



The Lion of St. Mark's

NOVEMBER 2009

All Saints Sunday November 1, 2009

We recognize and rejoice in all those who have joined the

Church militant

by Holy Baptism in the past year:

Makensie Doebler	November 23, 2008
Kameera Smith	November 23, 2008
Kevin DeSeau	April 11, 2009
Matt Wellen	April 11, 2009

We honor and remember all those who have moved to the

Church triumphant

In the past year:

Merritt Hunt	November 01, 2008
Fred Dieffenbach	December 11, 2008
Doris Brownlee	December 22, 2008
Frances Kohler	January 20, 2009
Henry Fornwalt	February 8, 2009
Anna Rhodes	April 04, 2009
Larry Lundy	April 09, 2009
James Schaffer	April 18, 2009
Phyllis Holmes	June 24, 2009
Zelma Vitolins	October 18, 2009

CONGREGATIONAL INFORMATION

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Council notes

The Congregation Council met in regular session on Monday, October 19, 2009 in the Crossways room.

The Council:

- viewed a video discussion about Luther and the center of the Reformation, justification by grace through faith.
- received the regular reports of the pastor, officers, and committees.
- appointed Bill Hill to be the congregation's representative to the annual assembly of the United Churches of Lycoming County, which will be held in our Fellowship Hall on November 5.
- affirmed the Property Committee's decisions concerning the repair of plaster in the Library, and the re-leathering of the trumpet chest in the organ.
- noted that we will be sponsoring a service on November 11 especially to honor veterans' service to our nation.
- anticipated that the 2010 budget will be presented to the Council at the next meeting, and to the congregation thereafter.
- concluded the session with prayer at the Close of the Day, led by Jackie Kinney in the Chapel.

Staff & Officers Contact Information

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Church fax number	323-2452	Website: stmarkswilliamsport.org
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Gary Weber, President		322-7149
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Jackie Kinney, Treasurer		323-5980
Jane Larson, Stephen Ministry		433-3380
Mel Wentzel, Adult Catechumenate		327-8286

**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
by your Heavenly Father.**

Twentieth Annual Organ Benefit Concert

You are cordially invited to join us for the 20th Annual Benefit Organ Concert to support dialysis patients and families of the North Central Pennsylvania Dialysis Clinics (NCPDC) on

Sunday, November 8, 2009

4:00 p.m.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA .



The program features music for two organists at one keyboard, and the blue grass ensemble "The Stained Grass Window." Tickets are \$8.00/individual or \$15.00/family.

Concert proceeds support patients at the Susquehanna Valley clinics of the North Central Pennsylvania Dialysis Clinics. Dialysis is a life-sustaining treatment which, despite technological and clinical advances, requires patients to spend three hours a day, three days a week, connected to a machine that cleans their blood. The treatment is rigorous for the patients and their families. With your help, the physical discomfort and psycho/social impact of treatment can be minimized for the nearly 200 patients per month receiving care.

Your participation in the concert isn't limited to your attendance. Sponsorships are available. Tribute gifts, in honor or in memory of a loved one, are especially welcome. All sponsors will be listed in the program. Concert proceeds provide the "extras" that sustain dialysis patients throughout the length of their treatment. Proceeds also provide economic and physical relief for patients' families.

Over the past several years concert proceeds have helped NCPDC distribute a unique, dialysis cookbook designed to help patients maintain the special diet they require. In the very first year, distribution exceeded 240 cookbooks, necessitating a second order be placed to meet ongoing demand. The North Central Pennsylvania Dialysis Clinics is constantly augmenting educational, psychological and social programming, thereby strengthening the physical and mental well-being of patients and their families.



This concert is a labor of love in support of dialysis patients, their families and the medical staff and clinicians who care for them. We understand the issues dialysis patients face each day and want to help. Will you give generously to make a tangible difference in the lives of those with kidney disease? We simply can't do it without you.

Social Ministry Service Opportunities



Daniel's Closet

At Redeemer Lutheran Church
1101 Washington Blvd.
Williamsport, PA
322-2333

Free Clothing for
Men, Women & Children!

Saturday, November 28, 2009
(4th Saturday of the month)
9-11 a.m.

Come and See!



Family Promise of Lycoming County

We're Getting Ready to Host!

Jane Zimmerer and Becky Miller Pryor wish to thank the congregation for their many donations of towels, bedding, and blankets to be used when St. Mark's welcomes families participating with Family Promise of Lycoming County. Items are still needed. If you wish to donate an item, please check the display in the Narthex. Items may be new or gently used.

In the near future, we will be speaking with folks asking for volunteers to assist with setting up, preparing meals, visiting with guests and cleaning up. Please be thinking and praying as to where you wish to serve.

Calling All St. Mark's Elves!



With the holiday season not far off, it is time to think about St. Mark's outreach to residents of the Selinsgrove Center and Danville State Hospital.

Be looking for information in the weekly bulletins near the end of November for ways in which you may reach out to others during the holiday season.

Volunteer Drivers Needed! American Cancer Society

The American Cancer Society is recruiting volunteer drivers for the Road to Recovery program. Road to Recovery is a free transportation program for cancer patients in which volunteer drivers take patients to and from their scheduled medical appointments. A training for new drivers will be held Friday, November 6th from 1-3pm in the American Cancer Society's Williamsport office at 1948 East 3rd St.



Road to Recovery drivers must possess a good driving record and a serviceable vehicle. Limited mileage reimbursement is available.

For more information or to RSVP for the training, please call your American Cancer Society at 888-227-5445, Option 3 or (570) 326-4149 and ask for Sandy.

The Christmas Story...



"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over the flock by night."

This year's Christmas Eve offering returns directly to the Bible for its narration and traditional hymns and carols for its music. Many volunteers are needed. As always, we could not accomplish this without our adults as a *"multitude of heavenly host"* to lead the singing.

Children are needed to be shepherds, angels, sheep, camels, kings, Mary and Joseph. We need our youth to serve as narrators (no memorization required).

Assistance may be needed for sets, props and costumes, but we believe everything can be recycled from earlier presentations.

Rehearsals will be confined to directly after the 10:30 service and on Saturday mornings in November and December (a schedule will be posted soon). There will probably be only 8-10 rehearsals during that time.

Sign-up sheets will be available in the narthex and choir room toward the end of October. Please join Dick and Bernadette in this celebration of Christ's birth.

United Churches of Lycoming County

United Campus Ministry

It's hard to believe that midterm exams are here. The students are planning their **Fall Mission Weekend** on October 16. We will be working at the Food Pantry and at Yokefellow Prison Ministry helping out wherever we are needed. We are also hosting a **Hunger 101 event** on November 14 from 2:00 pm-7:00 pm. This event will be run by LAAMPA and will be held at Penn's Inn. If anyone is interested in attending this simulated hunger event, please let me know.

Looking ahead, we will be handing out **study bags** for the students on Dec. 4. Any churches wishing to make study bags for the students will need to have them ready by November 30. I will be happy to come by your church and pick them up.

Our **spring break mission trip** is planned for March 6-12, 2010. We will be working on housing projects for churches in either western Pennsylvania or West Virginia.

I recently met with the Chief Academic Affairs officer at the college, and they are taking steps to have the ministries on campus to be a more formal part of the campus. This is very encouraging news. I will keep you posted on the progress we make. It will be interesting to see how God works in this partnership endeavor.

Tom Ask, one of our college advisers, is on sabbatical in Malaysia, working on his doctorate. We are in need of another adviser. If you are a full time member of the faculty at Penn College and would like to be part of this ministry, please contact Sharon or Judy Shimp at jshimp@pct.edu. Duties would include meeting with students, being available to sign forms, and accompanying students on trips.

We are always willing to come to your congregation and share what United Campus Ministry is all about. Please keep the students at Penn College in your prayers as they continue in their studies this semester.

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

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.

- 4 - **Ms. Melodie Russell**, Executive Director,
The Center, *"Unto the Least of These"*
- 11 - Veterans Day - Program to be announced.
- 18 - **Rev. Kenneth Elkin** and **Ms. Kristi Hammaker**,
Family Promise Board of Directors,
*"Church Based Program Almost Ready
To Help Homeless Families"*
- 25 - **Ms. Joanne Keihl**, Director of Music
Calvary Baptist & Neisbet United Methodist
"Sounds of Praise"

This is a ministry that everyone in our congregations and community is welcome to participate in. Make plans to join us and you're welcome to bring a friend!



Food Pantry Needs

Items currently needed:

spaghetti sauce	canned vegetables
chunky soups	canned fruits
pasta & elbow macaroni	coffee
canned pasta products	sugar
hamburger helper	flour
tuna helper	oodles-of-noodles
powdered drink mix	regular tea bags

We really need 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.



Shepherd of the Streets Thanksgiving Basket Ministry

Thanksgiving is a time to count our blessings. In this country God has blessed us \beyond our worthiness. Being mindful of these blessings, plans are under way to provide Thanksgiving Baskets through the SHARE food program to area families who would otherwise miss the blessing of this festive dinner. Baskets will include a 10 lb. turkey, stuffing, gravy, canned goods, fresh vegetables, potatoes, rolls and apple pie, plus other foods added depending on the size of the family. Canned goods to supplement the basic package for larger families are also needed. These items will be received at The Center, 600 Campbell Street, on Monday, November 23.

This year the basic share basket will cost \$30. We will be looking to bless 300 families which represents over 1500 people, making our goal \$9,000. It will again be our privilege to dispense these baskets at The Campbell Street Center on Nov. 24th.



The Continuing Reformation

[The following is adapted from a paper prepared by The Rev. Frank Senn, Senior of the Society of the Holy Trinity.]

Ecclesia semper reformanda.

"The church must always be reformed."

Martin Luther didn't say it; it was a medieval slogan. As Heiko Oberman pointed out, reformation was "a medieval event". It grew out of the experience of the monasteries, which were always growing lax with regard to the observance of its Rule, and which required calls for reform and renewal. Sometimes this led to splits in monastic communities: for example, the Cistercians split off from the main body of the Benedictines. Martin Luther belonged to the "observant" branch of the Augustians rather than the "conventual" branch. And, by the way, Luther was not, strictly speaking, a monk; he was a friar. Monks are cloistered religious; the friars were out and about on the streets and highways. So calls for reform were not new by the 16th century; and schism had been experienced—not only in religious communities, but in the papacy itself. The Protestant-Catholic schism was not the first schism in church history; but it was a pretty major one.

"The church must always be reformed."

Once Luther's reform movement settled into being a church established by law in the cities, territories, and nations of central and northern Europe, it too needed reform. Two major reform movements within Lutheranism were Pietism in the late 17th and early 18th centuries, which set out to "convert the outward orthodox profession into a living theology of the heart." And then, after the period of rationalism during the Age of Enlightenment, there was a confessional revival movement which sought to recover the confessional identity of Lutheranism.

Our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America came into existence on a wave of ideologically-based culture wars. The idea was to transcend the differences between the merging

church bodies by creating a "new" Lutheran Church which cut continuity with preceding traditions, sometimes in silly ways. For example, when pastors receive a letter from the ELCA they are addressed as "rostered leader," not "pastor." If you're trying to be relevant to the contemporary world, who in the world knows what a "rostered leader" is? But there have been more serious issues raising the concern among many about whether "this Church", as they use the language, takes seriously the Scriptures, creeds, and confessions.

Not surprisingly, almost from the very beginning of the ELCA there has been agitation for reform. In the early 1990s there were two "Call to Faithfulness" conferences sponsored by three independent Lutheran journals held at St. Olaf College, that attracted nearly a thousand participants paying their own way, people whom Presiding Bishop Chilstrom insinuated didn't love the Church. (Pastor Elkin attended the second of these.) Then the 9.5 Theses came out, claiming a crisis of faith in the Church. More than 800 pastors and lay people subscribed to them. The leaders appealed to Presiding Bishop Anderson to at least have the Theses discussed in the Conference of Bishops, but he refused to put it on the agenda, saying that he would be proposing his own faith formation initiatives. Did he ever do that? Out of this intransigence, the Society of the Holy Trinity was born as an inter-Lutheran ministerium that seeks to renew the ordained ministry, a Society which Pr. Senn serves as leader (the title is Senior—that was Henry Melchior Muhlenberg's title, "senior of the ministerium") and which now numbers about 250 pastors in six different Lutheran church bodies in North America.

The task that the church needs to do remains the same: worship, study the Bible, discuss mission strategies and congregational life, and move beyond the culture wars that have dominated ELCA assemblies for twenty years.

(continued on page 8)

The Continuing Reformation

(continued from page 7)

In the 1530s there were a lot of ideas about reforming the Church. Luther had been calling for a free synod under the presidency of the emperor rather than the pope, to deal with the differences in theology and proposals for reform. He called for such a synod one last time in his 1539 treatise *On the Councils and the Church*. People were confused about where the true church was found. He said, "not in Rome; not even in Wittenberg," but where the word of God is preached and the sacraments of Christ are administered. In other words, not in the church-wide structure, and not even in the local judicatory, even if that local judicatory is more to your liking. He expanded this to discuss seven marks of the Church. Here is the basis of church reform and renewal, based not on human effort but on the divine means of grace. In a time of crisis when reform is needed, you go back to the basics. Here are the basics, said Luther, but in their fullness.

He wrote:

The Children's Catechism teaches us that a Christian holy people is to be and to remain on earth until the end of the world. This is an article of faith that cannot be terminated until that which it believes comes, as Christ promises, "I am with you always, to the close of the age." But how will or how can a poor confused person tell where such Christian holy people are to be found in this world?

Then Luther goes on to list seven marks of the church. Where these things are happening, one can be assured that the church is living there.

1. The Holy Word of God
2. The Holy Sacrament of Baptism
3. The Sacrament of the Altar
4. The Office of the Keys publicly exercised
5. The Office of the Holy Ministry
6. The exercise of worship, prayer, and study
7. The participation in Christ's suffering

The seven marks are signs of the true visible Church. Where you see and experience these marks, you see and experience a real church. But these marks may also serve as the basis for reform and renewal. Renew the preaching of the Word, the practice of Baptism, Holy Communion, and Penance, the holy Ministry, and public prayer and worship, and experience the cross of Christ in our common life, and the church will be reformed.

~ Frank C. Senn, STS, Pastor,
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Evanston, IL

For further reflection on these matters, consult Pr. Elkin's sermon from October 25 on the Seven Marks of the Church.

Faith and the Environment: Resources and News

Among new titles readers may be interested in are:

Earth Gospel: A Guide to Prayer for God's Creation. Sam Hamilton-Poore, Upper Room Books. Readers will be led through four weeks of daily prayer that support efforts to care for creation. www.UpperRoom.org/bookstore.

The Holy Earth: Toward a New Environmental Ethic. Liberty Hyde Bailey. Originally published in 1915, Dover Publications has now re-published the unabridged edition that was issued by the Christian Rural Fellowship. Bailey is regarded by some as the father of American horticulture and helped set the stage for the ecology movement. www.doverpublications.com

The Book of Green Quotations. James Daley, ed. Hundreds of quotations by various people on a wide range of subjects. www.doverpublications.com

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 Tuesday, November 10, at Cochran Elementary School—6:00 Beginner PeeWees and 7:00 for the older teams. There will be a second practice for the Juniors at 7:00, Friday, 11/13 at the South Williamsport middle school. But you need to sign up before that!! Pick up a registration form from Michele Owen.



C'mon!! Let's ROAR!



CHILDREN'S CHURCH next meets on Sunday, November 8, at 10:30, in the chapel. The children's special offering this month is items for the Operation Christmas Child boxes (which we will be wrapping and filling that afternoon)! The children will process to the front of the Nave with their offerings.

See you November 8!

FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES

BEGIN ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, AT 3:00 PM.

The children's instruction continues on November 8 and 15 (also at 3 PM). The sacrament will be given on Sunday of Christ the King, November 22. Letters went out in October to those of the age at which instruction begins for this important step in their life in the church. Bernadette has had only 3 replies to this invitation.

Please notify her if you have not already responded.

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



CHURCH FRIDAY FUN NIGHT November 20



THIS IS THE SAME NIGHT AS THE DOWNTOWN HOLIDAY PARADE.
THOSE WHO WISH WILL WALK OVER FOR THE PARADE AND RETURN FOR
HOT CHOCOLATE AND GAMES (IF THERE'S TIME).
WE WILL BE HERE FOR GAMES FOR ANY WHO DON'T WANT TO BRAVE THE ELE-
MENTS AND WILL WAIT TO HEAR ABOUT IT FROM THOSE WHO DO!!

Thank you
to all those
who volunteered
to teach Sunday school!!
Our roster is now filled!!



REMINDER: OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

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



On Sunday, November 8, after the 10:30 service, we share a light lunch and then pack and wrap Operation Christmas child boxes. As last year, we make the packing of these boxes an intergenerational event.

Children's Church is the same Sunday. Their special offering that day will be items for the boxes. The following Sunday (Nov. 15), the children will 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 8, but the final deadline is November 15.

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY



TRIP TO CORNING MUSEUM OF GLASS!! Look around you and you'll see glass everywhere!

"At The Corning Museum of Glass, glass isn't just for looking at or looking through. At our Museum, you can explore, research, touch, work with, and interact with glass. A truly unique Museum experience, The Corning Museum of Glass offers:

- The world's best collection of art and historical glass. More than 45,000 objects trace 3,500 years of glassmaking history.
- Hands-on exhibits that tell the story of the science and technology behind innovations in glass.
- Live, narrated glassblowing demonstrations all day, every day.
- Make Your Own Glass, the Museum's unique try-it-yourself glassmaking program.
- A fully equipped glass working Studio offering year-round courses in all levels of glassmaking.
- The Rakow Research Library, the world's library of record and the finest collection of research materials related to the art, history, craft and technology of glass.
- An 18,000 square-foot Glass Market, where you can purchase glass treasures from around the world.

The Corning Museum of Glass is where the world—from serious scholars to those simply interested in discovering—turns to learn more about the art, history, craft, or technology of this incredible material."

On Saturday, November 14, we will leave St. Mark's at 9:00 a.m. to travel to Corning, NY, for a day of fun and learning (and some fall foliage?)! We will eat at the museum—either in the facility or we can pack a lunch and tailgate. Depending on how late we stay, we will stop for a meal on the way home.

Sign-up sheets in the narthex and staff hallway!

Go to *cmog.org* for info.

Admission is free for all children & teens aged 19 and under.
An adult day pass is \$12.50, seniors: \$11.25, AAA (with ID): \$10.60.
There is a café available on the premises, also a coffee shop.
Kids' meals start at \$4.95.

HANDS-ON OPPORTUNITY!

"Sandblasting for all ages: Create a design with stickers and then watch as the design is sandblasted onto the glass. This object requires no finishing and is available to take home at the end of the experience. Appropriate for all ages, including preschool children. The cost for this activity is \$10.00."

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY



Our first Teen Movie Night took place on Sunday, September 27, with the film "Evan Almighty" as the main attraction. The entertainment selection for October 25 was "Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl." These evenings will continue on the fourth Sunday of every month, at 6:30 pm.

The entertainment selection for November 22 was made at the event on 10/25, after this publication went to print. Please feel free to call the office for more info—or check the weekly bulletin for the title of the next movie.

We've extended an invitation to the youth from the other Lutheran churches in the area. Feel free to bring friends. Popcorn and beverages (lemonade, tea and coffee) are provided and you are welcome to bring a snack to share. Parents are welcome to stay to share fellowship with us in the kitchen or Middle Lounge (or have our own movie?).

The movie is for teens only!
Spread the word— hope to see you there!!

Looking ahead to December:

- 12/05 Rehearsal for
The Christmas Story
- 12/12 Kids' Morning Out
Adult Cookie Bake
- 12/13 Children's Church
Kids' rehearsal for
The Christmas Story
Caroling to shut-ins
- 12/16 Lunch 'n' Fellowship
- 12/18 Friday Fun Night
- 12/19 Final rehearsal for
The Christmas Story
- 12/20 Decorate the Nave
- 12/24 Christmas Eve
Family Service
With presentation of
The Christmas Story
- 12/27 Remembrance Service
Teen Movie Night

St. Mark's Veterans Day Service



On Veteran's Day, Wednesday, November 11, St. Mark's will hold an ecumenical service of intercession and blessing. The purpose is to be an opportunity for the Greater Williamsport Area community to come together in prayer for all veterans, and their families and friends, of all periods of service to our nation so that they may share in the peace of our Lord.

The service will begin at 7:00 P.M. (that's 1900 hrs. in "milspeak").

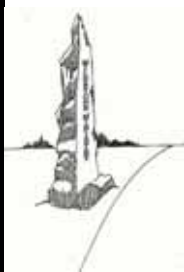
Hope to see you.

Todd R. Smith
MAJ (ret), EN, USAR
Vice-president of the congregation

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

Passing on Faith: Third Grade Milestone

Our third graders will receive Bibles at the 10:30 service on November 22. 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.



ADVENT WREATH MAKING

You...yes, you...and your family are invited to attend the annual Advent Wreath Making on Sunday, November 29, 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!



THE TREES COME ALIVE THIS ADVENT SEASON:

alive with Teddy Bears, mittens, gloves, hats! Two trees will be ready to decorate with these items by Sunday, November 29. Please stop in Fellowship Hall and add your gift to the trees. The Teddy Bears will be given to the Williamsport Police, Wise Options for Women and the Pregnancy Care Center; and the mittens, gloves, and hats will be given to area families in need.



ADVANCE NOTICE - MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!



KIDS' MORNING OUT
SATURDAY

DECEMBER 12
9:00 A.M. - 12 NOON
Look for sign-up list
In the staff hallway

ADULT COOKIE BAKE
SATURDAY

DECEMBER 12
12:30- ???
Look for sign-up list
In the staff hallway



CHRISTMAS CAROLING TO OUR SHUT-INS, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13



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. 15th



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 15:

Christmas Around the World – Wonderful book sharing recipes, crafts, songs, etc. from around the world. This shows how other countries celebrate the Birth of our Lord.

Celebrate Jesus! At Christmas – This is a great book for families. You and your family can discuss, interact and focus on Jesus through: scripture readings; familiar songs and hymns; devotional thoughts and the lighting of the Advent wreath.

Christmas at Home Just for Kids Cookbook – Celebrate with this unique collection of holiday recipes just for kids.

Blessings and Prayers for Men – a Devotional companion

Life among the Lutherans – based on Garrison Keillor's Lake Wobegon monologues. It's a collection of stories about the struggles of ordinary people in an imperfect world, the life and work of the pastor who leads them and the church to whose high standards they aspire in the small town they call home.

Through the Year with Martin Luther – a selection of sermons celebrating the feasts and seasons of the Christian year.

Step by Step Christmas Crèche – Countdown the days to Christmas! Day by day and step by step, make the models that build into a special Christmas crèche to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

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.



Office help needed during Susan's absence!

Volunteers are needed to work Monday-Friday from 9 a.m.—1 p.m. We need people to answer the phone, run the copy machine, type, etc. Even if you can only do one of those things it is still helpful to have you here. Please contact the church office and let us know when you will be available to help. If you are able to help during other hours please let Pastor know as he frequently has special projects to work on.

Special Thank You's

Pastor,
Thank you for Confirming me and all the nice gifts. Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness. Sorry this is so late. We were in Germany on Vacation for a week and a half.
Corey Hospes

Dear St. Mark's family,
Thank you for the vegetable chicken soup and bread that was delivered by Ruth Rees following my recent surgery. It provided a good, easy, nutritious meal for us.

Also thank you for all the prayers. They helped me get through the difficult ordeal.

It is wonderful having such a good family.

Thank you,
Grace Arner

**"I
thank my God
upon every
remembrance
of you."
Phillipians 1:3**

Dear St. Mark's,

Thank you to everyone who donated food for Harvest Home Sunday.

Gail Burkhart, coordinator of the local United Churches Food Pantry advised us that contributions are down this year. She is very appreciative for the large amount of food received from St. Marks.

Please bring non-perishable food and hygiene items throughout the year. A box is located in the Narthex.

Thank you again for supporting our local food pantry.

~ Worship & Music
Committee

WOMEN OF ST MARK'S—THANKS TO ALL!!

For three days beginning September 9 to 11, 2009, Women of St Mark's converged on Fellowship Hall to arrange a very wide assortment of goods to be sold at our annual Fall Rummage/Bazaar Sale; and what a fantastic job they did!!! On Saturday, September 12, 2009, the doors were opened to a large crowd of bargain seekers and each station was manned by a group of top notch salesladies!!

My sincere thanks to these ladies for the hard work put forth to make this fall event another success for The Women of St Mark's. From the bakers and the kitchen staff to the floor staff, each person put forth the extra effort making this such a successful event. And they all did it with smiles on their faces. Success is a group effort and you folks certainly are proof of that!! Thanks again, ladies. Our profit for this event was \$963.65 which was then matched by funds from Thrivent Financial making our profit a total of \$1513.65. Congratulations to all!!

~ L Jane Kline, Chairperson



Dear St. Mark's Work Crew,

Thank you ever so much for helping Little Lambs make an outside playground a reality. It has been my 21 year dream to have safe outside play. We love being partners with St. Mark's in providing quality child care for the children of this valley.

Sincerely Yours,
Holly & Staff

Happy Birthday!

Shawn Wright	11/01	Elizabeth Haussmann	11/13	Robert Jones	11/23
Jenna Eyer	11/02	Kyle Doeblor	11/17	James Newcomer Jr.	11/23
Marguerite Smith	11/04	Ronald Baker	11/18	Ralph Thorne	11/23
Elizabeth Ward	11/04	Donna Baker	11/18	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			Katlin Jensen	11/27
John MacMinn	11/09	Tracey Heaps	11/20	John Burkholder	11/29
Becky Miller Pryor	11/09	Donna Hutchinson	11/20	James Gilbert	11/29
Shawn Zimmerman	11/11	Ray Reams	11/21	Matthew MacGill	11/29
Pamela Davenport	11/12	Lisa Weaver	11/22	Harold Hershberger	11/30



Happy Anniversary!

Rick & Jennifer Robertson	11/05		Ralph & Lou Ann Zeigler Jr.	11/19
Gregg & Kathleen Dancho	11/06		Michael & Traci Elliott	11/25
Charles & Ruth Ditchfield	11/10		Charles & Judith Fortin	11/26
Eugene & Reba Jacobs	11/12		Melvin & Melinda Wentzel	11/30
David & Cheryl Williams	11/19			



It's Time to talk turkey...

**Lunch N' Fellowship
November 18th Noon**



**Turkey, Stuffing,
Smashed Potatoes & Gravy**

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

**St. Mark's Service of Thanksgiving
Thanksgiving Day 9:30 A.M.**

An expression of our thankfulness to our Heavenly Father through our prayers, singing of hymns, and readings surely provide a wonderful way to begin our national day of thanksgiving.

We hope that those of you who are in town will make plans to attend the service!

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

"For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone." (Ps. 91:11-12NRSV)

The psalmist reminds us of God's unceasing love and desire to protect us, but let's face it, he needs our cooperation - particularly when it comes to avoiding unnecessary risk to the health and safety of his people.

It is already November, and time to think about the holidays, and visits with our families. With so many people traveling, driving safety takes on critical importance at these times, especially for those drivers who are carrying precious cargo – their children. Below are ten mistakes parents too often make when installing a child's car seat:

Using a car seat without knowing its history. It is tempting to borrow a child car seat from a family member or friend, or to purchase one at a yard/tag sale, but think twice before doing so. The seat should be labeled with the manufacturer date and model number. Check for any recalls by going to: <http://www.odj.nhtsa.gov/recalls/childseat.htm> Do not use it if the seat is more than six years old, has visible cracks, or has been in a crash.

Placing the seat in the wrong spot. The safest place is in the back seat, away from active air bags. For those cars equipped with side-curtain air bags, be sure to read the car seat instructions and car owner's manual for any additional precautions.

Using the car seat as a replacement crib. [According to MayoClinic.com] A study from 2009 indicated that sitting upright in a car seat to sleep, may compress a newborn's chest and lead to lower levels of oxygen. Be sure the infant seat is always reclined. Even mild airway obstruction can have developmental consequences.

Not Reading instructions carefully. Make sure the child seat is secure – allow no more than one inch of movement from side-to-side or front-to-back – and that it is facing the right direction! If using an infant or convertible seat in the rear-facing position, be sure to use the harness slots described in the car seat's instruction manual. Thread the [harness] straps through the car seat shell and pad. Place the harness or chest clip even with your child's armpits – not at the abdomen or neck, insuring that it is lying flat against your baby's chest and over his/her hips with no slack. Position the car seat's handle according to manufacturer's instructions. Don't hang things from the handle.

Improperly trying to keep your child upright. Recline the car seat according to manufacturer's instructions so that your infant's head does not flop forward. You can place a tightly rolled towel, or "swim noodle" at the vehicle seat bight (curve), then position the car seat on the raised object. If the baby slouches down or to the side of the car seat, place padding around (never under or behind) him/her.

Moving to a forward-facing car seat too soon. It is tempting to face the car seat forward so you can see your child's face, but don't do this until the child weighs 30-40 pounds. Start with a convertible seat, or go from an infant seat to a different seat as the child grows. Always install the seat according to the manufacturers and car owner's manual instructions.

Dressing your child in bulky outerwear. The child's chest harness may not be as effective when placed over padded clothing. If it is cold, dress the child in a lightweight jacket and hat. Buckle the harness snugly, then tuck a blanket around the child for warmth.

Moving to a booster seat too soon. Older kids need a booster seat to allow for an adult safety belt to fit properly. You will know this when: your child has topped the weight height limits of the current (often 40-80 lbs.) seat; your child's shoulders are above the car seat's top harness slots; your child's ears have reached the top of the car seat.

Using a booster seat incorrectly. Booster seats without a harness must be used with a lap **and** shoulder belt – **never** a lap-only belt! Make sure the lap belt lies low and snug across your child's upper thighs and that the shoulder belt crosses the middle of your child's chest and shoulder (not the neck). Some booster seats have no back. Backless seats also must be used with a lap **and** shoulder belt – never a lap-only belt. If your vehicle has low seat backs or does not have a headrest to protect your child's head and neck in a crash, consider using a high-back booster that fits your child's height and weight.

Using the vehicle safety belt too soon. Most kids are ready to safely use an adult seat belt/shoulder harness between the ages of 8 and 12. Your child is ready when he/she reaches a height of 4 feet 9 inches, and your child sits against the back of the vehicle seat with his/her knees bent comfortably at the edge of the seat. The lap belt rests flat across his/her upper thighs, and the shoulder belt rests on your're child's shoulder – not on the neck or throat!

Finally, do not allow your child to tuck the shoulder belt under his/her arm or behind their back. Stay away from products that promise to make the belts fit better, and **never, ever** buckle 2 children in one seatbelt. If you have questions, contact your state highway safety office for information on how to safely use a child seat. In addition, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration can help you find a child car seat inspection station in your area. Resources: Thanks to: www.mayoclinic.com/health/car-seat-safety/MY00824 ; Chris Smith, Highway Safety Specialist, PA Community Traffic Safety Project and Sandy Nolan, Injury Prevention Consultant Northcentral District Pennsylvania Department of Health

Thanksgiving blessings!

Debbie Best, Program Coordinator Congregational Health Ministries & Family Life Services

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Ralph Zeigler, Sr.
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St. Mark's Calendar of Events

1 Sunday All Saints Day

8:00 AM Holy Communion
9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Holy Communion
12:15 PM The Way
3:00 PM First Communion Class
5:00 PM Family Handbells

2 Monday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
6:30 PM Adult Handbells
6:30 PM Property Committee
7:00 PM Civic Chorus

3 Tuesday

8:00 AM City Pastors
9:00 AM Morning Prayer
6:00 PM Brownies
7:00 PM Family Promise Board Meeting

4 Wednesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
9:20 AM Staff Meeting & Quilting
12:00 PM Bible Study
6:30 PM Worship & Music Comm.
7:30 PM Divine Drama

5 Thursday

6:31 AM Men's Ministry
8:00 AM Stephen Ministry I
9:00 AM Morning Prayer
6:00 PM UCLC Anniversary Dinner
7:30 PM Senior Choir

6 Friday Council Agenda Deadline

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

8 Sunday Pentecost XXIII

8:00 AM Holy Communion
9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Children's Church
10:30 AM Holy Communion
10:30 AM Lycoming College Choir
11:40 AM Shoebox Group Pack & Lunch
3:00 PM First Communion Class
4:00 PM Dialysis Benefit Concert

9 Monday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
6:00 PM Civic Chorus Board
6:30 PM Adult Handbells
7:00 PM Civic Chorus - Nave
8:00 PM Pastor at UCM

10 Tuesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
6:00 PM JBBL Beginners
6:30 PM Finance Comm.
7:00 PM JBBL Older

11 Wednesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
9:20 AM Staff Meeting & Quilting
12:00 PM Bible Study
5:00 PM Exec. Committee
7:00 PM Veteran's Day Service

12 Thursday

6:31 AM Men's Ministry
9:00 AM Morning Prayer
6:00 PM Mummer's Banquet
7:30 PM Senior Choir

13 Friday Newsletter Deadline

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
7:00 PM Civic Chorus - Nave
7:00 PM JBBL Older

14 Saturday

9:00 AM Civic Chorus - Nave
9:00 AM Corning Glass Museum

15 Sunday Pentecost XXIV OCC Shoeboxes Due

8:00 AM Holy Communion
9:00 AM Book Fair
9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Holy Communion
10:30 AM Lycoming Coll. Chamber Choir
12:00 PM Play Rehearsal
12:15 PM The Way
2:00 PM Civic Chorus Concert & Reception
3:00 PM First Communion Class
5:00 PM Family Handbells
6:00 PM Catechetical Gathering

16 Monday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
6:30 PM Adult Handbells
6:30 PM Council Meeting
7:00 PM Dog Club

17 Tuesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
12:00 PM LSM @ Church of the Savior
6:00 PM Brownies
6:00 PM JBBL Beginners
6:30 PM Mutual Ministry
7:00 PM JBBL Older

18 Wednesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
9:20 AM Staff Meeting & Quilting
12:00 PM Lunch 'N' Fellowship
7:00 PM Evening Prayer
7:30 PM Divine Drama

19 Thursday

6:31 AM Men's Ministry
9:00 AM Morning Prayer

5:30 PM Stephen Ministry II
7:30 PM Senior Choir

20 Friday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
6:30 PM Downtown Parade
6:30 PM Friday Fun Night

21 Saturday

9:30 AM Play Rehearsal

22 Sunday Christ the King First Communion

8:00 AM Holy Communion
9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Holy Communion
10:30 AM Passing on Faith
11:45 AM 1st Communion & 3rd Grade Bible
Milestone Luncheon
5:00 PM Family Handbells
6:30 PM Teen Movie Night

23 Monday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
9:15 AM Lion Crew
6:00 PM Civic Chorus Board
6:30 PM Adult Handbells
7:00 PM Civic Chorus

24 Tuesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
7:00 PM Family Promise

25 Wednesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
9:20 AM Staff Meeting & Quilting
12:00 PM Bible Study

26 Thursday

Thanksgiving Office Closed
9:30 AM Thanksgiving Service

27 Friday

Thanksgiving Office Closed

28 Saturday

9:00 AM Daniel's Closet @ Redeemer Lutheran
4:00 PM Wedding

29 Sunday Advent I

8:00 AM Holy Communion
9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Holy Communion
12:00 PM Advent Wreath-Making

30 Monday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
12:00 PM STS Retreat in Danville
6:30 PM Adult Handbells
7:00 PM Civic Chorus

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

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

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



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20th Annual Organ Concert

to benefit

North Central Pennsylvania Dialysis Clinics

November 8, 2009
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,
142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701