



The *Lion* of St. Mark's

DECEMBER 2005

The Best Gifts

Inside this issue:

Council Update, Register, Milestones	2
Soc. Ministry News	3
Youth & Family Ministry	4, 5
Christian Comm. News	6
Special Dates	7
Special Concerns List	8
Announcements, Thanks	9
Health, Healing	10
Recipes	11
Camp Mount Luther	12
West Branch Newsletter	13
Christian Comm. News	14
December Calendar	15

In this season when we are all rushing around trying to do just one more thing, and wonder just how much all of this will cost this year, consider that some of the best presents may cost time, thought, and energy, but very little cash.

Here are a few examples:

✦ **Take** a plate of cookies over to a neighbor whom you have never gotten around to meeting. Who knows what new friendships might result,

what toehold for the Gospel might be discovered, what community might be stirred!

- ✦ **Look up** the address or telephone number of that friend with whom you lost track years ago. Send or call a seasonal greeting. There were reasons you were friends once, perhaps the relationship can be re-established on an even stronger footing now.
- ✦ **Check** over the list of persons printed in this newsletter and choose one or more to whom you might **send a card**, or if you can give the time, arrange a visit.
- ✦ Especially **remember someone** who has suffered a particular loss in this past year, for whom the Advent/Christmas season will be especially difficult. A note, a card, a telephone call might be just the thing needed.

✦ If you are the one who has suffered the loss, it will be tempting to shut yourself away from persons and activities. Resist it as much as you can. **Allow others into your life**; they are trying to figure out how to be helpful to you!

✦ If you sense that someone you know has been away from church for awhile, **encourage** him or her to discover that Advent is a great time to begin again to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ together with the rest of us here in St. Mark's.

✦ Mark your calendar to **reserve the afternoon** of December 18 for a series of activities. We'll be erecting and decorating the large Christmas tree in the nave after we share in a sandwich lunch. Then we can join those who are gathering for the annual Remembrance Service in the Nave at 4:00 P.M., to console and encourage those who have suffered losses.

✦ Set aside some time to **travel with us** to the Selinsgrove Center to provide a Christmas party for some of the residents there. Such joy we can share with a modest effort! We leave from the church at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, December 6, and return home by 9:00 PM.

I'm sure you get the idea that the **best gift is yourself!**

COUNCIL UPDATE

The Congregation Council met in regular session on Monday, November 21, following a delicious dinner hosted by the President and spouse, Bud and Joyce Hershberger, at the Women's Club building. The Council:

- received the regular reports of officers and committees.
 - heard the positive report from the preliminary results of Consecration Sunday.
 - noted the continuing discussion about Holy Communion.
 - reviewed the extensive list of activities under the leadership of our Youth and Family Ministry coordinators.
 - took note that the Finance Committee has set aside \$600 in Welker benevolence funds toward the Liberia container shipment costs of \$8,000.
 - realized that two of our computers had to be permanently retired and replaced.
 - rejoiced that Bernadette Jones, having completed the probationary period, has been raised to the job rate of pay.
 - approved a budget for 2006 in the amount of \$331,906
 - moved to call a Special Congregation Assembly for December 11 following the 10:30 service for the purpose of considering the 2006 budget presented by the Council.
- As always, the full agenda and reports are posted on the office hallway bulletin board.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL ASSEMBLY: December 11th at 11:30 AM

MILESTONES OBSERVED

Blankets of Care:

October 30th: **Abbigail Robertson**, November 6th: **Gabriel Nichols**

Baptisms:

November 6th: **Abbigail Robertson** and **Gabriel Nichols**

First Communion:

November 20th: **Jarrett Eyer** and **Theron Hershey**

Entering *The Way*:

November 20th: **Steven Eyer, Bonnie Eyer, Declan Jones, Robert Jones, Bernadette Jones, Nancy Larson, Melvin Wentzel and Melinda Wentzel**

UPCOMING MILESTONES

Bibles for Primary Grade Students (Dec. 11th);
Faith Chests and Prayers for Young Drivers (January)

FROM THE PARISH REGISTER



- ❖ The funeral service for John C. Rees was celebrated on November 1.
- ❖ The committal service for H. Raymond Kinney was celebrated on November 15.
- ❖ Cheryl Loner and David Williams were united in marriage on November 19.
- ❖ The funeral service for Curtis Hill was celebrated on November 23.

SOCIAL MINISTRY NEWS

Calling St. Mark's Elves and Christmas Treat Makers

Our annual Christmas visit to the **Selinsgrove Center is Tuesday, December 6, 2005 at 7:00 PM.** Please consider joining us as we entertain and visit with the 17 residents of the Terrace Living Area. We will meet in the church parking lot at 5:30 p.m. and car pool to the Center. Year after year it has been a positive experience for all involved.

The Social Ministry Committee **needs your help** in preparing for this visit. We need:

- ✦ **cookies and candy of all sorts**
- ✦ **red and green tissue paper**
- ✦ **gift bags (2 for \$1.00 size)**
- ✦ **monetary donations** to offset our expenses.



The staff at Selinsgrove Center requests that **no hard candy or gum** be given for safety reasons. This year we will gift the men with a bottle of cologne and a baseball cap donated by Little League Baseball. The cologne has already been purchased from local Dollar Stores.

We especially need diabetic/sugar free cookies and candy for three men with diabetes.

Donations of needed items may be placed in the box in the Narthex. All donations must be received by Sunday, December 4, 2005. Please accept our thanks for your assistance with this outreach. Speak with Becky Miller Pryor or Gary Weber to volunteer to entertain that evening or for additional information.

Let's Stuff the Christmas Baskets for American Rescue Workers



This year St. Mark's is collecting boxed **stuffing mix** for the American Rescue Workers to assist in filling more than 300 Christmas baskets they prepare for needy people in our community. The American Rescue Workers provide a Christmas basket filled with enough food to stretch leftovers for three or more days. As you are doing your own holiday shopping please pick up an extra box or two of stuffing mix to add to the barrels in the Narthex.

Needlework Guild America News

St John's United Methodist Church in Newberry was the site of the recent In-Gathering of clothing items for NGA's Newberry Branch. Coats, clothing, shoe vouchers, and hygiene items were on display for more than 400 individually named people. Young children are the primary recipients of these items.

On behalf of NGA, Debra Buckman and Becky Miller Pryor wish to thank the congregation and the Women of St. Mark's for their clothing and monetary donations. Without your assistance, we could not continue in the work our grandmothers and mothers began believing "New Clothes for New Tomorrows" was possible.

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

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, December 11, 2004 at 10:30 a.m. in the Chapel.

A NEW DIGITAL CAMERA was purchased with monies donated by members of the congregation. A very special thank you goes out to those who helped make this possible.

ATTENTION ALL SAINT MARK'S BASKET BALL FANS!!!!

Our teams are now practicing at Trinity Episcopal Church, every Tuesday night from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Look for game dates in the weekly bulletin and come out to support our teams!

FAMILY ADVENT CALENDARS are available in the narthex. There is a hidden picture calendar to use with younger children and another calendar with activities for the entire family. Please feel free to take one of each. May Advent be a special time for you and your family.

A huge thank you and many good wishes go out to all who packed a shoebox for Operation Christmas Child this year. Forty-one shoeboxes were delivered to the drop-off point. From there they will be sent to needy children around the world to enjoy at Christmas this year!

Acolytes

Christina Comini, Paige Fortin, Sara Jones and Hannah Ramsauer completed their training to become acolytes and will be added to schedule beginning in January. Thanks go out to them and all of our acolytes who serve so faithfully throughout the year.

THE TREES COME ALIVE THIS ADVENT SEASON;

alive with Teddy Bears, mittens, gloves, hats! Two trees will be ready to decorate with these items by Sunday, November 27. Please stop in Fellowship Hall and add your gift to the trees. The Teddy Bears will be given to the Williamsport Police and the mittens, gloves, and hats will be given to The Kids-Clothes Closet.

Lutherfest

A good time was had by all at the Lutherfest. 38 members attended. Everyone won a prize for anything from the Best Old Testament Costume, to the Quickest Puzzle Putter-Togetherers; and we all learned a few things with the Lutherfest Trivia Game (prizes were awarded in this for getting anywhere from all to a single question correct)!

Nobody left hungry, after chowing down on sauerkraut, bratwurst, mashed potatoes, hotdogs and a scrumptious selection of covered dishes. Each child collected a bag of treats (notepads, bookmarks, pencils, noisemakers and airplanes, as well as candy) during Trunk-or-Treating. They each also got an opportunity to get thoroughly messy while cleaning out the insides of the Prayer Pumpkins.

General consensus was that all who attended would like to see Lutherfest happen again. Check out the bulletin board in the staff hallway to find yourself in the photos—or find out what you missed!

NURSERY ATTENDANTS ARE NEEDED!

Volunteers for the nursery are needed for all of December. A schedule is being started for 2006. Any help is appreciated! Please call Bernadette or e-mail her at youthandministry@chilitech.net. The nursery is a vital part of our church and most of the work is defaulting on to a few shoulders. Please consider volunteering your



HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES



Kids' Morning

Out: From 9:00 a.m. until noon on Saturday, December 10, we will have cookie-baking and craft-making for children. Parents may attend with their children, but the object is to give Mom and

Dad some time to get ready for the holidays. Cookies will be used for our shut-ins; crafts will be geared as gifts for the children's families. If you'd like to help out with the activities, please let us know.

Cookie Baking: Following Kids' Morning Out, we will bake cookies. This promises to be a time of fun and fellowship for the "kids-at-heart" of our congregation. We will begin at around noon and end after a cup of tea (or coffee) and some conversation.



Caroling: We hope to have enough participants to have a period of caroling at 2:00 PM, on Sunday, December 11. The carolers would deliver the cookies made the previous day, as they sing for the special need members of our church family. Please come along and help us "make a joyful noise" as bring some of the holiday joy to our friends.



SIGN-UP SHEETS FOR ALL THESE ACTIVITIES CAN BE FOUND IN THE NARTHEX OR THE STAFF HALLWAY. PLEASE JOIN US FOR ANY OR ALL OF THESE FESTIVITIES DURING THIS SPECIAL TIME OF THE YEAR.

As the end of the year approaches, we would like to thank all of you who have supported the Youth and Family Ministry in one way or another. This ministry cannot happen without involvement from the congregation. During the time of transition, your encouragement and prayers, as well as physical assistance, were highly valued. We are truly blessed at St. Mark's!

We wish all of you a joyful and blessed Christmas!
Sharon and Bernadette



CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY NOTES

“Davey and Goliath's Snowboard

Christmas” will be broadcast on the Hallmark Channel on Sunday, December 18, at 7:00 AM. More info is online at www.daveyandgoliath.org/snowboard.

“Joy to the World,” a one-hour ABC television special produced by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), is scheduled to air on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day 2005. This holiday worship service includes a joyful mix of music and praise from ELCA African American, Asian, American Indian, Arab and Middle Eastern, and Latino congregations. The rich and diverse cultural blend begins with a Santa Lucia celebration in the Swedish Lutheran tradition. While many ABC stations are airing "Joy to the World" on Christmas Eve at 11:30 PM, check local listings for the exact airtime in your area.

This program is produced by the ELCA for the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. and the Interfaith Broadcasting Commission.

Featured congregations include:

- ✦ Ebenezer Lutheran Church, Chicago
- ✦ Salam Arabic Lutheran Church, Brooklyn
- ✦ Thai Lutheran Community Church, Forest Park, Illinois
- ✦ St. James Lutheran Church, East Cleveland and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Cleveland
- ✦ San Marcos Lutheran Church, Guaynabo, PR
- ✦ Eben Ezer Lutheran Church, Oaks, Oklahoma

At www.elca.org/joytotheworld you will find a listing of the local ABC affiliates that will carry the broadcast, bulletin insert, downloadable flyers (ad slicks) in black and white and color and color photos from the production. Keep checking this site for new

materials and for the updated listing of stations which have agreed to carry this program.

Synod Requests Funds for Hurricane Relief

The Upper Susquehanna Synod is going to send store gift cards to both Southeastern Synod and the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod for them to share with those in need. You can take part in this by sending a check made out to the Upper Susquehanna Synod for any amount, and we will purchase the cards. Do an offering with your Sunday School class, congregation, lemonade stand, or however. This is also a great opportunity for the end-of-the-year extra benevolence you may have.

The best part is that PA region of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will match whatever is offered through this appeal 1 for 2 that is, we raise \$6,000, they will give an additional \$3,000. They are willing to match up to \$3,000, so if we can raise at least \$6,000 through this effort we will maximize dollars we can share with our sisters and brothers affected by these storms.

The only catch is we need to do this SOON! Send your checks, made out to the synod, by December 20, 2005 (earlier if possible). Please note this special offering is for gift cards, so we can keep track of that along with your other benevolent contributions. Responding by then allows us to get these gift cards to the Gulf Coast by the end of the year, and to finish this appeal through Thrivent before the end of the year. Please don't wait to send your gift. Send it

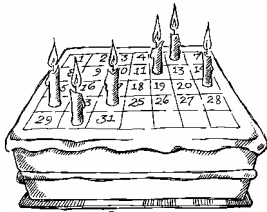


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SPECIAL DATES



**Birthdays
This Month**

12/1	Phyllis Holmes Sara Jones	12/18	Michael Jensen William Waldeisen
12/2	Earl Foulkrod Joanne Lamade	12/19	Ryan Clokey Kurtis Caster
12/3	Beth Fillnow Edgar Miller Jr. Robert Miller		Martha Hopler Gladys Knauss Elizabeth Metzger
12/4	David Elkin		Fred Thayer
12/6	David Gilbert Lawrence Lundy	12/21	Zachery Zimmerman Donald Armstrong
	Madalyn Fortin	12/22	Matthew Hartsock Jacquelyn Miller
12/8	Catherine Goertz		Edith Anderson
12/10	Fred Dieffenbach	12/23	Judith Fortin
12/11	Calvin Bennett Scott Bittner Orion Snyder	12/24	Patti Drake Holly Thorne
12/12	Ernest Larson	12/26	William Hill Hannah Ramsauer
12/13	Jeannette Aderhold		Helen Schramm
12/15	Richard Hafer Jr. James Sheaffer	12/28	Amalie Robertson
	Lyndsi Stugart	12/30	Cynthia Huff
12/16	Betty Kaufman Lucille Weaver	12/31	
12/17	Marlene Vollmer Derek Gilbert Haley Miller		



**Happy
New Year
from Our
Staff!**

Celebrating 
An Anniversary This Month

12/6	Kester & Eleanor Sobers
12/20	Robert & Aletha Swartz
12/21	Thomas & Becky Miller Pryor
12/27	Dan & Mary Lou Hartsock
12/31	Cecil & Kathryn Calvert

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

Jean Gulliver
3039 Elimsport Road
Montgomery, PA 17752

Charles Homan
2215 Warrensville Rd.
Montoursville, PA 17754

Charlotte Hughes
140 Blueberry Lane
Williamsport, PA 17701

Lucille Markel
Rose View Center, Room 213 A
1251 Rural Ave.
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

Jane Oakes
833 Funston Avenue
Williamsport, PA 17701

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

Anne Rhodes
c/o Carole Finn
20308 Cabana Drive
Germantown, MD 20876

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

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

James Sheaffer
Rose View Court Rm. 321
1251 Rural Ave.
Williamsport, PA 17701

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

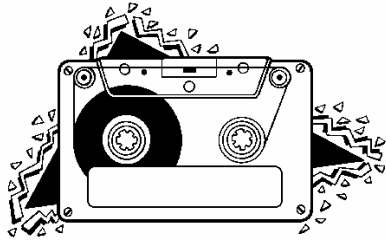
Fred Stover
600 Bayard St. Ext. SW
S. Williamsport, PA 17702

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

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS & THANK YOU'S



FROM THE TAPE MINISTRY

If you or a friend would like a **tape of the Christmas Eve service**, please call Shirley or Frank Vognet at 323-0335 or the church office. As a reminder, tapes of the Sunday services can be picked up from Frank Vognet's mailbox after each Sunday service.

Thanks to:

- ◆ All the volunteers who deliver tapes to the sick and shut-ins
- ◆ Jim Buckman who erases the returned tapes
- ◆ Jack Burkholder for all the duplicating

It could not be accomplished without you!

~ Frank Vognet, Recorder

FROM THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Your new offering envelopes will be available for pickup after services on December 4th. **Deadline for all 2005 contributions is December 28th.**



Lunch 'N' Fellowship will meet on Wednesday, December 14th at 12:00 noon for our annual Christmas feast. Please join us!



TO OUR WONDERFUL ST. MARK'S FAMILY:

We want to express our thanks for all the prayers and expressions of sympathy from so many of you after the death of our son, Curt. It is comforting to have your love and concern. You have helped us so very much in accepting our situation by being there for us.

~ *Bill and Shirley Hill*

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

to Ruth Rees for making the All Saints banner for the service on November 6th.

THANK YOU ST. MARK'S!

We can always count on our wonderful St. Mark's family. You have come through again and again. We asked you to fill school kits and donate materials for making quilts. You did not disappoint us. We asked you to bring in unwanted articles for us to sell at our rummage sale on October 22nd. Again, you cleaned out closets and did it.

We are happy to report that we were able to send 97 School Kits and 65 quilts to Lutheran World Relief, as well as other items and \$473.00 in cash for blankets.

Our Bazaar/Rummage Sale resulted in a net profit of \$834.74, and we are applying to Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for matching funds. This money will be donated to local charities in addition to purchasing needed items for our own church.

We continue to have an ongoing need for materials for quilt fillers and backings. Please keep them coming. Also needed are people to help with quilt-making, either on Wednesday mornings or at home. Any amount of time would be appreciated.

Our heartfelt thanks to all of you.

~ *Women of St. Mark's*

HEALTH, HEALING AND WHOLENESS

As I write this article, heading for the far side of forty, I am reminded of a Japanese concept that I learned several years ago; Wabi-Sabi. Wabi-Sabi is a way of life, which sees beauty in things, which are imperfect, humble, modest, perhaps unconventional. What a grace-filled term! Ask me what I would like for Christmas, and it would be Wabi-Sabi – gaining maximum pleasure from minimum objects. It would mean that I shift focus from the razzle-dazzle of a commercial Christmas, and center on the modest, humble beginnings of the Christ; the Messiah born in the unconventional setting of a Galilean stable.



I once read a story of a group of kids putting together a Christmas play. To show the radiance of the newborn Jesus, a light bulb was hidden in the manger. All the room lights were to be turned off, so only the brightness of the manger would fill the set. But the young man controlling the lights got flustered and confused, and **all** the lights went out. It was a tense moment for the director, broken only when one of the “sheep” in a loud stage whisper, said, “**Hey! You switched off Jesus!**”

So how *do* we capture the essence of simplicity so we don't “switch off” Jesus? For starters, how we as adults in a child's life, parents, grandparents, neighbors, aunts and uncles, celebrate the season has enormous impact on a child's view of Christmas. Here are some concrete suggestions that might help keep the light on Christ:

- ✦ Bring the child to church, so that he/she comes to understand the concept of Advent. Remember that faith is caught, not taught.
- ✦ Prepare for Jesus birth with advent candles or an advent calendar. There are many great Advent books with family meditations – ask your pastor to recommend one to you.
- ✦ Give gifts to others – have you ever noticed how excited a child gets when they have the opportunity to *give* a gift to someone? Take this one step further after Christmas by asking, “What did you *give* for Christmas?” rather than, “What did you get for Christmas?”
- ✦ For children and adults alike, check out alternative opportunities for giving, such as SERRV International Heifer International, which allows you to purchase a live animal that will then be given to a family in need from somewhere around the world. Or how about your local food bank, Habitat for Humanity; or this year, your church disaster-relief fund?
- ✦ If you enjoy nativity sets, buy one which the children can *play with* – talk about Mary, Joseph, Jesus, and the shepherds.
- ✦ Read and share stories. Kids of *all* ages enjoy having someone read to them (Even those on ‘the far side of forty!'). If you haven't already, make reading the Christmas story from the Gospel of Luke a family tradition – before exchanging gifts.
- ✦ Develop unique family traditions. I read of a family who sleeps under the Christmas tree once each season. The author stated, “It's a warm time to be together, talk and snuggle!”
- ✦ Share your holiday with someone who does not have family – a friend, neighbor, co-worker.
- ✦ Take a meal to someone who is homebound – better yet, stay and eat it *with* them!
- ✦ Offer respite for someone who is a caregiver – so he/she can shop, worship, get a haircut.
- ✦ Here's hoping that you and your loved ones enjoy a Wabi-Sabi Advent and Christmas! So... “*Ring the bells that still ring; Forget your perfect offering; There's a crack in everything; That's how the light gets in!*” (Author unknown)

Debbie Best, Congregational Health Ministries & Family Life Services
Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries

At the November meeting of the Lunch 'N' Fellowship group, a number of recipes were requested. They are as follows:

Sweet Potato Crisp

1 pkg. (8 oz.) PHILADELPHIA Cream Cheese, softened
 1 can (40 oz.) cut sweet potatoes, drained
 3/4 cup firmly packed brown sugar, divided
 1/4 tsp. ground cinnamon
 1 cup chopped apples
 2/3 cup chopped cranberries
 1/2 cup flour
 1/2 cup old-fashioned or quick-cooking oats, uncooked
 1/3 cup cold butter or margarine
 1/4 cup chopped PLANTERS Pecans

PREHEAT oven to 350°F. Beat cream cheese, sweet potatoes, 1/4 cup of the sugar and cinnamon with electric mixer on medium speed until well blended. Spoon into 1-1/2-quart casserole dish; top with apples and cranberries. **MIX** flour, oats and remaining 1/2 cup sugar in medium bowl; cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Stir in pecans. Sprinkle over fruit mixture. **BAKE** 35 to 40 minutes or until heated through.

(reprinted from www.kraftfoods.com and contributed by Lois Smith)



Wild Rice

1 - 2 stalks celery, chopped
 1/4 cup onion, chopped
 2 Tbls. Butter

Melt butter in pan, cook onion and celery until tender.

Add 1 cup wild rice and cook for another 3 minutes.

Add 1 (14 1/2 oz.) can chicken broth and 1 cup water. Bring to boil, reduce heat and cover.

Simmer 50 - 60 minutes or until liquid is absorbed.

(If you use a mixture of wild and long-grain rice, this will reduce the cooking time.)

Add:

1/2 cup dried cranberries
 1/2 cup chopped dates
 1/4 cup of slivered almonds

(you may adjust these measurements according to your preference). **Cover and heat** for 3 minutes.

Serve.

(adapted from a recipe from Mary Schultz and contributed by Joan Blank)

Pumpkin Torte

Mix together: 2 cups flour
 2 sticks softened butter
 1 cup finely crushed walnuts

Pat in a 13x9 pan. Bake 350 - 15 minutes. **Cool.**

Beat together: 2-8 oz. cream cheese, softened
 2 cups whipped topping (Cool Whip)
 2 cups powdered sugar
 1 1/2 tsp. vanilla

Spread on cooled crust. **Chill.**

Beat together:

2 regular size instant vanilla pudding
 2 cups whipped topping
 2 cups canned pumpkin
 1 1/3 cups milk
 1 1/2 tsp. vanilla
 1/2 tsp. pumpkin pie spice

Spread on second layer. **Chill.** **Top** with additional whipped topping and sprinkle with nuts.

Refrigerate. (contributed by Mary Schultz)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

For a number of years, **Marion Waldeisen** has been volunteering her time recruiting church members to volunteer *their* time to be greeters for Sunday services. Marion has requested that someone else take over this responsibility and we want to thank Marion for the time and effort she spent calling and scheduling the list of greeters.

Also, **Catherine Lundy** has been responsible for arranging and scheduling persons to deliver the flowers every Sunday to the shut-ins. She, too, has requested that someone take over this duty and we want to thank Catherine for her years of service.

We appreciate the time that many volunteers spend “behind-the-scene” calling, scheduling and making sure things get done!

IS IT YOUR TURN?

As you have just read, we now have two service opportunities available that will take minimal effort on your part. For more information and/or to offer your service, please call Gregg Dancho at 435-2716 or the church office at 323-4619.

UNITED CHURCHES HIGHLIGHTS

Pastor Elkin and Matt Fortin attended the 59th annual banquet and meeting of the United Churches of Lycoming County on November 4, held at St. John Methodist Church in Newberry. Some of the highlights:

(1) St. Mark's member **Kathy Kolb** was one of two persons honored with the **Ecumenical Service Award** for her continuing dedication to prison ministry, Lutheran Shared Ministry, Big Brothers—Big Sisters, Child in Our Hands, etc. She and Lou were only briefly in attendance at the event, so that they could get to the County prison for their regular Thursday eve. session.

(2) It is clear that the demands being placed on the **Shepherd of the Streets** and associated ministries is increasing. The Shepherd worked with 4,743 persons in the past 12 months, up from 3,970 in the previous period. They used more than \$182,000 in these situations, and many persons had to be turned away for lack of funds and material resources. [Pastor Elkin filled in for the Shepherd several afternoons during the Shepherd's vacation, and saw first-hand the difficulties and frustrations of not having adequate resources to meet the real needs presented.]

(3) The wide range of activities of the United Churches is reflected in the names of the various committees and agencies: Dept. of Educational Ministries, Dept. of Christian Social Concerns, Dept. of Campus Ministry, Committee for Ecumenical Youth Ministry, Newspaper Sermon Ministry, Church Women United of Lycoming County, Dept. of Institutional Ministries (which held more than 500 worship services in the nursing homes and other institutions during the year), Committee on Prison Ministry, Dept. of Broadcast Ministries, Dept. of Television Ministry, Food Pantry Emergency Fuel Fund, and the Interfaith Dialogue Commission. Whew!

(4) Another of our members, **Bernadette Jones**, was one of the two thespians asked to present sketches of four individuals who have been prominent in the distinguished history of the United Churches. One of the four remembered was Dr. Alton Motter of St. Mark's.

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

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FAX: 570-323-2452

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Permit No. 257
Williamsport, PA 17701

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A Time for Thoughtful Remembrance

The Advent-Christmas-Epiphany season is a happy and exciting time, but it can also be sad and stressful for many persons. The world goes rushing by while one may be thinking about Christmas seasons past with loved ones who have since died. It is appropriate that we take time to remember, whether the sadness you feel is one month old or 10 years past.



Plan to come to the **Service of Remembrance**
at **4:00 P.M. on Sunday, December 18 in the Nave.**

In the course of the Holy Communion in the nave just decorated for the Christmas season that afternoon, the names of loved ones whom the congregation nominates will be read aloud, and family members will have opportunity to light a candle on the Memory Tree and will also receive a keepsake of the event to hang at home. The mementos are again being crafted by John Burkholder. Please **phone the church office at 323-4619** with the name of the person you wish to remember.

Even if you do not have a specific person that you wish to name this time, by all means come and support your brothers and sisters in the faith in this tender and meaningful event. It can be of great help to gather for God's meal of consolation, and also to receive the encouragement and support of friends and fellow members of the body of Christ. This afternoon's service has become another of our much-appreciated Milestone events.