

COUNCIL UPDATE

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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 The Reverend Kenneth Elkin, Pastor Dick Lakey, Director of Music Sharon Comini, Christian Education Bernadette Jones, Christian Education Susan M-Smith, Parish Secretary Richard Wagner, Financial Secretary Lou DeSeau, Environmental Services Gary Weber, Website Administrator

stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org pastor@stmarkswilliamsport.org rlakey@stmarkswilliamsport.org scomini@stmarkswilliamsport.org bjones@stmarkswilliamsport.org smsmith@stmarkswilliamsport.org rwagner@stmarkswilliamsport.org Ideseau@stmarkswilliamsport.org gweber@stmarkswilliamsport.org

Church fax number	323-2452
Pastor's Home Phone	323-7367
Harold Hershberger, President	322-0410
Gary Weber, Vice-President	322-7149
Donna Clark, Council Secretary	998-2290
Jackie Kinney, Treasurer	323-5980
Jane Larson, Stephen Ministry	323-2845
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 Eppleman 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.

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Christian Community Service Opportunities

Captive Free

will present an evening of experiential worship

Saturday, Nov. 1 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: I rish Green, Vegas Gold, Sport Grey, Azalea, Black, Gold, Cardinal, Daisy, Forest Green, Leaf, Jade, Lime, Heliconia, Indigo Blue, I ris, 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

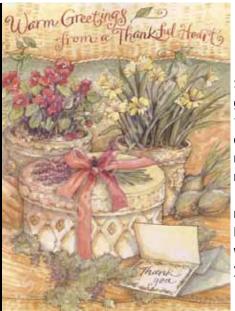
Youth Sizes: XS ~ XL \$10



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:

- 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 **Parents!** Does your teen drive you crazy with his/her constant text messaging? Does he/she need to take medication Nov. 2 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

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 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, /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.

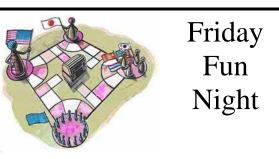
November Dates to remember:

5—Dr Jonathan Williamspon

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*



November 21 6:30 pm

Come join us for a good time!

Food Pantry Needs

These are the items that are currently needed:

l fel-	These are the items	that are currently needed.
o en-	spaghetti sauce,	canned vegetables
and	chunky soups,	cakes mixes & icing
t lot	oodles-of-noodles,	Jell-o and pudding mixes
eserva-	canned fruits	saltine crackers
	hot chocolate	spaghetti pasta & sauce
	hamburger & tuna he	elper egg noodles
	peanut butter	powdered drink mix
	instant flavored oatme	eal packets coffee
ege,	Granola bars	microwave popcorn
050,	stuffing mix	regular tea bags
	Powdered milk	clean plastic bags
	Your donations	are best brought Monday

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

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.

- "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.

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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

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

Synod 6th-12th **Grade Retreat**





Call the camp

office by

November 1st to

order dinner tickets. Walk-ins

will be limited.

Saturday, November 8, 2008 Evergreen Center at Mount Luther

Come support our growing ministry! Proceeds of the Turkey Dinner benefit the oamp'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.

SCHEDULE

	11:00- 2:00	Turkey Dinner (\$8 for Adults: \$4 for Kids under 12; Under 3 eat free!) Auotion items, including themed basket silent auotion items on display
	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

ST. MARK'S LIONS NEED YOU!!

The John Bower Basketball League will be starting <u>soon</u>! We'd really like to see more players ages 5th grade and up!! <u>Friends</u> <u>from other churches are welcome</u>—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!

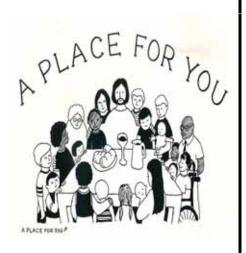
Children's Church

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.)

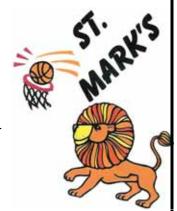
We hope to see you and your family on November 9!!!

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.



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ADVENT IS COMING AND OUR CALENDAR IS FILLING UP!







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 intergenerational event AND taking advantage of sales as they occur!! Find coloring books for 25ϕ 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.



On Friday and Saturday, December 5 and 6, 2008, Lutheran Shared Ministry (LSM) will present <u>A Christmas Carol</u>, 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. <u>A</u> <u>Christmas Carol</u> 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

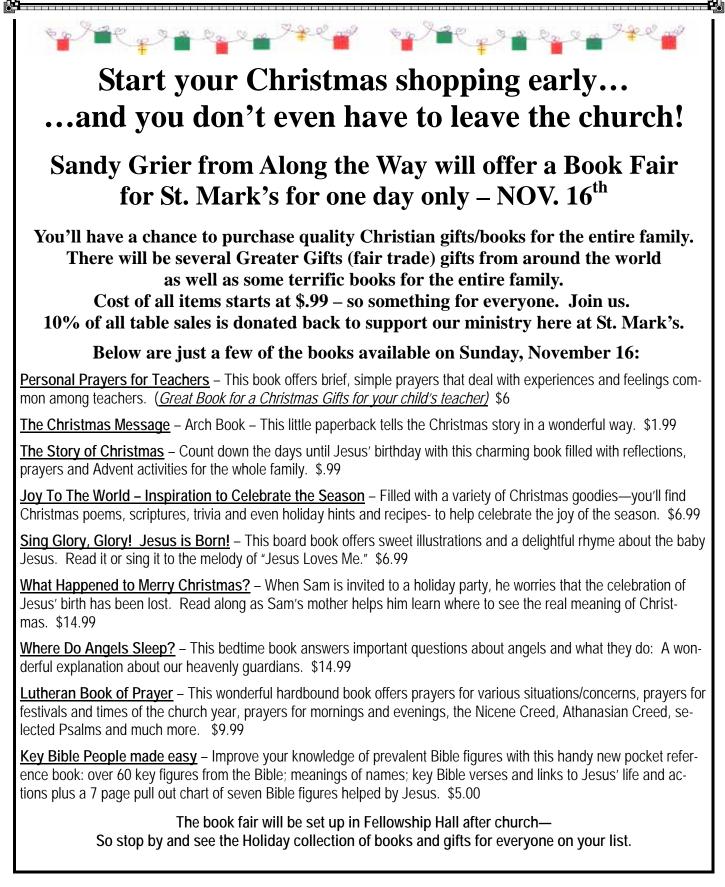
HELP WANTED: <u>A Christmas Carol</u> CAROLERS STILL NEEDED! Please see Bernadette or Dick.



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!





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, <u>you</u>...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. Pear 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

Dear ladies.

good wishes following my recent knee surgery.

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

~ Love, Gladys Knauss

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

Thank you so much for the toys, shampoo and baby

Esther van Dyke, Pregnancy Care Center

wipes! I'm sure they'll be very useful to our clients.

Thanks again for thinking of us! Blessings,

Directory Changes

Brian Jackson Mr. & Mrs. C. William Kuntz Ted & Jane Larson Jennifer Mainwaring Lisa Weaver & family 424 N. Washington St., Montoursville, PA 17754 1234 Mosquito Valley Rd., Williamsport, PA 17702-8702 143 Hampton Way, Montoursville, PA 17754 425 Brighton St., Apt. #406, Bethlehem, PA 18015-1246 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.

NOVEMBER 2008

THE LION OF ST. MARK'S

PAGE 16

Gregg & Kathleen Dancho 11/06 Charles & Ruth Ditchfield 11/10 Bugene & Reba Jacobs 11/12 United Campus Melinda Wentzel 11/26 United Campus Melinda Wentzel 11/30 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 righ here at Penn College. There will be a box in				JN OF ST. MA	ARK'S		PAGE 16
Jenna Eyer Margueries Snith Eizabeth Ward Samanha Kneedler John Bower Ann Kuntz Paul Fornwalt 11/06 Brenda Gair 11/07 Ann Kuntz Paul Fornwalt 11/08 Brenda Gair 11/08 Brenda Gair 11/09 Brenda Gair 11/09 John MacMinn 11/09 John MacMinn 11/09 Donna Baker 11/18 Ralph Alph Thome Shelpy Miller 11/25 Shriley Miller 11/25 Shriley Miller 11/25 Shriley Miller 11/27 Shriley Miller 11/27 John MacMinn 11/29 Shawn Zimmerman 11/11 Baker 11/20 Shriley Miller 11/20 John Bower 11/20 Shriley Miller 11/20 John Bower 11/20 Shriley Miller 11/20 John Burkholder 11/20 John Burkholder 11/20 Mevin & Meinda Wentzel 11/20 Lize Burkholder 11/20 Lize Burkholde	Happy Birthday!						
Rick & Jennifer Robertson Gregg & Kathleen Dancho Charles & Ruth Ditchfield 11/05 11/06 11/12 Buye & Cheryl Williams 11/15 Ralph & Lou Ann Zeigler Jr. Charles & Judith Fortin 11/12 11/12 Buye & Cheryl Williams 11/15 Ralph & Lou Ann Zeigler Jr. Charles & Judith Fortin 11/12 Charles & Reba Jacobs 11/12 Image: Charles & Judith Fortin 11/12 Charles & Judith Fortin 11/12 Image: Charles & Judith Fortin 11/12 Charles & Judith Fortin 11/12 Image: Charles & Judith Fortin 11/12 Charles & Judith Fortin 11/12 Image: Charles & Judith Fortin 11/12 Charles & Judith Fortin 11/12 Image: Charles & Judith Fortin 11/12 Charles & Judith Fortin 11/12 Image: Charles & Judith Fortin 11/12 Charles & Judith Fortin 11/12 Image: Charles & Judith Fortin 11/12 Charles & Judith Fortin 11/12 Image: Charles & Judith Fortin 11/12 Charles & Judith Fortin 11/12 Image: Charles & Judith Fortin 11/12 Charles & Judith Fortin 11/12 Image: Charles & Judith Fortin 11/12 Charles & Judith Fortin Image: Charles & Judith Fortin 11/12	Jenna Eyer Marguerite Smith Elizabeth Ward Samantha Kneedler John Bower Ann Kuntz Paul Fornwalt Brenda Gair Cathy Fenderson John MacMinn Becky Miller Pryor Shawn Zimmerman Pamela Davenport	11/02 11/04 11/04 11/07 11/07 11/07 11/08 11/08 11/09 11/09 11/09 11/11 11/12	Ronald Baker Donna Baker Tracey Heaps Donna Hutchi Ray Reams		11/18 11/18 11/20 11/20 11/21	James Newcomer Jr. Ralph Thorne Nancy Bieber Stephen Dewar Jr. Ashley Miller Lois Smith Shirley Miller Shelly Clokey Henry Fornwalt Katlin Jensen John Burkholder James Gilbert Matthew MacGill	11/23 11/25 11/25 11/25 11/25 11/25 11/25 11/27 11/27 11/27 11/27 11/29 11/29 11/29
Gregg & Kathleen Dancho 11/06 Charles & Ruth Ditchfield 11/10 Lugene & Reba Jacobs 11/12 United Campus Melinda Wentzel 11/26 Melvin & Melinda Wentzel 11/26 United Campus Melinda Wentzel 11/26 <td< td=""><td colspan="7">Happy Anniversary!</td></td<>	Happy Anniversary!						
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 righ here at Penn College. There will be a box in the narthex to add your snack size bags of ships, crack ers, 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 wee of December. Call Sharon at the church office with the address of college students who would ap- preciate 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	Gregg & Kathleen Dancho Charles & Ruth Ditchfield	1 1	1/06 1/10	1 SIG	F C	Ralph & Lou Ann Zeigler Jr. Charles & Judith Fortin	11/19 11/19 11/26 11/30
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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, <u>Leadership that Works</u>, 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.
- 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 everythingisconnnetedtoeverything 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 Hillsgrove, PA 18619-9300

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Luther Doebler 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

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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

b					
1 Saturda		4:00 PM	Dialysis Concert	9:15 AM	Quiltmaking
9:00 AM	Christmas Carol		Family Handbells	9:30 AM	Staff Mtg.
,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	Set Construction & Painting		5	12:00 PM	Lunch N' Fellowship
5		10 Monda		7:00 PM	Carol Rehearsal
2 Sunday			Morning Prayer	7:00 PM	Mutual Ministry Mtg.
	Holy Communion	6:00 PM	5	00 TI	
9:15 AM	Sunday School	6:45 PM	Handbells	20 Thurso	
10:30 AM	Holy Communion	7:00 PM	Civic Chorus Rehearsal	6:31 AM	Men's Ministry
11:45 AM	Contemporary Choir	11 Tuesd	ау	9:00 AM	Divine Drama @ Messiah
12:00 PM	Carol Rehearsal	9:00 AM	Morning Prayer	9:00 AM	Morning Prayer
12:15 PM	The Way	10:00 AM	Conf. Pastors	6:30 PM	Evening Prayer
2:00 PM	NGA Packing Clothes	6:00 PM	Brownies	7:00 PM	Divine Drama @ St. Mark's
3:30 PM	First Communion Class	6:30 PM	Fin. Comm. Mtg. @ Bdgt Dev.	7:30 PM	Choir
5:00 PM	Family Handbells	7:00 PM	Carol Rehearsal	21 Friday	
3 Monday	,	12 Wedne	ocday.		Morning Prayer
	Morning Prayer			9:15 AM	Lion Crew
6:45 PM	Handbells	9:00 AM 9:15 AM	Morning Prayer	6:30 PM	Friday Fun Night
7:00 PM	Carol Rehearsal	9:15 AM 9:30 AM	Quiltmaking Staff Mtg.		
7:00 PM	Civic Chorus Rehearsal	12:00 PM	Bible Study	23 Sunda	
4 Tuocday		4:30 PM	Executive Mtg.		Holy Communion
4 Tuesday		7:00 PM	Carol Rehearsal	9:15 AM	Sunday School
	City Pastors			10:30 AM	& First Communion
9:00 AM	Morning Prayer Property Committee	13 Thurso		10:30 AM	Holy Communion Kantorei
6:30 PM	Property Committee		Men's Ministry	11:45 AM	
5 Wednes	sday		Divine Drama @ Messiah	5:00 PM	Family Handbells
9:00 AM	Morning Prayer	9:00 AM	Morning Prayer	24 Monda	ıy
9:15 AM	Quiltmaking	6:30 PM	Evening Prayer	9:00 AM	Morning Prayer
9:30 AM	Staff Mtg.	7:00 PM	Divine Drama @ St. Mark's	6:45 PM	Handbells
12:00 PM	Bible Study	7:30 PM	Choir	7:00 PM	Carol Rehearsal
7:00 PM	Worship & Music Com. Mtg.	14 Friday	Newsletter Deadline	25 Tuesda	v
6 Thursda	v		Morning Prayer		Morning Prayer
6:31 AM	Men's Ministry			6:00 PM	Brownies
8:00 AM	Stephen Ministry I	15 Saturd	5	7:00 PM	Carol Rehearsal
9:00 AM	Divine Drama @ Messiah	1:00 PM	Carol Rehearsal with Carolers	7:00 PM	Family Promise
9:00 AM	Morning Prayer	16 Sunda	y Pentecost XXVII		5
5:30 PM	Stephen Ministry II	8:00 AM	Holy Communion	26 Wedne	Morning Prayer
6:30 PM	Evening Prayer	9:15 AM	Sunday School		Quiltmaking
7:00 PM	Divine Drama @ St. Mark's	10:30 AM	Lyc. Coll. Chamber Choir		Staff Mtg.
7:30 PM	Choir	10:30 AM	Holy Communion		Bible Study
7 Friday	Council Agendas Due	11:45 AM	Contemporary Choir		5
9:00 AM	Morning Prayer	12:15 PM	The Way	27 Thurso	
5:30 PM	Stephen Ministry II	3:30 PM	First Communion Class		***Office Closed***
		5:00 PM	Family Handbells	9:30 AM	Thanksgiving Day Service
8 Saturda		6:00 PM	Mtg. / Meal - Confirmands,	28 Friday	
	Furkey Dinner & Quilt Auction		Parents & Mentors		***Office Closed***
9:00 AM	Christmas Carol Set	17 Monda	ıy	9:00 AM	
	Construction & Painting	9:00 AM			0,
9 Sunday	Pentecost XXVI	6:30 PM	Council Mtg.	30 Sunda	5
8:00 AM	Holy Communion	6:45 PM	Handbells		Holy Communion
9:15 AM	Sunday School			9:15 AM	Sunday School
10:30 AM	Children's Church	18 Tuesd		10:30 AM	Holy Communion
10:30 AM	Holy Communion & LCC Choir	9:00 AM	Morning Prayer	11:45 AM	Contemporary Choir 2rd Crado Bible Milestone & Meal
11:45 AM	Kantorei	12:00 PM	LSM Carol Poboarcal	1:00 PM	3rd Grade Bible Milestone & Meal
11:45 AM	Operation Christmas Child	7:00 PM	Carol Rehearsal	1:00 PM 2:00 PM	Advent Wreath Making
	box packing & luncheon	19 Wedne		5:00 PM	Carol Rehearsal Everyone
3:30 PM	First Communion Class	9:00 AM	Morning Prayer	0.00 PIVI	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 U.S. POSTAGE **PAID Permit No. 257** Williamsport, PA 17701

19th Annual Organ Con-cert Cert North Central Pennsylvania Dialysis Clinics Cert North Central Pennsylvania Dialysis Clinics Cert Norember 11, 2007 4:00 pm 3: Mark's Lutheran Church 142 Mark's Lutheran Church 142 Mark's Lutheran Church 142 Mark's Sol-Family 58 Family 515 Special Sponsorship Tickets Friend 5 25–5 49 Gover 5 25–5 40 Gover 5 25–5 49 Gover 5 25–5 40 Gover 5 25–5 40