



# The *Lion* of St. Mark's

APRIL 2005

## *Our Friends in the News...*

In recent months a number of St. Mark's members have been mentioned in the press because of their life-work and other activities. It has been fascinating reading!

Those mentioned include:

- (1) **Art and Jane Kline**, who were honored with the Ethel Weinhart Volunteer of the Year award presented by the Williamsport-Lycoming Chamber of Commerce, recognizing their volunteer work for the Lycoming County Visitors Bureau, the Community Theater League, the J.V. Brown Library, St. Mark's, and other community services;
- (2) **Cecil and Kitty Calvert** who celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary;
- (3) **Wilson Doebler, Sr.**, who was featured in a photo-essay entitled *Longevity*, about his work in the Williamsport Foundry since 1938 with other family members **Frank, Wilson Jr., and Walter Ertel, Sr. and Jr.**;
- (4) **Melinda Wentzel** a friend of the parish who writes a regular column in the *Webb Weekly* entitled *Planet Mom* about the adventures of raising a pair of twins as well as a teenage daughter and husband;
- (5) **Jack Burkholder**, whose delicate and beautiful scroll-saw work has been shown at many craft shows by Jack and wife **Ruth**, and who makes the keepsake ornaments we give each year at the Remembrance Service;
- (6) **Ralph Zeigler, Jr.**, who as a representative of the Intermediate Unit 17 takes part in teacher improvement through the National Writing Project, sited at Mansfield University;
- (7) **Matt, Alice, Kline, And Micah Alt** who were caught by a press photographer while out on a late-winter wishing-for-spring walk;
- (8) **Karen Boone**, who leads music therapy classes at the Hope Preschools in Jersey Shore and Williamsport that improve academic readiness by

the use of colors, language, and number through music;

(9) **Robert McCullough, Jr.**, chief probation officer in Lycoming County, who has encouraged the use of "Secure Continuous Remote Alcohol Monitoring" anklets as an effective part of the probation process;

(10) **Matt Hartsock**, who received a Certificate of Merit from the Harrisburg Patriot News Scholastic Writing Awards Program for his essay;

(11) **Kathy Kolb**, featured in the recent Technology section of the newspaper for her work in computers through her business *Kolb Net Works*, with encouragement from her husband **Lou**. Also mentioned was their volunteer prison ministry through the Yokefellow organization.

(12) **Stephanie Fortin and Vicki Haussmann** who were quoted in the winter insert in the *Lutheran* magazine for the Upper Susquehanna Synod in connection with our involvement in the *Child in Our Hands* process. Accompanying the story was a photo taken by **Bob Schultz** of the Prayer Pillows which we presented to children last fall.

If you notice other stories and/or photos that were not included in this list, please cut them out and get them to the church office. We have the complete display on one of the bulletin boards in the office hallway. Stop by and check out the impressive range of activities in which St. Mark's members participate.

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## COUNCIL UPDATE

*The Council met in regular session on Monday, March 21.*

### The Council:

- (1) received reports from officers and committees,
- (2) approved Brett and Lauren Campbell, Derek Gilbert, Sara Larson, Tali and Taigen Thorne, and Andrew and Peter Zeigler for Affirmation of Baptism – Confirmation on May 15, Pentecost festival.
- (3) continued the discussion of the various ideas raised through the congregation transformation project, seeing several of them nearing implementation.
- (4) set the date for the Annual Congregation Assembly. The schedule is:
  - a. Reports are due to the secretary from officers and committees by April 10.
  - b. Annual report booklets are produced and made available to the congregation on April 24 and May 1.
  - c. Annual Congregation Assembly follows the 10:30 service on May 8.
  - d. Installation of newly-elected Council members on May 15.
  - e. First meeting of the new Council year is June 6.
- (5) set the date of the next regular Council meeting as April 18.

## LADIES SPRING BANQUET

We will have your heart's desire at our next Women's Dinner on May 4th at 6:00 p.m. The entertainment will be by the "Heart's Desire Quartet", formerly of the "Sweet Adelines". This is a female barbershop quartet, based in Lewisburg, and is a member of the "Heart of Pennsylvania Chorus". The meal will again be catered by Crouse Catering. Adult meals will cost \$8.00, children 6 to 12 will be \$3.95, and no charge for children under 6. The deadline for reservations and payments is 4/27/05. Men to help serve and clean up are

### FROM THE PARISH REGISTER



- ö Abe Sipe's funeral was celebrated on March 18, 2005
- ö M. Josephine Malick's funeral was celebrated on March 21, 2005.
- ö Clifford H. Aderhold's funeral was celebrated on March 25, 2005.
- ö Christina Comini celebrated her first communion on March 26, 2005.
- ö Brittany Lin Toy was baptized on March 26, 2005.

# GOD'S WORD

**To St. Mark's Members & Friends:**

**Would you like to help fill our pews with bibles  
so that God's word is easily available? Here's how~**

By Purchasing one or all three of the different Bibles that will be available. These include the NSV Hardcover Bible, the Children's Adventure Bible, or the Children's Beginner Bible. You can purchase these bibles in honor of a loved one or in memory of a loved one who is now with the Lord in Heaven. This is also a great way to celebrate a family milestone such as a birthday, baptism, wedding anniversary or confirmation, or to thank God for many blessings and to help spread the message of Jesus Christ.

**Why bibles in every pew? We get the answer from God's word**

**Matthew 4:4 (NIV) "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"**

**Colossians 3:16 (NRSV) Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.**

**John 8:31-32(KJV) "If you continue in my word, then are you my disciples indeed; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."**

How do you place your order?

1. You can call the church and place your order with Sharon Comini or
2. You can call the Comini residence at 337-3226 and leave a message or
3. You can tear off the bottom of this page, fill it out and place it in the offering plate.

We'll call you to get your order. We ask for your prayers that God will watch over this project. Thank you and God Bless you.

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## BIBLE ORDER

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Show your pride in being a member of the St. Mark's family! Magnets for your car are now available for sale (\$5) in the Narthex after every Sunday service. See Matt Alt for more information.

Those who joined us for the Seder Meal on Wednesday, March 23, were treated to a delicious meal featuring a yummy chicken dish. Many requests for the recipe have been received and Russ Smith has graciously provided it as follows. ("Carol" is a friend of the Smith's daughter, Fran.)

### Carol's Chicken

Chicken Breasts (8 to 10 pieces-skinless)  
1 jar Dried Beef (chopped)  
1 cup Sour Cream  
2 cans Cream of Mushroom Soup  
2 cans water  
Bacon

Mix above together—put in pan—put chicken on top and add bacon slices, white pepper, garlic, salt, paprika, onion salt.

Bake 2 hours or more / lid tilted in 300 to 350 degree oven.

## SOCIAL MINISTRY NEWS

### Baby Shower Success

The Social Ministry Committee wishes to extend a heartfelt thank you to the congregation for their outstanding support of The Pregnancy Care Center. You donated more than four large boxes of baby items. Donations ranged from blankets to baby bottles and formula to layette items and handmade quilts. These items will enable the staff at The Pregnancy Care Center to serve clients faced with an unplanned pregnancy. In 2004 their records indicate that 104 babies have been given life through the ministry at The Pregnancy Care Center. Bless you and bless our own Elsie Sechler for offering the baby shower theme as a means for collecting items.

### Needed: Food

***Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.***  
***- Hebrews 13:16 (NRSV)***

During April and May the Social Ministry Committee will be collecting non-perishable food items to be given to the United Churches/Center City Food Pantry. The Food Pantry provides a three-day supply of food to people in need. During January and February they distributed food to 791 people with 218 of those individuals being children.

Please check out the display in the Narthex and pick up a shopping list. Return your items to the bins. Gail Burkhart, Food Pantry Coordinator states, "It's a blessing to be able to help people feel God's love for them in the items you provide for our pantry. Thanks for caring!"



### Women of Saint Mark's Clothing Sale

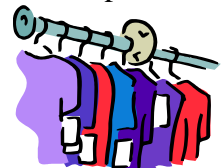
**Saturday, April 16**  
**9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

The Women of Saint Mark's need your family's no-longer-wanted clothing for our clothing sale. We are accepting good, clean clothing in all sizes from infants to adults. We also are accepting shoes, suits, coats, and clothing accessories.

Last year we were able to raise \$380.00 by selling a large volume of clothes at rock bottom prices. (Wal-Mart has nothing on us.) Our goal this year is to raise \$400.00. This will only be possible if each family commits to donating one or more bags of clothing. Your clothing donations may be placed in the Bazaar Room in the basement. We also are accepting monetary donations to offset our expenses that include advertising and snack bar items. Checks may be made payable to Saint Mark's.

This event qualifies for matching funds from Thrivent. Any clothing not sold the day of the sale will be sorted and distributed to the Kids Clothes Closet, St. Anthony's Center, Lutheran World Relief, and the American Rescue Workers. Please take a few minutes and help us reach out to those in need locally and globally.

Volunteers are always needed. If you wish to assist with this event or have questions, please contact Becky Miller Pryor at 321-9523.



## Child In Our Hands/Passing On the Faith Milestones For the Month of May



Our next milestone will be taking place on Sunday May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005. St. Mark's Lutheran Church will be celebrating those folks in our congregation that have been married for 59 years + with a **Wedding Anniversary Milestone**. A sit down lunch will be served with some of the youth of St. Mark's helping. Please look for more information about this milestone in the May newsletter and future bulletins!

On Sunday May 15<sup>th</sup> 2005, Pentecost, **eight youth from our congregation will be confirmed** at the 10:30 a.m. service. This is such an important time in our youth, as well as our church's, faith journey! Please look for more information about this upcoming milestone in the May newsletter and future bulletins.

## Experiencing the Passion

"Experiencing the Passion" for high school students concluded on Palm Sunday. The students were able to relate the Passion to their own life in many ways. Seeing parts of the movie, "The Passion" added much to their understanding and various parts of the movie had impacted them differently.

Some thought that the most powerful part was the resurrection. Others felt that the scenes on the cross meant the most to them. The students evaluated the class and had some very positive things to say about it. They know that Jesus defeated death so we will not have to suffer. One student said that they are able to relate the Passion to their life in this way, "If we love each other then the world would be a better place." Isn't that what the Passion was all about? God's great love for us is so intense that he sent his only son to die for us.

All of the students understand what it means to take up the cross and follow Jesus, and each of the students in the class said they are willing to do that because of what Christ did for us. Overall "Experiencing the Passion" was awesome, and we look forward to more inspiring Sunday School classes for the youth of St. Mark's.



## YOUTH & FAMILY NEWS

*Faith Life Weekly*, a take-home resource, is available in the Narthex every Sunday. This resource offers an at-home plan for nurturing faith and faith practices based on Sunday's worship service. Also, *Kid's Celebrate* is available for youth to use during the worship service or to take home to add to family devotional time throughout the week. Stop and pick up a copy!



Children's Church will be held on Sunday April 10th, 2005 at 10:30 a.m. in the Chapel.

**FOR CONFIRMANDS:** The student, mentor, parent meeting will be on Sunday April 10th beginning at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Are you looking to get **WILD** about God? Get our your safari gear ready and join us for an awesome trip through the Serengeti to catch a glimpse of the journey that God has in store for you! **St Mark's Vacation Bible School will be the week of June 19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>.** Anyone interested in helping or volunteering for VBS may call the church office at 323-4619 or sign up on the sheets located in the office hallway.

### Bowling anyone?

Our Bowling Party from March was postponed to this month! Please call the church office at 323-4619 if you are interested in attending a bowling party with your friends from St. Mark's, ages ranging from Kindergarten up through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. The event will be held at ABC Bowling Lanes in Williamsport (located on Park Avenue near Raytown). The new date is April 16<sup>th</sup>, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. We look forward to hearing from you!



## JOIN US!

A class for adults on Ephesians will begin April 3<sup>rd</sup>, during the Sunday Church School hour, at 9:15 a.m. The class will be held in Fellowship Hall and will be taught by Eric Comini. Come and hear God's word!

## New Friends

Council member Matt Fortin was given the task of finding outreach programs for our youth to participate in. One of the programs Matt tapped into was the **Geisinger Children's Hospital**. On Tuesday March 22<sup>nd</sup>, roughly eight youth and adults from St. Mark's Lutheran Church served dinner and met with terminally ill children, adolescents and their parents at Geisinger Children's Hospital. The group left the church around 4:30 p.m. and returned around 8:30 p.m. From just one visit, several friendships have been formed and lives have been touched. **Future confirmand Derek Gilbert** struck up a conversation about bikes with a sixteen year old. This young man has a rare blood disorder and resides at the hospital. Other people spoke with parents of those afflicted children and youth and are supporting the persons through prayer and other ways.

Because of the success of this visit, we will be making the trip once a month. Only ten people are allowed to go on the trip, so signing up is a necessity! The day changes each month. Requirements to attend the hospital and to help serve the children, youth and parents are as follows: **you must feel healthy that day and show no signs of sickness, you must be 12 years of age or older, you may not have been exposed to chicken pox, some attendees may be required to follow hospital infection control policies.** If you are interested in this incredible opportunity to show God's love through your actions, **please contact the church office and ask to speak with either Sharon Comini or Alice Alt, 323-4619.** Look for more information regarding the date in future bulletins.

## SEX AND THE CHURCH SEMINAR ON APRIL 23, 2005

### The Program:

**“Sex and the Church: Crucial Issues Facing the Church”**, a one day seminar for clergy and laity of all denominations, will be held at the First Presbyterian Church, 47 Walnut Street, Milton, PA on Saturday, April 23, 2005.

The presenter is **Dr. Robert A. J. Gagnon, Associate Professor of New Testament at the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.**

### Sponsors:

The seminar is sponsored jointly by the Evangelical Lutheran Confessing Fellowship of Central Pennsylvania, and the Confessing Evangelical Network of the Northumberland Presbytery, two independent groups that are concerned with a movement in their respective church bodies to bless same-sex marriages and to permit the ordination of non-celebrate homosexual clergy living in “committed relationships”.

The two groups have no formal connection with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Presbyterian Church (USA), or their regional entities.

### Schedule:

Scheduled to begin at 9:00 a.m. and conclude at 3:00 p.m., the seminar will include three sessions:

**“Jesus’ View of Sexual Ethics,”**

**“The Bible’s View of Homosexual Practice”**

**“A Critique of Attempts to Get Around the Biblical Witness.”**

### Introducing the Speaker:

Dr. Robert A. J. Gagnon is an Associate Professor at the Pittsburgh Seminary. A graduate of Dartmouth College and the Harvard Divinity School, he holds a doctorate degree from Princeton Theological Seminary and has written and published widely in the field of sexual issues in the Bible.

Dr. Gagnon is the author of “The Bible and Homosexual Practice: Texts and Hermeneutics” (Abington, 2001) and co-author with Dan Via of “Homosexuality and The Bible: Two views” (Fortress Press, 2003), as well as numerous scholarly articles and essays. A frequent guest speaker throughout the mainline denominations, he is an ordained elder of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

### To Register:

Registration fee for the April 23 Seminar is \$25 per person (\$20 before April 15). Luncheon and nutritional breaks are included in the registration fee. Checks should be made payable to **ELCF, and mailed with name, address, and phone number to Evangelical Lutheran Confessing Fellowship, P. O. Box 103, Montoursville, PA 17754-0103.**



## CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY NEWS

### NEW NAME... CONTINUING RESULTS

A new name has been chosen for a good thing that continues: "Child in Our Hands" will gradually become known as "Passing on the Faith". Among the reasons for the change is the realization that the Milestones which we have been developing and celebrating are not all aimed at youth; some are for those of increasing years. A prime example is the Wedding Anniversary Milestone that we will be celebrating on May 1.

To help stir interest and involvement in the process, we are pleased to announce that one of the key leaders from last fall's training sessions will be returning to the area in May. Dr. David Anderson from the Youth and Family Institute will be available in several area congregations:

We'll be hosting Dr. Anderson at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Williamsport, on Friday, May 13, 2005 - Daytime (9am - 2pm)

The topic of the day: *Stuff that Works* This session is especially good for churches such as ours who have an idea *what Child in Our Hands* is and may be trying some steps. Churches that are trying Milestone Ministry will be bringing examples of their efforts including Faith Chests, Prayer pillows, Prayer Shawls, liturgy for blessing of the car keys, etc.) Members of the congregation are urged to consider coming to hear a dynamic speaker, reflect on the things that we have begun at St. Mark's, and think together about what the next steps might be for us. Parents, grandparents, teachers, friends, Council members, and everyone else will benefit for the event.

Dr. Anderson will also be available in several other locales during that weekend. Rn Friday, May 13, 2005 - Evening (6pm - 9pm) Dr. Anderson will be at First Evangelical Lutheran Church,

Fourth and Main Sts, Watsontown to discuss the topic: *Stuff that Works*. This will be similar to what he covers during the day here at St. Mark's, so if you have work responsibilities during the day and cannot get to our session, by all means get to the evening session in Watsontown. First Lutheran Church is having a spaghetti dinner prior to the event 4pm to 6pm, so you have a great place to eat prior to the seminar!

### A Parents' Roundtable planned

"We just need an opportunity to talk together, " a number of parents have been saying recently. "It is so challenging to be good parents these days, and we need the encouragement and support of our Christian brothers and sisters." Having heard this, Council member Kathy Dancho is inviting as many parents as are available to meet together at 5:45 on Sunday afternoon, April 17, in Fellowship Hall.

We'll begin with supper, and move right into conversation. Those present will decide the direction and scope of the group, and keep the congregation informed and invited to join in. So that enough food will be prepared, please leave a message on the office telephone answering machine at 323-4619 by Friday, April 15.

# SPECIAL DATES



4/2	Jon Huff	4/16	Mary Alice Hartsock
	Bernadette Jones	4/17	David Hughes
	Mary Helen Scinicarello		Paiton Patrick
4/5	Eric Comini	4/18	Beverly Best
	Tina Harvey		Christina Comini
4/6	Linda Rosini	4/19	Cynthia Hartzel
4/7	Carol Butters	4/20	Jeffrey Byerly
	John Goertz		Doris Griggs
	Carol Stackhouse		Karen Pelleschi
4/8	Zachary Travis		Carl Reidy Jr.
4/9	Elda Zeigler	4/21	Catherine Kneeder
4/10	Taylor Wentzel	4/23	Benjamin Haussmann
	Sadie Wentzel		Marc Fish
4/11	Robert Clouser	4/26	Karen Burd
4/12	Nathan Hafer		Leah Oberheim
4/13	Geoffrey MacGill	4/27	Lisa Welker
	Michael Ochs	4/29	Ruth Ditchfield
4/14	Ezra Buckman	4/30	Dorothy Bingaman
	Veronica Doane		
	Johnny Hinds		
4/15	Steven Bieber		
	Jamie Larson		

## *Anniversary*

Matthew & Wanda Fortin	4/3
Louis & Kathy Kolb	4/8
Joe & Annette Peluso	4/16
Frank & Danielle Bardo	4/20
Theodore & Jane Larson	4/21
Carl & Audrey Albright	4/23
Randy & Jeannette Lukens	4/23

## JUST A REMINDER!!!!

LUNCH 'N FELLOWSHIP RESUMES ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20th at 12:00 Noon. Watch your Sunday bulletin for an announcement of the main course selection. Bring a friend - we will see you then!



# SPECIAL THANK YOU'S

St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Pastor Elkin, Alice Alt, Sharon Comini & any other persons involved in making this bag.

## M

See this smile on my face?  
You put it there!

*Thank you for the  
Languages Faith Bag!  
Love, Jarrett Eyer*

A warm and heartfelt thank you goes out to all of those members of our congregation who so kindly donated candy towards our Breakfast with Pastor and Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday March 26<sup>th</sup>! The morning was a huge success with over 25 adults and children in attendance. Your commitment to events like these is appreciated and needed. Again, thank you and God's blessings to all of those who helped with the function!



Dear Friends,  
Just a word of thanks for the soup and bread brought to us by Ruth Rees. It was delicious.



And, also thanks for all the cards, phone calls, and visits to Randy. It is good old St. Mark's at its best.

Again our sincere thanks,  
*Lillian Miller*

Dear Members of St. Mark's:

We wish to express our sincere appreciation for your tab donation to the Ronald McDonald House of Danville.

Thanks to generous people like your, our tab program continues to be a huge success!

Sincerely,  
The Ronald McDonald House

FROM THE PLAYERS:

Dear St. Mark's, Coach Rick and Coach Alice -

Thank you very much for our pizza party and trophies, we both want to play next year for St. Mark's!

~ Devin & Dawson Owen



... AND FROM THE COACH:

I want to thank all the players involved in this years John Bower Basketball League for all their hard work and dedication.

Also a very special thank you to Alice Alt, Jeff Hershey, and Kirk Owen for all their help and support during the season. It was greatly appreciated.

Thank you all for a great season !!!!!

~ Coach Rick Robertson

## SPECIAL CONCERNS LIST

Patricia Alexander  
1745 Chestnut St.  
Williamsport, PA 17701

Ruth Best  
Sycamore Manor  
1445 Sycamore Rd., Rm 213  
Montoursville, PA 17754

Nancy Bohartz  
624 Sixth Ave.  
Williamsport, PA 17701

June Decker  
338 Sherwood Ave.  
South Williamsport, PA 17702

Larue Dieter  
2150 Warrensville Road Apt. 2  
Montoursville, PA 17754

Jane & Luther Doebler  
Wmspt. Home, Apt. #115A  
Williamsport, PA 17701

Harriet Fornwalt  
729 Wilson Street  
Williamsport, PA 17701

Doris Fortin  
Rose View Court  
1251 Rural Ave., Apt. 308  
Williamsport, PA 17701

Earl Foulkrod  
Sycamore Manor  
1445 Sycamore Rd., Rm 412  
Montoursville, PA 17754

Anna Harris  
2018 Wheatland Ave.  
Williamsport, PA 17701

Charles Homan  
2215 Warrensville Rd.  
Montoursville, PA 17754

Charlotte Hughes  
140 Blueberry Lane  
Williamsport, PA 17701

Lucille Markel  
Rose View Court  
1251 Rural Ave., Apt. 307  
Williamsport, PA 17701

Geraldine Martin  
1900 Ravine Rd. Rm. 109  
Williamsport, PA 17701

Anne Miller  
947 Hepburn St.  
Williamsport, PA 17701

Randy Miller  
2420 North Hills Dr.  
Williamsport, PA 17701

Frank Pile  
Manor Care S., Rm. 52  
Williamsport, PA 17701

Marion Rubendahl  
1900 Ravine Road Bldg. C  
Williamsport Home Apt. 1010  
Williamsport, PA 17701

Dorothy Rivetti  
450 Center Street Apt. 505  
Williamsport, PA 17701

Jeanne Schneider  
2671 Haas Lane  
Montoursville, PA 17754

Mary Helen Scinicarello  
Danville St. Hospital  
Ward #311  
Danville, PA 17821

James Sechler  
Manor Care N. Rm. 202  
Williamsport, PA 17701

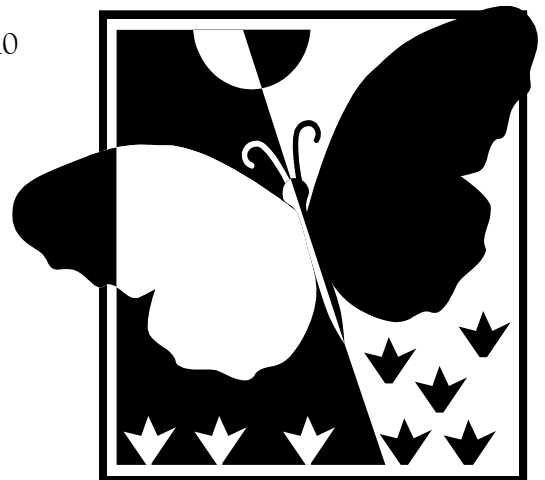
Geraldine Shipman  
1900 Ravine Rd.  
Apt. #222A  
Williamsport, PA 17701

Fred Stover  
600 Bayard St. Ext. SW  
S. Williamsport, PA 17702

Kester & Eleanor Sobers  
425 W Highland Ave.  
S. Williamsport, P A 17702

Ira Tuxford  
1838 Blanchard Ave.  
Williamsport, PA 17701

Ralph Zeigler Sr.  
Rose View Court  
1251 Rural Ave., Apt. 209  
Williamsport, PA 17701



# HEALTH, HEALING AND WHOLENESS

Not long ago, the New York Times ran an article about the on-going debate in the medical world between two symbols: the staff of the mythological Greek healer, Asclepius (the Asklepiian staff with one snake – reminiscent of Moses in the wilderness, holding up the serpent upon his staff in Numbers 21:9 ), and the symbol for the Greek god of commerce, Hermes(the caduceus, with two intertwined snakes). Healing vs commerce – perhaps also symbolic of the conflicting forces in which our medical world finds itself torn. Perhaps the shepherd’s staff might be more applicable.

This month I would like to address the differences between Healing and Curing. In our current health care environment, God has richly blessed us with science and technology to treat many of our illnesses. But when we develop a chronic illness, we can become tempted to ask: “Would God heal me if my faith were stronger?” and “Is this a punishment for my sins?” It’s at those times when it is important that we turn to the God of our faith – and grasp onto what we know about the nature of God, His faithfulness and great love for us, His ability to work through us when our faith weakens, and His capacity to magnify blessings, even during times of struggle and difficulty (2Corint. 12).

Healing and curing are different, however we usually want and pray for, both at the same time. Here is a brief description of what the differences can be:

<u>Aspect</u>	<u>Curing</u>	<u>Healing</u>
<b>Emphasis</b>	Physical	Always, the whole person
<b>Focus of diagnosis &amp; treatment</b>	The disease	The person; process affirms dignity and value; compassion
<b>Goal</b>	Symptom reduction, disease elimination	Restoration in life with God, increased awareness of God’s presence; sense of peacefulness
<b>Ultimate outcome</b>	Disability and death can be delayed for a time.	Full and eternal restoration is possible now and forever

I have come to know some wonderful people who were afflicted by chronic disease, yet were healed, and I have come to know many medical professionals who have cured, and are also great healers! We give our thanksgivings to God for those who can combine both.

The key for us mere mortals is in allowing God, through the Holy Spirit, to form us into the kind of people He desires we should be – even in the midst of sickness. It is also in modeling God’s mercy and compassion to those who are struggling around us.

So, what are your symbols of healing? Perhaps they should be the water of baptism, the Eucharistic Feast, and finally the cross. For it is there that Christ made the sacrifice, through which *we* have come to know the God of our salvation – our ultimate source of healing.

***Easter Blessings and the healing of Christ be with you all!***  
 Debbie Best  
 Congregational Health Ministries and Family Life Services  
 Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
142 MARKET ST.  
WILLIAMSPORT, PA



PHONE: 570-323-4619  
FAX: 570-323-2452

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