



The Lion of St. Mark's

OCTOBER 2008

Consecration Sunday

Consecration Sunday is October 19 this year. We understand the concept that, from a biblical perspective, financial stewardship is not money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, we know that financial contributions are a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Since this goes against our natural tendencies to want to regard everything as our own possessions, we must continue to think about this and make it a part of our life a bit at a time. *Consecration Sunday* is a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving.

We are not members of a social club who should pay dues, we are followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. We must look into our hearts and ask ourselves: "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

Every attendee and member who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card*, does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday, October 19. We urge everyone to attend, even those who are hesitant to complete a card, because the procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend worship on Consecration Sunday, October 19. In the coming weeks, please think prayerfully about the blessings God has given to you, and about how you are called to share those blessings.

The other part of the event is the celebration meal that follows each worship service on October 19. At services on the next two Sundays we'll be asking for your reservation for the breakfast following the 8:30 service or the lunch following the 10:30 service on Consecration Sunday. It is important that every member take part.

Our guest speaker is **Elisabeth (Lisa) B. Schuster**, the pastor of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in McClure. As a first-call pastor, the call to ministry is a "second career" for Lisa, as she was a high school English teacher and coach in southeastern PA before attending seminary. While she views baptism as the beginning of her call, she also notes that, while a student at PSU, a literature professor told students that the Bible was the basis of most great European literature and that "an educated person is familiar with the stories of the Bible and should have read it at least once." A few years after graduating from PSU, Lisa took these words as a personal challenge and undertook reading the Bible from cover to cover. Reading the Bible became the impetus for returning to the Lutheran church to worship.

As a member of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in New Holland, PA, Lisa served at various times as a member of the church council, choir, youth director, and adult Sunday school teacher. After teaching adult Sunday school for the first time, a retired Lutheran pastor, the Reverend David Hunsberger, told her emphatically that she should attend Seminary. With the encouragement of Trinity's then-pastor, the Reverend Matt Lamb, in 2003, she attended the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg full-time beginning in the Fall of 2004 and, on the first day of classes, met Matthew Schuster. Matthew and Lisa were married in May of 2006. Lisa was an intern during 2006-2007 in the Upper Susquehanna Synod at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Cowan. The Schusters graduated with honors in May 2008, were assigned to the Upper Susquehanna Synod, and were ordained at the Synod Assembly in June. On June 1, Lisa received a call to Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in McClure, PA and began serving as pastor this past summer.

COUNCIL UPDATE

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COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

The Congregation Council met in regular session on September 15 in the Crossways Room. The Council:

- received the regular reports of the pastor, officers, and committees.
- noted that Ruth Pile will be taking over the visitor's mug project.
- Gary Weber will chair the Nominations Committee.
- received with regret the resignation of Council-member Brenda Bittner due to work responsibilities and time conflicts.
- heard that nearly \$200 was sent to Wise Options from the Pentecost flowers.
- heard that nearly \$200 was contributed at the July 4 event for St. Anthony's Center.
- rejoiced that five young members were confirmed on September 7.
- heard that Vicki Hospes will serve as nursery coordinator.
- heard that Brittany Toy and Megan Eppleman will serve as acolyte coordinators.
- heard that a Thanksgiving Day service may be held this year. Planning continues.
- moved to accept the lower bid for sidewalk rebuilding on the north side of the building in order to eliminate tripping hazards and improve easy access. The approved bid was from Mackenzie & Son in the amount of \$2850.
- heard about the progress made by the Core Committee of Family Promise: incorporation, bylaws, officers, welcoming the 7th and 8th congregations as hosts, contributions matching ours have been received from two other congregations.
- granted permission for the Williamsport Dog Training Club to hold people-only monthly meetings at St. Mark's on a night when the building is already heated for two other purposes.
- closed by joining in Prayer at the Close of the Day in the Chapel, led by Mike Jensen.

Parish Registry

- A celebration of life service was held for Ethel Chambers on September 9, 2008.
- Madeline Jane Alt was born September 19, 2009 to Matt & Alice Alt and brothers Micah & Kline.

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 Schultz, Adult Catechumenate	326-3929

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY NEWS

Scripture, Authority, and Youth

In support of the Book of Faith initiative
the Evangelical Lutheran Confessing Fellowship (ELCF)
invites you to a presentation by Dr. Larry Dean Johnson

This presentation is targeted for Youth, parents, grandparents, pastors, church workers with youth, and any people interested in youth and the Bible.

Growing in Christ is a life-long journey.

Hear Larry Johnson, President of Youth Encounter, speak on:

- what are the challenges to faith in the world today?
- what is the role of scripture in forming faith?
- how can leaders foster faith in today's young Christians?

Pastor Larry Johnson has dedicated his life since 1966 to the ministry of Youth Encounter, which he has served as president since 1974. A graduate of Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, with a ThM from Princeton and a PhD from Luther, he has championed evangelical and confessional youth ministry around the world. Since Youth Encounter is a worldwide ministry, it is fitting that he married a woman from the Philippines. They have been blessed with two sons and also adopted Marlinda's niece.



Pr. Mark Chavez, executive director of the Lutheran Coalition for Reform, will also be present and introduce the work of the Lutheran CORE.

Saturday, October 4, 2008

7:00 to 8:30 PM at St. Mark Lutheran Church

142 Market Street, Williamsport (Just off the Market Street bridge)

Free parking in church lots

There is no admission fee; a free-will offering will be received.

Christian Community Service Opportunities

American Cancer Society Volunteer Drivers Needed

American Cancer Society is looking for volunteer drivers in Lycoming County to transport cancer patients to treatment appointments. Road to Recovery, a volunteer program, links volunteer drivers to cancer patients in need of transportation.

The American Cancer Society needs more volunteers to insure that all patients have transportation when they need it. Road to Recovery drivers must complete a simple training session. For more information about how you can become a Road to Recovery volunteer, call Theresa Miller, Cancer Control Specialist at the North Central Regional office of the American Cancer Society at 1-888-227-5445 (option 3).

Lycoming County Life Chain 2008 Sunday, October 5 at 2:30 p.m. On the Golden Strip



Come and join with up to 2,000 church members from across the area in an hour of prayer for our community and nation, for its mothers and fathers, for the unborn and the unwanted newborn, for God's good gift of life. Participants line the Golden Strip, not blocking any sidewalks or roadways, and engage in silent or quietly spoken unstructured

prayer. If they wish, each may hold a poster with a message visible to the passing traffic, bearing a message such as "Adoption: the loving option". The event is held from 2:30 to 3:30, rain or shine. It is a moving experience that has been held for the past 17 years. Pastor Elkin has participated each year he has been here, and others are cordially invited to join him at our assigned spot near the electrical sub-station on the south side of the strip, near the Harley-Davidson dealership. Ample parking is available in lots nearby.

ST. MARK'S LOGO POLO SHIRTS FOR SALE

MAKES A GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT!



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 SportShield, 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

Youth Sizes:
XS ~ XL \$10



Adult Sizes:
S~XL \$20
2XL~3XL \$23

There will be a shirt on display in the Narthex.

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

Women of St. Mark's

Rummage Sale & Bazaar
Saturday, October 11 9 am ~ 2 pm

Lunch will be served;
homemade vegetable soup, hot dogs and desserts.

Items being accepted for this event:
All household items, small appliances, linens, tools, seasonal decorations, craft items, pictures, candles, dishes, glasses, cookware, flatware, bedding, toys, window treatments, and of course, those wonderful treasures from your attic or basement!

**NO CLOTHING OR BOOKS
AT THIS EVENT, PLEASE.**

Items may be brought to the church bazaar room located in the basement of the Fellowship Hall.

The need for people to help is urgent.

Wednesday, Oct 8; Thursday, Oct. 9 and Friday, Oct. 10 and then the day of the event we need people to be stationed at the various tables to help with sales.

**CAN WE COUNT ON YOU?
LOTS OF WORK, BUT TONS OF
FUN!!**

**Contact Jane Kline 326-9672 to volunteer.
Many thanks for your consideration.**

Blanket Sunday
October 5th



We are all aware of the recent devastating storms and other disasters which have left thousands of people struggling without homes or food.

Donations are being accepted by St. Mark's women to purchase blankets in bulk for distribution to those who have lost everything in natural disasters or wars.

You can use the enclosed envelope for your contribution. Checks can be made out to St. Mark's clearly designated for "Blankets".

Thank you for your gifts of love and concern.

Together we can blanket the world with love.

Harvest Home Sunday, October 12th



Our congregation will be celebrating a “Day of Thanksgiving” by bringing non-perishable items for the local United Churches Food Party. These items should be brought to the church in the provided bag or a plastic bag, on Sunday, October 5th or 12th. They will be displayed on Sunday, October 12 at both Worship Services. People in need are given a three day supply of food. Volunteers at the Food Pantry are very grateful for our church family’s generous response every year.

We hope you and your family will be a part of this annual celebration as we thank God for what He has given us.

Nurse's Notes

- October 5** **Sunday, October 12 is national clergy appreciation day.** That gives you one whole week to brainstorm creative ways to say, “Thank you!”
- October 12** **Use care when raking leaves.** Wet leaves can be heavy, difficult to rake and put strain on your back. They also tend to be slippery; and because wet leaves (as well as trees and other plants in the yard) can breed mold and mildew that trigger allergy symptoms in some people, you may want to wear a mask. Allergy sufferers should also shower and put work clothes in the laundry as soon as they enter the house. Mold spores cling to pants, jackets, socks and shirts worn while raking, and can easily be spread to upholstery, carpets and blankets.
- October 19** **No, the secretary did not make a bunch of typos in this week’s health note!** Believe it or not, you can read the following paragraph anyway!
- I cdnuolt blveiee taht I cluod aulacly uesdnatnrd waht I was rdanieg. The phaonmneal pweor of the hmuan mnid Aoccdrnig to rscheearch at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mttar in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the only iprmoatnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be in the rghit pclae. The rset can be a taotl mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit a porbelm. Tihis is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe. Amzanig huh? Isn't the human brain amazing!?
- October 26** **Halloween Horror!!** Three handfuls of candy corn between trick-or-treaters can equal as much as 770 calories – the equivalent of a Big Mac and small fries!! (*Prevention*, October 2008)

United Churches of Lycoming County

CAMPUS MINISTRY

Sharon Comini, Coordinator,
Contact Sharon at: 419-5376 or ucm@uclc.org

UCM at Penn College is off to a great start. We had a very successful kickoff event and many new students stopped by to see what we are all about. We were pleased to have two local bands join us. The Praise Band from Pine Street Methodist Church started us off and the band DV8 played afterward. Several students stopped by our table at the Fall Fiesta as well. We hope these students will want to be more involved with our ministry here at Penn College.

We are planning a few fund-raisers. Two bake sales will be held on campus, so if anyone in your congregations is interested in baking some delicious treats, we would be happy to sell them for you.

Our mission weekend at Krislund will be October 17th and we'll be working there, as well as at Habitat for Humanity in State College. There will be local mission experiences this year here at area nursing homes and in March, we will be heading to Pittsburgh to work with the homeless.

Our Wednesday evening worship services had gotten started and our Monday Faith Talks will began on September 8th. If anyone is interested in leading a Monday evening Faith Talk or hosting a Wednesday evening dinner and worship, please call me at the number above.

God's blessings to all of you in your ministry this year.



These are the items that are currently needed:

spaghetti sauce,	canned vegetables
chunky soups,	chicken noodle soup
oodles-of-noodles,	cakes mixes & icing
mac-n-cheese	canned fruits
hot chocolate	Jell-o and pudding mixes
sugar	peanut butter
instant flavored oatmeal packets	coffee
Cereal	jelly
clean plastic bags	

Your donations are best brought Monday mornings from 9:30 - Noon. Persons needing food should call and leave their name and number on the answering machine. Appointments may be made to receive food on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 - 3 and when necessary at other times as well. Gail Burkhart is the UCLC Food Pantry Coordinator and may be reached at 322-1657

WEDNESDAY ECUMENICAL LUNCH

Join us from 12 to 1 p.m. for the Wednesday Noon Ecumenical Lunch Program. 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 to 1:30 p.m. No reservations are necessary.

OCTOBER:

- 1 - **Rev. Kenneth R. Elkin**, Pastor, St. Mark Lutheran Church, "Family Promise - Interfaith Hospitality Network"
- 8 - **Professor Steve Johnson**, Chair of the Religion Department at Lycoming College, "What Is Your Treasure?"
- 15 - **Ms. Stacy Noltee**, English Language Civics Instructor & **Ruth Love-Schooley**, Family Literacy Coordinator, The Learning Center, "Changing Lives Every Day"
- 22 - **Mr. Damon Anderson**, Executive Director of Big Brothers and Big Sisters, "Answering the Call - Living the Answers"
- 29 - **Dr. Gaberiel Campana**, Mayor of Williamsport, "A Vision for the City"

Elca, Synod & West Branch News

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

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

Bishop Driesen will lead two morning sessions on *Leading Men of the Bible*. There will be refreshments, singing and 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 TURKEY DINNER & QUILT AUCTION SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH Evergreen Center at Mount Luther.

Donations wanted for Quilt and Craft Auction

If you have quilts or craft items to donate, please get in touch with us in the camp office. In addition we will be doing a themed basket silent auction. We are looking for folks to donate baskets with items inside based on a certain theme. Some ideas: camping, kids, pampering, car care, entertainment, gardening, food, etc. All items should be to the camp office by October 15 at 3:00 p.m.

Details for auction day: it will begin with a full Turkey dinner being served from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. Adults \$8.00, kids under twelve \$4.00, and children under three eat free. While lunch is being served, the Silent Auction of Themed Baskets will take place and continue until 2:30 pm. At 2:00 pm, Auctioneer Michael Weaver will begin our auction of quilts and craft items, interspersed with drawings from the Themed Baskets Silent Auction.

Proceeds from the Turkey Dinner will go to the Annual Fund. Proceeds from the Quilt and Craft Auction will go to the 40 By Faith Capital Campaign.



Elca, Synod & West Branch News

USS Youth Council Announces 2008-2009 Calendar

Watch for more information!

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

Donations Needed for the Lutheran Church in Liberia

Bars of Soap

Ivory white is preferred rather than highly perfumed soaps. Workers can use Lava too.

Bath Towels

Inexpensive new or gently used. Please DO NOT send thick, plush towels as they will not dry in the humidity or the rainy season.

Over the counter Medicine

Ibuprofen, acetaminophen, aspirin, vitamins for adults, children and prenatal care, anti-biotic creams or ointments such as neosporin, bactrim or triple antibiotic.

T-Shirts

New or gently used. Please no stained or ragged shirts or shirts depicting guns, foul language, camouflage, alcohol, ghostly scenes or violence.

Sheets for Hospital Beds

New or gently used sheets for single beds are highly preferred. Large sheets should be cut down and hemmed to 66" X 99"

Food Donations

Tea bags, all-purpose flour, sugar, salt, dried peas, lentils or dried beans of any kind, regular oatmeal (not instant).

Deadline for the above:
Sunday, October 12th

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

ST. MARK'S LIONS NEED YOU!!

The John Bower Basketball League will be starting soon!
We'd like to have as many interested players come out as possible, so we can get an idea of what teams we can field!!

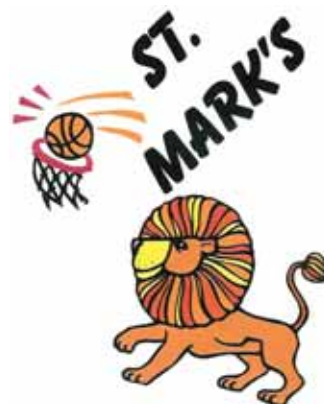
Can we attain an older team this year?? We hope so!

Friends from other churches are welcome—as long as they attend Sunday School at their home church and don't have a team there.

Practices will begin in November but you need to sign up before that!!
We will have an interest meeting on Thursday, October 9 at 6:00 p.m.
Please plan on attending. If you can't attend, but want to play, please fill out a registration form in Bernadette's office ASAP. We need to know!!!!

Adults, feel free to help out Coaches Rick, Kirk, Mike and Jeff by volunteering to train our future "ballers".

Contact the church office at 323-4619 or e-mail us through the website.



C'mon!! Let's ROAR!



Sunday, October 12th 2:00 P.M.

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."

GREATER WILLIAMSPORT - will begin from pavilion 2 at Indian Park, and move on the bike path and through Montoursville. Contact Rev. Ken Weiss, 323-6325. Sponsor forms and materials can be picked up at New Covenant office, 326-3308 or Pine Street UMC office, 323-4606.

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

CONFIRMATION CLASS



Confirmation 2008-2009 has officially begun! The nine Confirmands attended their first monthly meeting on Sunday, September 21. They, their parents and their mentors met and got to learn some new things about each other and what the coming years hold for them, as far as their catechetical program is concerned.

The five students returning to be confirmed in 2009 and their mentors are:

Stephen Boone	with	Bob Jones
Corey Hospes	with	Declan Jones
Emily Newcomer	with	Jane Larson
Devin Owen	with	Nick Buckman
Riley Weber	with	Clint Eppleman

The five young people just beginning their two years of study and their mentors are:

Theoron Hershey	with	Lou Deseau
Max Hospes	with	Steve Eyer
Katelyn Lauer	with	Vicki Haussmann
Hannah Lynn	with	Cindy Huff

These young people and their mentors were recognized at the 10:30 service on Sunday September 28.

Please keep the Confirmands and their mentors in your prayers.

Directory Changes

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Reiter, 305 4th Street, #1, Slatington, PA 18080-1708

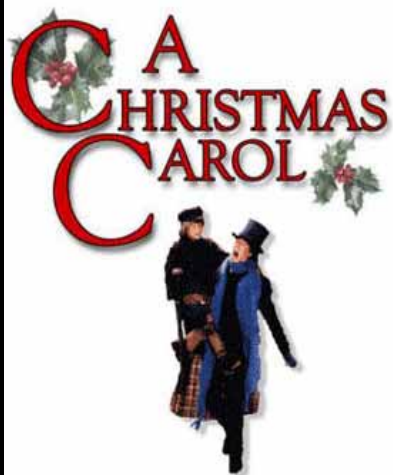


FRIDAY FUN NIGHT

October 26th 6:30 p.m.

IF YOU HAVEN'T JOINED US YET, THERE'S NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT!
AND REMEMBER ~ WE HAVE TRANSPORTATION FOR THOSE WHO DON'T
LIKE TO DRIVE AT NIGHT. JUST CALL BERNADETTE AT THE OFFICE.

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY



WE HAVE A SCROOGE !!!

Ray Huff, of St. Mark's, will portray Scrooge in the upcoming LSM production of *A Christmas Carol*. Joining him in the cast will be David Walz (St. Mark's) as Bob Cratchit, Sondra Fisher (St. Luke) as the Charity Collector, Declan Jones (St. Mark's) as Fred and the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come, Nick Buckman (St. Mark's) as Bob Marley and the Ghost of Christmas Present, Hayley Steiger (St. Luke) as the Ghost of Christmas Past, Seth Sponhouse (Church of the Savior) as Young Scrooge, Jocelyn Fisher (St. Luke) as Belle, Diana Zeigler (Christ Lutheran) as Mrs. Cratchit, Max Hospes (St. Mark's) as Peter Cratchit, Anna and Laura Zeigler and Madison Walz (St. Mark's) as the Cratchit sisters, Ethan Fisher (St. Luke) as the Turkey Boy and Annika Waffenschmidt (St. Mark's) as Tiny Tim.

Rehearsals began with a read-thru Sunday, September 28 at 6:30 P.M.. *A Christmas Carol* is adapted and directed by Bernadette Haas Jones. Anyone interested in assisting with anything concerning the show or the meal please contact her at bjones@stmarkswilliamsport.org.

CAROLLERS: A meeting will be held on Sunday, October 12, at 4:00 pm, in St. Mark's Fellowship Hall, for all interested caroling groups. Dick Lakey is the musical director for the production. Carols, verses and carolers will be assigned to groups at that time. Sign up sheets are in the staff hallway.

Tickets will be available the first or second week of November for the December 5 & 6 dinner-theatre performances of Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*. All donations will go to United

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

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

We look forward to welcoming everyone back. The children's special collection that day will be food for Harvest Home. The children will process with their cans and boxes, and then add them to the offering in the front of the Nave. See you October 12!



YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY



Apostle Build Work Day

Habitat work day + tropical storm Hanna = wet and muddy volunteers! On September 6, 2008, St. Mark's sent a group of 20 volunteers to work at the Apostle Build project in the Newbury section of Williamsport. The goal: get the house sided and roofed. The work started just as tropical storm Hanna hit the city.

The St. Mark's group joined several other groups to get much of the siding work done. A good start was made on the roof, but the weather conditions hampered the project. Weather was a factor throughout the day. Everyone got soaked - some more than others. Much of the siding work took place under the roof overhang, and spouting was not yet in place. The siding installers took on rain water from the roof, as well as mud underfoot. Roofers faced wet and slippery conditions. Pastor Elkin heard one of the volunteers remark, that if he were required to work under such conditions in his regular job, he would have quit!



Assisting with the project were Todd Smith, Nick Buckman, Pastor

Elkin, Declan & Bernadette Jones, Mike Hooker, Chris Heyne, Stefen Scheib, Paul & Jane Zimmerer, Matt Fortin, Chris MacGill, and Gary Weber. A great luncheon was provided by Becky Miller Pryor, Cheryl Williams, Trish Hershey, Sara Jones, Cindy Huff, Elsie Sechler, and Michele, Devin & Dawson Owen. They got wet, too, as they scurried to get the food into the shell of the house. The crew was, despite the weather, in good spirits and worked hard all day. The reward: a great lunch, and a feeling of accomplishment. A bonus: everyone learned a new building skill.



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.



Hallelujah!! The Directory has arrived!

If you had your picture taken for the directory please be certain to pick up the copy reserved for you in your name.

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...

See You at the Pole™ is all about prayer. It's about youth 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

On Wednesday, September 24, at 7 a.m., young people all over the county gathered at their school's flagpole. They prayed for their school, friends, families, and world. This event was organized and led by students. At each of the area schools contacted, 30–50 teens gathered, with only one school reporting less than that. Some of St. Mark's youth were among those assembled that morning. Do teens care? Yes, evidently they do.

This is an annual world-wide event; for more information and updated stories or pictures, visit the See You at the Pole web site, www.syatp.com.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES

BEGIN SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, AT 3:00 PM

The children's instruction continues on November 9 and 16 (also at 3 PM). The sacrament will be given on Sunday of Christ the King, November 23. Letters will be going out during the first week of October to those of the age at which instruction begins for this important step in their life in the church. If you, as a parent, feel your child(ren) is ready for this important step in his or her life and you have not received this letter or you have any questions regarding this please call Pastor Elkin.



YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

Nursery Policy

Much time and effort has been put into formulating a nursery policy that addresses issues which have been raised during the past year. We wish to welcome all who need the service and provide a safe and caring environment for the children while they are there.

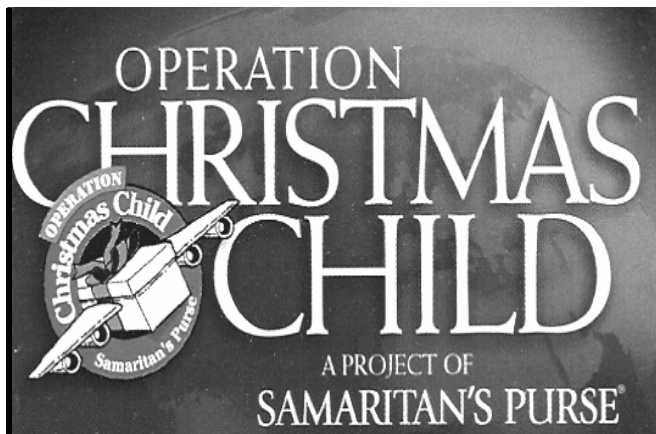
We would also like to remind parents with babies that, as well as a changing table and supplies, there is a crib if you should like to lay your baby down for a nap.

Here is the policy that was accepted:

1. *Volunteers should arrive 10-15 minutes before service begins in order to be ready to greet children and parents.*
2. *A log book has been assembled for recording attendance, any incidents/time-outs, who helped, etc.*
3. *Parents should sign their child in and note where or how they can be located.*
4. *Student assistants will only be in the nursery when needed and then only one at a time. A list of those willing to help will be placed on the wall near the phone. They can be sent for or they can check in with the adult volunteer before service starts.*
5. *A more structured hour will be instituted utilizing packets containing Bible stories or video to supplement coloring or other play.*
6. *Children will be taken to the Nave at communion to participate in the Lord's Prayer and receive the blessing. They may then join their parents if the nursery volunteer has been notified.*
7. *The crib/changing area is ONLY for real babies.*
8. *Balls, "outside" toys, and any objects encouraging "high" or swinging play have been removed from the nursery.*
9. *Food and any beverage other than water will remain OUTSIDE the nursery.*
10. *Proposed behavior/consequence plan:*
 - a. *First Sunday*
 - i. *First problem: time-out*
 - ii. *Second occurrence: time-out*
 - b. *Second Sunday*
 - i. *First problem: time-out*
 - ii. *Second occurrence: time-out and notify parent*
 - c. *Third Sunday*
 - i. *First problem: time-out*
 - ii. *Second occurrence: send for parent to remove child*
 - d. *Fourth Sunday: send for parent and not allowed back for two weeks*
11. *Proposed age cut-off from nursery care is fixed at the time of receiving First Communion. Reason: If a parent feels their child is ready to receive Communion, the child should be at the worship service, instead of playing, entering the Nave to receive, then playing some more.*

Anyone wishing to volunteer for nursery service, please contact Vicki Hospes at 326-7318.

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY



Tick-tick-tick-tick-tick... Time is running out!

On Sunday, November 9, after the 10:30 service, we share a light lunch and then pack and wrap Operation Christmas Child boxes. As we explained in January and again in April, we are making the packing of these boxes an intergenerational event AND taking advantage of sales as they occur!! Find coloring books for 25¢ each? Pick up several!! Fun erasers or pencils? Get a couple packs!! A white sale with washcloths for two bits? Bring it on!!

The way it works is like this: scout around the sales now. Don't try to get a lot of different things to fill one or two boxes. If you find a good deal, pick up a dozen or two of one item! Bring your donations and empty shoeboxes in to the office--there's a box in the hallway by Middle Lounge. We'll store it.

On November 9, we'll have sandwiches after 10:30 service and a group pack-and-wrap!!! Sounds like fun to us!!! How about you!?! Children's Church is the same Sunday. Their special offering that day will be items for the boxes. The following Sunday (Nov. 16), the children may process in offertory with the completed boxes.

This doesn't preclude anyone packing their own boxes if they enjoy it. This is merely another reason to get folks together for a good time and to help others. Those who choose to pack their own may bring them in on November 9, but the final deadline is November 16.

News from the Pews

If you have been watching the newspaper in the last few months you would have caught a glimpse of St. Mark's people behind the controls of machines. First **George Poliska** was pictured on the front page in a drunk driving simulator and only a few days ago **Jim Buckman** was featured in the back seat of a SNJ3AT-6 Texan World War II vintage aircraft prior to a flight provided by the Wings of Eagles National Warplane Museum of Elmira – Corning. The flight was part of the balloon festival. Ask these two gentlemen how they enjoyed the rides – different as they were.

Eleanor Sobers was the lucky recipient of a ramp built at her home by the South Williamsport Lions – it will make it much easier for her to get in and out of her home.

Jeremiah Bittner received a scholarship from the Lutheran Community Foundation on behalf of the St. Paul Fund for the second year – great work, Jeremiah.

Quite an article about the accomplishments of **Deb Buckman**, member of the faculty at Penn College appeared in the Sun Gazette. She completed work as a master trainer in avian influenza response and in dealing with hazardous materials. She has been mentioned in several who's who, including Who's Who in the World! Wow! That is pretty impressive.

Shelby Weber, president of the Junior League of Williamsport, presented a check for \$500 from the organization to the Brown Library.

A happy occasion for our secretary, **Susan** & her husband Mark, who celebrated the wedding of their oldest daughter Kerri to Eric Horn. The outdoor wedding was held at their home and the bride wore her mother's wedding gown. Her proud father officiated. Congratulations to the family!

~Joyce Hershberger

Please submit news items to Joyce Hershberger via her email deermountain2@comcast.net or by phoning her at 322-0410.

Special Thank You's

Dear Co-Workers in Church,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Thank you, most sincerely, for your generous contribution to the Shepherd of the Streets Ministry in response to the 2008 Summer Appeal for Prescription and Discretionary Funds.

This appeal was very positive. In a world filled with many sufferings and sad occasions, Shepherd of the Streets Ministry is fortunate to be blessed with so many caring and charitable friends. Your contribution enabled this ministry to continue serving these people. Their needs have been met, because so many of you gave much in order to meet the needs of those who have so little. Paul sums this up for us in 1 Timothy 6:18, *"Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life."* May we continually strive to not lose sight of heavenly realities while we apply ourselves diligently to the circumstances of our everyday lives; may we continue to hear God's voice, follow His will and pursue His purpose.

Please continue to keep this ministry in your thoughts and prayers. May God's peach and blessings be upon you.

In His service and yours,
J. Morris Smith, Th.D

With Gratitude to each & everyone,
From beginning to end jubilee.
And many thanks.

In Christian Fellowship,
Elsie Sechler

Dear Pastor Elkin & Singles Committee,

Thank you for the delightful luncheon, conversation and songs. It was a lovely day and one I really enjoyed. It was extra-special.

Bobbie Yetsko

Dear St. Mark's family,

I wish to thank everyone involved with the 70+ single celebration. It was so nice to feel so special. From the delicious food to the super service, it was such a special event.

Thank you so much,
Ann Kuntz

Dear St. Mark's,

Thank you very much for the Bible and Cross for Confirmation.

Love,
Christina Comini

Did You Know You Can Recycle Your Old Cell Phones?

Old and used cell phones can still be useful! The Women of the ELCA are collecting any unwanted cell phones, as well as chargers and other cell phone accessories. About 60 % of cell phones recycled are in working order and can be refurbished and sold. Two-thirds of the funds raised will be distributed to the Women's Funding Network to assist women and children living in poverty. The other one-third is donated to improving climate change programs.



According to the EPA recycling ONE phone eliminates 66 pounds of CO2 from entering the atmosphere! Recycling cell phones lying around could reduce greenhouse gas emissions as well as saving energy to power households with electricity. It would also reduce the amount of hazardous waste being dumped into our landfills.

There will be a container in the Narthex for old cell phones. Be sure the phone is de-activated. All personal information should be removed.

Happy Birthday!

Travis Rechel	10/02	William Confer	10/18	Charles Kuntz	10/24
Anne Miller	10/03	Marion Larson	10/18	Richard Miller	10/24
Stephanie Bieber	10/05	Ashley Campbell	10/20	Mark Welker	10/24
Caitlin Butters	10/06	Megan Greevy	10/20	Hannah Hausmann	10/26
Eleanor Whiting	10/06			Jane Strous	10/26
Jane Zimmerer	10/09			Kathy Eshelman	10/27
Amy Burkholder	10/11			Andrew Hausmann	10/28
Heather Fenderson	10/11			Tait Thorne	10/28
Patrice Santalucia	10/11			John Hoffman	10/29
Christine Sauers	10/12			Barbara Thomas	10/29
Shirley Vognet	10/13	Paige Fortin	10/21	Kathryn Calvert	10/30
Gary Chrisman	10/14	Carolyn Wacker	10/21	Deborah Maggs	10/30
Wilson Doebler	10/16	Jeremiah Bittner	10/22	Lois Winters-Goldy	10/30
Sean Fenderson	10/17	Madisyne Wellen	10/22	Donna Maule	10/31
Chuck Homan	10/17	Ryan Lynn	10/23	Natalie Miller	10/31



Happy Anniversary!

Kirk & Michelle Owen	10/01		Lawrence & Norma Lehman	10/09
Robert & Barbara McCullough	10/02		Frank & Phyllis Ulman	10/10
Lee & Veronica Doane	10/04		Scott & Mary Kimble	10/25
Kenneth & Kathleen Caster	10/09		Louis & Linda DeSeau	10/26
Frank & Mary Lou Doebler	10/09		Russell & Lois Smith	10/28
Jeffrey & Catherine Kneeder	10/09		Evelyn & Romain Bastian	10/30



Juan Valdez was here

You probably don't believe us but it's true! St. Mark's had a visitor that could only have been Juan Valdez himself! At least all the evidence points to it being Juan and us being avid CSI watchers we know how to evaluate evidence! The evidence?

Humongous bags of whole coffee beans were left on the kitchen counter! Bags, and bags of beans! With all that coffee the staff will be wired through 2011!!! Pastor Elkin only had to smell the coffee and he was up to 17 mph just in the staff hallway! We had better keep the doors locked cause if he hits the highway he'll be in Lock Haven before we realize he's gone!

So if any of you see Juan Valdez tell him the staff says 'Thank You for the wonderful gift of coffee beans!' Oh, and tell the donkey thanks for not leaving any evidence of his own!

The Staff



The Pastor welcomes invitations to visit members of the parish in their homes, at church, or other suitable meeting places.

Please call the office at 323-4619 or email: pastor@stmarkswilliamsport.org to schedule a mutually convenient time.

HEALTH, HEALING & WHOLENESS

"When David came to Mahanaim, Shobi..., Machir..., and Barzillai..., brought beds, basins, and earthen vessels, wheat, barley, meal, parched grain, beans and lentils, honey and curds, sheep and cheese from the herd, for David and the people with him to eat." (2 Samuel 17:28)

Talk about eating beans, and you just might set someone into fits of giggles. Most of us have heard the little ditty ... *Beans, beans, the musical fruit, the more you eat, the more you* ... well ... you know the ending! For this reason alone, many folks shy away from including beans in their diet. As you probably have guessed by now, I like to use scripture in these articles, so I pulled out the *Exhaustive Concordance*, fully expecting that the word *bean* would not be present, and lo and behold, it appears not once, but twice in the Old Testament – first in 2 Samuel, then again in Ezekiel! The lowly bean has been vindicated!

Beans come in all shapes, colors and sizes. Ounce for ounce they provide more protein for your money than most other sources, such as, fish, poultry, and red meats, and often play a major role in the diets of many vegetarians. Just one cup of prepared beans will provide more than 1/3 of the daily protein needs of the average adult. Cooked, one cup contains approximately 230 calories, and supplies half of a grown woman's daily requirement of iron. One-half cup satisfies all of a child's daily iron needs. In addition, they are loaded with vitamins and minerals – especially vitamins B & E, calcium and potassium. Dried, they are easy to store for long periods of time (making them an ideal food to distribute at food banks, government subsidized food programs such as WIC, and shipped to third world countries), and almost magically double in size when soaked or cooked. Add to that the fact that they meet our daily need for fiber, and you've got a super-nutritious little vegetable!

So why don't we eat more of them? Well ... there is that little problem of you know ... gas. Gas is formed in the large intestine in the body's attempts to break down a sugar within the bean called oligosaccharide. Our bodies seem to be missing the necessary enzyme needed to complete this part of the digestive process. How can we eliminate bloating and embarrassment? Search the internet and you will discover about as many "cures" for the problem as there are types of beans! Some recommend soaking over night then discarding the water, some recommend both soaking, and cooking the beans then discarding the water, some recommend using rinsed canned beans – the theory being that the oligosaccharides transfer into the water and are washed away. Others recommend simply eating more beans, claiming that your body will adjust to this change in your diet. There seems to be only one fool-proof solution ... using a product containing the enzyme that will do the trick our body cannot ... alpha-galactosidase, otherwise known as the product Beano. Alpha-galactosidase is not appropriate for people with diabetes; it could lead to an increase in blood sugar level. People who have mold allergies may have a reaction to alpha-galactosidase. Alpha-galactosidase may increase galactose levels and therefore should not be used by those who have the genetic disease galactosemia.

Another reason we sometimes shy away from dried beans is the time involved in preparation - soaking and cooking, but boy are they worth it! Check out the tasty recipes in the booklet, *The Bold Beautiful Book of Bean Recipes*, compiled by the employees of the Washington State WIC program. A free copy of the booklet can be downloaded at www.3doh.wa.gov/here/Materials/PDFs/15_BeanBook_E04L.pdf. This resource is used by WIC programs throughout the country.

So... the next time someone tells you that " isn't worth a hill of beans", you can respond, with, "*That is wonderful!*", because now you know what a hill of beans is really worth ...and you can leave them scratching their heads ... as you walk away!

Autumn Blessings!

*Debbie Best, Program Coordinator, Community & Congregational Services
Diakon Family Life Services*

SPECIAL CONCERNS LIST

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JESUS CHRIST
*The Same Yesterday,
Today & Forever*

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

St. Mark's Calendar of Events

Oct. 1 Wednesday

9:00 am Morning Prayer
9:15 am Quilting & Staff Meeting
12:00 pm Pastor @ Ecumenical Luncheon

Oct. 2 Thursday

6:31 am Men's Ministry
8:00 am Stephen Ministry I
9:00 am Morning Prayer
9:00 am Divine Drama @ Messiah
6:30 pm Evening Prayer
7:00 pm Divine Drama @ St. Mark's
7:30 pm Choir

Oct. 3 Friday

9:00 am Morning Prayer

Oct. 4 Saturday

11:00 am Camp Mount Luther Bar-b-cue
7:00 pm ELCF Scripture, Authority & Youth

Oct. 5 Pentecost XXI Blanket Sunday

8:00 am Holy Communion & Temple Talk
9:15 am Sunday School
10:30 am Holy Communion & Temple Talk
11:45 am Contemporary Choir
12:15 pm The Way
2:30 pm Pro-Life Prayer Chain Golden Strip
5:00 pm Family Handbells

Oct. 6 Monday

9:00 am Morning Prayer
6:45 pm Handbells
7:00 pm Civic Chorus Rehearsal
8:00 pm Pastor's Faith Talk @ PCT

Oct. 7 Tuesday

8:00 am City Pastors
9:00 am Morning Prayer
6:30 pm Property Committee Meeting

Oct. 8 Wednesday

9:00 am Morning Prayer
9:15 am Quilting & Staff Meeting
12:00 pm Bible Study
4:30 pm Executive Meeting
7:00 pm LSM School of Religion

Oct. 9 Thursday

6:31 am Men's Ministry
9:00 am Morning Prayer
9:00 am Divine Drama @ Messiah
6:00 pm John Bower Basketball Sign Up
6:30 pm Evening Prayer
7:00 pm Divine Drama @ St. Mark's
7:30 pm Choir

Oct. 10 Friday **Agenda Deadline**

9:00 am Morning Prayer

Oct. 11 Saturday

Christ Lutheran Church @ Milton Spiritual Formation Day for anyone involved in healing

Oct. 12 Pentecost XXII Harvest Sunday

8:00 am Holy Communion & Temple Talk
9:15 am Sunday School
10:30 am Holy Communion & Temple Talk
10:30 am Children's Church
11:45 am Kantorei
2:00 pm Crop Walk
5:00 pm Family Handbells

Oct. 13 Monday

Pastor in Chicago for Soc. for Holy Trinity
9:00 am Morning Prayer
6:45 pm Handbells
7:00 pm Civic Chorus Rehearsal

Oct. 14 Tuesday

Pastor in Chicago for Soc. for Holy Trinity
9:00 am Morning Prayer
6:00 pm Brownies

Oct. 15 Wednesday

Pastor in Chicago for Soc. for Holy Trinity
9:00 am Morning Prayer
9:15 am Quilting
12:00 pm Lunch N' Fellowship
7:00 pm LSM School of Religion

Oct. 16 Thursday

6:31 am Men's Ministry
9:00 am Morning Prayer
7:30 pm - Choir

Oct. 17 Friday **Newsletter Deadline**

Pastor returns from Chicago
9:00 am Morning Prayer

Oct. 18 Saturday

8:30 am Deepening Our Roots in Prayer @
Div. Prov. Hosp. Aud.

Oct. 19 St. Mark's Consecration Sunday

8:00 am Holy Communion & Temple Talk
9:30 am Consecration Breakfast
9:15 am Sunday School
10:30 am Holy Communion & Temple Talk
11:30 am Consecration Luncheon
11:45 am Contemporary Choir
12:15 pm The Way
5:00 pm Family Handbells
6:00 pm Confirmands Mtg. & Meal

Oct. 20 Monday

9:00 am Morning Prayer
6:00 pm Civic Chorus Board Meeting
6:30 pm Council Meeting
6:45 pm Handbells
7:00 pm Civic Chorus Rehearsal

Oct. 21 Tuesday

Pastor in Barcelona through October
9:00 am Morning Prayer

Oct. 22 Wednesday

9:00 am Morning Prayer
9:15 am Quilting
12:00 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm LSM School of Religion

Oct. 23 Thursday

6:31 am Men's Ministry
9:00 am Morning Prayer
9:00 am Divine Drama @ Messiah
6:30 pm Evening Prayer
7:00 pm Divine Drama @ St. Mark's
7:30 pm Choir

Oct. 24 Friday

9:00 am Morning Prayer
9:15 pm Lion Crew
6:30 pm Friday Fun Night

Oct. 25 Saturday

9:00 am Apple Corps Men's Retreat
& Chili Cook-off

Oct. 26 Reformation Sunday

8:00 am Service of the Word
9:15 am Sunday School
10:30 am Service of the Word
11:45 am Kantorei
5:00 pm Family Handbells

Oct. 27 Monday

9:00 am Morning Prayer
6:45 pm Handbells
7:00 pm Civic Chorus Rehearsal

Oct. 28 Tuesday

9:00 am Morning Prayer
6:00 pm Brownies
7:00 pm Family Promise

Oct. 29 Wednesday

9:00 am Morning Prayer
9:15 am Quilting
12:00 pm Bible Study
7:00 pm LSM School of Religion

Oct. 30 Thursday

6:31 am Men's Ministry
9:00 am Morning Prayer
9:00 am Divine Drama @ Messiah
6:30 pm Evening Prayer
7:00 pm Divine Drama @ St. Mark's
7:30 pm Choir

Oct. 31 Friday

9:00 am Morning Prayer



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

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

Website: <http://www.stmarkswilliamsport.org>
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Lutheran Shared Ministries Presents School of Religion Wednesday Evenings at 7 p.m. October 8, 15, 22 & 29

Reservations are needed by October 5 Call 322-2553 or e-mail Sandy at: walkalongtheway@comcast.net Arrangements can be made at registration for childcare. Classes include:

The Evolution Dialogues: Science Christianity and the Quest for Understanding.. This course will help participants understand the nature of science and evolutionary theory and the history of Christian interaction with Darwin's proposals. Utilizes a textbook, video presentations and class discussion. **You must pre-register - and purchase a textbook (\$17.95).** Presenter - Pastor Ted Cockley

Facing Life with Psalm 23 in Hand - This course will feature the 23rd Psalm in sharing life's trials and tribulations but with God's love enveloping us. They'll offer a DVD presentation each week along with Bible Study and discussion. There is no cost for this course.

Presenters - Debbie Best, Sandy Grier & Pastor Elkin

You may tear this portion off to mail in to the church office or call your reservation in.

School of Religion Registration

Please Print Your Name _____

Put a 1 next to your first choice and a 2 next to your second choice.

The Evolution Dialogues _____ Facing Life with Psalm 23 in Hand _____

_____ I will need accommodations for a disability.