



# **The Annual Report**

**May 18, 2014**

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**

**142 Market Street**

**Williamsport, PA 17701**

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## **FROM THE PARISH REGISTER**

### **BAPTISMS**

Dallas James Hanford ..... September 29, 2013

### **FIRST COMMUNIONS**

Abbigail Robertson ..... November 24, 2013  
Gabriella Gregory ..... November 24, 2013  
Owen Gair..... November 24, 2013

### **AFFIRMATION/CONFIRMATION**

Evan Barone..... September 8, 2013  
Benjamin Haussmann ..... September 8, 2013  
Dawson Owen..... September 8, 2013  
Stefan Weber..... September 8, 2013

## **RECEIVED BY AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

### **RECEIVED BY LETTER OF TRANSFER**

Audrey Comerford  
Pamela Gage – reinstatement

### **REMOVED BY LETTER OF TRANSFER**

Robb & Susan Curry, to St. John, Newberry  
Donna Maule to First United Methodist

### **WEDDINGS**

Ryan A. Miller & Jaclyn Smith ..... July 6, 2013

### **MEMBER FUNERALS**

Phyllis Ulman..... June 8, 2013  
Russell Smith ..... July 14, 2013  
Robert Smith ..... September 3, 2013  
Maxine Chubb..... September 22, 2013  
Mary Helen Scinicariello ..... September 30, 2013  
James Buckman ..... November 3, 2013  
Robert Clokey ..... October 8, 2013  
Bonita Crossley ..... October 8, 2013  
Catherine Goertz ..... October 25, 2014  
Katherine Crane ..... December 13, 2013  
Wilson Doebler ..... December 19, 2013  
Dorothy Berndt ..... January 9, 2014  
Jane Strous ..... March 8, 2014

### **NON-MEMBER FUNERALS**

Sylvia Sutherland..... May 8, 2013  
Louise Hively..... May 30, 2013  
Mary Ellen Masterson..... June 30, 2013  
Russell Woolever ..... August 24, 2013  
Salairat Lovett..... February 27, 2014  
Richard Robertson ..... February 27, 2014  
Joanne Cratsley ..... February 28, 2014

### **NEWLY ENROLLED IN CATECHETICAL STUDY**

Hannah Haussmann  
Gillian Buckman  
Lynna Robertson

### **NEWLY ENROLLED IN *THE WAY***

Donna Clark ..... September 22, 2013  
Audrey Comerford ..... September 22, 2013

### **BIBLE MILESTONE**

Abigail Robertson ..... November 24, 2013  
Gabiella Gregory ..... November 24, 2013  
Owen Gair ..... November 24, 2013

### **RECEIVING BLANKET MILESTONE**

Dallas James Hanford  
Greycen Adeline Walter

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

#### **Special Congregational Assembly ..... Dec. 8, 2013**

The proposed budget for 2014 was presented following both services. There were no amendments, and the budget was adopted without audible dissent.

#### **Annual Congregation Assembly ..... May 19, 2013**

Nick Buckman and Bob Miller were thanked for their terms of service on the Council.

Sally Bjornstad, Karen Boone, Tim Maggs and Gregg Dancho were elected to Council membership.

The Booklet of Reports from the officers and committees was presented, and accepted by the congregation. There was no other business.



### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

*Ray Huff, Council President*

Our mission statement contains many elements that are crucial to our ministry.

*St. Mark's Lutheran Church is a congregational family, united in Christ, teaching, preaching, celebrating the Sacraments and sharing the Word of God as it prepares members to go forth in a life of service and love in our community and the world.*

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. We have inspirational services through which we hear the Word of God. We have excellent programs involving teaching and learning the ways of Christ and His admonition to preach the Word.

We celebrate the Sacraments in many ways. We are truly blessed to be able to commune each week. We also have home communion visitors who share the Word and Sacrament with those members who are unable to come to the church. The church comes to them.

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. Donna Elkin and Deborah Maggs ensure that all works smoothly during our hosting weeks. 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.

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.

We are a congregational family. Families face challenges at times. Sometimes it is wise to get an outside look at what we do. The Reconciliation Team process has taken a lot of time, effort, and patience. Those who have felt a need to air their concerns have been heard. Now it is time to accept the suggestions that will be made by the team to council in the coming months. We have had our chance to speak and to listen. It is now time for action that befits our call to be Christians. It is my fervent prayer that the Holy Spirit will lead us to accept the path that He points to us so that we can go forth in a life of service and love in our community and the world.

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  
  
Bonnie Eyer  
Walter Haussmann  
Dan Zeigler  
Lou Kolb  
Dinah Labenberg  
Paul Zimmerer  
Karen Boone  
Sally Bjornstad  
Tim Maggs

**Additional leaders in the Congregation:**

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



**A WORD FROM THE PASTOR**

*The Reverend Kenneth R. Elkin*

**A brief summation of some of the pastor's activities during the year.** The curious are warmly invited to ask the pastor for more information about any of them.

- 4/16 Met with couple planning wedding, and subsequent meetings until the wedding
- 4/17 Sat in for the Shepherd of the Streets this day and on other occasions through the year.
- 4/18 Stephen Ministry session and monthly throughout the year.
- 4/19 funeral planning, and for 22 other persons during the year
- 4/21 final session for The Way 2013
- 4/22 LSM meeting at St. Mark's and several others through the year
- 4/25 consult with fellow pastors monthly
- 4/28 prayers at Eagle Scout ceremony
- 4/30 met with potential Assisting Minister and more during the year
- 4/30 met with authorized lay worship leader candidates, and at other times in the year
- 5/5 attended Conference Assembly
- 5/7 hosted city Pastors' breakfast monthly except during the summer
- 5/8 assisted at Women's banquet
- 5/13-14 led the spring retreat of the Susquehanna Chapter of the Society of the Holy Trinity, as well as the 12/2013 retreat, the 3/2014 retreat, and the 5/2014 retreat
- 5/19 monthly catechetical session, and resuming in September and throughout year.

- 5/20 Congregation Council, and eight times through the year
- 5/29 CROP walk planning meeting, for walk in October
- 6/2 Congregation picnic at Montoursville
- 6/2 receive Audrey Comerford as new member
- 6/10 –6/26 travel to Lyon, France
- 7/4 Assisted with the hospitality event before the fireworks, and cleanup afterward.
- 7/7 begin Family Promise hosting; serve as overnight host, and in other hosting weeks through the year
- 7/17 led the “Tweens” group of students in a service project for a senior member of the parish, and assisted with courtyard mulching.
- 7/17 Luncheon Fellowship each month
- 7/21 attended 25<sup>th</sup> ordination anniversary of STS pastor Mark Hoffman in Millersburg
- 7/28 attended installation of Pr. Richard Adams in Liberty parish
- 8/3 Attended Alona Hopler 95<sup>th</sup> birthday event
- 8/4 Progressions Milestone at 10:30 and refreshments and conversation in the courtyard
- 8/5—8/7 Catechetical Camp 9-5:00 with 9 students
- 8/11 Over-70 Milestone luncheon-event
- 8/18 attend installation of Pr. Aurand at St. Luke
- 8/23 movie in the courtyard
- 8/28 staff reviews conducted
- 9/1 kick-off breakfast
- 9/8 Affirmation of Baptism – Confirmation for four students
- 9/8 Receiving Blanket Milestone given , and on 2 other occasions in year
- 9/15 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration
- 9/15 catechetical study began
- 9/23 drove to Mundelein Illinois for the annual retreat of the Society of the Holy Trinity
- 9/24—9/26 served as the chaplain at the retreat, planning and leading 10 services
- 9/29 enrollment of three catechetical students at 8:00 service
- 10/2 left for Spain, where first visited daughter Katy and family, then on 10/6 was joined by Matt Fortin, 10/7 train to Pomplona and hiking the Camino Santiago began, 10/17 hike concluded in Burgos, train back to Barcelona, 10/18 travel by foot, train, bus, 2 airplanes, monorail, train, and car to return home
- 11/14 Concluded the Bible study on Genesis at 6:31, and began a study of Job.
- 11/15 Helped to host the AGO recital in the nave.
- 11/16 Assisted in Christmas tree tagging
- 11/17 Led First Communion group Session and two others
- 11/19 Attended the United Churches banquet at St. Joseph RC.
- 11/22 Gave a program on the Camino Santiago at the Williamsport Home apartments.
- 11/24 First Communion for three young students.
- 11/24 Advent large wreath making and other decorating for Advent
- 12/4 Presented my program on Camino Santiago at the Ecumenical Luncheon at Pine Street U.M.
- 12/8 At St. Ann Church briefly in support of Comerford baptism.
- 12/8 Participated in the caroling and cookie delivery to special needs folks
- 12/10 Led the group to give Christmas party to a ward at the Selinsgrove Center.
- 12/15 participated in the youth-led spaghetti luncheon
- 12/22 Assisted with the decorating for the Christmas festival.
- 12/29 Led carols and story in place of Sunday School
- 12/30 Met with new Assisting Minister prospect
- 01/3 Recorded a video interview for a documentary on our local Family Promise affiliate.
- 01/.4 Led area Catechetical retreat session
- 01/.10 Offered prayer at the memorial service for Dr. Earl Miller at Williamsport Hospital.
- 01/.12 Gave the Faith Chests to neophytes from the past year.
- 01/14 Gave nave and chapel tours to groups of children from Little Lambs, emphasizing that Jesus cares about all ages and sizes of people, all jobs, and all of creation.
- 01/28--30 Travel to Charleston for annual leadership conference for the Society of the Holy Trinity
- 02/7 Iron Chef planning
- 02/12 Met with new communion servers
- 02/24 Helped to do the voice-over for the Iron Chef promo video.
- 02/25 First session of conversations, continuing through 7 sessions
- 02/26 Negotiated the use of the electronic signboard for Iron Chef.
- 03/12 Mid-week services and meals begin and continue through Lent
- 03/17 receiving the list of the ingredients for the iron Chef Competition. Preparations underway.
- 03/23 Iron Chef competition, where our team was victorious

03/24 to S.U. For lecture by Dr. William Willimon of Duke U.

03/29 attended Ordination service at Redeemer

03/31 prepared publicity for the STS retreat

04/5 catechetical trip to Gettysburg with 6 students, and 7 parents and mentors

Sunday liturgies, Morning Prayer services, funerals, wedding, various committee meetings, Mid-Day Prayer services, Evening Prayer services, Holy Week liturgies, visited many pilgrimage churches, led services at STS retreats

**Looking ahead:** some of the things that the Pastor hopes to do and/or encourage among others in the parish.

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 begin a new Stephen Ministry training group.
4. 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.
5. It is time for additional persons to be identified for participation in *The Way* for the new season.
6. It is time for conversations to begin with neighboring congregations about the shape of ministry in our area in the years to come.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. It is time to resume videotaping of Biblical study topics to go online.
10. 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.
11. It is time for us to explore other new media approaches to reach the large number of persons in

“young adult” range who are not involved with any church.

12. There will be additional things to be discerned from the reconciliation process for us to work on together.

13. May these be busy and fruitful times together 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:** Jane Kline, Nancy Larson, Donna Clark, Bud Hershberger, Kathy Eshelman, Pastor Kenneth Elkin, Brenda Gair, 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. Kathy Eshelman met with Pastor Elkin for his annual review.
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.

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**

*Daniel Zeigler, 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.*

**Report not submitted**

~ **Dan Zeigler**



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

Needless to say it was very difficult year for all of us. In music program, it is hard to put one program away, Family Bells, toward dormancy due to lack of children. Also I had to work with less voice with senior choir throughout this year.

Nevertheless I am content to pull off music program as it is. All musicians do their parts more than I ask and imagine. They are all valiant soldiers.

When need is there, we bind strongly together to stand firm for our anointing.

To summarize musical journey during this year:

- ♪ Working with Children at VBS
- ♪ Supplying musicians for summer worship
- ♪ Working with children for summer worship and special occasion
- ♪ July 4th Community Celebration with our clarinet player, Karen Boone
- ♪ Working with Senior Choir, Adult Bell Choir
- ♪ Sanctuary organ is to continue under repair by Parsons Organ company. Releathering of Basson was done. Pedal pipes (Diapason 16') are scheduled to leather this summer.
- ♪ Playing for Williamsport Chamber Choir and Orchestra
- ♪ Performing at Mansfield University as a guest organist.

Plans for next year will be:

- ♪ to thrive existing music groups – senior choir, adult bell choir
- ♪ to activate family bell choir
- ♪ to assist youth coordinator for VBS, 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, who leads us in time of difficulty. Also I cannot express my gratitude enough to Kathy Eshelman, chair of mutual ministry, and Jane Kline, member of mutual ministry, who help and make effort to monthly music meeting.

Not to forget all of you who listen us praising and exalting our Lord altogether. We cannot out-praise God!

Most importantly everlasting thanks go to God “whose eyes run to and fro throughout the whole earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.” (2 Chronicles 16:9)

Praise the Lord!



## 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 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. Bob Jones continues 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, Gospel Light's *Son West Round-up*, was held in June, 2013. Roughly two dozen children attended, with 14 teen assistants and 11 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. Two candidates affirmed their baptism on the Great Easter Vigil, April 19, 2014.
  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; 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; 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 for their own fundraising dinner in January, as well as cooking and serving for the event. Donna Elkin and Laura Schreckengast took the time to prepare the instrumentalists, while Bob and Declan Jones took charge of the service.
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, Kirk Owen, and Lou DeSeau.
6. Four of our youth were confirmed on the first day of Sunday School, 2013. 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 65 shoe boxes with small gifts for needy children around the world. Enough money was donated to cover the \$7/box shipping.
  9. Family Advent Wreath Making & Luncheon was attended by over two dozen people on the first Sunday of Advent.
  10. Kids' Night Out was a huge success. Over a dozen of our youth assisted.
  11. The participants attending the Christmas Cookie-Baking event produced the cookies sent for our shut-ins.
  12. Christmas Caroling was conducted by 17 carolers, visiting almost all of our shut-ins who were at home.
  13. The Christmas play, "Open Hearts in Bethlehem," was directed by Bernadette. 13 youth presented it for the family service on Christmas Eve. It was a half-hour play which the children memorized.
  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. We still have a few ornaments and keepsakes for various milestones from John & Ruth Burkholder. Bernadette wood burns details on some and creates others.
  17. We trained three new acolytes in January.
  18. We sent two of our youth to the Youth Quake/Zone event in Pittsburgh over the last weekend in January. They wrote comments and expressed thanks which were included in the March *Lion*. Bernadette and Declan chaperoned.
  19. 39 cans of soup and \$380 were collected for "Souper Bowl Sunday," held in February.
  20. A family skating party was held in February; about 20 attended.
  21. Nursery is once again open for the 10:30 service! Brenda Gair is coordinating the volunteers.
  22. This year's Catechetical Trip was to Gettysburg, where Pr. Elkin's friend, Pr. William Jones, acted as tour guide, focusing on how the citizens of the area were affected by the battle. The students' accounts of some of the sites are in the May newsletter.
  23. A new monthly event was added this year: Second Saturday! This is when cooks of all ages and experience levels gather in the kitchen for a seasonal cooking project. In March, it was soup which was shared for Lenten meals, taken to shut-ins, and carried home by participants. In April, it was Easter candy some of which was later sold by the youth.
  24. The Annual Easter Egg Hunt and breakfast with Pastor Elkin was held on Saturday April 19, 2014: about 50 were served, including those decorating the Nave. The children bagged jelly beans and included a card with a special prayer to hand out to the congregation on Easter Sunday. The 10 youth assisting were especially helpful.
  25. The St. Mark's Old Fashion Church Family picnic is scheduled for Sunday, June 1, 2014.
  26. Bernadette and Michele continue to plan the women's dinner.
  27. Summer Choir Camp will be held in July. The program is yet to be decided.
  28. Nick Buckman and Declan Jones schedule and train acolyte volunteers.
- Outreach/Continuing Education:
1. Flyers for Holy Week services and others for St. Mark's were designed and distributed by Bernadette to the downtown hotels and visitors center.
  2. Bernadette attended Little Lambs Open House with flyers about St. Mark's and Sunday School.
  3. 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.
  4. Bernadette attended a 3-day seminar by Vibrant Faith Ministry (formerly Youth & Family Institute) in June with Kathy Wither (Messiah). At it, they learned about developing, targeting and curating websites for different age groups and the resources available.
  5. Our involvement with United Campus Ministry continues.
  6. Pr. Elkin, Michele, and Bernadette attended Faith

- Formation in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century workshops.
7. Iron Chef Williamsport, our fundraiser for Family Promise of Lycoming County, raised over \$4500 this year. Our youth servers contributed over \$350 from their Tips for a Promise.
  8. Bernadette is active with Lutheran Shared Ministry.
  9. College care packages are sent to our college students for finals in both December and April.
  10. 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.

~ 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

1. Our fourth year of hosting homeless children and their families through our association with Family Promise of Lycoming County. Donna Elkin and Debbie Maggs are the

- 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 different weeks per year. This is by far the most significant work of the Social Ministry committee.
2. 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. We are the only church in the Center City area to provide outreach to the community on this national holiday. I encourage its continuance.
3. Providing food and monetary donations to St. Anthony's Center.
4. Entertaining the 16 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.
5. Providing more than 40 general gifts of sweatshirts, socks, pajamas, slippers, and the like for Christmas gifts to the residents of the Danville State Hospital.
6. Collecting hygiene items and making monetary donations to the Shepherd of the Streets Emergency Fund.
7. Supporting the work of The Pregnancy Care Center, Family Promise and Daniel's Closet by providing clothing and baby items through our association with the Newberry Branch of NGA (Needlework Guild of America.)
8. Being grateful for the assistance of Lou DeSeau in any and all ways requested.
9. 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 Daniel's Closet.

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 explored the subjects of integrative medicine, Alzheimer's disease and cancer to provide us guidance in our role of care givers. We also read sections of the book, *Christian Caregiving – a Way of Life*.

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. Our goal for the coming year is to start a new training class.

~ Kathy Eshelman



### PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

*Michele Fredericks, 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.*

1. Small additions to the kitchen and dining inventories were made by way of gifts or purchases.
2. Funeral lunches were marked.
3. We had many Milestone Celebration luncheons which included 70+ Single and Still Praising God, Progressions Milestone, Faith Chest Reception and many others.
4. Prepared & served breakfast for the Sunday School Kick-Off.
5. Prepared & served meal for Consecration.
6. Prepared & served meal for Baptism.
7. Prepared & served a meal for Luella Bair's Birthday Party.
8. Prepared & served a meal for the Church Council Party.
9. Prepared & served a meal for the Dog Club Dinner Party.
10. Prepared & served a meal for the Iron Chef Competition to benefit Family Promise.
11. Prepared & served Lenten Meals.
12. Prepared & served monthly Lunch and Fellowship meals.
13. Prepared & served monthly City Pastors luncheon.
14. Prepared & served Seder Meal
15. Prepared & served Woman's Dinner
16. Prepared & served Reconciliation Team meals.
17. Participated with the bread baking during Epiphany.
18. Prepared & served Easter Breakfast for the choir.
19. Helped with meals for VBS and other fundraisers throughout the year.
20. Participated with the cookie bake during Christmas.
21. Started the Second Saturday Cooking Fellowship which is open to anyone in the congregation to come in and learn some cooking techniques as well as a time for fellowship.

We thank all committees and persons that have helped us achieve our goals throughout the year.

~ Michele Fredericks



### **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. Spring cleanup day and mulching project
2. Met with Penn Tech College students to design church entrance & courtyard landscaping
3. Courtyard purpose and usage was discussed – to be implemented with landscape designs
4. Project drawings were received, approved, and are pending scheduling
5. A variety of inside and outside painting projects identified and completed
6. Weed control, grass cutting and general landscaping upkeep throughout the year
7. Parking lot islands' mulch was replaced with river gravel to reduce maintenance
8. Approved boiler maintenance, tune up, cleaning agreement – tubes were replaced
9. Contract in place for boiler water chemical control
10. Parish House windows were replaced under warranty and others were repaired
11. Dead ash tree on east side and the maple tree by the east door were removed.
12. Ice maker was purchased and installed with counter and cabinets

13. Parking lot areas were seal coated and lines repainted
14. Update electric provider as rates change
15. Building flashing water leaks were repaired at the Chapel and Narthex areas
16. Organ damage was repaired and assorted maintenance updates were completed
17. Sidewalk sections were replaced at the entrance from spire project damage
18. Marble chips were placed about the Little Lambs play area
19. Church key holders were identified and recorded
20. Kitchen refrigerator compressor was replaced
21. Portable serving counter was built
22. Radiant heater was replaced in the narthex men's bathroom
23. Water heater was replaced in the womens' narthex bathroom
24. Digital duplicator was purchased and installed
25. Snow removal was major item this winter
26. Nave cooling evaluated and now using power vents as needed
27. Discussed budget projections and presented to finance committee

#### GOALS for next year

- † Landscaping completion for entrance and the courtyard
- † Furnace / boiler upgrades or replacements
- † Install east side exterior lighting
- † Continue building maintenance and repairs as needed

Again this past year, members of the property committee have completed a large quantity of the above projects, numerous additional small building repairs, and volunteered numerous hours of their time and energy.

~ 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.*

No activity this year.

~ **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 important that communications be frequent with Little Lambs to be sure that the sharing of space and resources be done with as little disruption as possible to both parties involved. To that end we meet quarterly to discuss dates of mutual interest, consider rental costs for the rooms used the school and deal with concerns where they may arise in this sharing arrangement.

This year brought a change in leadership – Deb Newbold has taken over as interim director and Holly Tillman has stepped aside. Deb has done an excellent job with the school- stories and pictures of activities appear frequently in the local paper.

We enjoy a good working relationship with the school and believe having them at St. Mark’s is mutually beneficial. Deb speaks often about the help she receives from Lou when repairs are necessary and Pastor Elkin has been invited to speak to the children on occasion.

Pastor, Deb Neubold, Bernadette, Lou DeSeau, Nancy Larson and I meet on a regular basis with consultations as needed with Property and Finance committees. My thanks to all the committee.

~ **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*

Our mission statement contains many elements that are crucial to our ministry.

*St. Mark's Lutheran Church is a congregational family, united in Christ, teaching, preaching, celebrating the Sacraments and sharing the Word of God as it prepares members to go forth in a life of service and love in our community and the world.*

Through Stewardship we share what God has first given us so that our service and love may be shared with the community and the world. Our sharing of the Word of God with our time, talent, and possessions give us an opportunity to serve God. Consecration Sunday was on October 20, 2013. Prior to that Eric Comini, Walter Haussmann, and Carl Hieber gave Temple Talks. Pastor Shipman gave the sermon on Consecration Sunday.

Our congregation’s finance committee continued with 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 one members signed up for the breakfast and 65 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 \$138,000.00. 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.

We provided a handout to the congregation during a Temple Talk in September. The handout listed 144 ways to serve the Lord and St. Mark's. People have many different gifts of talent and we hope to spark more interest in the sharing of those talents later this year.

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 is now in place in the room across from the choir room. Anyone who has information about St. Mark's history, which you would like to donate to the archives, may provide the material to your archivist or place it in the “in box” in the archives room.

The St. Mark's digital archives continues to grow. The [stmarkswilliamsport.org](http://stmarkswilliamsport.org) Website provides 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. The sermon archive contains all sermons back to 2007.

St. Mark's also maintains 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.

Your Archivist hopes to schedule meetings of the History Committee in 2014. There are many projects that ought to be implemented, particularly with the organizing and indexing of existing records.

Anyone interested in working with the History Committee, please contact me.

~ **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:

- |                       |                |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Russell Smith         | Maxine Chubb   |
| Leon & Rosena Hanes   | Robert Clokey  |
| Bob & Phyllis Zeigler | James Buckman  |
| Catherine Goertz      | Dorothy Berndt |
| Katherine Crane       | Jane Strous    |
| Wilson Doebler        |                |

~ **Carl & Beverly Hieber**



## **FINANCE ANNUAL REPORT**

*Wanda Fortin*

*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.*

**~ Wanda Fortin, 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 impact of over 7,000 units of women networking together is a powerful expression of faith in action. The Women of St. Mark's continue to be an integral part of this mission to fulfill God's call. They have done so by reaching out to help those less fortunate, both locally and globally.

Under the leadership of Becky Miller Pryor, the annual rummage sale raised \$1,486, which was then donated to twelve charities. These organizations were 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, and Family Promise. Items that were left over after the sale were given to other local groups for further distribution to needy people.

The past year was "The Year of the Quilts". Our faithful group of quilters produced a record number of 120 quilts, which were sent to Lutheran World Relief. Quilt tops are made in homes. On Wednesday mornings, at church, one group of ladies assembles three layers of fabric together, and another group knots them. These dedicated ladies are: Lucille Weaver, Grace Arner, Ruth Sherlinski, Shirley Hill, Ernestine Doane, Elsie Sechler, Roxie Larson, Bunny Ditchfield, Jane Kline, Audrey Comerford, Lillian Skeeby, and Alona Hopley.

In addition to the quilts, with the help of the entire congregation, kits and soap were donated to Lutheran World Relief. A monetary collection of \$313 was sent to the synod to purchase blankets in bulk.

Another enjoyable Women and Children's Dinner was coordinated by Bernadette and Michele. The meal was prepared and served by the men of St. Mark's under the supervision of Bob Jones. Les Chanteuses, the Williamsport High School Women's Ensemble, provided excellent entertainment.

The support from the whole congregation of St. Mark's has been heartwarming. All requests for donations of goods or money for our projects have been met with generous response.

God bless you all for "giving back to the Lord"!

**~ Shirley Hill, Chairman**

**~ Jane Kline, Treasurer**

WOMEN OF THE ELCA CHECKING ACCOUNT  
 ST MARK'S LUTHERN CHURCH  
 WILLIAMSPORT PA  
 APRIL 5, 2014

PREVIOUS BALANCE 4/22/2013 \$ 125.78

INCOME

Women's Dinner Refund	\$ 288.22	
Transfer from Savings/Charity Contributions	1500.00	
Transfer from Savings	100.00	
Total Deposits		\$1888.22

TOTAL INCOME \$2014.00

EXPENSES

WAHS choirs/entertainment	75.00	
Women of the ELCA/2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter 2013	50.00	
Women of the ELCA SWO Convention	100.00	
Women of the ELCA 3 <sup>st</sup> quarter 2013	50.00	
Sheetz (Gas card gift for Lou DeSeau)	15.00	
Women of the ELCA/4 <sup>th</sup> quarter 2013	50.00	
Postage	9.80	
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	
Women of the ELCA/1 <sup>st</sup> quarter 2014	50.00	
St Mark's/ Thank Offering Boxes	32.94	
Total Expenses		\$1932.74

BALANCE CHECKING ACCOUNT 4/5/14 \$ 81.26

Prepared by L Jane Kline, Treasurer

WOMEN OF THE ELCA SAVINGS ACCOUNT  
 ST MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
 WILLIAMSPORT PA  
 APRIL 5, 2014

PREVIOUS BALANCE 4/22/2013		\$2742.90
 <u>INCOME/DEPOSITS</u>		
Interest April 2013-March 2014	\$ 1.50	
Bazaar-Kitchen-2013	112.50	
Bazaar-Main Floor	1377.00	
Bazaar-Main Floor	51.00	
Thrivent-matching funds	300.00	
Total Income/Deposits		\$1841.75
TOTAL INCOME		\$4584.65
 <u>WITHDRAWALS</u>		
Bazaar starting cash	\$ 300.00	
Transfer to checking account (cover cont.)	1500.00	
Transfer to checking (cover expenses)	100.00	
Total Withdrawals		\$1900.00
 BALANCE SAVINGS ACCOUNT 4/5/2014		 \$2684.65

Prepared by L Jane Kline, Treasurer

**St Marks Lutheran Church  
Financial Report  
Year Ending December 31, 2013**

**GENERAL FUND**

INCOME	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Envelope pledges	\$ 257,487.00	\$ 240,000.00
Other Religious Income	\$ 12,865.50	\$ 13,050.00
Parking Lot/Rentals	\$ 23,183.16	\$ 24,000.00
Transfer from Investment Fund	\$ 25,578.11	\$ 48,252.00
Welker/Capital-General	\$ 29,938.56	\$ 16,000.00
Welker/Benevolence-General	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,800.00
Total Income	\$ 349,052.33	\$ 343,102.00

EXPENSES	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Staff	\$ 218,354.83	\$ 225,627.00
Administration	\$ 14,357.83	\$ 12,650.00
Worship & Music	\$ 5,424.93	\$ 6,400.00
Christian Ed/Youth	\$ 4,402.32	\$ 5,350.00
Property	\$ 84,596.36	\$ 70,000.00
Benevolence & Charity	\$ 20,514.53	\$ 23,125.00
Total Expenses	\$ 347,650.80	\$ 343,152.00

INCOME LESS EXPENSES	\$ 1,401.53	\$ (50.00)
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**DEDICATED BENEVOLENCE & MISC INCOME:**

World Hunger, Harvest Home, Food Pantry,  
Blankets, Global Missions, St Anthony,  
Shepherd of the Streets, Thanks-offering,

River Walk Project	\$	7,321.60
Capital Income	\$	3,173.00
Organ Fund	\$	1,258.00
Thrivent Choice Program	\$	198.00
Theological Fund	\$	60.00

**MEMORIAL FUND**

Balance as of January 31,2013	\$ 49,151.97
Gifts	\$ 7,018.42
Disbursements	\$(3,885.76)
Balance as of December 31,2013	\$ 52,284.63

**INVESTMENT FUND**

Balance as of January 1,2013		\$1,102,484.48
<u>Income</u>		
Gifts, Various Transfers & Reclassifications	\$ 8,158.32	
Interest/Dividends	\$ 49,718.56	
Total Income	\$ 57,876.88	\$ 57,876.88
<u>Expenditures:</u>		
Fees	\$ (14,088.02)	
Various Transfers & Reclassifications	\$ (28,519.07)	
Total Expenditures	\$ (42,481.52)	\$ (42,607.09)
Market Value Change		\$ 151,481.52
Balance as of December 31,2013		\$ 1,269,235.79