



The Lion of St. Mark's

SEPTEMBER 2008

The Book of Faith Initiative

Yes, we actually voted on the Bible at Synod Assembly this summer. Fortunately, it passed, without dissent. That's a good thing, but so what? What difference should it make that we have resolved to look more closely at the foundation of the faith in Holy Scripture?

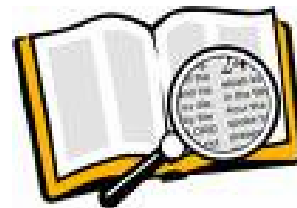
The chief thing to be done is to open the book and read. Pick a time and place, select a version that is most readable for you, and get started. That is easily said, but takes considerable discipline to accomplish.



It will be easier to do if we work on it together. Adding to the opportunities for study and conversation that we already have, we're going to use the tool called ***Divine Drama***, a shorter version of the in-depth study we know as *Crossways*. We'll be meeting on **Thursday evenings at 7:00** in the Crossways room just down the hall from the choir room and nursery.

The first half of the 30-session study is called the "Biblical narrative" which will give us an overview of the entire Bible. Though the Bible has many books within it, the story is unified – a narrative of human unfaithfulness but constant divine faithfulness. We begin with Genesis' origin stories of creation, fall, and chaos, continue through Abraham's call as the father of many nations, and hear the story of God's rescue of the people of Israel and the gift of the promised land. Though prophets called the people to faithfulness in God's covenant promises, exile from the promised land occurred as the people wandered from God's ways. Finally, we come to God's own fulfilling of the new covenant in Christ Jesus, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the creation of the Church, the body of Christ in the world.

The second half is "Our Narrative", where we will explore the implications of the Biblical themes in our lives today. We explore the reception of the living Word in preaching and sacraments, and what the terms "law" and "gospel" mean for everyday living.



We have written materials to use, but the basic text is always the Bible itself. Pastor Elkin asks that you contact the office (323-4619 or pastor@stmarkswilliamsport.org) and declare your intent to participate in this opportunity, so that the appropriate amount of materials may be secured. You can back up your phone call with a check for \$15, which works out to 50 cents per session. Please make reservations by September 4, so that we can be ready to begin on September 11.

An added bonus: Our friends at Messiah Church are also going to study the *Divine Drama* this year. Pastor Frontz will be leading a group on Thursday mornings at 9:00, and both Pastors Elkin and Frontz will continue in parallel fashion through the year, so that if a person must miss a session at one church, he or she may participate in the session at the other.

COUNCIL UPDATE

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COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

The Council met in regular session at 6:30 on August 18.

Their actions:

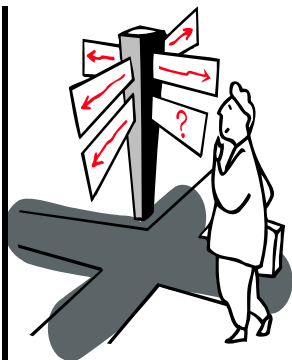
- Acceptance of Cassandra Wellen as a member by letter of transfer from Living Lord Lutheran Church, Warren, Ohio
- Acceptance of Bianca Audrey and Madisyne Virginia Wellen by letter of transfer from St Peter Lutheran Church,
- Granted letter of transfer for Mary Lou and Matthew Hartsock and Don and Mary Armstrong to St Andrew Lutheran Church, Muncy
- Established a Task Force for Audio Technology
- Designated Loose Offering of 11/16/08 for ELCA Women
- Invited Shepherd of the Streets at 11/09/08 Services
- Authorized the purchase of acoustic fabric to re-cover the chancel dossal.
- Allocated \$500 from the Welker Benevolence Fund to be matched by another congregation for the purpose of applying for the 501(c)3 IRS designation
- for Family Promise of Lycoming County, Inc. and associated publicity expenses.
- Noted that a 7th church has joined the Family Promise Program - St. Matthew
- Received the regular reports of the Pastor, Committees, and Officers
- Next Meeting: Sept. 15, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. with Prayer at the Close of the Day

The Rev. J. Ray Houser, Jr. passed on July 15, 2008. He was ordained by the Pittsburgh Synod in 1953 at St. Mark's Lutheran Church. In retirement, he served as an assistant at Grace Lutheran Church in Rochester PA. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to his wife Barbara at 5003 Clifton Drive, Alliquippa PA 15001.

Staff & Officers Contact Information

Church Office	323-4619	stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org	Church fax number	323-2452
The Reverend Kenneth Elkin, Pastor		pastor@stmarkswilliamsport.org	Pastor's Home Phone	323-7367
Dick Lakey, Director of Music		rlakey@stmarkswilliamsport.org		
Sharon Comini, Christian Education		scomini@stmarkswilliamsport.org	Harold Hershberger, President	322-0410
Bernadette Jones, Christian Education		bjones@stmarkswilliamsport.org	Gary Weber, Vice-President	322-7149
Susan M-Smith, Parish Secretary		smsmith@stmarkswilliamsport.org	Donna Clark, Council Secretary	998-2290
Richard Wagner, Financial Secretary		rwagner@stmarkswilliamsport.org	Jackie Kinney, Treasurer	323-5980
Lou DeSeau, Environmental Services		ldeseau@stmarkswilliamsport.org	Jane Larson, Stephen Ministry	323-2845
Gary Weber, Website Administrator		gweber@stmarkswilliamsport.org	Bob Shultz, Adult Catechumenate	326-3929

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY NEWS



The Way Begins Its Tenth Year

Sunday, September 14th *The Way* will begin its tenth year at St. Mark's. New candidates will gather on this date for an informational meeting to learn more about this process.

This invitation is open for any members of the congregation, for persons new to the parish, for curious friends, and also for un-baptized persons.

Something new this year is the time of the gatherings. Instead of meeting at 4 PM on Sunday afternoons we will be meeting at noon or earlier, following the 10:30 AM worship service. This will require only one trip to church on Sundays. Each gathering is scheduled for seventy-five minutes (1 1/4 hours).

Won't you join the more than 75 members of St. Mark's who have been involved in *The Way* either as a candidate, a sponsor, or both over the past nine years. These parish members are making a profound difference in the life of the congregation.

Join us this Sunday, September 14th at noon in the Crossways Room to see what this life enhancing process is all about.

Questions? Contact Pastor Elkin at 323-4619 or Bob Schultz at 326-3929.



So many opportunities!

The Bible should be our welcome companion instead of a stranger that we politely ignore! It takes work for us to know it well, but we have so many different opportunities for adults to work together at St. Mark's. There is one for you.

At 9:15 on Sunday morning September 14 in the office hall, gather for *People Who Met Jesus*, a month-long study written by Pastor Ron Lavin, the author of a book that we enjoyed last year. The first leader of the group is Bill Hill, with others to follow.

At 9:15 on Sunday morning September 14 in the Crossways room in the choir hall, gather for a *Crossways* unit on the books of 1 & 2 Peter that will focus on living out our baptism.

At 12:00 on Wednesday September 3, gather in Middle Lounge for a continuation of our reading of the classic *Pilgrim's Progress*, a book we say we know but have never read. Lots to learn, and many allusions to scripture!

At 6:31 AM on Thursdays, gather in the Middle Lounge for *Psalms*. We are currently at Psalm 89, reading one each week, and consulting ancient and modern sources to understand the Psalm and see how the Psalm begins to shape our lives differently.

At 7:00 on Thursday evening September 11, gather in the Crossways Room to begin *Divine Drama*, a 30 unit study described on Page 1 of the *Lion*. It is a great way to get an overview of the whole Bible.

Parish Register

- Geoff MacGill and Greta Guisewite were united in marriage on August 9, 2008
- Levi Kurt Gair, son of Edward & Brenda Gair, was baptized on Sunday, August 3, 2008
- Adam Douglas Clokey & Alex Michael Clokey, twin sons of Robert & Shelly Clokey were baptized on Sunday, August 10, 2008
- Dylan Michael Ott, Ashton Tyler Ott, & twins, Hudson Luther Ott & Nolan William Ott, sons of Robert Ott & Beth Miller were baptized on August 10, 2008
- Pastor Elkin officiated at the funeral of Roselyn Flock Simmons on August 8, 2008 at Montoursville Cemetery
- Donald Armstrong, Mary Armstrong, Mary Lou Hartsock and Matthew Hartsock transferred their membership to St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Muncy, PA on August 20, 2008

Nurse's Notes

September 7 It's back to school time, so be sure to set aside time at the end of each day to discuss the day's happenings. Anxiety and stress about starting school is normal, and should pass after a few weeks. If it continues past 2-3 weeks, speak to your child's teacher about how you can help the process. If the anxiousness persists, consider getting some outside help from a counselor.

September 14 Here are a few tips to help your child safely handle the weight of books in his/her backpack. Whenever possible, "pack light – organize the backpack to use all its compartments. Pack heavier items closest to the center of the pack. The backpack should never weigh more than 10-20% of the child's body weight." (American Academy of Pediatrics, as found on line at: <http://www.aap.org/advocacy/releases/augschool.cfm>)

September 21 Here are a few helpful communication tips for couples, from the Relationship Research Institute:

- State your needs. Your spouse is not a mind reader, so don't blame him/her for not meeting your expectations.
- Listen to your partner's concerns. Listening and empathy are needed to move forward in a healthy relationship.
- Solve problems as they arise. Avoiding conflict only allows resentment to bubble beneath the surface, leading to anger and hard feelings.
- Learn to negotiate. Good relationships require give-and-take as people's needs change.

September 28 Allergic to dust mites? Replace your pillows every year. "Hair and body oils will have soaked into a pillow's fabric and stuffing after a year of nightly use, making it a breeding ground for odor-causing bacteria and allergy-triggering dust mites. Using protectors can double the life of your pillows." (*Prevention*, August 2008)

Women of St. Mark's

KITS AND SOAP BARS DUE

If you have not yet handed in your soap bars, School Kits, Health Kits, Sewing Kits, or Layettees, please do so as soon as possible. Many thanks to all who have already participated. The need has intensified due to the increased number of worldwide disasters. Thank you also to Grace Arner, Mary Schultz, Eileen Georg, and Shirley Hill for making the bags for the school kits.

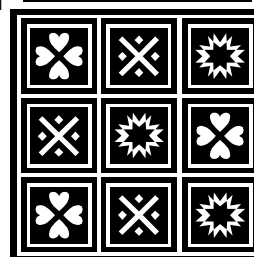


WOMEN'S FALL MEETING

The Women of St. Mark's will hold a brief meeting following Lunch N' Fellowship on Wednesday, September 17th in Fellowship Hall. Bring a potluck dish to share and come and eat! The food is outstanding. Enjoy fellowship with members of our great St. Mark's family. Find out what is new with our busy

QUILTING BEGINS

Consider joining our quilting group on Wednesday mornings. We will begin on September 3rd at 9:15 a.m., or for Morning Prayer at 9:00 a.m. Actual sewing skills are not necessary. Bring scissors for clipping knots. The enjoyment of working with others to create useful quilts makes this a win-win activity. The warmth of a quilt is comforting and even lifesaving to a suffering person.



DO YOU HAVE OLD BLANKETS?



Used blankets are very much needed for quilt fillers. No matter how worn they are they can be used, as long as they are clean. Flat sheets in good condition make excellent backings for the quilts. Check your closets.

Breakfast in the Courtyard Sunday, September 7th 9:15 AM

Please join us for this annual event to kick off our Sunday School Season.

Confirmation

You've supported them for two years: now, please join them at the 10:30 service on Sunday, September 7, when Christina, Brandon, Paige, Sara and Hannah are confirmed.

As we begin this year of study in Sunday School, they begin their lives as adults in the practice of their faith. Please pray for them and encourage them as they take this important step in their lives.

Let them know you rejoice with them by either joining us at breakfast in the courtyard at 9:15 or at a special hospitality after the 10:30 service.

Elca, Synod & West Branch News

Bishop Driesen to Meet with Congregation Councils in Each Conference

Encouraged by the Synod Council, Bishop Driesen has invited all Congregation Council members of our synod to evening events being held this year in each conference. At the events, the bishop will be sharing his thoughts on structuring councils for mission (versus a business/fiduciary model) that were adopted by our Synod Council earlier this year. He will also discuss the unique role a council plays in the life of a congregation, and how they may best fulfill their God-given call to serve Christ in his Church. Event date Sept. 30, 6:30 PM, St. John's Brick, Montgomery has been set for the West Branch Conference. The Bishop encourages pastors to attend with their Council members.

NYC Bus Trip Sponsored By Williamsport AIDS Resource Center

The Williamsport AIDS Resource Center is sponsoring a bus trip to New York City. This trip will take place on Saturday, September 27th. The bus will leave the parking lot of St. Luke Lutheran Church in Williamsport at 6:00 AM; it will leave NYC at 7:00 PM. There is no agenda for this trip; it is simply an easy way for you to visit the city. The price is \$45 per person. For reservations, contact Tim and Carol Steck at 326-9590.

"For God's Sake, Caring for Creation"

National Association of Evangelicals spokesperson Richard Cizik will speak on the topic, "For God's Sake, Caring for Creation," October 16, at Bucknell University's Langone Center Forum, at 7 p.m. More information to follow.

Leave a Legacy for Ministry and Mission

Think about the part you want to play in the Church's future. You have the opportunity to support the ministries of the church in many ways. Naming your congregation or other ministries of the Church as a beneficiary in your estate plan or the making of an endowment gift can assure your continued participation in this ministry far into the future. For more information on how to include your favorite Church charities in your estate planning call Pr. Greg Kramer at the Lutheran Planned Giving Office at 570-374-2044 or call the Foundation of the ELCA, 800/638-3522, ext. 2970 or visit our website at www.elca.org/fo.

Earth Stewards: Northumberland County's People of Faith

Also note the newly formed group, Earth Stewards: Northumberland County's People of Faith. Creation Care is their work. Info. from Earth Stewards, PO Box 161, Northumberland PA 17857. One may join with three stamped and self-addressed envelopes or a \$5.00 contribution. They have a book discussion group, a speakers bureau, and can provide a copy of "5 steps to a healthier and more environmentally friendly church."

I want to help with ELCA Domestic Disaster Response Funding!

Name _____ Envelope # _____

A Gift for U.S. Flood Relief \$ _____

A Gift for U.S. Tornado Relief \$ _____

A Gift for Where it is needed most in the U.S. \$ _____

Elca, Synod & West Branch News

2008 APPLE CORPS WOMEN'S RETREAT SATURDAY, SEPT. 20TH

9:30 AM ~ Coffee & Donuts. Sessions led by Rev. BJ Collins of the Follmer Lutheran Parish. There will be singing, prayer and devotions with closing worship at 2:45 PM. Lunch & snacks will be provided. \$13 per ticket.



2008 APPLE CORPS MEN'S RETREAT & CHILI-COOKOFF SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25TH

9:30 AM ~ Refreshments & Registration. Bishop Driesen will lead two morning sessions on *Leading Men of the Bible*. There will be singing, prayer. The day will end around 1 PM after lunch and devotions. Bring your best chili to enter in the cook-off! Snacks are provided. \$13 per ticket.

CAMP MOUNT LUTHER CHICKEN BARBECUE SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4TH 11:00 AM ~ 2:00 PM

Barbecue Chicken, Side Dishes, Roll, Dessert & Beverage

Adults \$7.50 Children 12 and under \$3.75

Fishing Derby for children at the pond.

Tickets are available by contacting the camp office.

Deadline for ordering tickets is September 29th.

A limited number of walk-ins will be available.

Y''''''all
Come



CAMP MOUNT LUTHER TURKEY DINNER & QUILT AUCTION



Elca, Synod & West Branch News

To West Branch Conference Lutheran Churches:

A group from the Outreach Ministry of St. John Lutheran Church will be traveling to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on a Mission Trip to help with flood relief. Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating flood relief in that area where thousands of homes were damaged from this summer's massive flooding. Cedar Rapids was one of the areas that was hard hit by flooding.

They will be leaving by bus on Saturday, October 4 and returning to Jersey Shore on October 11. They will be staying at Camp IO-DIS-E-CA which we are told is pretty nice.

There is room for additional volunteers if you know of anyone interested in going.

We have received donations to cover the fuel and additional donations are welcomed to cover their food expenses going out and back.

In addition there are three ways you could help us. (1) Pray for those going on the Mission Trip, (2) Support Lutheran Disaster Response with your donations, and (3) have a group in your congregation assemble a "Welcome Home Pack" that we can deliver to LDR.

To register or to obtain additional information contact Alice Fox at 398-7669.

Please add a personal note to the family encouraging them and letting them know you are praying for them. You may also include a Bible and a devotional.



Disaster Relief Scrub Bucket

- 1 Gal. of Bleach
- 1 large Comet Cleanser
- 1 bottle of Window Cleaner
- 1 sturdy scrub brush
- Several pairs of rubber gloves
- Roll of paper towels
- Several sponges
- 1 bottle all purpose cleaner
- 3—4 Garbage bags
- N95 Filter Masks

Place all of the above items into a
5 Gallon Plastic Bucket with Lid

- add
- 1 good mop
- 1 good sturdy broom

Welcome Home Packs

- 1 set of Pots & Pans
- Set of dishes with 4 to 6 place settings
- 1 16 pc. Set of glassware
- 1 set of flatware with 4 to 6 place settings
- 2 matching dish towels & dish rag
- Pot holders & Oven mitt
- Bottle of dish soap
- 1 salt & pepper shakers
- 1 glass or plastic 3 quart measuring cup
- Set of measuring cups & spoons
- Set of 3 mixing bowls
- Cutting board
- Mixing spoons, spatulas & cooking utensils
- Set of 5 disposable storage containers
- 1 box each of 1 qt. & 1 gal. Zip lock bags
- 1 water pitcher
- 1 set of cutlery knives
- 1 electric can opener
- 1 canister set
- 1 set of Rubber maid bowls with lids

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

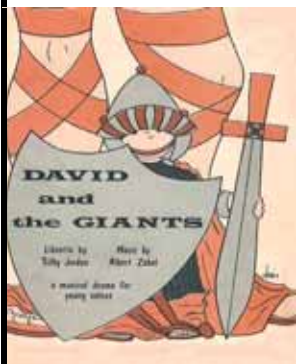
SUMMER CHOIR CAMP A SUCCESS!!!

The multigenerational cast of 37 performers entertained an audience on Saturday evening, August 9, with their musical version of the story of David and Goliath. They presented musical after a delicious pot-luck supper.

They offered the story as part of the sermon the next day at the 10:30 service. The lesson ended with how the David's of today can use faith, hope and love to battle the giants of contemporary society.

A huge **"thank you"** goes out to everyone involved with this great event: cooks, parents, grandparents, children and well-wishers—without any of whom we would not have been able to accomplish what we did.

You are all a wonderful gift from God!



Anna Zeigler
 Makensi Doebler
 Declan Jones
 Bob Schultz
 Grace Elliott
 Owen Elliott
 Tracie Elliott
 Andrea Gregory
 Annika Waffenschmidt
 Lynna Robertson
 Lois Smith
 Jenn Robertson

CAST & CREW

Rick Robertson
 Dan Zeigler
 Deb Buckman
 Ruth Burkholder
 Bud Hershberger
 Joyce Hershberger
 Amalie Robertson
 Abigail Robertson
 Bob Jones
 Stephanie Fortin

Becky Miller Pryor
 Shirley Kinney
 Mike Hooker
 Madison Walz
 Connie Shaible
 Jackie Kinney
 Ruth Rees
 Richard Lakey
 Sara Jones

Madalyn Fortin
 Stephen Boone
 Stefen Scheib
 Bernadette Jones
 Lou DeSeau
 Pastor Elkin
 Jane Kline
 Laura Zeigler
 Gabriella Gregory
 Diana Zeigler
 Bud Doebler
 Karen Boone



October 12th

In what has become an annual tradition in the thousands of communities that participate, an interfaith, multi-cultural collection of CROP walkers encourage friends, neighbors, colleagues, merchants and places of worship to donate dollars to support their participation in walks of up to 10 km. Participants, many with readily identifiable red and white signs, range in age from babies in strollers to seniors--and even the occasional jogger.

"It still surprises some Americans that there are people here in the richest nation in the world who go to bed hungry because they cannot afford to buy food," says Rev. John L. McCullough, executive director and CEO of Church World Service. "These local CROP Hunger Walks, organized by individuals and faith communities in cities and towns all across the U.S., raise awareness about hunger and give people a way to help both in their own communities and around the world."

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

Rehearsals to begin soon!



Senior Choir

Thursday, Sept. 4th 7:30 pm

Adult Handbell

Monday, Sept. 8th 6:45 pm

Family Handbell

Sunday, Sept. 14th 5:00 pm

Kantorei

Sunday, Sept. 14th 11:37 am

PVC Recorders - TBA

Liberian Fashion Show Williamsport—Sept. 9th

You are invited to come and see 'A Liberian Fashion Show' at Messiah Lutheran Church (Shaheen Hall), South Williamsport, on Tuesday, September 9. A time of fellowship begins at 7:00 PM followed by the program at 7:30 PM. The speaker is Ruth Koble from Sunbury. She has been with seven USS work teams and will tell of her experiences working with ex-combatants and village women at the

FREE VBS PICTURES!

Stop by the bulletin board in the office hallway and check out the awesome VBS pictures.

If there are pictures of your kids that you would like to keep, you may take them with you.



Imagine yourself debt-free! It's not a fantasy! It can happen!

“Financial Peace University,” Dave Ramsey’s course on financial matters from a Biblical perspective, will be offered on Sunday evenings in September, October, & November at Messiah Lutheran.

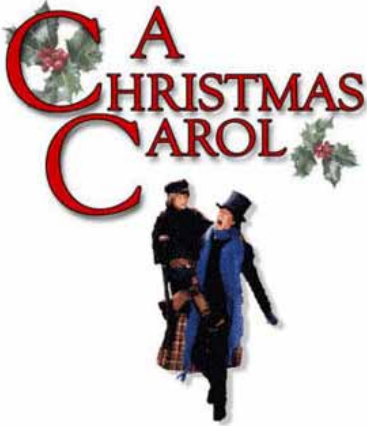
Get down-to-earth advice about under-

standing your relationship with money, reducing debt, spending smart & communicating with a spouse about money!

For more information, please contact Vince & Diane Bardsley at 323-7311 or ibardsley@gmail.com.



YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY



On Friday and Saturday, December 5 and 6, 2008, Lutheran Shared Ministry (LSM) will present A Christmas Carol, dinner theatre style, in Fellowship Hall at St. Mark's Lutheran Church. All donations will go to UCM.

On Sunday and Monday evenings, September 14 and 15, 2008, at 6:00 p.m., auditions and a volunteer sign-up will be held in the Nave at St. Mark's. Willing folk from all the congregations in LSM are welcome to audition and sign up to assist with meal preparation and service, scenic construction and painting, costumes, props and other technical needs.

The one-act play is adapted from Dickens's story to incorporate straight acting during the staves, interspersed with carolers. Those who are not comfortable singing are encouraged to audition for the character roles; parts are available for five men, two women, six either/or, and 4-6 children. We hope to see a caroling group (not too large) from each congregation; singers may also audition for some solo work. Except for the man playing Scrooge, rehearsals will be limited to one a week until mid-November when the cast will meet as a whole 2-3 times a week. A Christmas Carol is adapted and will be directed by Bernadette Haas Jones.

We would like to see at least one person from each congregation assisting with the meal and each of the technical areas (props, costumes, sets, etc.). Youth are needed to fill in the wait staff for one or both evenings. They will be instructed and supervised by an adult captain.

So, please think about this wonderful opportunity for our churches to get together at this special time of year; pencil us in on your calendars; and join us for Charles Dickens's A Christmas Carol. Come to St. Mark's on



United Campus Ministry at Penn College meets on Wednesdays at Trinity Episcopal Church from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm for Worship, Meal and Fellowship. Informal 20 minute worship/devotional times are led by pastors from local churches who provide a great home-cooked dinner for students. Some weeks students will take over the devotional time and cook for themselves.

St. Mark's is making dinner for them on September 10th. Again, we would appreciate anything you might be able to donate, an entree, a side dish or dessert, or even your time.

Check out the United Churches website: uclc.org and see what United Campus Ministry has to offer.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

will resume at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, October 12.



Lunch N' Fellowship September 17th

Noon



Dick's Famous Meat Loaf & Smashed Potatoes

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

Friday Fun Night

Will you be there?
 September 26th
 6:30 pm



"You have been made a major media baron—do whatever you like."



Apostle Build

Last month, you learned that we have chosen Saturday, September 6, as our first to provide a crew for the Apostle Build Habitat Home in Newberry. As this goes to print, **we have fewer warm bodies than we had for our cancelled date in August.** Call Bernadette NOW if you are available this month and want to be added to the list. One needs to be age 14 and above and breathing. Thank you to everyone who has signed up to work and thanks, too, to those who are providing lunch that day. On Sunday, September 7, all volunteers will be recognized at the morning services.

Anyone not able to actively participate, please pray for the success of the whole project and for the safety and camaraderie of the crew and for all of the work crews to follow us as the mission continues.

Our drive in July resulted in \$162.64 being donated to the Habitat program. We thank everyone who counted their blessings by giving to others

Have you visited the ReStore yet? Purchase gently used (or unused) items from Habitat's ReStore on Lycoming Street for up to 75% off retail prices. Donate clean, good condition items of your own for a tax write-off.



UPPER SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD YOUTH COUNCIL 2008-2009 Calendar of Events

Grace: It's Elementary
 date: Sunday, October 12th
 time: 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
 grades: 1-5 and parents
 location: Faith Lutheran Church in Lewisburg

Flood Camp Mount Luther
 date: Saturday, November 8th
 time: 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
 grades: 6-12 and youth leaders
 location: Camp Mount Luther, Maple Village

Flood Susquehanna University
 date: Sunday, January 4th
 time: 2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
 grades: 6-12 and youth leaders
 location: Susquehanna University Field House

Synod 6th-12th Grade Retreat
 dates: Friday, Feb. 20th – Saturday, Feb. 21st
 time: 5:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
 grades: 6-12, Bible study leaders, chaperones
 location: Camp Mount Luther, Maple Village

Camp Cleanup
 date: Friday, May 16th – Saturday, May 17th
 time: 6:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
 grades: 6-12 and youth leaders
 location: Camp Mount Luther, Maple Village

Senior High Adventure Day
 Spring 2009: grades 9-12

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY



While the prophet Samuel was young, he lived in the Temple under the spiritual guidance of Eli. One night God called Samuel's name, but he thought it was Eli. After this happened several times, Eli realized the truth and told Samuel to go back to bed and if he heard the voice again to respond by saying . . .

“Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening!” 1 Samuel 3:9b

God did call and Samuel listened. This began a relationship with God that went on throughout Samuel's life. In fact, in verse 19, it says, *“The Lord was with Samuel as he grew up, and he let none of his [God's] words fall to the ground.”*

At another point as Samuel was an old man, he addressed Israel: *“I have been your leader from my youth until this day. **Here I stand.**”* The people agreed that Samuel had led them with integrity and honor all his years, but it began when he was young.

It all started for Samuel when he made a **connection with God** at an early age. And he chose to continue to **connect** with Him daily throughout his life.

It's tough being a Christian student today, isn't it? You have to make a lot of choices about who you are—and who you're not. You have to try and follow God in a world that misunderstands Christianity and tolerates its principles less and less all the time.

What if, like Samuel you:

- made a **connection with God** as a young person?
- declared, **“Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening?”**
- never let any of God's words “fall to the ground” in your own life?

See You at the Pole™ is a great place to **connect with God, connect with other believers, and connect with your campus** in the name of Christ.

SYATP connects believers together at the beginning of the school year, so you can stand strong together throughout the year.

See You at the Pole™ is all about prayer. It's about you coming together and laying aside all the labels and groups for one day, to simply connect with God in prayer and connect with fellow Christians in unity around the flag pole—whether jocks, preps, geeks, Methodists, Baptists, Catholics, sophomores, or seniors.

*“Speak,
for your
servant is
listening!”
1 Samuel 3:10*

So are you ready to connect? Are you ready to say, *Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening?*

Join your generation **Wednesday, September 24, at 7 a.m., GATHER** at your school flagpole. **PRAY** for your school, friends, families, and world. **CONNECT.** Listen as He speaks to you.

SEE YOU AT THE POLE!

There is also more information on the See You at the Pole web site, www.syatp.com.

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

The Milestone Celebration of 70, Single and still Praising God!



It was a Lovely Time...

On Sunday, August 24, we honored those among us who are between the ages of 70 and 75, Single and Still Praising God. Hymns that had special significance in their lives were used during the service and a special prayer was said for them before the Sending.

Following the second service, Pastor Elkin sat down with those who were able to attend and enjoyed a luncheon of gazpacho, salade de poulet, rye toast wedges, lemon sorbet and a mixed-berry compote. After the good food and good conversation were enjoyed, the staff joined them for a sing-a-long of those significant hymns not included in the morning's service. Those not able to attend were thought of as their special hymns were sung.

Here is a list of honored at the Mile-Celebration that day:
 Beverly Best
 Doris Brown
 Sis Chrisman
 Jean Gulliver
 Alice Helm



those
stone

- Prudy Poff
- Ray Reams
- Ruth Rees
- Elsie Sechler
- Jean Soars
- Eleanor Sobers
- Marlene Vollmer
- Eleanor Whiting
- Bobbie Yetsko

Ya' shoulda' been there!!!!

If you had been among the almost 20 folk who gathered in the courtyard the evening of August 22, we are sure you would have had as nice a time as they. They used the new grill to cook hot dogs and heat baked beans; chips, cookies, candy and s'more fixin's were donated to the event. Special thanks goes to Jim Buckman for getting us set up with sound—thanks, Jim, it was great!! The weather was beautiful and, for those of you who have never viewed our selection, the movie was alternately thrilling, amusing and inspiring. Please make sure to join the group next summer when they break out the grill and projector again for one or more movie nights!!!



YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY



Milestone Bibles are available

You may have noticed some new Bibles in the pews lately. They were purchased by families to honor the last Anniversary Milestone celebration. Now, these Bibles are available to recognize any milestone in your family. Has your child recently graduated from high school or college? Were they recently baptized? Did they just receive their driver's license? These are just a few milestones where you may want to acknowledge their achievement with a pew Bible. Maybe your child just learned how to read and you want to mark that occasion with a Beginner's Bible. Both the standard Bible and the Beginner's Bible can be purchased and put in the pews. Please contact Sharon in the church office if you would like to purchase one a pew Bible for that special someone in your life.

Special Thank You's

Dear Friends at St. Mark's Lutheran Church,

Your recent gift of \$375 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. May the Lord shine brightly in all you say and do.

Thank you again for your most gracious contribution.

J. Morris Smith, Th.D

St. Mark's Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your recent donation of two Pack N' Play cribs and one crib set. One of the residents immediately claimed one of the cribs!

Your help is appreciated!

God bless,
Linda Bea, R.A.

Dear St. Mark's Family,

I appreciate your bouquet of flowers and having Kay Poliska deliver them. Kay has come back to visit me many times, and we have become friends. I miss being with you all on Sunday mornings, and Pastor Elkin is a wonderful preacher. Kay reads the Bible so beautifully to me, and delivers a powerful message of forgiveness. Sometimes we just have tea and cookies. Thank you for your prayers and blessings.

Yours in Christ, Mary Helen Scinicariello

To the caring people at St. Mark's,

The (8) two & three piece outfits donated were special for our special children. Happy Mothers say, "Thank You", too.

Bless you,
Joy Grafius,
Pregnancy Care Center

Dear Friends,

We would like to thank everyone for their prayers for Rachal Clark, our granddaughter during her recent illness. She has been released by her doctor and has resumed her normal activities. She will be able to enjoy her Senior year as a healthy young woman.

Thank you again!

Gary & Donna Clark

Happy Birthday!

Todd Smith	09/03	Robert Myers	09/12	Andrea Welker	09/15
Jeannette Lukens	09/04	Beth Shafranko	09/12	Louella Bair	09/16
Brett Campbell	09/05	Mary Ann Stiller	09/12	Tammy Fitzpatrick	09/17
Lauren Campbell	09/05	Marion Waldeisen	09/12	Abrenna Doane	09/18
Valerie Doebler	09/05			Deborah Holmes	09/19
Sean Elkin	09/05			Ashley Hallabuk	09/20
Hailey Jarrett	09/05			Richard Harris	09/20
Kirk Owen	09/05			Ronald Arner	09/22
Derek Lewis	09/06			Brittany Dewar	09/22
Laura McCullough	09/06			Noah Hallabuk	09/22
Betty Rechel	09/06			Jeffery Maggs	09/24
Debra Buckman	09/09			Aeric Powley	09/24
Nolan Ott	09/09			Richard Kneedler	09/25
Hudson Ott	09/09			Blanche Doebler	09/26
Ava Peluso	09/09			Lawrence Satifka	09/28
Mary Clouser	09/10	Alice Helm	09/13	Bailey Sims	09/28
Jane Oakes	09/10	Timothy Maggs	09/13	Ralph Zeigler Sr.	09/28
Carol Harvey	09/11	Stefan Weber	09/13	Harold Davis	09/29
Theodore Larson	09/12	Shirley MacGill	09/15	Pamela Fink	09/30



Happy Anniversary!

Ronald & Grace Arner	09/03		Johnny & Renee Hinds	09/19
Steven & Nancy Bieber Jr.	09/03		Michael & Jackie Kinney	09/25
Eric & Sharon Comini	09/03		Art & Jane Kline	09/27
Tom & Helen Schramm	09/03		James & Donna Maule	09/27
Robert & Shelly Clokey Jr.	09/04		George & Kay Poliska	09/28
William & Marion Waldeisen	09/10		Robert & Michele Ramsauer	09/28



Directory Changes

Ms. Donna Hutchinson, 2500 Federal Avenue, Apt. 135, Williamsport, PA 17701-4255
 Joseph & Rachel Reiter, Apt.# A-6, 6171 Riverside Drive, VA 24541
 Mr. & Mrs. Frank Bardo III, 2117 William Penn Way, Lancaster, PA 17601-5853
 Charles & Ann Kuntz, 1234 Mosquito Valley Road, Williamsport, PA 17701-8702
 Scott Dietterick, Apt C, 260 Hughes Street, Swoyersville, PA 18704-2168
 Wilson & Blanche Doebler, 1900A Ravine Road, Apt. #113, Williamsport, PA 17701
 Carl & Lucille Weaver, 424 Wyndham Court, Williamsport, PA 17701
 Karen Burd, 620 Kirk Ave., Casper, WY 82601-3323

HEALTH, HEALING & WHOLENESS

(W)holy, (W)holy, (W)holy

Health, Healing and Wholeness Article for September 2008

In *1 Samuel 17*, we are introduced to one mean dude by the name of Goliath, a Philistine, said to be - “six cubits and a span” - nearly ten feet tall. Goliath taunts the Israelites, shouting to them to send out their bravest warrior to fight him. The loser would earn the dubious distinction of seeing himself and his people, become servants to the victor. It would seem that even the Bible has its bullies.

Just as displayed by Goliath, bullying is aggressive behavior – physical, verbal, psychological – that involves an imbalance of power. It is unhealthy, and should not be tolerated as “a normal part of growing up”; unfortunately some people never out-grow it. Bullies thrive on controlling others. If you were to imagine a “typical” bully, hitting, tripping, name-calling and insults would probably be the first behaviors that would come to mind. Bullying by children can take on many different forms ranging from social isolation – shunning, excluding, interfering in friendships, using other children to get what they want – to cyber bullying – sending hurtful messages, images, or sensitive personal information by IM (instant message), cell phone, or on web sites such as “My Space”, blogs and chat rooms. Typically, boys will use physical means of intimidation, versus the verbal or psychological methods often used by girls. Some bullies are clever enough to have henchmen do the dirty work for them, thus reducing the ring-leader’s sense of personal responsibility.

The irony in all this is that it is not just the recipient who suffers, but the bully as well. Bullies are often victims of abuse themselves (examples: hitting, name-calling, insults); they may be depressed, or have an inability to express their pain and anger in productive ways. As a result they develop poor judgment and social skills; however unchecked revenge can lead to devastating consequences. Kids who display patterns of persistent defiant or aggressive behavior need help. These kinds of bad behaviors do not stop on their own, and call for professional counseling for the child as well as the family. The child needs to learn to handle strong emotions such as anger, hurt, and frustration without the use of fists or verbal attack. Unchecked this child could be heading toward serious academic, social, emotional and legal problems. If it is your child who is doing the bullying, take it seriously – speak to your pastor, parish nurse, or your employer to get a list of trained counselors.

How do we manage if our child is the victim of bullying behavior? First, focus on the needs of your child – don’t blame him/her, or tell him to, “Just ignore it.” Listen and gather as much information regarding the episodes as possible. If you disagree with the way your child managed the situations, don’t criticize and don’t encourage physical retaliation. Learn what has been tried that didn’t work, and brainstorm possible responses to the taunting. In addition, check your own emotions – the anger and frustration you feel upon learning of the bullying can be misread by your child as anger toward him/her.

If the problem persists, contact your child’s teacher and principal. Keep your emotions in check as you relay the information that you have been gathering – who, what, when, where, and how. Unless you are on good terms with the bully’s parents, do not go directly to them. When meeting with the school personnel, emphasize your desire for the problem to be resolved for the benefit of all children involved, and keep in communication with the school staff.

Finally, help your child. Set a good example – examine how *you* handle conflict and problems – model positive ways of being assertive. Bolster their confidence by helping them develop their talents. Encourage them to develop a group of friends that are supportive, and get to know those friends and their parents. If the bullying is by email, print out copies, and report threats of harm to your local authorities. Above all, don’t underestimate the pain your child may be feeling – what they need at times like these is a safe and loving home to depend upon – a place where bullying is not excused or tolerated.

Debbie Best, Program Coordinator

Diakon Family Life Services Congregational and Community Services

SPECIAL CONCERNS LIST

Edith Anderson
Williamsport Home, Suite 4
1900 Ravine Road
Williamsport, PA 17701

Nancy Bohartz
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Williamsport, PA 17701

Doris Brownlee
Fulmer's Personal Care Home
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Lock Haven, PA 17745

Ethel Chambers
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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>1 **Office Closed** Monday</p>	<p>9:00 AM Divine Drama @ Messiah 9:00 AM Morning Prayer</p>	<p>11:45 AM Contemporary Choir 12:00 PM The Way</p>
<p>2 9:00 AM Morning Prayer 10:00 AM Little lambs Liaison Mtg. 6:00 PM Brownies 7:30 PM Worship & Music Comm. Mtg.</p>	<p>Tuesday</p> <p>12 Friday 9:00 AM Morning Prayer</p>	<p>5:00 PM Family Handbells 6:00 PM Catechetical Meal</p> <p>22 Monday 9:00 AM Morning Prayer 6:45 PM Handbells 7:00 PM Civic Chorus Rehearsal</p>
<p>3 Wednesday 9:00 AM Morning Prayer 9: 15 AM Quilt making 9:30 AM Staff Mtg. 12:00 PM Bible Study</p>	<p>13 Saturday</p> <p>14 Sunday 9: 15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Holy Communion 11:45 AM Kantorei 12:00 PM The Way 5:00 PM Family Handbells 6:00 PM "The Christmas Carol" Auditions</p>	<p>23 Tuesday 9:00 AM Morning Prayer 7:00 PM Family Promise</p> <p>24 Wednesday 7:00 AM See You at the Pole 9:00 AM Morning Prayer 9:15 AM Quilt making 9:30 AM Staff Mtg. 12:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM Mutual Ministry</p>
<p>4 Thursday 6:31 AM Men's Ministry 8:00 AM Stephen Ministry I 9:00 AM Morning Prayer 7:00 PM Conf. Cabinet @ Messiah 7:30 PM Choir</p>	<p>15 Monday 9:00 AM Morning Prayer 6:00 PM "The Christmas Carol" Auditions 6:00 PM Civic Chorus Board Mtg. 6:30 PM Council Mtg. 6:45 PM Handbells 7:00 PM Civic Chorus Rehearsal</p>	<p>25 Thursday 6:31 AM Men's Ministry 9:00 AM Divine Drama @ Messiah 9:00 AM Morning Prayer 7:00 PM Divine Drama @ St. Mark's 7:30 PM Choir</p>
<p>5 **Agenda Deadline** Friday 9:00 AM Morning Prayer</p>	<p>16 Tuesday 9:00 AM Morning Prayer 12:00 PM LSM 6:30 PM Finance Comm. Mtg.</p>	<p>26 Friday 9:00 AM Morning Prayer 9:15 AM Lion Crew 6:30 PM Friday Fun Night 6:30 PM Wedding Rehearsal</p>
<p>6 Saturday 7:00 AM Habitat Apostle Build</p>	<p>17 Wednesday 9:00 AM Morning Prayer 9: 15 AM Quilt making 9:30 AM Staff Mtg. 12:00 PM Lunch N' Fellowship 12:30 PM Women's Fall Meeting</p>	<p>27 Saturday 4:30 PM Fortin/Bastian Wedding</p>
<p>7 Sunday 8:00 AM Holy Communion 9: 15 AM Courtyard Breakfast 10:30 AM Confirmation 10:30 AM Holy Communion 4:00 PM Choir Party at Weaver's 7:00 PM EICF Mtg.</p>	<p>18 Thursday 6:31 AM Men's Ministry 9:00 AM Divine Drama @ Messiah 9:00 AM Morning Prayer 7:00 PM Divine Drama @ St. Mark's 7:30 PM Choir</p>	<p>28 Sunday 8:00 AM Holy Communion 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Holy Communion 11 :45 AM Kantorei 12:00 PM The Way 5:00 PM Family Handbells</p>
<p>8 Monday 9:00 AM Morning Prayer 6:45 PM Handbells 7:00 PM Civic Chorus Rehearsal</p>	<p>19 Friday **Newsletter Deadline** 9:00 AM Morning Prayer</p>	<p>29 Monday 9:00 AM Morning Prayer 6:45 PM Handbells 7:00 PM Civic Chorus Rehearsal</p>
<p>9 Tuesday 9:00 AM Morning Prayer 10:00 AM Conf. Pastors 6:30 PM Property Committee 7:00 PM Liberian Fashion Show</p>	<p>20 Saturday 9:30 AM Apple Corps Women's Retreat</p>	<p>30 Tuesday 9:00 AM Morning Prayer 6:30 PM Bishop's Council Workshop @ St. John Brick</p>
<p>10 Wednesday 9:00 AM Morning Prayer 9:15 AM Quilt making 9:30 AM Staff Mtg. 12:00 PM Bible Study 4:30 PM Executive Mtg. 6:30 PM Worship/Dinner UCM @ Trinity</p>	<p>21 Sunday <i>St. Matthew's Day</i> 8:00 AM Holy Communion 9: 15 AM Sunday School 10: 30 AM Holy Communion</p>	
<p>11 Thursday 6:31 AM Men's Ministry</p>		

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

Phone: 570-323-4619
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Email: stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org



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GETTING STARTED IN SEPTEMBER

WORSHIP

Holy Communion: each Sunday at 8:00 and 10:30 A.M.
Morning Prayer, weekdays, 9:00 A.M.
Evening Prayer, Thursdays begins September 11, 6:30 P.M.

STUDY

Sunday Church School: begins on September 14 at 9:00
Early morning Psalm study, Thursdays, 6:31 A.M.
Noontime Bible Study begins on Wednesday, September 3
Divine Drama Bible Study begins September 11, 7:00 P.M.
Adult catechumenate, The Way, begins September 14, noon
Youth catechumenate, begins September 21, 6:00

SERVICE

Habitat work Day, September 6, 7AM to 3 PM
Quilting resumes September 3, 9:20 A.M.
Dinner for campus ministry, September 10, 6:30

SUPPORT

Adult Choir rehearsals begin September 4
Adult Handbell Choir begins rehearsal on September 8
Family Handbell Choir begins rehearsal September 14
Kantorei begins rehearsal on September 14
Contemporary Choir begins rehearsal on September 21
Luncheon Fellowship is on September 17
Family Fun Night is September 26