



The Lion of St. Mark's

MAY 2007

Hospitality & Homelessness

The April Council meeting began with a 6-minute video of the events of Genesis 18:1-15. Abraham is resting in the shade of his tent during the heat of the day when three strangers appear. Hospitality is offered to them without question. Food, drink, conversation, and shelter are prepared and given, until the visitors are ready to go on their way again. It was an obligation to do this; in that harsh climate, people have to depend upon others for survival. In addition, Abraham receives a great blessing in the course of the conversation.

Have things really changed that much? We are actually even more inter-dependent than we were generations ago. None of us can manage life in our complex society all alone. Disasters come upon us suddenly, our bank accounts can be quickly drained, and even more importantly, our spirits can be sapped by the crisis. We need help from each other!

It has been discovered that one of the pressing local needs is for emergency shelter for families that are in such a crisis. A few single men may be able to stay at the American rescue Workers facility. Some women may be sheltered at the YWCA. But what about families that do not have a home because of a job loss or a catastrophic illness that has struck? There is no place in the area for them to go to keep the family together and to work together toward solutions. Several of our members who work in social service jobs see the need for a local response to this problem.

Congregations in the area are beginning to investigate the problem and some possible solutions. The Shepherd of the Streets often hears from the family at the beginning of the crisis and may offer the first assistance. The apartments that are being renovated by New Covenant UCC will be available for families that are well on the way to renewed self-

sufficiency with a potential Habitat house or some other arrangement. It is those in-between that are most in need. Fifty or more persons on a given night are without a home in the Williamsport area. At least some of those are families including children. Do we want to think that children are having to sleep in cars, move every few days from one place to another, or be in even less savory surroundings?

Can we do something toward handling this problem? The Council has been considering whether we can be one of the host congregations for the program called *Family Promise*. Thirteen or more congregations are needed to each offer food and shelter for several families for one week each quarter of the year. We have a marvelous building; we do have room! We are in a great location, close to transportation and civic services. We have persons who can offer a meal or companionship. The question that the Council is considering is whether we have the will to undertake a portion of this project.

A half-dozen individuals from St. Mark's have been attending the initial organizing meetings of *Family Promise* that have been held over the past three months. There are many questions to be asked and answered. There are many persons and resources that have to be located and enlisted. Slowly we will keep working until the "critical mass" is achieved and the project can begin.

The Council invites members of the congregation to gather on Sunday, May 20 or Sunday, June 10 at 9:00 A.M. in the Crossways room to gather basic information about the proposed project. If many of us each do a little bit, we can together make a large impact on this problem. Come and find out how!

~ Pastor Elkin

COUNCIL UPDATE

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Council Notes

The Congregation Council met in regular session on April 16 in the Crossways Room.

The Council:

--received the written reports of the Pastor, Officers, and Committees.
 --rejoiced that so many persons gathered for Dick's 30th anniversary lunch.
 --noted a pending bequest from Betty Metzger's estate.
 --received a letter from Sharon Comini about her participation in a trip to serve the homeless in Washington, D.C.
 --heard that the paving and sidewalk part of the bridge project nearest to our building's west end will be underway very soon.
 --heard that the pointing of the Parish House will be on tap for the late summer.
 --noted that the long-awaited project of displaying the photographs of all of the Pastors and deaconesses who have served St. Mark's has been completed. They are in the Choir hallway.
 --noted that a beautiful chapel altar antependium has been fashioned from the dossal formerly hung in the chapel, and was placed in service in the Easter season.
 --received the written report of the *Mission at the Crossroads* working group. The Council decided to set aside Saturday, May 19 as a day for the Council to meet together with committee chairs and others to negotiate the details of the nine goals.
 --viewed a 8 minute video on aspects of the *Family Promise* project and discussed a number of questions.(See the front-page article.) The Council asked that the project be widely publicized in the coming two months so that the Council might be inclined to approve our participation in the not distant future.
 --thanked retiring members of the Council at the close of their final meeting.
 --set the organizing meeting of the next Council for May 21, 6:30 in the Crossways room.
 --concluded by praying together Prayer at the Close of Day in the chapel.

From the Parish Register

Megan Maiolo, Cheryl Williams & Rachel Clausen were received as new members by affirmation of baptism at the Easter Vigil on April 7.

Website & E- Mail Addresses stmarkswilliamsport.org

Pastor Elkin	pastor@stmarkswilliamsport.org
General mailbox	stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org
Richard Lakey	rlakey@stmarkswilliamsport.org
Gary Weber	gweber@stmarkswilliamsport.org
Susan M-Smith	smsmith@stmarkswilliamsport.org
Lou DeSeau	ldeseau@stmarkswilliamsport.org
Richard Wagner	rwagner@stmarkswilliamsport.org
Bernadette Jones	bjones@stmarkswilliamsport.org
Sharon Comini	scomini@stmarkswilliamsport.org

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY NEWS

Welcome To Our New Members!

Three persons renewed their baptismal promises at the Easter Vigil and have thereby become members of St. Mark's:

-- **Megan Maiolo** is a recent graduate of Lycoming College and continues to work locally during the time her fiancée Clint is still a student at Lycoming College. Her mentor during the past year has been Deb Holmes.

--**Cheryl Williams** is employed by PennDOT as was her recently-retired husband of one year, David. Her mentor has been Michele Ramsauer.

--**Rachel Clausen** is a recent Lycoming College graduate and is substitute teaching in music in the area as her fiance is preparing for graduate school. She is singing in the parish choir. Her mentor has been Brenda Bittner.

The Way Set to Conclude

The participants in *The Way* can hardly believe it is true, but their time together is nearly over. Renewers and mentors have met for 20 sessions since last September, as well as for regular participation in worship and projects. They have made new friends, have explored many aspects of the faith, and have enjoyed each other's company in doing it. With the continuing leadership of Bob Schultz and Pastor Elkin, the group made public their intent to participate in the process last December and asked for the congregation's continuing prayers, received gifts of useful tools for Christian living from the congregation as well as certificates making the various stages, renewed their baptismal promises at the Easter Vigil, and will make public their intent to continue activities for the coming year on Pentecost Sunday, May 27.

Recruitment for next season's group can begin at any time. What about you? Your friend? Your neighbor?

Directory Changes:

Mr. Scott Dietterick, 15 Spring St., Danville, PA 17821-1623
 Mr. Carl Knowlden, 418 E. Central Ave., So. Wmspt., PA 17702
 Mr. & Mrs. Williams Hibschan, 2421 Edercrest Rd., Wmspt., PA 17701
 Mr. Glenn Lunger, 1201 Rural Ave., Roseview Center, Rm. 221, Wmspt, PA 17701
mailing only: 4904 Charles Rd., Mechanicsburg, PA 17050-3036



American Red Cross



Tuesday, May 1st
 Noon—6 PM
 Pine St. U M Church
 441 Pine Street
 Williamsport, PA

Wednesday, May 2nd
 10 AM—3 PM
 Holiday Inn
 100 Pine Street,
 Williamsport, PA

Monday, May 7th
 12:30 PM—6:30 PM
 First Baptist Church
 420 Elmira Street,
 Williamsport, PA



Update on Women's Clothing Sale

The Women of Saint Mark's extend a heartfelt thank you to the congregation for their support of our recent sale. The Bazaar Room was brim full with clothing and accessories. In the weeks before the sale we were the recipients of a \$500.00 donation given anonymously by a member of our congregation. This was a wonderful incentive to do well the day of the sale, which we did. At the end of the day we made approximately \$450.00 profit. This money qualifies for matching funds from Thrivent. It will be put to good use by the charities we support locally and globally.

Becky Miller Pryor, cheerleader of the group, wishes to thank the men and women of the congregation who assisted with setting up, working at the sale, and cleaning up afterwards. Without this commitment an event this size would not happen. Thanks and appreciation goes to Pastor and Donna, Shirley Hill, Dick and Louise Kneedler, Jackie and Shirley Kinney, Edith Anderson, Shirley Vognet. Lou DeSeau, Elsie Sechler, Russ and Lois Smith, Ernestine Doane, Dot Berndt, Dottie Bingaman, Alona Hopley, Jane Kline, Lucille Weaver, Carol Confer, and Judy Fortin.

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY NEWS



Dear Pastor Elkin,

Greetings from near Tanga, Tanzania. I hope that you and your family are doing well.

We were recently visited by a dental team from the States, led by Dr Bob Zimmerman and which included Carl Heiber who has now visited us twice and been such a delight to us. The team was a tremendous blessing of help to our local community, which is a cluster of muslim, rural villages outside of the city of Tanga where life is tough and folk are very poor. Their visits have been a witness to the love of God and the way in which His people are willing to give of themselves.

It was particularly poignant this year as there has been significant opposition to us as our Christian witness in the area has become more overt and there are those who would like us to be gone. Carl brought with him a load of writing pads and pencils which we are told come via yourself. Please accept our thanks for these gifts which we have been able to pass out, especially to village leaders and teachers who struggle even for small items like those.

We are trying to give our very small emerging Christian community a sense of being part of the world-wide church family and so visits like that of the dental team help to develop that understanding. We thank God so much for the servant-hood of those who give up their time and money to come and serve with us amongst the Digo People. We thank God too for those who supported the team in prayer, and perhaps in other ways too.

May the Lord bless you as you serve him in the States. We so love the Body of Christ and thank God for His wisdom in giving us different jobs to do in different needy places, all for His glory.

Our greetings to your congregation from the few brothers and sisters here.

With love in the Lord Jesus,

Rachel Chard (Africa Inland Mission International.)



Dear Ms Miller Pryor,

Hello from near Tanga, Tanzania! I hope that you and your family are doing well.

We were recently visited by a dental team from the States, including Carl Heiber who has now twice blessed us with his company. The team was an enormous blessing of help to our local community, which is a cluster of rural African villages where life is tough and folk are very poor.

Carl brought with him gifts of t-shirts and baseball caps, which we are told by Carl come via yourself and your brother. Please accept our sincere thanks for your kindness; many people were very happy to get the t-shirts and caps.

May God bless you and your family.

Yours sincerely,

Rachel Chard (Africa Inland Mission International.)

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY NEWS

ST. MARK'S LOGO POLO SHIRTS FOR SALE



St. Mark's Logo
on pocket

Adult Sizes
S-XL \$20
2XL-3XL \$23

Youth Sizes
XS-XL \$10

Childrens - GILDAN Youth Ultra Cotton - Preshrunk 100% cotton jersey with church logo silk-screened on front.

Colors: Irish Green, Vegas Gold, Sport Grey, Azalea, Black, Gold, Cardinal, Daisy, Forest Green, Leaf, Jade, Lime, Heliconia, Indigo Blue, Iris, Kelly Green, Light Blue, Light Pink, Maroon, Navy, Orange, Sand, Prairie Dust, Purple, Red, Royal, Sapphire, Violet, Tangerine, & Yellow Haze

Adults - JERZEE Jersey Polo with Sport-Shield, Welt Knit Collar, Placket with pearlized buttons with church logo embroidered on pocket.

Colors: White, Birch, Gold, Black, Sports Grey, Burnt Orange, Deep Purple, California Blue, Forest Green, Granite Blue, Jade, Kelly, Light Blue, Maize, Maroon, Red, Putty, True Navy & True Royal

You may place your order with Susan by calling 323-4619 M-F 9AM-1PM or Donna Clark 998-2290 after 6PM M-F, or anytime over the weekend.

OR

Use this convenient tear off order form. You can place it in the offering plate with your payment or mail it to the church.

St. Mark's Polo Shirt Order Form

Name	Adult/Child	Size	Color	Cost

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY NEWS



Upcoming Milestone Calendar

- May 6** – Wedding Anniversary
- May 27** – Sending out members of *The Way* with prayers for their Christian Vocation.

Lunch N' Fellowship

“High Noon”

Wednesday, May 23rd

Pot Roast & Trimmings

A la

Chef Lakey

Come & bring a
friend!



Nurse's Notes

- May 6** Turtles and other reptile “pets” can pose a health risk especially to infants, children, pregnant women and people with compromised immune systems as they may serve as natural “hosts” to the bacteria Salmonella. Infection can lead to severe illness and in some cases, death. Through hand washing, including cleaning under fingernails is necessary after handling these reptiles, their water bowls, or their cages! GI symptoms usually appear 12-36 hours, but can begin anywhere from 6-72 hours after exposure.
- May 13** In addition to celebrating “Mother’s Day”, celebrate “Women’s Day” by acknowledging and thanking all the women who have played an important role in making you who you are today – the sisters, aunts, teachers, & Sunday School teachers!
- May 20** **FYI for golfers:** By walking the golf course, and carrying your own bag, you can get a reasonably good workout. Playing an 18-hole course can cover about 5 miles and help you burn an estimated 500 calories! (Wellness Made Easy, UC Berkley, 2005)
- May 27** For those taking up biking or planning to buy a bike for a child, here are some tips to insure proper ‘fit’. Handlebars, saddle, and wheels can all be adjusted to match your size and riding ability, but the frame has to fit from the start. According to the folks at UC Berkley, to find the proper frame size, straddle the bike and stand flat-footed: on a regular bike, there should be 1-2 inches of clearance between your groin and the top tube. On a mountain bike, it should be 3 inches or more. (Wellness Made Easy, UC Berkley, 2005)

USS ARK, SYNOD & WEST BRANCH NEWS

Camp Mount Luther "Bishop's Open" Golf Tournament 2007

Thanks to everyone who made last year's golf tournament a huge success. We again ask that you support Camp Mount Luther in 2007 as we hold our Second Annual Bishop's Open Golf Tournament.

The event will be held on Monday, May 14, 2007 at the Susquehanna Valley Country Club. Start time is 12:30 p.m. with registration and lunch beginning at 11:30 a.m. Camp Mount Luther is holding this event again to have some fun and also raise funds in order to better our youth in a faith based camping program. Please save this date and help us in this endeavor!

Tournament proceeds will go toward the 40 By Faith Campaign to enhance the ministry of the camp. If you are interested in helping to plan this event, or know some golfers who should be contacted, please email Pastor Dan May at asstbish@dejazzd.com.



African Children's Choir

The African Children's Choir is comprised of children ages seven to eleven who have lost one or both parents to war, famine or disease. The choir performs internationally to bring attention to the plight of children in Africa.

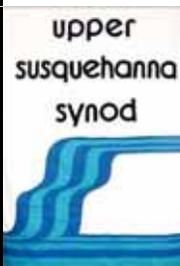
Since its inception, the African Children's Choir has helped to establish numerous schools and provide educational scholarships in Uganda, Rwanda, Kenya, Nigeria, Ghana, Sudan and South Africa, and contributes funds to other relief and development projects throughout Africa.

The performance is at Susquehanna University on May 2, 7 p.m., Weber Chapel Auditorium. A free will offering will be accepted to support the choir's outreach work.

Scholarships Available For "Crossways" Training

Scholarships of \$100 are available for first-time Lutheran attendees, lay or clergy, at the Pennsylvania training session for "Divine Drama" and other Crossways study material. The training will be held on June 18-22 at Pine Hill Lutheran Church, 1760 College Avenue, State College, PA 16801. Tuition for the session normally runs \$350, but it is reduced to \$300 for registrations received before May 18. With this \$100 scholarship, the cost goes down to only \$200! The scholarship is made available by Lutheran Bible Ministries (www.bibleministries.org) and is administered by Crossways International.

To register for the workshop, contact Karen Roed-Rick of Crossways International at 1-800-257-7308. When registering, mention that you are a first-time Lutheran attendee in order to receive the scholarship.



Lay Worship Leader Training

Interested in becoming an Authorized Lay Worship Leader? Then it is time to call the Upper Susquehanna Synod office (570-524-9778) and request an application.

Have you always wanted to get training to be an evangelist, or catechist, or stewardship leader for your congregation? Call for an application!

The newly-formed Lay Ministry Institute has expanded the training available beyond worship leaders to these three categories as well. For more information, see our web site (description and application will be posted soon), or see a recent mailing delivered to your congregation. More information can be gained from the USS office as well.

USS ARK, SYNOD & WEST BRANCH NEWS

Diakon Children's Bereavement Program

Camp Evergreen Weekend 2007 will be held on Friday, June 22nd at 7:00 p.m. to Sunday, June 24th at 11:00 a.m. at Camp Kresge, 382 Camp Kresge Lane, White Haven, PA 18611. Camp Evergreen is a special camp for children and teens between the ages of 8 and 14 who have experienced the death of a loved one. It is designed to encourage them to express their feelings of confusion, loss and grief with others their age in an atmosphere of fun and friendship under the guidance and supervision of bereavement counselors and adult volunteers.

The camp is free of charge to the participants. Food, crafts and craft items will be provided. Registration is required. Volunteers are also needed. For additional information, please call 570-459-6778.

"Sowing Seeds: Growing a Movement"

Register now for Sowing Seeds: Growing a Movement, to be held on June 9-12 at American University, Washington, DC, .

Join Bread for the World and thousands of people of faith, who will gather to launch a renewed movement to end hunger and poverty in the United States and around the world. Come to develop skills for motivating others and mobilizing faith communities, strategize ways to best influence decision-makers, and visit your representative's and senators' offices to speak out for hungry people.

Register: <http://www.bread.org/about-us/national-gathering/2007/how-to-register.html>

Apply for a scholarship:
<http://www.bread.org/about-us/national-gathering/2007/scholarship-application.html>

Learn more: <http://www.elca.org/advocacy/sowingseeds.html>

Lutheran Day at the Capitol

Register today for Lutheran Day at the Capitol 2007 on Wednesday, May 9, in Harrisburg. Join Lutherans from across Pennsylvania as we gather in the



Capital to learn about public policy issues, receive advocacy training, and meet other Lutherans in the state.

The event begins at the State Capitol with a continental breakfast with legislators and our seven ELCA bishops in Pennsylvania. Other events will be held at the Hilton Harrisburg Hotel. The keynote address, "The Intersection of Faith and Politics," will be given by Yonce Shelton, Sojourners/Call to Renewal. There will be a "How to Do Advocacy" session featuring government relations professionals. In addition, the afternoon will include the installation of the new LAMPa executive director, presentations, and visits with legislators.

Lutheran Day is co-sponsored by Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in PA (LAMPa) and our social ministry organizations—Lutheran Services in America-PA (LSA-PA). The cost is \$20 per person, which includes continental breakfast and lunch. The registration deadline is April 27.

For more information or to register, contact the LAMPa office by phone - (717) 232-9128 - or by email -- lamp@paonline.com. You will also find information at www.lamp.org.

Festival Service of Holy Communion

A Festival Service of Holy Communion, sponsored by the West Branch Conference, will be held on Ascension Day, Thursday, May 17, 2007, 7 pm, at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 2233 Linn Street, Williamsport. An offering will be taken, which will be used for the ministries of the conference. A time of refreshment will follow the service.

Social Ministry News

Pregnancy Care Center & Babies



The Pregnancy Care Center of the Susquehanna Valley is a member of CareNet. CareNet is a not for profit organization linking churches, pregnancy care centers and concerned Christians to provide services for individuals experiencing an unplanned pregnancy. Pregnancy Care Centers in Lewisburg and Williamsport and the maternity home, Providence House, also in Williamsport, provide these services free of charge to their clients.

During the month of may we will support the work of The Pregnancy Care Center of Williamsport by collecting items all newborns need plus hygiene items for their mothers.

Items needed for babies are baby lotion, powder, oil, and shampoo, brush and comb sets, eating utensils, baby wipes, baby cereal, formula diapers, baby food, cotton swabs, baby cups and bowls, bottles, diapers, layette items, bibs, and rattles. Their mothers need hygiene items we all use.

Your assistance with this outreach to the unborn and newly born in our community is greatly appreciated. See Becky Miller Pryor with questions or for additional information. Donated items may be placed in the tubs in the Narthex.



Food Pantry Update

The Social Ministry Committee thanks the congregation for their donations of non-perishable food. We filled two tubs with much needed items. Children's Church participants donated 22 of those items. Thank you Lou DeSeau for delivering our items to the United Churches Food Pantry.

CpR providers

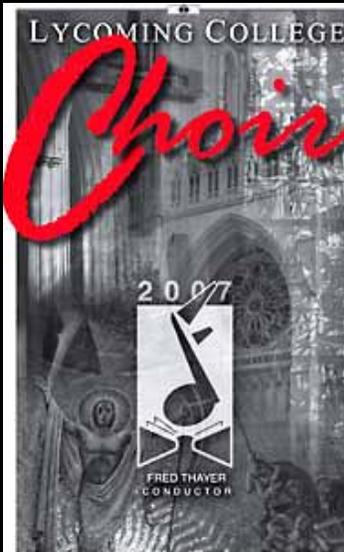
A request to anyone attending worship who is a CPR provider: Please let the office know of your training and availability, so that in case of an emergency the ushers may summon your assistance.

Joyce Zimmerer, Nurse



Women's Night Out!!

Annual Women's Dinner
Wednesday, May 2nd
6:00 PM
Fellowship Hall



"Send Off" Concert

The Lycoming College Tour Choir will present a concert at St. Mark's on Thursday evening, May 10th at 7 p.m.

This concert is a 'send off' concert for their European Tour of Germany, the Czech Republic and Hungary.

We are very privileged to host this concert at St. Mark's. We hope that you will plan to attend.

United Churches News



Food Pantry Update

Donations, if possible, should be brought into the Food Pantry on Monday mornings from 9:30-Noon. We are located in the Sojourner Truth Building on the corner of High & Center Sts.

Items we are currently in need of:

Canned Fruits	Sugar
Powdered Drink Mix	Coffee
Stove Top Stuffing	Noodles
Saltine Crackers	Cocoa Mix
Chunky Soups	
Canned Vegetables-especially stewed tomatoes	

You Can Rent Camp Kiwanis

For a church picnic, youth group overnight, reunion, or a family getaway, consider Camp Kiwanis, on Route 287 in Salladasburg, 14 miles from Williamsport. Cabins, which sleep 22 people, rent for just \$25 total for up to 6 people, plus \$2 for each additional person. Hot showers for the entire group are another \$10. The rate for the picnic pavilion and grounds is \$50 a day for up to 50 people, plus \$1 for each additional person. The main lodge, kitchen, and swimming pool are also available for rental. Whether you choose to hike the trails, swim in the pool, build a campfire, or just relax by Larry's Creek, you are sure to have an enjoyable outdoor experience. For information and availability, call Camp Administrator Donna Long at 570-398-2356.

Wednesday Ecumenical Lunch

United Churches of Lycoming County invite you to join them for their Wednesday Noon Ecumenical Luncheon. You're always assured of a tasty \$4 lunch, warm, ecumenical fellowship and a thoughtful program designed to enrich your life mentally, physically, spiritually and socially. The parking is free in the Pine Street lot north of the church from 11 AM to 1:30 PM No reservations are necessary.

May Luncheon Speakers

- 2 - **Rev. Larry Waltz**, Pastor, First Baptist Church, Williamsport, "*Birding Spots in Lycoming County*"
- 9 - **Interfaith Panel** from United Churches Interfaith Dialogue Commission, "*A Discussion about Family Living*"
- 16 - To Be Announced
- 23 - **Ms. Linda Herr**, Program Director, The Learning Center, "*The Adult Literacy Programs*"
- 30 - To Be Announced

Everyone in our congregations and community is welcome to participate in this ministry. Please make plans to join us and you're welcome to bring a friend.

May Friendship Day

We now are busy preparing for May Friendship Day, which will be held on Friday May 4th at the Pine Street United Methodist Church, 441 Pine St. with free parking available in the church parking lot.

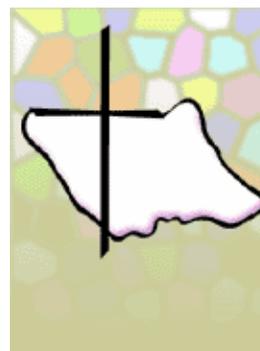
A noon luncheon will begin the Celebration & will be catered by Crouse Catering & the price will \$7.00. Reservations are required with a Deadline of April 27th.

Send your reservation and check to:

Mrs. Nora Mitchell
772 Hwy.

So. Williamsport, 17702-8506

Inquiries phone-326-1459 or 323-4849. For those unable to attend the Luncheon, the Program will begin at 1:15 pm.



YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

Please support Sean & Jeremiah with a card or newsy note from home as they serve our country in the Military Service.

For security reasons we have removed Sean & Jeremiah's addresses from the website version of the Lion.

You may procure their addresses by calling the church office or from a paper copy of the Lion.



NEW WINDSOR TRIP

Twice each year, a bus trip planned to the Service Center in New Windsor, MD, where the quilts made by the women of St. Mark's and many other items are prepared for shipment to wherever they are needed around the globe. This year, the trip will be on Monday, May 7.

For any youth interested in going, this would be an excused absence from school (Pastor would write a letter for you) and would also count as volunteer hours for community service.

The cost is \$25.00 per person for transportation and lunch. Additional money is needed for supper. We would leave St. Mark's at 6:00 a.m. and return at approximately 9:00 p.m. Call the church office if you are interested in this great service project.

Passing on Faith: Anniversary Milestone

Our next milestone will be taking place on Sunday, May 6, 2007. St. Mark's Lutheran Church will be celebrating the special people in our congregation that have been married for between 54 & 58 years with a Wedding Anniversary Milestone. A sit down lunch will be served with some of the youth of St. Mark's helping.

This year, the following couples are being honored:

Richard & Louise Kneedler ~ 58 years

Tony & Bobbie Yetsko ~ 58 years

David & Carol McMorris ~ 57 years

William & Prudence Poff ~ 57 years

Carl & Lucille Weaver ~ 57 years

Russell & Lois Smith ~ 57 years

John & Constance Shaible ~ 56 years

Peter & Norma Prato ~ 56 years

William & Shirley Hill ~ 54 years

Please congratulate these couples on their continuing love.



YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

Milestone Ministry

Blessing of the Keys: New Junior or Senior Drivers



Continue to check in the bulletins for updates on this milestone. A couple of our students have their driving tests coming up. We will recognize their achievements as they are attained.

***Parents please remember to notify us when your children get their junior or senior license. We would like to celebrate their achievement with you!



Practice stewardship through service at Camp Mount Luther on Saturday May 19, 2007 for the annual Spring Work Day. We need your help getting the camp grounds and facilities ready for the Summer Program. There will be plenty to do and everyone in the family can help! The day will start at 8:00 a.m. and end with a light lunch. RSVP by May 11 if staying for lunch.

Practice stewardship through service at Camp Mount Luther on Saturday May 19, 2007 for the annual Spring Work Day. We need your help getting the camp grounds and facilities ready for the Summer Program. There will be plenty to do and everyone in the family can help! The day will start at 8:00 a.m. and end with a light lunch. RSVP by May 11 if staying for lunch.



Camp Mount Luther
355 Mt. Luther Lane
Mifflinburg, PA 17837

CAMP MOUNT LUTHER
Making Christ Known
Through Outdoor Ministries

570.922.1587
cml@campmountluther.org
www.campmountluther.org



Camp Mount Luther
355 Mt. Luther Lane
Mifflinburg, PA 17837

CAMP MOUNT LUTHER
Making Christ Known
Through Outdoor Ministries

570.922.1587
cml@campmountluther.org
www.campmountluther.org

Camp
Mount
Luther

FLOODLIGHT



“SOWERS
OF SEEDS”

Saturday, May 5
10 am -- 3 pm

Kids grades 1—6 and
their parents

\$15 for adult/child pair
\$8/additional child
(You pay 1/2 of this)

Games, devotions, small
group activities, lunch, craft,
camp exploration

bjones@stmarkswilliamsport.org

Camp Mount Luther

Booklets for the programs this year are available in the staff hallway.

Senior High Adventure Day in Bloomsburg for grades 9-12 will be April 28, 2007. Find out what Camp Mount Luther is like at the Spring Open House on Sunday April 22, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. FLOODLIGHT, a special day of outdoor, Christian, family fun for kids grades 1-6 and their families is scheduled for May 5, 2007 at Camp Mount Luther. And CML's Annual Spring Overnight and Work Day is set for May 18-19, 2007. More information is on other pages—get these dates on your calendars now!

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY



Mark your calendars!

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH PICNIC

Sunday, June 3 at 1 p.m.  **Indian Park in Montoursville**

Please plan on bringing a dish to share, your appetite and a chair!
Meat and drinks and paper products will be provided.

**Volunteers for manning the grill, set-up and clean-up are needed—
a sign-up sheet is in the staff hallway.**



LAST SUMMER...

We had some great ideas and ended up with some informative and fun programs.

Do we want to do it again?

WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU IF YOU ARE INTERESTED!!

**Don't wait, pick up the phone or jump online and let us know NOW. 323-4619
bjones@stmarkswilliamsport.org or scomini@stmarkswilliamsport.org.**

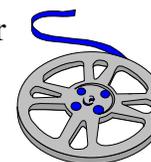
Parenting Forum

This parenting forum was held from mid-July, through September, last year with six couples in attendance. This group discussion was facilitated by Eric and Sharon Comini. Does anyone want to lead this, this year; or do you have any ideas you would like to explore as a group? *Interested? We are!*



Summer Playgroup

Vicki Haussmann organized a playgroup that meet bi-weekly through the summer at a local parks on Wednesday mornings. This would be a great opportunity for fellowship and exercise for the children and parents. *Shall we do it again?!*



St. Mark's goes to the Movies

UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRY SURVIVAL KITS

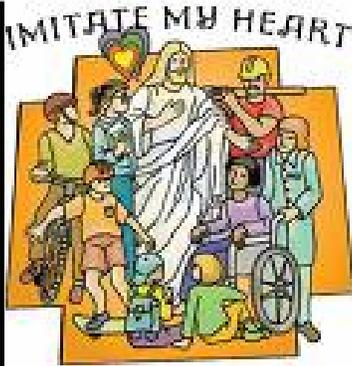


Thank you to everyone who donated for the "Survival Kit" packages for the college students' finals week.

Everything was assembled and delivered on April 25.

All the surprises inside were greatly appreciated.

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY



SUMMER MISSION TRIPS

**While the need for missions abroad is significant,
the need is also very great here!**

**CAN WE PROVIDE VOLUNTEERS FOR ONE OR BOTH
OF THESE ENDEAVORS?**

Pr. Kerry Auker and Alice Fox of St. John Lutheran, Jersey Shore, are coordinating a **Mission Trip to Biloxi**, Mississippi, June 25-29. They will be leaving Saturday, June 23, at 6:00 a.m., and staying overnight at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Knoxville, Tennessee. Groups will carpool as a group, but the individual cars are on their own to schedule their return. Expenses for the travel days would be the responsibility of each individual, plus contributions toward fuel.

In Biloxi, volunteers will be staying in a dorm building or tent (air-conditioned) with beds. Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) has provided a trailer with showers. Initially the suggested cost was \$20/day or \$100/week for accommodations and meals. However, in recent conversation LDR has said that if people do not have the money, they are urged to come anyway, as the need to help Hurricane Katrina victims is still great and the number of volunteers has dropped off significantly.

THEIR NEXT PLANNING MEETING IS SUNDAY, MAY 20, AT NOON AT ST. JOHN, JERSEY SHORE.
→ If any youth or adults interested in going, contact Bernadette ASAP.

St. Luke's, in Bloomsburg, is partnering with **Bethlehem Lutheran Church in New Orleans** to help rebuild/restore homes in their community. Our hosts can accommodate up to 40 persons. People of all ages are welcome. Skills are helpful but not necessary.

General Itinerary: Thursday, June 21: Fly to New Orleans; Friday and Saturday: Work on assigned projects; Sunday: Worship with our host parish at Bethlehem Lutheran Church; Relaxation/Sightseeing/ Exposure to some local culture; Monday and Tuesday: Work on assigned projects; Wednesday: Fly home.

Youth are welcome but must be accompanied by an adult. There are jobs for men and women, young and old. All persons going should have a current Tetanus vaccination.



Learn About Our Stained Glass Windows

The artist who made our stained glass windows has a website showcasing his art at ArtRegister.com You will be able to read his biography, as well as some of his works on paper.

You can find it by typing in, Benoit Gilsoul, artist.

Mr. Gilsoul passed away in 2000.

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

Children's Church

will be held on Sunday, May 13, 2007, at 10:30 a.m. in the Chapel. The children's special offering will be items for the Pregnancy Care Center.

Items include baby hygiene items, bibs, layette items, baby toys, bottles, pacifiers, and hygiene items for the



FRIDAY FUN NIGHT



This has to go to press before we have the info—

keep an eagle-eye out for flyers and bulletin notes as to when the next FUN NIGHT will be!!!

If you haven't been able to join in yet, make plans to do so when next we meet! It's a great time you won't want to miss!



WHO'S GRADUATING...

...from high school...
...or college??

Last chance to let us know so these young people can be recognized for their hard work & accomplishments!!



Call or e-mail the office—we're waiting to hear!



Guess what's swimming up ahead?

Are you looking for fathoms of fun this summer?

Then you'll want to head to for a net full of adventures at the Great Bible Reef! Great Bible Reef VBS is just the place for cool crafts, fun songs, zany games, and a school of friends!

Join us as we explore the Bible along with creatures of the deep! Help lead youngsters as we embark on this voyage of discovery of God's Word from June 10 to June 14!

TAKE THE PLUNGE! MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!!

Adults and teens!! Come share the fun!!!

Anyone interested in helping with this year's event please call the church office or sign up on the sheets located in the staff hallway.

If anyone has any ocean-themed decorations (fabric, nets, starfish, seahorses, coral...) that we can use for decorations, please let us know. Thank you!!



"IN THE BEGINNING..."

A musical story based on Genesis 1 and 2
Book, music & lyrics by Richard Lakey

>>CHANGE IN DATES<<

The Summer Choir Camp will meet **Sunday, July 29, through Sunday, August 5**, for rehearsals culminating in a dinner-theatre performance on Sunday evening.

A cast of thousands...well, maybe only hundreds...is required—remember, we are talking the creation story here! Also needed are sewers and crafters for costumes, construction-and-painting-type people for set and scavenger hunters for props and set decorations.

God may have been able to accomplish this in seven days by himself, **BUT WE NEED HELP!!** Yes, in a nutshell, we need everyone!!!

Stay tuned for more information!!!

Please contact Bernadette or Dick if you are interested.



A VIEW FROM THE PEW

Prescribed by the Great Physician



Now!

No more excuses!

**God can use you
to your full potential.**

**Besides you aren't the message,
you are just the messenger.**

And one more thing...

Share this with a friend or two...

Have a great day!!!

**The SON is shining, He loves you,
and he can certainly use you!**

The next time you feel like GOD
can't use you, just remember...

Noah was a drunk

Abraham was too old

Isaac was a daydreamer

Jacob was a liar

Leah was ugly

Joseph was abused

Moses had a stuttering problem

Gideon was afraid

Samson had long hair & was a womanizer

Rahab was a prostitute

Jeremiah and Timothy were too young

David had an affair and was a murderer

Elijah was suicidal

Isaiah preached naked

Jonah ran from God

Naomi was a widow

Job went bankrupt

Peter denied Christ

The Disciples fell asleep while praying

Martha worried about everything

The Samaritan woman was divorced,
more than once

Zaccheus was too small

Paul was too religious

Timothy had an ulcer...AND

Lazarus was dead!

HEALTH, HEALING & WHOLENESS

*“My eyes are ever toward the Lord, for he will pluck my feet out of the net.
Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted.
Reliever the troubles of my heart, and bring me out of my distress.
Consider my afflictions and my trouble...” (Ps. 25:15-18a – NRSV)*

This is only one example of a prayer of lamentation – its author wounded and in search of help from God for his troubles – feels “*lonely and afflicted*”. These same words could easily describe a form of illness that an estimated 6 million men suffer from – depression. According to statistics from the CDC, National Institute of Mental Health, Mayo, and Cleveland Clinics, this is approximately half the rate of depression among women. But many researchers question if these statistics are indeed accurate, or are they only the tip of an iceberg? Why? First, men are less likely to discuss the way they are feeling, and second, due to the fact that some of their symptoms may not be “typical” (crying, sadness, loss of interest in past enjoyable activities) – a man’s depression may be overlooked or even misdiagnosed. These men, and the people who love them, are the target of this month’s article. That said, before you read any further, I’d like to share a quote from the National Institute of Mental Health, “**Depression is a serious but treatable medical condition – a brain disease – that can strike anyone, including men**” (<http://menanddepression.nimh.nih.gov>)! Depression is not a character flaw, nor a sign of weakness, but a treatable disease!

According to the Cleveland Clinic (www.clevelandclinic.org/health), “some mental health care professionals suggest that if the symptoms of depression were expanded to include anger, blame, lashing out, and abuse of alcohol, more men might be diagnosed with depression and treated appropriately.” Untreated, the root-cause of the symptoms soon spills over into personal relationships, workplace performance, and even physical health.

When they do visit their healthcare professional, men with depression are more likely to focus on physical complaints, such as: headaches, digestive problems, chronic pain, feeling tired, irritable, having trouble sleeping, leading to delay in treatment or misdiagnosis. Other indicators may include: family history, anger and frustration, losing weight without trying, risk-taking behaviors, inability to concentrate, isolation from loved ones, alcohol or substance abuse or thoughts of suicide. Being honest with the family healthcare provider is the first step toward effective treatment. Accurate reporting will help the provider rule out other potential causes of the symptoms such as: viral infection, side affect of medication, thyroid disorder, low testosterone levels, or the presence of heart disease or stroke. Once these sources have been eliminated, the next step would logically be depression screening by the physician or a behavioral health professional. The folks at the Cleveland Clinic estimate that “more than 80% of people with depression – both men and women – can be treated successfully with antidepressant medication, psychotherapy or a combination of both”. With treatment, negative feelings and beliefs should begin to fade, and allow you to reclaim your life once again!

If this sounds like you, or someone you love, and you are unsure of where to go for help, talk to someone you trust for example, a doctor, your parish nurse, a social worker, or religious leader. Ask his/her advice on how to seek treatment, and with the aid of the Holy Spirit, may your prayers of supplication become those of thanksgiving, “*I will extol you, O Lord, for you have drawn me up ...I cried to you for help, and you have healed me*” (Ps. 30:2-3, NRSV).

Spring Blessings!
Debbie Best, Program Coordinator

BIRTHDAYS

Robert Clokey	05/02	Robert Schultz	05/16	Catherine Drake	05/24
Ruth Homan	05/02	Stephen Boone	05/18	James Kreider	05/24
Alex Larson	05/07	Arthur Decker	05/18	Dawson Owen	05/24
JoAnne Mackey	05/07	Candace Dewar	05/19	Dustin Pelleschi	05/24
Carl Weaver	05/10			Joe Peluso Jr.	05/25
Catherine Lundy	05/13			Kenneth Goldy	05/25
Lori Ann Zimmerer	05/13			Jane Angle	05/26
Karen Boone	05/14			Harriet Fornwalt	05/26
Doris Buzzerd	05/14			Norma Prato	05/26
Elizabeth Kreider	05/14	Amy Stugart	05/19	Audrey Albright	05/27
Heather Merrill	05/15	Michael Fillnow	05/20	Joyce Hershberger	05/27
Jane Larson	05/15	James Seelye	05/21	Kathleen Gilbert	05/29
Frank Vognet	05/15	Owen Lukens	05/23	Steven Bieber III	05/31

ANNIVERSARIES

Jeffrey & Patricia Hershey	05/01		Erick & Stephanie Fortin	05/16
Hugh & Marie Byerly	05/02		James & Debra Buckman	05/25
James & Elizabeth Kreider	05/08		Creighton & Christina MacGill	05/28
Galen & Pamela Davenport Jr.	05/15		Michael & Pamela Jensen	05/30

Please help me update the database by submitting the current information for your family. You may place this form in the offering plate, mail it to the church office (attn: Susan), or email the information to me at main@stmarkswilliamsport.org. Thank you!

Family member name:	Birthdate	email address
1) _____	_____	_____
2) _____	_____	_____
3) _____	_____	_____
4) _____	_____	_____
5) _____	_____	_____
6) _____	_____	_____
7) _____	_____	_____
8) _____	_____	_____

Anniversary _____	Phone Numbers: (H=Home, W=Work, C=Cell) Please use the corresponding family member # to identify cell phone owner.
Address: _____ _____ _____	

SPECIAL THANK YOU'S

A hearty "Thank You" to all the folks at St. Mark's!! We surely have had a wonderful time the past 30 years in many areas of life within our church family. Many memories come to mind as I think back on our times together. When growing up as a young boy, it was almost beyond understanding that someone could work for 30 years in one place. Having done that, it does not seem to have been that long. I have been fortunate to love my vocation. I do not see it as a job, but the joy of being able to dedicate my energies to something I love to do. May we look forward to many more years together. ~ Dick Lakey

Dear St. Mark's members,

On behalf of our Dental Team which traveled to Tanzania in March, I thank you for your kindness. The tablets and pencils were greatly appreciated by everyone who received them.

I thank you for your prayers. There were definitely times when we were glad people at home were praying for us.

It was a fantastic trip, and I look forward to sharing pictures and stories with those who are interested.

God bless you all, Carl Hieber

Dear friends,

Thank you very much for donating the personal hygiene products to our ministry here at Shepherd of the Streets. Your donations were greatly appreciated as is your support.

Daelun Gwenberg, Volunteer

Dear friends,

Kindness like yours makes a difference. Thank you for your thoughts and prayers. Pastor Elkin thank you for your visit and prayers.

To my St. Mark's Family,

Heartfelt thanks for all the cards, visits and phone calls and the bread and soup I received as I recovered from surgery.

These expressions of thoughtfulness, love and caring warmed my heart and brought joy to my spirits,

I'm so very thankful and happy to be a member of St., Mark's family.

Love, Henrietta Tyson

Dear friends at St. Mark's Lutheran Church,

Your recent \$118 donation to the Shepherd of the Streets Ministry is deeply appreciated.

Your gift of love is the spark needed for the candle to burn brighter in the hearts of those walking a difficult road.

We deeply appreciate your consistent support of this ministry. This is truly an expression of compassion for those in need. May God's peace and blessings be with you all.

Karen Nelson, Volunteer

Dear Children,

We would like to thank the St. Mark's Lutheran Church Sunday School children for their Lenten Collection of Change which has been donated to this ministry. Your hard work and love for others will help those who have very little. We deeply appreciate your act of compassion and pray that Jesus will bless and walk with you each day.

SPECIAL CONCERNS LIST

Jeannette Aderhold
2809 Four Mile Drive
Montoursville, PA 17754

Patricia Alexander
1745 Chestnut St.
Williamsport, PA 17701

Nancy Bohartz
624 Sixth Ave.
Williamsport, PA 17701

Doris Brownlee
47 W. 4th St.
Williamsport, PA 17701

Ethel Chambers
1129 East Third Street
Williamsport, PA 17701

Bonita Crossley
R.R. #1, Box 1001
Hills Grove, PA 18619-9300

June Decker
338 Sherwood Ave.
South Williamsport, PA 17702

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

Charles Ditchfield
327 Louisa St.
Williamsport, PA 17701

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

Jeanne Fargus
2001 Memorial Avenue, Apt 50
Williamsport, PA 17701

Harriet Fornwalt
729 Wilson Street
Williamsport, PA 17701

Doris Fortin
Rose View Center
1201 Rural Ave., Room 223
Williamsport, PA 17701

Earl Foulkrod
Sycamore Manor
1445 Sycamore Rd., Rm. 403
Montoursville, PA 17754

Jean Gulliver
3039 Elimsport Road
Montgomery, PA 17752

John Hollenback
Williamsport Home
Spec. Nursing, Rm. #306
1900 Ravine Rd.
Williamsport, PA 17701

Charles Homan
2215 Warrentown Rd.
Montoursville, PA 17754

Charlotte Hughes
140 Blueberry Lane
Williamsport, PA 17701

Glenn Lunger
1201 Rural Ave.
Rose View Center, Rm. 221
Williamsport, PA 17701
Mailing address:
4904 Charles Road
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050-3036

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

Anne Miller
947 Hepburn St.
Williamsport, PA 17701

Jane Oakes
833 Funston Avenue
Williamsport, PA 17701

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

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

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

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

Ira Tuxford
1838 Blanchard Ave.
Williamsport, PA 17701

Henrietta Tyson
2190 Grampian Blvd.
Williamsport, PA 17701

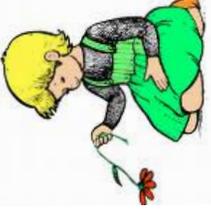
Zelma Vitolins
899 Eckard Rd.
Cogan Station, PA 17728-9322

Beulah Wrede
Faxon Commons,
1804 Loyalsock Drive, Apt 305
Williamsport, PA 17701

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

SAINT MARK'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>6</p> <p>Easter V 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM HC 9:15 AM Sunday School 11:40 AM Kantorei 11:45 AM Wedding Anniversary Milestone 5:15 PM Fam. Handbell</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6:00 AM New Windsor Trip 9:00 AM Morning Prayer</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9:00 AM Morning Prayer 10:00 AM Conference Pastors</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9:00 AM Morning Prayer 9:15 AM Staff Mtg. & Sewing 12:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Mutual Ministry</p>	<p>10</p> <p>6:31 AM Men's Ministry 8:00 AM Stephen Ministry 9:00 AM Morning Prayer 7:00 PM Lyc. Coll. Choir Send Off Concert</p>	<p>11</p> <p>**Agenda Deadline** Pastor at Pheresis 9:00 AM Morning Prayer</p>	<p>12</p>
<p>13</p> <p>Easter VI 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM HC 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Children's Ch.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:00 AM Morning Prayer</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9:00 AM Morning Prayer 12:00 PM LSM 6:30 PM Finance Comm. 7:30 PM Property Committee</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9:00 AM Morning Prayer 9:15 AM Staff Mtg. & Sewing 12:00 PM Bible Study</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6:31 AM Men's Ministry 9:00 AM Morning Prayer 7:00 PM Joint Lutheran Srv. at St. Matthew's in Newberry</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Newsletter Deadline 9:00 AM Morning Prayer</p>	<p>19</p> <p>8:00 AM Spring Work Day @ Camp Mt. Luther 10:00 AM Council Retreat</p>
<p>20</p> <p>Easter VII 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM HC 9:15 AM Sunday School 11:35 AM Congregational Assembly 11:40 AM Kantorei 12:00 PM Choir Dinner 6:00 PM Mtg./meal with Confirmands</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9:00 AM Morning Prayer 6:30 PM Council Mtg.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9:00 AM Morning Prayer</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9:00 AM Morning Prayer 9:15 AM Staff Mtg. & Sewing 12:00 PM Lunch 'N' Fellowship</p>	<p>24</p> <p>6:31 AM Men's Ministry 8:00 AM Stephen Ministry 9:00 AM Morning Prayer</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9:00 AM Morning Prayer 9:15 AM Newsletter Crew</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27</p> <p>Pentecost Sunday 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM HC 9:15 AM Sunday School 11:39 AM Contemporary Choir</p>	<p>28</p> <p>**Office Closed** 9:00 AM Morning Prayer</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9:00 AM Morning Prayer 7:00 PM Worship & Music Comm. Mtg.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>9:00 AM Morning Prayer 9:15 AM Staff Mtg. & Sewing 12:00 PM Bible Study</p>	<p>31</p> <p>6:31 AM Men's Ministry 9:00 AM Morning Prayer</p>	<div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Thanks for helping the babies!</p> </div>	

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
142 MARKET ST.
WILLIAMSPORT, PA 17701

Phone: 570-323-4619
Fax: 570-323-2452

Website: <http://www.stmarkswilliamsport.org>
Email: stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org



Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
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Permit No. 257
Williamsport, PA 17701



Sunday June 3rd
1 p.m.

Indian Park in Montoursville

Bring a dish to share,
your appetite,
a chair,
&
a friend!

All church database update! See page 18 for form. Please fill it out and return! Thanks! Susan