members signed up for the breakfast and 67 signed up for the lunch. More showed up for breakfast and lunch. 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 and elegant.

Pledges totaled under \$152,000.00. It has been 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.

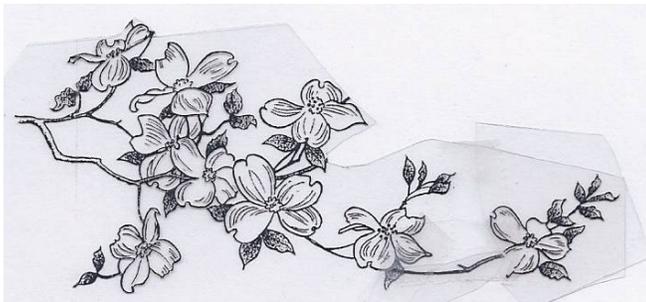
We recognize that stewardship is much more than meeting a budget. We each have gifts of talent and time that we can give to the church, its members, and the members of the greater community. What we need to do is to focus on what our needs are, and to work toward meeting those needs.

God has given us great abundance; let us give accordingly to each other.

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.

The St. Mark's archives has completed its move to a dedicated Archives room located across from the choir room. For the first time in recent history, all of the physical records have been placed in a single area, appropriate for storage and access of these important records..

There is, of course, a digital storage facility that is equally important for preserving the history of the Church. The stmarkswilliamsport.org Website continues to grow and to provide current news about St. Mark's events and the activities of church members. The site also provides public access to many of the archival materials such as photographs, sermons and other memorabilia. Most significantly, the records, articles and materials that are preserved digitally will always be available, so that the digital collection will continue to grow and be available online.

The process of upgrading the Website, that was begun last year, has been completed. The more

than 2200 pages and 4500 photographs and images that comprise the St. Mark's site have been revised, redesigned and reformatted to meet current standards. Barring some unforeseen difficulties with our Web hosting company, this redesign should provide satisfactory service for many years.

One final source of St. Mark's historical data must be mentioned. St. Mark's does maintain an online database of it's member records on Rootsweb. Pastors' records beginning with the founding of the Church have been posted and are periodically updated. A link to this site is located on the Church Website.

Archives projects are anticipated. The new archives room must be organized. An index exists, but must be updated. More of the records must be scanned and organized. A long term project would be to enter the Pastors' records into a data base for indexing.

Anyone interested in working with the Archives, please contact me to discuss possible projects.

~ **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 of the following members of the parish in the past year:

In Memory:

June Decker

Aletha Swartz

Charles Homan

Anne Miller

Ralph Zeigler, Sr.

Beatrice Doebler

Betty Diehl

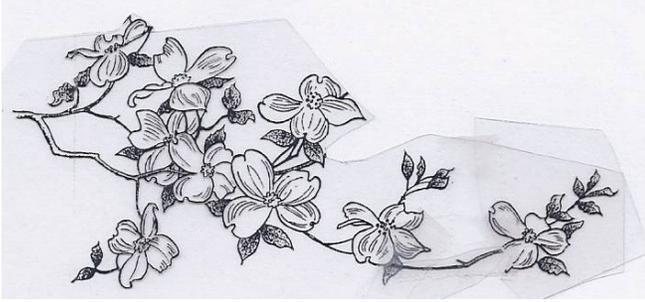
Eleanor Sobers

William Hill

William Hibschman

Eugene Jacobs

~ 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.

~ 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.

Women in thousands of ELCA units are partners in the total ministry of the church to make Christ known worldwide. Our own unit, the Women of St. Mark's, is an active part of this discipleship. This is achieved by various activities, both locally and globally.

Another successful rummage sale was chaired by Becky Miller Pryor and resulted in a profit of \$1,459.01. From this income, donations were sent to twelve charities that are dedicated to helping those in need in this community and outside. They include the following: Shepherd of the Streets, United Churches of Lycoming County, Camp Mt. Luther, St. Anthony's Center, Habitat for Humanity, Church Women United, Lutheran World Relief (shipping), ELCA International Disaster Response, ELCA Domestic Disaster Response, American Rescue Workers, NGA-Newberry Branch (Headstart clothing), and Family Promise. Also, leftover items from the rummage sale were recycled to other local charity groups, and thus could reach even more needy outlets.

Our quilting ministry continues to be strong. Last year 104 quilts were sent to Lutheran World Relief. Some of the work is done in homes. The quilts are assembled and knotted on Wednesday mornings at church. We are very fortunate to have a very dedicated group of women who enjoy working together. Many thanks go to Grace Arner, Lucille Weaver, Ernestine Doane, Ruth Sherlinski, Shirley Hill, Elsie Sechler, Jane Kline, Roxy Larson, Bunny Ditchfield, Lillian Skeeby, and Alona Hopler.

We also made up kits, collected soap, and requested funds to purchase blankets for needy people.

Women and children to Age 12 were treated to a delicious dinner prepared by Bob Jones and the men of the church and served by our male youths. Organized by Bernadette Jones and Michele Owen, we enjoyed being entertained by the Williamsport High School GQ, the men's a cappella ensemble.

It is sad to note that our numbers continue to shrink. We invite and welcome younger women to join us. We enjoy fellowship together while fulfilling God's mission. It is a privilege to be a part of an amazing church like St. Mark's. The people have supported us in our projects by donating quilt and kit materials, soap, rummage sale items, and money. We thank you for sharing God's bounty.

~ Shirley Hill, Chairman

~ Jane Kline, Treasurer

WOMEN OF THE ELCA CHECKING ACCOUNT
 ST MARK'S LUTHERN CHURCH
 WILLIAMSPORT PA
 APRIL 22, 2013

PREVIOUS BALANCE 4/5/2012 \$ 29.98

INCOME

Transfer from Savings	\$ 50.00	
Transfer from Savings	150.00	
Women's Dinner Refund	344.20	
Contribution/Jane Strous	20.00	
Transfer from Savings	200.00	
Transfer from Savings/Charity Contributions	1500.00	
Total Deposits		\$2264.20

TOTAL INCOME \$2294.18

EXPENSES

Women of the ELCA/1 st quarter 2012	50.00	
WAHS choirs/entertainment	75.00	
Women of the ELCA/2 nd quarter 2012	50.00	
Women of the ELCA 3 rd /4 th quarter 2012	100.00	
Women of the ELCA 1 st quarter 2013	50.00	
Postage	9.20	
Shepherd of the Streets	250.00	
United Churches of Lycoming County	150.00	
Camp Mt Luther	200.00	
St Anthony Center	150.00	
Greater Lycoming Habitat for Humanity	100.00	
Church Women United	100.00	
Lutheran World Relief	100.00	
ELCA Domestic Disaster	50.00	
ELCA International Disaster	50.00	
American Rescue Workers	100.00	
New Garment Agency	100.00	
Family Promise	150.00	
Transfer to Savings (Women's Dinner Refund)	344.20	
Total Expenses		\$2168.40

BALANCE CHECKING ACCOUNT 4/22/13 \$ 125.78

Prepared by L Jane Kline, Treasurer

**WOMEN OF THE ELCA SAVINGS ACCOUNT
ST MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
WILLIAMSPORT PA
APRIL 22, 2013**

PREVIOUS BALANCE 4/5/12		\$2797.28
 <u>INCOME/DEPOSITS</u>		
Interest April 2012 to April 2013	\$ 2.37	
Transfer from Check (Women's Dinner)	334.20	
Thrivent Matching Funds	250.00	
Bazaar Proceeds	1169.05	
Return Bazaar Start Cash	300.00	
Late Bazaar Proceeds	40.00	
Total Income/Deposits		\$2095.62
 TOTAL INCOME		 \$4892.90
 <u>WITHDRAWALS</u>		
Transfer to checking acct (1 st quarter ELCA)	\$ 50.00	
Transfer to checking acct (ELCA commit)	150.00	
Transfer to checking (pay invoices)	200.00	
Transfer to checking (pay charity commitments)	1500.00	
Change for Bazaar	300.00	
Total Withdrawals		\$2150.00
 BALANCE SAVINGS ACCOUNT 4/22/13		 \$2742.90

Prepared by L Jane Kline, Treasurer

**ST MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
FINANCIAL REPORT
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2012**

GENERAL FUND:

INCOME:	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Envelope: Pledges	\$ 258,084.00	\$ 235,200.00
Other Religious Income	\$ 11,990.09	\$ 12,550.00
Parking Lot/Rentals	\$ 26,054.50	\$ 20,625.00
Transfer From Investment Fund	\$ -	\$ 34,700.00
Welker/Capital-General	\$ 28,210.56	\$ 16,000.00
Welker/Benevolence-General	\$ -	\$ 1,800.00
Heat Envelope Income	\$ -	\$ -
Synod Donations	\$ -	\$ -
Bequests	\$ -	\$ -
Total Income	\$ 324,339.15	\$ 320,875.00
EXPENSES:		
Staff	\$ 207,094.39	\$ 211,446.00
Administration	\$ 13,295.06	\$ 13,050.00
Worship & Music	\$ 3,942.63	\$ 5,300.00
Christian Ed/Youth	\$ 6,354.38	\$ 5,550.00
Property	\$ 76,387.09	\$ 62,350.00
Benevolence & Charity	\$ 21,868.57	\$ 23,125.00
Total Expenses	\$ 328,942.12	\$ 320,821.00
INCOME LESS EXPENSE	\$ (4,602.97)	\$ 54.00

DEDICATED BENEVOLENCE INCOME:

Hunger, Food, Blankets, G Missions, St. Anthony Shepherd, Thanks-Offering, Mossy Foot, Misc,	\$	3,260.01
Capital Income	\$	3,370.00
Organ Fund	\$	1,996.00
Theological Fund	\$	115.00

MEMORIAL FUND:

Balance as of January 31, 2012	\$	25,931.92
Gifts	\$	25,526.50
Disbursements	\$	(2,306.45)
Balance as of Decemk 31, 2012	\$	49,151.97

INVESTMENT FUND:

Balance as of January 1, 2012	\$	1,008,672.03
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Income:

Gifts, Various Transfers & Reclassifications	\$	6,888.32
Interest/Dividends	\$	29,455.43
Total Income	\$	36,343.75

Expenditures:

Fees	\$	(10,540.06)
Various Transfers & Reclassifications	\$	(1,572.63)
Total Expenditures	\$	(12,112.69)

Market Value Change	\$	82,659.08
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Balance as of December 31, 2012	\$	1,115,562.17
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