



The Lion of St. Mark's

FEBRUARY 2008

Lenten Midweek Series:

Where we walk, where Jesus walks

We enjoy the long-standing tradition of gathering at midweek each Wednesday in Lent.

On Ash Wednesday we celebrate the Holy Communion at 12:00 in the Chapel and at 7:00 in the Nave. On the five following Wednesdays we will again offer two sets of opportunities:

- 1) Come for Mid-Day Prayers at 11:40 in the Chapel, our pot-luck lunch at noon in Fellowship Hall, and then a brief time in thought and study.
- 2) Or, come at 6:15 PM for pot-luck supper, stay for thought and study at 6:55, and Evening Prayer in the Chapel at 7:30. An entree will be offered each Wednesday both at noon and in the evening, to be the base for the meal, supplemented by whatever good things each family might bring.

On Wednesday in Holy Week, we gather for the Passover Seder at 6:15 in Fellowship Hall.

The reflection time this year is organized under the title *Where we walk, where Jesus walks*: We will explore how our Lord Jesus' life of faith is mirrored in the first believers and in us. The range of the topics is listed here so that persons might prepare by reading the scriptures before the gathering. There will be a variety of visuals to help us dig into the subjects.



Feb 6, Ash Wednesday

...in deep conversation with the Father
Isaiah 6:1-8 Mark 14:32-42

Feb. 13, Wednesday in Lent I

...at the place of Baptism
Acts 16:11-16 Matthew 3:13-17

Feb. 20, Wednesday in Lent II

...in hometown
Acts 2:46-47 Luke 4:16-30

Feb. 27, Wednesday in Lent III

...at work in daily life
Acts 18:1-4 Luke 9:20-24

Mar. 5, Wednesday in Lent IV

...in conflict
Acts 20:17-24 Matthew 15:1-8

Mar. 12, Wednesday in Lent V

...on the way of the cross
Philippians 2:14-17 Luke 18:31-34

Mar. 19, Wednesday in Holy Week

...in the meal of the covenant
Exodus 12 Luke 22:7-20

COUNCIL UPDATE

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COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

The Congregation Council met in regular session on Monday, January 21 in the Crossways Room. The Council:

- viewed a brief video about the catechetical process we use, mentoring, and remembrance of Baptism.
- received reports from the pastor, officers, and committees.
- moved to accept Eleanor Waldeisen Whiting as a member by commendation from Covenant Central Presbyterian Church.
- heard the President appoint the Nominating Committee for the year: Brenda Bittner, chair, Nancy Larson, Lucille Weaver, Ted Larson, Phil Thomas, Matt Fortin.
- approved the plan to co-operate with St. Luke Church in planning Consecration Sunday: we will serve their celebration meal, and they will serve our two celebration meals on the Sunday following in October. Council members pledge their help on that day and will solicit assistance from others.
- reaffirmed the Council's decision from two years ago to replace the west glass doors and glass side panels in the narthex with insulating glass, and add panic hardware to the doors, at a cost of approximately \$7,256, paid from Capital Campaign fund, pending final details negotiated by the Property Committee.
- reaffirmed the Council's decision from two years ago to replace the west glass doors in the chapel narthex at a cost of \$4,461, paid from the Capital campaign and the Welker Trust interest.
- noted that the officers and our lawyers will be preparing to discuss land questions with city officials.
- noted Mutual Ministry Committee will be working on an update of our policy for those persons working with youth in the parish.
- rejoiced that Messiah Church has added its name to the list of those who are willing to help develop Family Promise in Williamsport. We are continuing to work toward the needed 13 congregations so we can proceed.
- set February 18 as the next meeting date.

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EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Thought, Conversation, and Education for Adults

Martin Luther is much more than a October 31 afterthought. He was one of the most widely-known persons of his century; hated by some and deeply appreciated by others. Since February is the month of his birth, drop in at the Crossways Room at 9:15 on Sunday mornings and find out more about his life, his faith and its roots in scripture study, and what was happening around him in society. We just might be surprised to discover that some of the issues so prominent in his century are still troubling us in ours...and the understanding of scripture is still at the heart of the conflicts. Sessions on this topic begin on February 3.

OR... Stop by the Middle Lounge at 9:15 on Sundays and participate in a study of the faith put forward through the Apostles' Creed as we read *Lord, I Believe, Help My Unbelief*. Has the Apostle's Creed become such a routine part of worship that you recite it with all the passion of reading items on a grocery list? If so, *Lord, I Believe, Help My Unbelief* will help you recapture the heartfelt conviction of a historic article of faith. This book was used in the Crossways group this past fall, and has led us into lively and thought-provoking discussions.

Ron Lavin, author of this course says, "we need to study this often misunderstood and generally neglected resource more than ever, because it encapsulates what so many people seem to be searching for." Sprinkled with humor and antidotes, it analyzes the Apostle's Creed line by line, and includes discussion questions that in these troubled times helps us reflect on the theological and confessional truths of the church.

This is an invitation to all adults to join Bob Schultz in the Middle Lounge Sunday School Class beginning Sunday, February 3rd at 9:15 a.m.

Even if you haven't been involved in one of these groups in the past, now is a perfect time to come aboard. You, your family, and the whole church benefit when you take the time to think and talk.

U.S.S. Women of the ELCA Day of Learning

The U.S.S. Women of the ELCA's Day of Learning takes place this April 26, 2008 at Faith Lutheran Church, Lewisburg.

The theme is: "Praying Boldly"

Registration Cost: \$10

Registration is from 9:30-10 a.m.

Two workshops will be offered: one presented by Fred and Roberta Anderson, the Eastern regional coordinators for the World Mission Prayer League. The second will be presented by Rev. Ted Cockley, Chaplain of Buffalo Valley on Hospice and Prayer. The Bible Study Leader is Rev. Frank Showers, Pastor of Church of the Savior & St. Matthew's Williamsport. Pastor Showers and Pastor Cockley will be serenading in song us during lunch.

**IRON
SHARPENS
IRON
PROVERBS 27:17**

**"As iron sharpens iron,
so a man sharpens the
countenance of his friend."**

Men's Ministry

Thursdays, 6:31 a.m.

Are you sharp enough?

BACKYARD BURNING DEBATE

For those who desire more information in the backyard-burning debate, Michael Ochs (326-2513) has printed materials and also points out a website, www.airdefenders.org

Social Ministry News

God Was Calling & You Answered!

The Shepherd of the Streets sees the distress many citizens of our community are experiencing due to unemployment, underemployment, homelessness, or illness without insurance. During the winter months blankets are in short supply at the Shepherd's office.

The Social Ministry Committee thanks the congregation for the many (more than a dozen) blankets donated to the Shepherd of the Streets. The committee also thanks the congregation for the tubs of food donated at the same time to the United Churches Food Bank.

A special thank you is extended to Carl Hieber for delivering all of our donations. Speak to him about the sincere thanks expressed to him by both organizations.



Clothing Sale April 19, 2008



The Women of Saint Mark's need your family's no-longer-wanted clothing for our spring clothing sale. We are accepting good, clean clothing from all seasons and in all sizes from infant to adult. We are also accepting shoes, suits, coats and clothing accessories. Your donations may be placed in the Bazaar Room.

This event qualifies for matching funds from Thrivent. Additionally, any clothing not sold the day of the sale will be sorted and distributed to the West End Community Center, NGA (New Garment Agency formerly the Needlework Guild of America) other local charities that express a need for clothing when contacted, and the American Rescue Workers.

Please take a few minutes and help us reach out to those in need in our community.

Please contact Shirley Hill or Becky Miller Pryor with suggestions, questions, or to volunteer for this event.

News from the Pews

Can it be possible that Christmas is over and before you know it ~ February 6th, to be exact, Ash Wednesday will usher in the Lenten Season? Lots of our college students were home for the Christmas vacation ~ some have returned and some have an extended break.

While **Katy Elkin** was home from Barcelona she shared her talents with about thirteen of our members. Mothers and daughters and one son tried their hand at a Spanish sweet bread. We were pleased with the results but I don't think Rosencrans, Wegman's or Johanna's need to worry about competition.

Donna & Gary Clark, report that their son, **Scott**, has been named M&T Securities Market Manager for Maryland. He will be responsible for the Maryland markets, in addition to the Pennsylvania markets he currently manages. Scott and his family reside in Liberty, His community work includes volunteering at The United Way, the American Cancer Society and Habitat for Humanity. He and his wife, **Dawn**, are the proud parents of two daughter, **Mackensie and Emily**.

Nick Buckman continues his theatrical career at the Community Theatre League. His latest venture is "Runs in the Family" which is playing to sellout crowds.

Dr. Ted Larson received a special award from the Lycoming County Medical Society. He was honored for fifty years of service as a physician and radiologist. An added bonus for **Ted and Jane** was that their daughter, **Lynne**, was able to be a part of the festivities. Lynne lives in Florida and was in Williamsport for the special event. Congratulations, Ted, on an impressive milestone!

Nurse's Notes

February 2008

- February 3** Make your own low-fat, lower-calorie tortilla chips by baking fresh tortillas at 400° for 8-10 minutes, or until crisp. You can cut them into triangles before baking, or break them into chips afterward.
- February 10** Dr. Bernie Siegel, Yale physician and author of a best-selling book titled *Love, Medicine and Miracles*, has written "Unconditional love is the most powerful stimulant of the immune system. The truth is: love heals."
- February 17** If you have trouble falling asleep, look at the ingredients in any pain relievers you're taking – several brands of aspirin and acetaminophen contain caffeine. Two of these tablets typically contain 150 mg. of caffeine – as much as a cup of coffee.
- February 24** In case you are choking on food and no one is around, know how to self-administer the Heimlich maneuver. Make a fist and place the thumb side against your abdomen, slightly above the navel. With the other hand, grasp the fist and press it in and upward with quick, sharp thrusts. Another method: press your abdomen (just below the ribs) forcefully against the back of a chair, table, sink or railing. Repeat until the food is expelled.

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY NEWS

Habitat Luncheon Update

Another opportunity to support Habitat for Humanity's work, by providing lunch to a work crew, will be Saturday, February 2, 2008.



Please contact Becky Miller Pryor if you can provide food or serve that day. Monetary donations to offset the cost of food are also being accepted.

Lunch N' Fellowship Will resume on Wednesday, April 16th

Please join us for Wednesday Mid-day prayer, lunch & study beginning at 11:40 a.m. on February 13th in the Chapel during the Lenten period.



Upcoming Milestone Calendar

February 3

All the Languages of Good News

February 17

Holy Baptism

March 2

Prayer Pillows

February 24, March 2 and 9

Blessing of Affirmers

March 22

Affirmation of Baptism

May 4

Wedding Anniversary

May 11

Sending our members of *The Way* with prayers for their Christian Vocation

From the *Small Catechism* by Martin Luther

What is confession? Confession has two parts: the one is that we confess our sins; the other is that we receive Absolution, or forgiveness, from the confessor as from God himself, and in no way doubt, but firmly believe that our sins are forgiven before God in heaven by this.

What sins should we confess? Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even those we do not know, as we do in the Lord's Prayer. But before the confessor we should confess only those sins that we know and feel in our hearts.

Which are these? Here consider your calling according to the Ten Commandments, whether you are parent or child. Consider whether you have been disobedient, unfaithful, or slothful. Consider whether you have grieved anyone by words or deeds, whether you have done other harm.

Individual Confession and Forgiveness is available anytime by speaking with the Pastor. The order is located on page 196-197 in *Lutheran Book of Worship*.

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

We are on a mission to fight hunger and poverty. You can help.

"Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat"



FEBRUARY 3rd IS THE LAST DAY

TO DONATE FOR THIS SOUPER BOWL! Please look for the footballs for soup and the pots for cash donations in the narthex and near the sacristy entrance. Your donation will go directly to a charity right here in our community. With your help, more dollars will be raised, more lives will be changed, and more young people will experience the joy of serving Christ by serving others.



Look for news about this year's Vacation Bible School!!



What will the theme be this year??



Sharon and Bernadette are in the process of planning a very special time for all!



Fun Night February 22nd



This is our anniversary month!!!
Yes—we've been enjoying each other's company with no agenda (except good sportsmanship) for one whole year already!!!

Time really does fly when you're having fun!!!
Haven't joined us yet??

Check it out—6:30 p.m.,
Friday, Feb. 22!!

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

St. Mark's Lions



Our athletes have been playing great games with lots of fantastic teamwork! Our coaches have been awesome in the guidance of these young players. Our Beginners are having a blast—and scoring a lot more with the hoops at eight feet instead of ten! We're building a great bench for next year! The Midgets are holding their own and playing some great games. All-in-all, we have a fantastic group of kids representing us!!

Our practices continue every Tuesday, at Trinity Episcopal Church. The Beginner Pee Wee team practices from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. and the Midgets team from 7p.m. to 8 p.m. A schedule of their remaining games is included below.

Players, please arrive a half-hour early for your games!!

To all members of the congregation, please take just on half of an hour out of your day to cheer on some our young ambassadors. Your support could make a difference!

JOHN BOWER SUNDAY SCHOOL BASKETBALL LEAGUE 2007-2008

SCHEDULE FOR *ST. MARK'S LIONS* BEGINNERS & MIDGETS AND *MESSIAH'S* PEE-WEES

BEGINNER PEE-WEES

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMPETITORS
Feb. 2	9:30 am	Arena Center	<u>St. Mark's</u> vs. Antioch Baptist
Feb. 9	1:00 pm	Arena Center	Immaculate Con. Closers vs. <u>St. Mark's</u>
Feb. 16	11:30 am	Arena Center	<u>St. Mark's</u> vs. St. Ann's - B

MIDGETS

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	COMPETITORS
Feb. 2	10:00 am	Arena East	<u>St. Mark's</u> vs. Antioch Baptist
Feb. 9	1:30 pm	upstairs Main	<u>St. Mark's</u> vs. St. Ann's - B
Feb. 16	12:30 pm	upstairs Main	Montoursville Presbyterian vs. <u>St. Mark's</u>
Feb. 23	TBA		Midget play-offs

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

Catechetical Retreat 2008



The Tenth Annual Catechetical Retreat, 2008, took place on January 12, 2008, at Messiah Lutheran Church. Christina Comini, Brandon and Paige Fortin, Sara Jones, Corey Hospes, Stephen Boone, Devin Owen, Riley Weber and Emily Newcomer

attended with parent (or grandparent) in tow.

Our students chose from five different classes to attend that day. The first session, most of them went to **Muggles, God and, Harry Potter**, offered by Pastor Frontz (Messiah). Emily chose to go to **It's a Jungle out There—Living in a Global Village**, offered by Pr. Huckfeldt (St. Michael's). They split up into all three classes of the afternoon session, with most going to Pastor Elkin's offering of **Shards and Shrapnel: Violence and Hope**. The other classes attended were **Image is Everything**, led by Pastor Deibler (St. Luke) & Pastor Showers (Church of the Savior) and **Parents, Teens and Money**, led by Mr. Keith Wood (Thrivent). When you see parents or students, ask how they enjoyed their day!

MILESTONE MINISTRY

On Sunday February 3rd, St. Mark's will be giving out the "**All the Languages of the Good News**" milestone to those children in kindergarten here at St. Mark's. Gillian Buckman, Madalyn Fortin, Hannah Haussmann, Sean Jensen, Dylan Ott and Brandon Pelleschi are the recipients of this milestone. The kindergarten milestone is a reminder that the St. Mark's congregation is a huge part of the **Passing on Faith** ministry. The special bag the children receive and its contents may be used as a tool for nurturing faith in the home. Please acknowledge these children and their families and wish them well on this day!

Passing on Faith: The Prayer Pillow, for all of our two-year-olds, marks the beginning of prayer within the family. This Milestone is fast approaching on March 2, 2008. We are planning a get-together for that Saturday, March 1, with Annette Frontz, from Messiah Lutheran, who will review with us ways to make prayer a part of our daily lives with our children. Parents, and grandparents, of our two-year-olds, please bring your child with you for this event. It will run from 11:00-12:30 that Saturday, with a light lunch being served. The children included in this event are Emma Elkin, Gabriella Gregory, Noah Hallabuck, Gabriel Nichols, and Abigail Robertson. If we have missed a child for this milestone, please notify the church office *immediately*.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

will be held on Sunday, February 10, 2007, at 10:30 a.m. in the Chapel. Learn about love and service to others as Penn College students of United Campus Ministry visit to tell us about past and upcoming mission trips. The special collection that day will be breakfast items for the group to take along on this year's trip to feed the homeless in NYC. Breakfast bars, juice packs, individual cereal boxes and the like are all good ideas for this offering. Children will learn how they, too, can be of service and to those in need.



United Churches of Lycoming County

The following food items are currently needed by the food pantry:

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------------------|---------------|
| Peanut Butter | Spaghetti Sauce | Saltines |
| Cake Mixes | Hamburger Helper | Coffee |
| Frosting Mixes | Oodles of Noodles | Tuna Canned |
| Fruit | Tuna Helper | Juices Chunky |
| Soups | Clean plastic grocery bags | |



Donations if possible should be brought in on Monday mornings from 9:30 ~ Noon. We are in the Sojourner Truth Ministry Building, next door to our Shepherd Ministry on the corner of High & Center Streets.

**Local Poverty:
Young Children in Lycoming County**
(Under the age of 5 who are low-income)

<i>Zip Code</i>	<i>Post Office Area</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
17774	Unityville	28.3
17702	South Williamsport	27.1
17763	Ralston	25.0
17752	Montgomery	20.9
17756	Muncy	17.9
17701	Williamsport	12.6
17737	Hughesville	11.6
17728	Cogan Station	11.0
17771	Trout Run	10.9

United Campus Ministry at Penn College invites you to our mission fundraiser:

with Special Musical Entertainment!

Tuesday, February 26th

(rescheduled date)

5 p.m. - 7 p.m.

St Paul - Calvary United Methodist Church 1427 Memorial Avenue, Williamsport



***** DINE IN OR TAKE OUT *****

meat or meatless lasagna, salad, bread & dessert

\$7 adults, \$3 children

(suggested donations)



***** DONATIONS ONLY, NO TICKETS *****

Proceeds will send UCM college students to serve the hungry in New York City in March 2008.

Thank you all for your support!

Special Thank You's

A Special Note ~

To the cookie bakers at St. Mark's. Thank you so much for the cookies that Beth Shafranko brought me before Christmas. They were thoroughly enjoyed by me and all with whom I shared. I am still enjoying the poinsettia that Lucille Weaver brought me after Christmas. Thanks St. Mark's! To all St. Mark's ~ My best wishes for a Blessed, Healthy 2008.

Love to all, Dorothy Bingaman

Dear Rev. Elkin,

Thank you very much for your generosity in providing gasoline for medical transportation for a family in need. Many people find the winter months to be especially difficult; and through your compassion, you eased the stress and strain for this family's trip to Danville for medical treatment.

Also we would like to thank all our friends at St. Mark's for their generous donation of cleaning supplies, bath towels, sheets, pillow cases, blankets and quilts. This ministry, as well as those in need are truly blessed because of friends like you.

May God richly bless you,
Karen Nelson, volunteer

Dear People of God at St. Mark's,

On behalf of the officers, deans and all the members of the Society of the Holy Trinity, I thank you for your generous contribution of \$300 during the year of Our Lord 2007. Your gift will help the Society as it seeks to encourage the exercise of a disciplined and faithful ministry of God's Holy Word and Sacraments in the Church and for the world. As we strive for faithfulness in ministry, we pray for your continued support.

May the Lord fill you with all faith as we celebrate his appearing amongst us.

In Christ,
Rev. John E. Priest, STS Secretary

To the Members and Friends of

St. Mark's Lutheran Church:

Thank you so much for your contribution of \$37.50 towards the work of Yokefellow Prison Ministry.

Our council of Yokefellow Prison Ministry aspires to the words of the Hymn written by Mary A. Thompson in 1894. That Hymn is entitled *O Zion Haste* and the stanza are:

Behold how many thousand still are lying bound in the darksome prison-house of sin. With none to tell them of the Savior's dying, or of the life he died for them to win.

Proclaim to every people, tongue and nation that God, in whom they live and move, is love. Tell how he stooped to save his lost creation, and died on earth that we might live above.

Give of thine own to hear the message glorious; give of thy wealth to speed them on their way, Pour out thy soul for them in prayer victorious; O Zion, haste to bring the brighter day.

This hymn sums up the strategy of our Council as our volunteers witness to men and women weekly. We believe that God's world is waiting and longing to be set free from the 'garbage' of our world. We are passionate about making disciples of Jesus Christ within the prisons so that the inmates can go out into the world and serve Him by taking His love with them and by living productive, healthy lives. We covet your prayers for us.

Yours truly,
Evadna Cline, Executive Director

Dear St. Mark's Lutheran Church,

On behalf of Journey House we would like to thank you for your donation of \$25 for Journey House. Your support of this local project for the homeless speaks to your concern for the community of which you are a part. We are so excited about Journey House and it's future. With gifts such as yours, Journey House has become a reality. Thank you again.

New Covenant Community Connections, Inc.
on behalf of Journey House, Wmspt, PA

To Mutual Ministry & all the members of St. Mark's,

The staff of St. Mark's would like to thank you for the generous Christmas bonuses you provided to each of us. It was so thoughtful of you to remember us in this way. Thank you again for your gift!

In His Love,
St. Mark's Office Staff

HEALTH, HEALING & WHOLENESS

"In you, O Lord, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me. Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily. Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me. You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me, take me out of the net that is hidden from me, for you are my refuge. Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O Lord, faithful God" (Psalm 31: 1-5, NRSV).

On January 10th, 2008 the National Institute of Mental Health reported a breakthrough in the search for the cause of a group of developmental disorders that affect a child's ability to socialize and communicate with others. In this syndrome, more commonly known as autism, the gene variant CNTNAP2, appears to be vital in the production of protein that enables cells within the brain to communicate with one another - ultimately affecting the healthy development of brain itself (www.mimh.nih.gov). Asperger's Syndrome (AS) is one of the mildest forms of these types of disorders. **Neither** a mental illness **nor** a sign of poor parenting, Asperger's causes problems in the life of a child, by making it difficult to comprehend and respond to the feelings and behaviors of other adults and children around him/her. Some experts have called AS "mind blindness" because the disorder causes "the person to stumble and bump into complex social situations that they can't 'see', effectively blinding [them] to certain aspects of daily life" (www.udel.edu/bkirby/asperger/grandparents.html).

Normal, yet different, children with AS are often quite gifted. They have an ability to focus in ways that many of us are incapable of – they feel feelings more strongly, experience textures, taste and temperature in ways most of us are unable. As a result many go on to become great artists, scientists or musicians, joining the ranks of folks such as Albert Einstein, Thomas Jefferson, Andy Warhol – all believed to have had the disorder. Their intense focus on one or two narrowly defined subjects may even lead them toward becoming experts in a variety of fields – sometimes at a young age.

Along with difficulty relating to others, additional common signs of Asperger's, may include an inability to maintain eye contact, a tendency to carry on long one-sided conversations, speaking in a monotone, or displaying stiff or awkward movements, but just as each fingerprint is unique, the disorder is different for each child. Though there is no cure for autistic spectrum disorders, it is possible to help these children navigate relationships with others more successfully. Caring adults need to provide an environment in which it is safe for the child to function. This requires flexibility, in dealing with behavior, learning to **really listen** to what the child needs/wants, an ability to recognize situations in which an emotional melt-down may occur, diverting negative behavior patterns, and serving as an 'interpreter' in social situations – explaining as you go. Praise the child for his/her strengths, and take the time to become involved in their interests, acknowledge his/her expressions of frustration, and respect their fears. Control your own frustration and anger – these children have a tough enough time dealing with their own feelings, much less with an adult's emotions. Avoid teasing, shaming, threatening, demeaning, or comparisons to siblings. Because there are few visible signs of the disorder, it is up to the adult to alert teachers, coaches, and other adults to the child's special needs, and to advocate for special learning assistance when necessary.

In October 2007, the American Academy of Pediatrics announced a new and ambitious program, promoting the routine screening of **all** infants for autistic spectrum disorders. The assessment would be done by the child's healthcare provider during well-baby check-ups at 18 and 24 months of age. Early diagnosis and treatment are key to success. Early subtle signs among toddlers include: language delays; not turning when called by name; not turning to look when the parent points saying, "Look at ..."; lack of back-and-forth babbling; failure to smile; and failure to make eye contact. Those cases considered "positive" would automatically trigger referrals to an audiologist (to rule out hearing problems) and to autism diagnostic specialists. Treating Asperger's syndrome and other autistic spectrum disorders requires a team approach to ensure that each child has the best possible opportunity to develop into a happy and successful adult.

February Blessings!

Debbie Best, Program Coordinator

Congregational Health Ministries & Family Life Services; Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries

BIRTHDAYS

Daniel Boone	02/01	Erick Fortin	02/12	Rick Robertson	02/17
Melissa Robbins	02/01	Helen Ochs	02/12	Betty Stroup	02/17
Lillian Skeeby	02/01	Emily Newcomer	02/13	Tyler Stugart	02/20
Kelly Foust	02/03	Michelle Owen	02/13	Donna Elkin	02/21
Lucille Markel	02/03			Brandon Pelleschi	02/21
Lawrence Bair	02/04			Evelyn Ward	02/21
Ethel Chambers	02/04			Seth Greninger	02/22
Susan Curry	02/04			Kenneth Caster	02/24
April Biblehimer	02/08			Gary Clark	02/27
Matthew Heaps	02/08	Elsie Sechler	02/13	Patricia Hershey	02/27
Paul Zimmerer	02/08	Robert Curry	02/14	Irma Logan	02/27
Gloria Greevy	02/10	Annette Peluso	02/15	Arlene McCoy	02/28
Charlene Wright	02/10	Scott Kimble	02/16	Jane Kline	02/29
Betty Diehl	02/12	Jarrett Eyer	02/17	Ralph Zeigler Jr.	02/29



ANNIVERSARIES

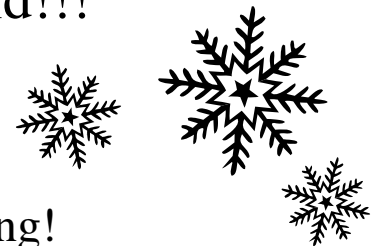


Lawrence & Louella Bair	02/07
William & Helen Hibschan	02/10
Frank & Shirley Vognet	02/14
Wilson & Blanche Doebler	02/23
Robert & Mary Schultz	02/25
Robert & Marguerite Smith	02/28



It's that time of year again! BRRR!!! Cold!!!

Please donate to the heating fund using the envelope enclosed with this newsletter.



Even a small gift helps us with the cost of heating!

Directory Changes:

Stephanie Bieber & Family
No known address

Julie Patrick,
193 Crown Point Dr., York, PA 17402

Heather Snyder
22 S. Broad St., Hughesville, PA 17737

Parish Registry

- Pastor Elkin officiated at the funeral service for Rebecca Bennett on December 28th.
- Pastor Elkin officiated at the funeral service for Annette Lipovsky on January 22nd.

SPECIAL CONCERNS LIST

Patricia Alexander
1745 Chestnut St.
Williamsport, PA 17701

Edith Anderson
Williamsport Home, Rm. #408
1900 Ravine Road
Williamsport, PA 17701

Nancy Bohartz
624 Sixth Ave.
Williamsport, PA 17701

Doris Brownlee
Fulmer's Personal Care Home
201 Woodward Ave.
Lock Haven, PA 17745

Ethel Chambers
1129 East Third Street
Williamsport, PA 17701

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

June Decker
338 Sherwood Ave.
South Williamsport, PA 17702

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

Charles Ditchfield
Valley View, Room 308
Montoursville, PA 17754

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

Jeanne Fargus
2001 Memorial Avenue, Apt 50
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

Lois Graybill
Williamsport Home, Rm. #309
1900 Ravine Rd.
Williamsport, PA 17701

Jean Gulliver
3039 Elimsport Road
Montgomery, PA 17752

Gail Hoffman
Riverwoods, Room 301
3201 River Road
Lewisburg, PA 17837

John Hollenback
Williamsport Home
Spec. Nursing, Rm. #303
1900 Ravine Rd.
Williamsport, PA 17701



Charles Homan
2215 Warrentown Rd.
Montoursville, PA 17754

Charlotte Hughes
140 Blueberry Lane
Williamsport, PA 17701

Glenn Lunger
Messiah Village
Room 259W D Special Care Unit
100 Mt. Allen Drive,
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

Merritt Hunt
1420 Clayton Ave.
Williamsport, PA 17701

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

Anne Miller
947 Hepburn St.
Williamsport, PA 17701

Jane Oakes
Presbyterian Home
810 Louisa St.
Williamsport, PA 17701

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

James Sheaffer
Rose View Center
1201 Rural Ave.
Williamsport, PA 17701

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

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

Ira Tuxford
210 Louise Ave.
Montgomery, PA 17752-9533

Zelma Vitolins
Sycamore Manor,
1445 Sycamore Rd., Rm. 325
Montoursville, PA 17754

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

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

St. Mark's Calendar of Events

<p>February 1 Friday 9:00 am—Morning Prayer 5:30 pm—FLOOD at CML</p>	<p>February 11 Monday 9:00 am—Morning Prayer 6:00 pm—Civic Chorus Bd. Mtg. 6:45 pm—Adult Handbells 7:00 pm—Civic Chorus</p>	<p>9:15 am—Staff Mtg. & Quilting 11:40 am—Mid-Day Prayer 12:00 pm—Lenten Lunch 12:30 pm—Lenten Study 6:15 pm—Lenten Supper 6:55 pm—Lenten Study 7:30 pm—Evening Prayer/Chapel</p>
<p>February 2 Saturday 9:00 am—Safe Haven Training</p>	<p>February 12 Tuesday 9:00 am—Morning Prayer 10:00 am—Conference Pastors 12:00 pm—Finance Comm. Mtg. 6:30 pm—Property Comm. Mtg.</p>	<p>February 21 Thursday 6:31 am—Men's Ministry 9:00 am—Morning Prayer 5:00 pm—Stephen Ministry II 7:30 pm—Senior Choir</p>
<p>February 3 Sunday <i>Transfiguration of our Lord</i> 8:00 am—Holy Communion 9:15 am—Sunday School 10:30 am—Holy Communion & Kindergarten Milestone 11:40 am Kantorei 4:00 pm <i>The Way</i> 5:00 pm Family Handbells</p>	<p>February 13 Wednesday 9:00 am—Morning Prayer 9:15 am—Staff Mtg. & Quilting 11:40 am—Mid-Day Prayer 12:00 pm—Lenten Lunch 12:30 pm—Lenten Study 6:15 pm—Lenten Supper 6:55 pm—Lenten Study 7:30 pm—Evening Prayer/Chapel</p>	<p>February 22 Friday 9:00 am—Morning Prayer 9:15 am—Lion Crew</p>
<p>February 4 Monday 9:00 am—Morning Prayer 6:45 pm—Adult Handbells 7:00 pm—Civic Chorus</p>	<p>February 14 Thursday 6:31 am—Men's Ministry 9:00 am—Morning Prayer 7:30 pm—Senior Choir</p>	<p>February 23 Saturday February 24 Sunday <i>Lent III & Bishops Day for Confirmands</i> 8:00 am—Holy Communion 9:15 am—Sunday School 10:30 am—Holy Communion 4:00 pm—<i>The Way</i> 5:00 pm—Family Handbells</p>
<p>February 5 Tuesday 8:00 am—City Pastors 9:00 am—Morning Prayer</p>	<p>February 15 Friday <i>Newsletter Deadline</i> 9:00 am—Morning Prayer</p>	<p>February 25 Monday 9:00 am—Morning Prayer 6:45 pm—Adult Handbells</p>
<p>February 6 Wednesday <i>Ash Wednesday</i> 9:00 am—Morning Prayer 9:15 am—Staff Mtg. & Quilting 12:00 pm—Holy Comm. in Chapel 7:00 pm—Holy Comm. in Nave</p>	<p>February 16 Saturday February 17 Sunday <i>Lent II</i> 8:00 am—Holy Communion 9:15 am—Sunday School 10:30 am—Holy Communion & Holy Baptism 11:37 am—Alcolyte Training 4:00 pm—<i>The Way</i> 5:00 pm—Family Handbells 6:00 pm—Catechetics</p>	<p>February 26 Tuesday 9:00 am—Morning Prayer 5:00 pm—UCM Lasagna Dinner 7:00 pm—Family Promise</p>
<p>February 7 Thursday 6:31 am—Men's Ministry 8:00 am—Stephen Ministry I 9:00 am—Morning Prayer 5:00 pm—Stephen Ministry II 7:30 pm—Senior Choir</p>	<p>February 18 Monday 9:00 am—Morning Prayer 6:45 pm—Adult Handbells 6:30 pm—Council Meeting</p>	<p>February 27 Wednesday 9:00 am—Morning Prayer 9:15 am—Staff Mtg. & Quilting 11:40 am—Mid-Day Prayer 12:00 pm—Lenten Lunch 12:30 pm—Lenten Study 6:15 pm—Lenten Supper 6:55 pm—Lenten Study 7:30 pm—Evening Prayer/Chapel</p>
<p>February 8 Friday <i>Agenda Deadline</i> 9:00 am—Morning Prayer</p>	<p>February 19 Tuesday 9:00 am—Morning Prayer</p>	<p>February 28 Thursday 6:31 am—Men's Ministry 9:00 am—Morning Prayer 7:30 pm—Senior Choir</p>
<p>February 9 Saturday February 10 Sunday <i>Lent I</i> 8:00 am—Holy Communion 9:15 am—Sunday School 10:30 am—Holy Communion 11:37 am—Alcolyte Training 4:00 pm—<i>The Way</i> 5:00 pm—Family Handbells</p>	<p>February 20 Wednesday 9:00 am—Morning Prayer</p>	<p>February 29 Friday 9:00 am—Morning Prayer</p>

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



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Lent is a great time for review of our handbook of the faith, Luther's Small Catechism. Let's read one section and Luther's explanation each day, and cover the catechism twice during the season.

Here's a proposed schedule:

February 6 through February 15the Ten Commandments
February March 16 through February 18....the three articles of the Apostles' Creed
February 19 through February 25.....the seven petitions of the Lord's Prayer
February 26 through March 6.....the Ten Commandments
March 7 through March 9.....the three articles of the Apostles' Creed
March 10 through March 16.....the seven petitions of the Lord's Prayer
March 17 through March 22.....read portions of the St. Matthew Passion

If you do not have a copy of Luther's Small Catechism, please speak with the Pastor or Mrs. Jones or Mrs. Comini, and we'll secure one for you promptly.