



The Lion of St. Mark's

NOVEMBER 2008

All Saints Sunday November 2, 2008

We recognize and rejoice in all those who have joined the

Church militant

by Holy Baptism in the past year:

Mariah Ashley Hallabuk, February 10, 2008
Liam Andrew Elkin, July 20, 2008
Mackenzie Ann Fenderson, July 26, 2008
Levi Kurt Gair, August 3, 2008
Adam Douglas Clokey & Alex Michael Clokey, August 10, 2008
Dylan Michael Ott, August 10, 2008
Ashton Tyler Ott, August 10, 2008
Hudson Luther Ott & Nolan William Ott, August 10, 2008

We honor and remember all those who have moved to the

Church triumphant

In the past year:

Kester T. Sobers, November 3, 2007
Doris Helen Buzzerd, November 20, 2007
Robert Darrow Curry, December 21, 2007
Calvin E. Bennett, December 24, 2007
John Hollenback, February 19, 2008
Glenn Lunger, February 23, 2008
Lucille Markel, March 16, 2008
Earl Foulkrod, March 25, 2008
Jeanne Fargus, June 4, 2008
Ethel Chambers, September 9, 2009

A special guest Pastor on All Saints Day

On Sunday, November 2 we will be visited by a group of persons from a sister congregation a distance to our east, and by a pastor a distance to our west. A call committee will be hearing a fine young pastor preach at St. Mark's as they consider the possibility of calling him to their parish. They asked for this privilege since we are about halfway between the pastor and the congregation and close to I-80 to make travel convenient. We will want to warmly greet these visitors and wish them well.

COUNCIL UPDATE

Inside This Issue:

All Saints Sunday.....	1
Council Notes.....	2
Officer & Staff Contact Information.....	2
Thanksgiving Food Basket Collection.....	3
Selinsgrove Center Christmas Party.....	3
Daniel's Closet	3
St. Mark's Logo Polo Shirts for Sale.....	4
Captive Free.....	4
Fr. John Dear to speak at PCT.....	4
Rummage Sale & Bazaar Update.....	5
Thankoffering Sunday.....	5
Recycle Cell Phones.....	5
News from the Pews.....	6
Nurses Notes.....	6
United Churches of Lycoming County.....	7
Friday Fun Night.....	7
Lunch N' Fellowship.....	7
ELCA, Synod & West Branch News.....	8
St. Mark's Lions & John Bower Bball.....	10
Children's Church.....	10
First Communion Class.....	10
Kids Morning Out & Adult Cookie Bake.....	11
Christmas Caroling	11
Operation Christmas Child.....	11
Dicken's Christmas Carol Production.....	12
Along the Way Book Fair.....	13
Passing on Faith: 3rd Grade Milestone Event...	14
Advent Wreath Making & Luncheon.....	14
Teddy Bear & Mitten Trees.....	14
Special Thank You Notes.....	15
Directory Changes.....	15
Birthdays and Anniversaries.....	16
United Campus Ministry.....	16
Health, Healing and Wholeness.....	17
Special Need Prayer List.....	18
October Calendar.....	19
Dialysis Concert	cover

COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

The Congregation Council met in regular session on October 20, 2008 in the Crossways Room.

The Council:

- received the regular reports of the pastor, officers, and committees.
- heard the pastor's verbal comments about last week's trip to the Society of the Holy Trinity gathering in Mundelein, Illinois.
- moved to accept by letter of Transfer from Memorial Lutheran Church in Shippensburg the Michael Elliott family: Michael, Tracie, Ian, Owen, Grace, Christopher and Katelyn.
- seated Scott Bittner as member of the Council, taking the seat of Brenda Bittner.
- received the resignation of Bob Jones from the Council.
- noted that a conference was held by our Finance Committee with our insurance carrier to review coverage.
- announced that the Finance Committee meets tomorrow to begin work on the 2009 budget.

The Office Staff wishes you a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday. May your heart be filled with gratitude for the many blessings you have been showered with this year

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

Social Ministry News

Hunger Awareness in November



Action and advocacy regarding hunger and poverty in our community began with our collection of non-perishable food items for Harvest Home and the annual CROP Walk in October. It will continue with the Shepherd of the Streets Thanksgiving Basket Collection November 24th and 25th.

Plans are under way to provide **350 families**, which represents over 1750 people, with a SHARE food basket with additional food items being added depending on the size of the family.

This year the basic SHARE basket will cost \$28.50. Please consider supporting this program with a monetary donation in any amount or by donating canned goods. Checks can be made payable to St. Mark's designated for Thanksgiving Baskets. Food items can be placed in the tubs in the Narthex.

Calling Saint Mark's Elves

In early December we will make our annual visit to the Selinsgrove Center to celebrate Christmas with a group of twenty women. The Social Ministry Committee needs your assistance with this event.

- Join us that evening. There will be singing, storytelling and gifting.
- Please consider donating Dove Body Wash or its generic equivalent. The ladies need the moisturizing qualities of this type of body wash.
- Also needed are individual servings of pudding (no refrigeration needed) in all flavors. It is their favorite treat. The ladies only receive vanilla, so other flavors are an extra-special treat.
- We want to take cookie trays to their dedicated caregivers on three shifts. We will need cookies and candy to create the holiday trays.



Requested items for gifting can be placed in the Narthex. Monetary donations to offset the cost of gifting are welcomed. Checks may be made payable to St. Mark's designated for Christmas Party. Please speak with Becky Miller Pryor to donate cookies or to assist with this heartwarming event.

Daniel's Closet



Daniel's Closet is a free clothing ministry at Redeemer Lutheran Church. Once a month the folks at Redeemer open their doors for two hours to folks needing clothing for themselves or other family members. During a two-hour time span on October 18th, 190 people received clothing! Our own Megan and Clint Eppelman assist with this ministry.

Presently Daniel's Closet needs fall/winter clothing for children in sizes from infant to teen. Also needed is plus-size clothing for both women and men. Contact Becky Miller Pryor (321-9523) if you wish to donate clothing for the next distribution on Saturday, November 15th.

Christian Community Service Opportunities

Captive Free

will present an evening of experiential worship

**Saturday, Nov. 14
7:00 pm**

at

**Messiah Lutheran
South Williamsport**

This is a free concert for the whole community. Captive Free, is a relational music ministry team sponsored by Youth Encounter. Bring a friend for this faith-encouraging program of music and personal sharing.

“Nonviolence in a World of Violence and War”

Tuesday, Nov. 18th 7 pm

Father John Dear will present a free lecture on Tuesday, Nov. 18, 7:00 PM at Pennsylvania College of Technology's Professional Development Center in Williamsport. Fr. Dear is both a Nobel Peace Prize and Gandhi Peace Award nominee, and is an internationally recognized voice for peace and nonviolence. A Jesuit priest, pastor, peacemaker, and author, he served for years as the Director of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, the largest interfaith peace organization in the U.S. After September 11, 2001, he was a Red Cross coordinator of chaplains at the Family Assistance Center in NYC where he counseled thousands of people. The event is sponsored by United Campus Ministry.

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



Another Successful Bazaar!

For three days beginning October 8, 9 and 10, 2008, Women of St Mark's converged on Fellowship Hall to arrange a large assortment of goods to be sold at our annual Fall Rummage/Bazaar Sale; and what a fantastic job they did!!! On Saturday, October 11, 2008, the doors were opened to a very large crowd of bargain seekers and each station was manned by a group of top notch salesladies!! We made \$987.99 mission money to be matched by Thrivent for a total of \$1,975.98!

My sincere thanks to these ladies for the hard work put forth to make this fall event another successful one. From the bakers and the kitchen staff to the floor staff, each person put forth the extra effort, with big broad smiles on their happy faces. Success is a group effort and you ladies certainly are proof of that!! I salute you all!!

Thanks again, ladies. ~ Jane Kline, Chairperson

YOU CAN RECYCLE YOUR OLD CELL PHONES

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. There is a box in the Narthex for you to deposit old cell phones for recycling.

Funds generated by the sale of recycled phones will go into grants that will:

- (1) Assist women and children living in poverty through financial literacy training, job training, accessible health care and affordable child care.
- (2) Improving climate change programs. Recycling cell phones lying around will reduce CO₂ from entering the atmosphere, save energy, and reduce the amount of hazardous waste being dumped into our landfills.

Phones that cannot be completely repaired are reprogrammed for 9-1-1 calls only and donated to elderly citizens and people at risk.

Please de-activate and remove all personal information. Chargers, cell phone batteries, and other accessories can be included. Materials from broken and obsolete phones can be reclaimed and reused.



And speaking of
thankful...

THANKOFFERING SUNDAY

Thankofferings are monetary offerings made to God with a prayer any time there is an event for which you are particularly thankful. God gives us so much. It behooves us to give back to God what He has first given to us. Our partnership with God requires that we accomplish His mission for the world around us. What are you thankful for?

Thankoffering Sunday at St. Mark's is November 16th. Envelopes are available in the Narthex, or you can use your blue special offering envelopes. Be sure to specify "Thankoffering" and include your church envelope number.

News from the Pews

Congratulations to **Janelle Lukens** who earned support from the Quinton E. Beauge Memorial Journalism Scholarship which provides undergraduate scholarship support for students studying communication at Penn State. Janelle, the daughter of **Jeanette and Randy Lukens**, is a freshman at Penn State and is also a member of the Penn State softball team as a catcher and first baseman. The scholarship is awarded to students, with preference given to those majoring in journalism and an additional preference to those from Lycoming County. Good job, Janelle!

Very best wishes also to **Brittany Toy**, one of our newer members, on her engagement to Joshua Lynch, also of Montgomery. Brittany graduated from Lycoming College in 2007 and is employed by Brodart as an advertising coordinator and is also a team leader for Long John Silver's. An April 17, 2010 wedding at St. Mark's is being planned.

Annika Waffenschmidt, second grader at West Branch School, was featured in the newspaper using a magnifying glass to identify a caterpillar while enjoying a field trip to the Bluebird Trail in Mosquito Valley.

Jane and Ted Larson are settling into their new home in Tule's Run. Their new address is 143 Hampton Way, Montoursville 17754.

Don't forget to let me know all the exciting things that are happening to you or your family!

~Joyce Hershberger

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

Nurse's Notes

Nov. 2 Parents! Does your teen drive you crazy with his/her constant text messaging? Does he/she need to take medication for a chronic illness, but often forgets to do? Consider using text messages as medication reminders throughout the day. Dr. Maria Britto and Jennifer Knopf of Children's Hospital Medical Center, Cincinnati, Ohio recently reported on a short-term study that indicates text messaging may be a powerful tool for proper medication use. Read more at www.boston.com/bostonworks/healthcare/oncall/articles/2008/09/18/in_other_words/Using_Text_Messages_to_Improve_Medication_Adherence. Helen Osborne, M.Ed., OTR/L, September 18, 2008. The article points out that full text, not abbreviations or texting "short-hand" be used to keep the message clear.

Nov. 9 Humidifiers are a great way to counter the drying aspects of winter heating – dry nose, cracked or chapped lips. Plan to clean yours every three days. *Whenever possible, read and follow manufacturer's instructions.* Unplug the machine, and remove all standing water. Clean removable filters as instructed by company. To remove mineral deposits, pour one cup of white vinegar into reservoir and allow to sit for about 30 minutes. Rinse well and wipe dry. To disinfect against mold and mildew, make a solution of one teaspoon chlorine bleach to one gallon of water, allow to soak for at least 30 minutes. Rinse thoroughly several times. Water should be changed daily.

Nov. 16 As the weather gets colder, we do not get as much fresh air as we would like, and the quality of our indoor air suffers. The folks at [Canadian Living.com](http://CanadianLiving.com) suggest a simple solution – add a 1 or 2 houseplants to your décor. Studies indicate that plants can remove some chemicals, such as formaldehyde and benzene for our air. "Top performers include spider plants, gerbera daisies, Boston ferns and English ivy."

Nov. 23 Want pumpkin pie without so many calories? Try this crust-less version: Mix together all ingredients. Pour into a 9" pie pan coated with low-fat cooking spray. Bake at 350° oven for 45-50 min. Chill and serve with low-fat whipped topping. Serves 8. (www.betterrecipes.com) 2 eggs, 12 ounce can skim evaporated milk, 15 ounce can pumpkin, 1/3 cup white sugar, 1/3 cup brown sugar, 1/2 tsp ginger, 1/4 tsp nutmeg, 1 tsp cinnamon, 1/4 cup flour.

Nov. 30 **Need a quick healthy snack for your kids?** Spread 1 tablespoon of peanut butter on a whole wheat tortilla, and then sprinkle 1 tablespoon of whole-grain cereal on top. Peel and place one banana on the tortilla and roll up the tortilla for a sweet, crunchy treat! (*Ten Smart Snacks for Teens*, National Diabetes Education Program, US Department of Health and Human Services)

United Churches of Lycoming County

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.

November Dates to remember:

- 5—**Dr Jonathan Williamsson**
Prof. of Political Science, Lycoming College,
"The 2008 National Election"
- 12- **Mr. Burt Frances**
US Air Force War Veteran
"Ghosts, Soldiers & Heroes"
- 19—**Rev. Louis Gatti, Pastor**
Calvary Church of the Nazarene
"Who are we: Nazarene Christians"
- 26- **To Be Announced: Thanksgiving 2008**

Food Pantry Needs

These are the items that are currently needed:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| spaghetti sauce, | canned vegetables |
| chunky soups, | cakes mixes & icing |
| oodles-of-noodles, | Jell-o and pudding mixes |
| canned fruits | saltine crackers |
| hot chocolate | spaghetti pasta & sauce |
| hamburger & tuna helper | egg noodles |
| peanut butter | powdered drink mix |
| instant flavored oatmeal packets | coffee |
| Granola bars | microwave popcorn |
| stuffing mix | regular tea bags |
| Powdered milk | 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 am-3 pm and when necessary at other times as well.

Gail Burkhart is the UCLC Food Pantry Coordinator and may be reached at 322-1657



Friday
Fun
Night

November
21
6:30 pm

Come join us for a good
time!

Lunch N' Fellowship
November 19th
Noon

Turkey, Stuffing,
Smashed Potatoes & Gravy

Bring a dish to share,
a dessert
and a friend!



Elca, Synod & West Branch News

Liberia-Bound Container Loading—Nov. 8

It's time to load another cargo container for the Lutheran Church in Liberia, November 7 & 8! For specifics, please see the special mailing coming to congregations this week. Volunteers will be needed at the Bergstresser's barn in New Columbia from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM on Friday, Nov. 7, and at the old Groce's silk mill at 210 West Sassafras St. in Selinsgrove from 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM. On Saturday, Nov. 8, volunteers are needed from 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM at the silk mill in Selinsgrove to load the container. Contact Bob or Carol Bradford at 570-473-9505 or bradford@evenlink.com to let them know you're coming, or to find out more information.

Volunteers Still Needed for 2009 Liberia Work-Team

Dates for the 2009 U.S.S. work team to travel to the Lutheran Church in Liberia are Jan. 13 to Feb. 26 (6 weeks), although a 4-week term of service is also possible (Jan. 13 to Feb. 13). The participation fee of \$2950 covers virtually all costs. A U.S. passport valid at least through mid-July 2009 and a Liberian visitor's visa are required. Volunteers are most needed in the areas of construction; nurse, midwife, and medical technician instruction; teacher training; adult literacy instruction; and home economics and crafts instruction. Want to know more? Please contact Dr. Robert (Bob) Bradford at bradford@evenlink.com or (570) 473-9505 as soon as possible.

Available Now: DVDs and Video on Liberia

Three DVDs and one video on Liberia are now available for borrowing, each focusing on a different aspect of our Companion Synod relationship with the Lutheran Church in Liberia.

1. **"Under the Tree . . . Walking with the People of Liberia"** is a 30-minute DVD made in February 2008 in the context of our various work-teams this year. Their work is spot-lighted, with special emphasis on the construction of a new library building for the Lay Leaders and Ministers Training Center at Totota. Other ministries of the LCL are shown as well. There are interviews with Rev. Sumoward Harris (Bishop of the LCL); Rev. Korboi Weegie (Director of the LCL's Trauma Healing and Reconciliation Program); Rev. Finn Hougaard (a Danish missionary); our own Rev. Ron Shellhamer; and Dr. Walter Gwenigale (prominent Lutheran layman, former Medical Director of Phebe Hospital, and currently Minister of Health in the Liberian government).
2. **"The Rebuilding of Curran Hospital"** is an 8-minute DVD made by Gary Winters of Reinholds, PA. Gary served as "crew-boss" for the volunteers who rebuilt and re-roofed Curran Lutheran Hospital in Zorzor, Lofa County during January/February in 2006, 2007, and 2008. The photos highlight the transition from ruins to reconstruction and the important role played by 28 Liberian laborers who were organized and guided in their work by Gary and other USS and ELCA volunteers. There is no voice-over on the DVD. The photos speak for themselves.
3. **"A Cargo Container Loading in USS."** Have you ever witnessed the loading of a Liberia-bound shipping container? You can now! Mrs. Nancy Hoffman (Trinity/Milton) has created a DVD (approximately 15 minutes) that shows a lot of familiar faces loading our 20th cargo container at the Hoffman's barn in Mazeppa in 2005. Nancy provides the narration and has dubbed in some very stirring and appropriate background music.
4. **"Iron Ladies of Liberia"** is the title of a 60-minute video made by Independent Lens that follows Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf during her first year in office (2006) as she desperately tries to jump-start the rebuilding of Liberia after a disastrous civil war in which six opposing groups of rebel fighters pillaged, killed, maimed, displaced, burned, and uprooted the entire country in 1989-2003. One gains a deep appreciation of just how enormous this task is, especially when the suffering population (less the 250,000 killed in the war) with 85% unemployment aspires to immediate improvement in their lives.

All four of these audio-visuals may be borrowed for showing to congregations, women's groups, Sunday School classes, youth groups, men's groups, etc. Simply contact Bob or Carol Bradford at (570) 473-9505 or bradford@evenlink.com.

After-School Program Grant Administrator Sought for Synod

In September 2006, the U.S.S. applied for and received a grant for \$25,000 from Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries for the purpose of encouraging our congregations to begin programs for neighboring children and youth, including before-school, after-school, and summer programs. The synod is now searching for a new grant administrator, whose part-time job will focus on relaunching this ministry effort. The ideal candidate is an active member of an U.S.S. congregation, cares deeply about the church's outreach to young people, is a self-starter, works well with church professionals and volunteers, has experience in administration and grant writing, is able to articulate and cast a vision for this ministry, inspiring others to participate. Work may involve some travel around the synod, computer and phone work. Much of their work can be done from home. Compensation is \$15/hour, reimbursed mileage and professional expenses. No other benefits. Please contact Pastor Beth Ann Stone for more information, or to pass on the name of a potential candidate: bethann@uss-elca.org.

ELCA, Synod & West Branch News

USS Youth Council Announces 2008-2009 Calendar

Watch for more information!

Flood Camp Mount Luther

date: *Saturday, November 8th*
grades: *6-12 and youth leaders*

time: *10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.*
location: *Camp Mount Luther, Maple Village*

Flood Susquehanna University

date: *Sunday, January 4th*
grades: *6-12 and youth leaders*

time: *2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.*
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

TURKEY DINNER QUILT & CRAFT AUCTION



Saturday, November 8, 2008
Evergreen Center at Mount Luther

Come support our growing ministry! Proceeds of the Turkey Dinner benefit the camp's 2008 Annual Appeal. Proceeds of the Quilt and Craft Auction benefit the 40 By Faith capital campaign which is now working to retire the debt of the Evergreen Center.

Call the camp
office by
November 1st to
order dinner
tickets. Walk-ins
will be limited.

SCHEDULE

11:00- 2:00	Turkey Dinner (\$8 for Adults; \$4 for Kids under 12; Under 3 eat free!) Auction items, including themed basket silent auction items on display
2:00	Auction of Quilts and Craft items begins
2:30	Theme Basket Auction announcing starts

View pictures of the auction items on our website at
www.campmountluther.org



CAMP MOUNT LUTHER

355 Mt. Luther Lane, Mifflinburg, PA 17855

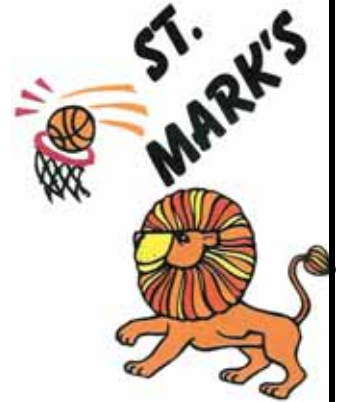
Phone: (570) 922-1587 Fax: (570) 922-1118
E-Mail: cml@campmountluther.org

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

ST. MARK'S LIONS NEED YOU!!

The John Bower Basketball League will be starting soon! We'd really like to see more players ages 5th grade and up!! 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 on Wednesday, November 5—but you need to sign up before that!! Pick up a registration form from Bernadette Jones or Rick Robertson.



C'mon!! Let's ROAR!



Children's Church

is on Sunday, November 9, at 10:30. We look forward to seeing everyone there—Bring a friend!!! The children's special collection that day will be shoe boxes for Operation Christmas child. This is a "from children, for children" donation.

(Check out the article on the next page.)

We hope to see you and your family on November 9!!!

FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES BEGIN ON 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

ADVENT IS COMING AND OUR CALENDAR IS FILLING UP!



KIDS' MORNING OUT

SATURDAY

DECEMBER 13

9:00 A.M. – 12 NOON

Look for sign-up list

In the staff hallway

Soon!!



ADULT COOKIE BAKE

SATURDAY

DECEMBER 13

12 NOON – ???

Look for sign-up list

In the staff hallway

Soon!!



CHRISTMAS CAROLING TO OUR SHUT-INS, DECEMBER 14TH



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 inter-generational 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.

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.

LSM is comprised of the Lutheran churches in the greater Williamsport area. They work together to spread God's Word through programs, service and support. Among other things they offer a School of Religion at which you can study a variety of topics on Wednesday evenings in October and a Catechetical Retreat for their youth in January. This is their first endeavor in the performing arts. All donations received will be given to United Campus Ministry at Pennsylvania College of Technology.

The one-act play is adapted from Dickens's story to incorporate straight acting during the staves, interspersed with carolers. We hope to see a caroling group (not too large) from each congregation. A Christmas Carol is adapted and directed by Bernadette Haas Jones.

The carolers and other music are overseen by Dick Lakey, music director and organist at St. Mark's. The cast includes members of St. Mark's, St. Luke, Church of the Savior, Christ Lutheran (Lewisburg) and Mater Dolorosa.

Volunteers from each congregation are expected to assist with the meal and each of the technical areas (props, costumes, sets, lights, etc.). Area youth are providing the wait staff for one or both evenings. They will be instructed and supervised by an adult captain.

There is no set admission price, but you must obtain a ticket from one of the volunteers or St. Mark's to attend (this lets us know how many we are to serve for dinner). Tickets will be available the

HELP WANTED: A Christmas Carol

CAROLERS STILL NEEDED!

Please see Bernadette or Dick.

Work Days Scheduled for Set Construction

On Saturday, November 1, and Saturday, November 8, beginning at 9:00 a.m., we will be constructing the set (Nov. 1st) and painting it (Nov. 9th). Sign-up sheets for these days and other committees are posted outside Bernadette's office along with a schedule.

Thanks in advance for helping us!



YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

**Start your Christmas shopping early...
...and you don't even have to leave the church!**

**Sandy Grier from Along the Way will offer a Book Fair
for St. Mark's for one day only – NOV. 16th**

**You'll have a chance to purchase quality Christian gifts/books for the entire family.
There will be several Greater Gifts (fair trade) gifts from around the world
as well as some terrific books for the entire family.**

**Cost of all items starts at \$.99 – so something for everyone. Join us.
10% of all table sales is donated back to support our ministry here at St. Mark's.**

Below are just a few of the books available on Sunday, November 16:

Personal Prayers for Teachers – This book offers brief, simple prayers that deal with experiences and feelings common among teachers. (*Great Book for a Christmas Gifts for your child's teacher*) \$6

The Christmas Message – Arch Book – This little paperback tells the Christmas story in a wonderful way. \$1.99

The Story of Christmas – Count down the days until Jesus' birthday with this charming book filled with reflections, prayers and Advent activities for the whole family. \$.99

Joy To The World – Inspiration to Celebrate the Season – Filled with a variety of Christmas goodies—you'll find Christmas poems, scriptures, trivia and even holiday hints and recipes- to help celebrate the joy of the season. \$6.99

Sing Glory, Glory! Jesus is Born! – This board book offers sweet illustrations and a delightful rhyme about the baby Jesus. Read it or sing it to the melody of "Jesus Loves Me." \$6.99

What Happened to Merry Christmas? – When Sam is invited to a holiday party, he worries that the celebration of Jesus' birth has been lost. Read along as Sam's mother helps him learn where to see the real meaning of Christmas. \$14.99

Where Do Angels Sleep? – This bedtime book answers important questions about angels and what they do: A wonderful explanation about our heavenly guardians. \$14.99

Lutheran Book of Prayer – This wonderful hardbound book offers prayers for various situations/concerns, prayers for festivals and times of the church year, prayers for mornings and evenings, the Nicene Creed, Athanasian Creed, selected Psalms and much more. \$9.99

Key Bible People made easy – Improve your knowledge of prevalent Bible figures with this handy new pocket reference book: over 60 key figures from the Bible; meanings of names; key Bible verses and links to Jesus' life and actions plus a 7 page pull out chart of seven Bible figures helped by Jesus. \$5.00

**The book fair will be set up in Fellowship Hall after church—
So stop by and see the Holiday collection of books and gifts for everyone on your list.**

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

And what a day it will be....

We hope you plan to join us this first Sunday of Advent!

Our third graders receive their Bibles as they mark their Third Grade Milestone and we have our annual Advent wreath-making; and, to top it all off---food!!!



First: Passing on Faith: Third Grade Milestone

Our third graders will receive Bibles at the 10:30 service on November 30. They and their families are invited to join in the luncheon immediately following the service. At that time, Pastor Elkin will sit down with the children to explore their Bibles and see what messages relatives and friends have written or favorite passages they have highlighted in the Books.

Second: Advent Wreath Making

You...yes, you...and your family are invited to attend the annual Advent Wreath Making on Sunday, November 30, at noon in Fellowship Hall. The children will again decorate their tree in the Hall with the hand-made ornaments donated to the children of St. Mark's.



Please join us for a time of food, fun and fellowship and make an advent wreath for your home!



Third: A delicious light lunch kicks off all of the above!!

We need to prepare for lunch and gather supplies for the wreaths, so...

If you plan to attend, and haven't already notified us,

CALL AND LEAVE A MESSAGE THE SECOND YOU READ THIS!!!!

Special Thank You's

Thank you to everyone who brought food or gave monetary gifts for Harvest Home Sunday, October 12. Gail Burkhart, coordinator of the local United Churches Food Pantry, advised us that the shelves were very empty. When fuel bills start to arrive the need is much greater. This is an ongoing project year round. Food and hygiene items can be brought in any Sunday and placed in a box located in the narthex. Thank you again for helping those in need in our community.

~ Worship and Music Committee

Dear Pastor Elkin & my St. Mark's family,

I wish to thank all those people who offered prayers, made visits and phone calls, sent cards, brought food and flowers, and provided transportation and good wishes following my recent knee surgery.

It meant so much to me! I am truly blessed!

~ Love, Gladys Knauss

Dear St. Mark's family,

I wish to thank you for the beautiful flowers and also for the time you took to care.

With Sincere Appreciation, Doris Brown

Dear ladies,

Thank you so much for the toys, shampoo and baby wipes! I'm sure they'll be very useful to our clients.

Thanks again for thinking of us! Blessings,

Esther van Dyke, Pregnancy Care Center

Dear Habitat Supporter,

The leaves are changing, and our Affiliate continues to grow. Our five house build is currently ahead of schedule, and we recently welcomed several new staff members—Bill Dando is joining Larry Keisner in the Construction Department, and David Henderson and Joclyn Persun will be serving with Americorps in the ReStore. Please feel free to stop by and say hello the next time you're in the area.

We can't thank you enough for your contribution to our Affiliate. Because of your donation, we are able to continue to build homes for deserving families. We know that with your continued support, we will eliminate sub-standard housing in our community.

Building Together,
Todd J. Fox, Executive Director
Greater Lycoming Habitat for Humanity

Directory Changes

Brian Jackson

424 N. Washington St., Montoursville, PA 17754

Mr. & Mrs. C. William Kuntz

1234 Mosquito Valley Rd., Williamsport, PA 17702-8702

Ted & Jane Larson

143 Hampton Way, Montoursville, PA 17754

Jennifer Mainwaring

425 Brighton St., Apt. #406, Bethlehem, PA 18015-1246

Lisa Weaver & family

2613 Wilmont Dr., Montoursville, PA 17754

We no longer have accurate addresses for the following families:

Stephanie Bieber & family

Christina Ciesielski

Nathan Edler

Randy & Sandy Edler

Tiffany Farrett

Traci Marriot

If you have a correct mailing address for any of the above please contact the church office.

Happy Birthday!

Shawn Wright	11/01	Kyle Doebler	11/17	Robert Jones	11/23
Jenna Eyer	11/02	Ronald Baker	11/18	James Newcomer Jr.	11/23
Marguerite Smith	11/04	Donna Baker	11/18	Ralph Thorne	11/23
Elizabeth Ward	11/04			Nancy Bieber	11/25
Samantha Kneedler	11/06			Stephen Dewar Jr.	11/25
John Bower	11/07			Ashley Miller	11/25
Ann Kuntz	11/07			Lois Smith	11/25
Paul Fornwalt	11/08			Shirley Miller	11/26
Brenda Gair	11/08			Shelly Clokey	11/27
Cathy Fenderson	11/09			Henry Fornwalt	11/27
John MacMinn	11/09			Katlin Jensen	11/27
Becky Miller Pryor	11/09	Tracey Heaps	11/20	John Burkholder	11/29
Shawn Zimmerman	11/11	Donna Hutchinson	11/20	James Gilbert	11/29
Pamela Davenport	11/12	Ray Reams	11/21	Matthew MacGill	11/29
Elizabeth Haussmann	11/13	Lisa Weaver	11/22	Harold Hershberger	11/30



Happy Anniversary!

Rick & Jennifer Robertson	11/05		Dave & Cheryl Williams	11/19
Gregg & Kathleen Dancho	11/06		Ralph & Lou Ann Zeigler Jr.	11/19
Charles & Ruth Ditchfield	11/10		Charles & Judith Fortin	11/26
Eugene & Reba Jacobs	11/12		Melvin & Melinda Wentzel	11/30



United Campus Ministry

It's hard to believe December will be here before you know it. Advent activities, Christmas, and don't forget... final exams for our college students. We are putting together study packages for our college students who away at school and we will be making study bags for the students right here at Penn College. There will be a box in the narthex to add your snack size bags of ships, crackers, mints, gum, bottles of water, or even some homemade brownies or cookies. You can even write a note of encouragement for the students, and we'll get them in the packages. The students will definitely appreciate a package and a note of encouragement from their home congregation.

We need your help with this outreach ministry. It's a special way of letting our students know we are thinking about them during this stressful time. Packages will be sent out the first week of December. Call Sharon at the church office with the address of college students who would appreciate a care package to help make their studying a little easier.

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 time.

HEALTH, HEALING & WHOLENESS

As this article is being written, there is a great deal of tension in the air. Our economy has taken a nose-dive, executives of large corporations are being called to accountability for lavish spending, the world is unstable, and we are about to elect the next leader of the United States. For many congregations, it is also the time of year to discern which congregation members have the necessary qualities needed to become leaders of the church. What characteristics make a leader good or bad? Look around any bookstore, and you will notice shelves lined with books that expound on what it takes to be a great leader. In scripture, in particular the books of 1 Timothy and Titus, Paul goes to great lengths to describe those attributes he feels are necessary in bishops, deacons, and elders.

In his book, *Leadership that Works*, Rev. Leith Anderson [no, it isn't misspelled] talks about teaching classes in leadership. One group of students was asked to list the traits they felt made up a good leader, these included: loving, kindness, visionary, intelligent, articulate, courageous, Godly, persuasive, wise, experienced, loyal, forgiving, hardworking, disciplined, and prayerful. Next they were asked to list some famous historical leaders; this list included Moses, David, Julius Caesar, Genghis Kahn, George Washington, Hitler, Lincoln, Napoleon, Idi Amin, Nelson Mandela, and Attila the Hun. Were these leaders? Yes. Did they have the traits previously listed? Not always. Anderson points out that there really is no definitive list of characteristics that makes for effective leadership. If you recall, Moses had a speech impediment, David was an adulterer, Abe Lincoln received the minority of popular votes, Idi Amin was ruthless.

Since there seems to be no consensus on qualities in leadership, perhaps it would be better to try to distinguish between healthy versus unhealthy leading. For this I relied primarily on an article by Michael Jenkins for Duke Divinity School, titled *Ten Things we Need to Know about Healthy Leadership*. Bearing in mind that each of us is a constant work-in-progress for the Holy Spirit, here are Jenkins' suggestions for what constitutes healthy vs. unhealthy leadership.

1. **They lead from spiritual and emotional health.** Their grounding is found in their relationship to God, as expressed in Micah 6:8, "*What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God.*" – open to listen and open to criticism – wanting to help others succeed.
2. **They are dedicated to the health of others.** Their healthiness in emotions and spiritual life serve as a model for those around them. They have the well-being of others in mind, even if it means making decisions that are not always popular – sometimes pruning is necessary for new growth to occur.
3. **They represent the character and mission of their organization [congregation, group, etc.], but are still able to be objective.** They value tradition, but can also envision the future. They remain flexible in how to attain the goals needed to move forward.
4. **They understand the organization as a social system** – listening and responding to concerns, but being clear about direction – prepared for resistance, perhaps even sabotage by those who are less emotionally healthy. They understand that everything is connected to everything – what affects one, will have repercussions for others.
5. **They provide a calming presence and emotionally well-differentiated leadership.** While some use anxiety to motivate and manipulate others (by shutting down others' abilities to think constructively and creatively), the healthy leader sets up an environment where it is possible for others to take risks and try new ways and ideas.
6. **They plan.** Does the plan fit with the mission, and what steps need to occur for it to succeed? Who is responsible for what? Their planning is on-going as goals are achieved, and new challenges take shape.
7. **They embrace the wisdom of deliberation.** No single leader has all the answers. With enough diversity and independent thought, most groups make better decisions than any one single individual can. On the other hand, unhealthy leaders keep secrets, manipulate, and undercut – often operating in secret.
8. **They are never too old to learn.** We are never too old or too experienced to learn what someone or something has to teach us.
9. **They know what to pay attention to.** Good leaders develop a sense of what to pay attention to, and what to leave behind. Again, they answer the question, "Is this what God is calling us to do – is it part of our mission?" Finally,
10. **They enlist followers in change.** They use their power and influence to allow the group to make necessary and effective changes – in spite of attempts by some to derail the process. They continually educate the group about the change to be made, and empower them to do so.

True health and wholeness can only come in God's time. In the meantime, there is a certain wisdom to Jenkins' thinking. May his words be helpful as we search for leaders in uncertain times, and may we all keep our eyes cast upward to God for guidance in all our decisions in the days and months ahead.

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

SPECIAL CONCERNS LIST

Patricia Alexander
505 Center St., Apt. #61
Williamsport, PA 17701

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

Nancy Bohartz
624 Sixth Ave.
Williamsport, PA 17701

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

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

June Decker
338 Sherwood Ave.
South Williamsport, PA 17702

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

Charles Ditchfield
Valley View, Room 308
Montoursville, PA 17754

Luther Doeblner
Wmspt. Home, Apt. #115A
1900 Ravine Road
Williamsport, PA 17701

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

Lois Graybill
Williamsport Home, Nursing Unit
1900 Ravine Rd., Rm. #306
Williamsport, PA 17701

Jean Gulliver
Rose View Center
1201 Rural Ave.
Williamsport, PA 17701

Gail Hoffman
153 Hampton Way
Montoursville, PA 17754

Charles Homan
2215 Warrensville Rd.
Montoursville, PA 17754



Phyllis Holmes
582 East Mountain Ave.
So. Williamsport, PA 17702

Charlotte Hughes
140 Blueberry Lane
Williamsport, PA 17701

Merritt Hunt
Bridges at Bent Creek, Rm. 246
2100 Bent Creek Blvd.
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

****We have received word that Merritt is not doing well and would probably appreciate hearing from his friends at St. Mark's.**

Anne Miller
947 Hepburn St.
Williamsport, PA 17701

Jane Oakes
Presbyterian Home
810 Louisa St., Apt. 204
Williamsport, PA 17701

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

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

James Sheaffer
Rose View Center, Room 306B
1201 Rural Ave.
Williamsport, PA 17701

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

Anna Stiadle
1900 A. Ravine Rd., Apt. 112
Williamsport, PA 17701

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

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

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

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

St. Mark's Calendar of Events

1 Saturday

9:00 AM Christmas Carol
Set Construction & Painting

2 Sunday

8:00 AM Holy Communion
9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Holy Communion
11:45 AM Contemporary Choir
12:00 PM Carol Rehearsal
12:15 PM The Way
2:00 PM NGA Packing Clothes
3:30 PM First Communion Class
5:00 PM Family Handbells

All Saint's Sunday

3 Monday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
6:45 PM Handbells
7:00 PM Carol Rehearsal
7:00 PM Civic Chorus Rehearsal

4 Tuesday

8:00 AM City Pastors
9:00 AM Morning Prayer
6:30 PM Property Committee

5 Wednesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
9:15 AM Quiltmaking
9:30 AM Staff Mtg.
12:00 PM Bible Study
7:00 PM Worship & Music Com. Mtg.

6 Thursday

6:31 AM Men's Ministry
8:00 AM Stephen Ministry I
9:00 AM Divine Drama @ Messiah
9:00 AM Morning Prayer
5:30 PM Stephen Ministry II
6:30 PM Evening Prayer
7:00 PM Divine Drama @ St. Mark's
7:30 PM Choir

7 Friday

Council Agendas Due

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
5:30 PM Stephen Ministry II

8 Saturday

CML Turkey Dinner & Quilt Auction
9:00 AM Christmas Carol Set
Construction & Painting

9 Sunday

Pentecost XXVI

8:00 AM Holy Communion
9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Children's Church
10:30 AM Holy Communion & LCC Choir
11:45 AM Kantorei
11:45 AM Operation Christmas Child
box packing & luncheon
3:30 PM First Communion Class

4:00 PM Dialysis Concert
5:00 PM Family Handbells

10 Monday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
6:00 PM Civic Chorus Board Mtg.
6:45 PM Handbells
7:00 PM Civic Chorus Rehearsal

11 Tuesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
10:00 AM Conf. Pastors
6:00 PM Brownies
6:30 PM Fin. Comm. Mtg. @ Bdgt Dev.
7:00 PM Carol Rehearsal

12 Wednesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
9:15 AM Quiltmaking
9:30 AM Staff Mtg.
12:00 PM Bible Study
4:30 PM Executive Mtg.
7:00 PM Carol Rehearsal

13 Thursday

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

14 Friday

Newsletter Deadline

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

15 Saturday

1:00 PM Carol Rehearsal with Carolers

16 Sunday

Pentecost XXVII

8:00 AM Holy Communion
9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Lyc. Coll. Chamber Choir
10:30 AM Holy Communion
11:45 AM Contemporary Choir
12:15 PM The Way
3:30 PM First Communion Class
5:00 PM Family Handbells
6:00 PM Mtg. / Meal - Confirmands,
Parents & Mentors

17 Monday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
6:30 PM Council Mtg.
6:45 PM Handbells

18 Tuesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
12:00 PM LSM
7:00 PM Carol Rehearsal

19 Wednesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

9:15 AM Quiltmaking
9:30 AM Staff Mtg.
12:00 PM Lunch N' Fellowship
7:00 PM Carol Rehearsal
7:00 PM Mutual Ministry Mtg.

20 Thursday

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

21 Friday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
9:15 AM Lion Crew
6:30 PM Friday Fun Night

23 Sunday

Christ the King Sunday

8:00 AM Holy Communion
9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM & First Communion
10:30 AM Holy Communion
11:45 AM Kantorei
5:00 PM Family Handbells

24 Monday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
6:45 PM Handbells
7:00 PM Carol Rehearsal

25 Tuesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
6:00 PM Brownies
7:00 PM Carol Rehearsal
7:00 PM Family Promise

26 Wednesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
9:15 AM Quiltmaking
9:30 AM Staff Mtg.
12:00 PM Bible Study

27 Thursday

Thanksgiving Day

Office Closed
9:30 AM Thanksgiving Day Service

28 Friday

Office Closed
9:00 AM Morning Prayer

30 Sunday

1st Sunday in Advent

8:00 AM Holy Communion
9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Holy Communion
11:45 AM Contemporary Choir
1:00 PM 3rd Grade Bible Milestone & Meal
1:00 PM Advent Wreath Making
2:00 PM Carol Rehearsal Everyone
5:00 PM Family Handbells

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

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

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



Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
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Williamsport, PA 17701

19th Annual Organ Con-

cert

to benefit

North Central Pennsylvania Dialysis Clinics

November 11, 2007

4:00 pm

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
142 Market St., Williamsport, PA

Non-Sponsorship Tickets

Individual	\$ 8
Family	\$15

Special Sponsorship Opportunities

Friend	\$ 25—\$ 49
Giver	\$ 50—\$ 74
Contributor	\$ 75—\$ 99
Supporter	\$100—\$249
Donor	\$250—\$499
Benefactor	\$500+

Tickets may be obtained by sending your check to
St. Mark's Lutheran Church, c/o Dick Lakey,