



The Lion of St. Mark's

MAY 2010

IRON CHEF Williamsport

At 5:00 P.M., Sunday, April 25, 2010, a full house of 110 guests gathered in Fellowship Hall, here at St. Mark's, waiting to be fed and entertained. The kitchen staff, under the direction of Bob Jones, was ready and waiting to plate up the meal featuring a Chicken Cordon Bleu entrée and a Chocolate Atrocity for dessert; Declan had his dining room staff primed to provide the best service in town; Carlos and his crew were making final equipment checks; and Pastor Elkin, haunting the halls, was heard to be muttering, "Salmon?... Eggplant?... GRITS?... DRAT!?" Meanwhile, Ruth Rees and Bernadette Jones were making alternate plans in case their leader should bolt...

Fortunately, those plans were unnecessary and our home team faced up to First United Methodist with all the fortitude and culinary skills they had at their disposal. Both teams had to prepare a shrimp appetizer and salmon as an entrée. At that point, however, things got tricky: as their vegetable and starch, St. Mark's was required to work with, indeed, eggplant and grits; while First Church was given bok choy and wild rice. As an added challenge this year, an ultra-secret ingredient of honeydew melon was given to us 10 minutes into the competition. No planning ahead for that one!

The menus were as follows:

ST. MARK'S:	FIRST CHURCH:
Prosciutto Shrimp with Cucumber-Melon Salsa	Cajun Shrimp with Fruit Salsa
Salmon with Sweet Chili Glaze	Grilled Salmon
Grilled Eggplant Stack	Asian Bok Choy Salad
Garlic Grits w/ Asiago Cheese	Rice Pilaf w/ cranberries
Crepes w/ Apple-Honeydew & Frangelica Flavored Glaze Apple-Honeydew	

The results were:

ST. MARK'S: 213	1ST CHURCH: 212
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The competition was stiff: referee Chef Mike Ditchfield kept them honest and the judges—Chef Rob Armstrong, Chef Peter Zerbe and Chef Michael Yaw—came to a fair conclusion. Congratulations to both teams!

Many thanks go out to our patrons and guests; to all those who worked so hard preparing and serving the meal; to our worthy opponents and officials; our emcee, Gary Chrisman; and First Contact Productions for their technical expertise (list on page 10).

A total of over \$6000 was raised for Family Promise of Lycoming County. Most of this was from our generous patrons; a large part in ticket sales; still more from the purchase of the stained-glass centerpieces; Theoron Hershey won the prize from the WCC kitchen staff, earning the most "Tips for a Promise" from the guests he/she was serving. The youth earned a total of \$481 in tips from their tables.

All in all: a good time for a great cause!

INDEX & COUNCIL UPDATE



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Council Notes

The Congregation Council met in regular session On April 19, 2010 in the Crossways room.

The Council:

- ◇ received the regular reports of the pastor, officers, and committees.
- ◇ moved to assign the development of a visitation process to the Mutual Ministry Committee, with the understanding that the work is to be done by more persons than the committee.
- ◇ recognized that Tanya Sheets and Audrey Marie Bower became members of the congregation by Holy Baptism on April 3.
- ◇ recognized that Sally Bjornstad and Michele Fredericks became members of the congregation by Affirmation on April 3.
- ◇ recognized three council members who are retiring from this particular service: Bill Hill, Bud Hershberger, and Jackie Kinney; and enjoyed ice cream cake provided by Beth Shafranko.
- ◇ noted that Jackie Kinney wishes to conclude her service as Treasurer of the congregation as soon as a replacement can be arranged.
- ◇ moved to nominate Ruth Pile to a one-year term on the Council, subject to election by the congregation in May.
- ◇ elected Todd Smith as a delegate to the annual Synod Assembly; and continued the search for an additional one or two persons to serve.
- ◇ noted that a Baccalaureate service is planned for June 6 in the nave.
- ◇ noted that income for the Lenten meals, the Nave Anniversary Celebration, and the Seder meal was very close to the expenses for these events.
- ◇ heard of the progress in Family Promise toward its opening in the next few weeks, as soon as we can arrange things with the newly-selected Director.
- ◇ concluded the meeting with Prayer at the Close of the Day in the chapel, led by Michele Ramsauer.

Staff & Officers Contact Information

Church Office	323-4619	stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org	Church fax number	323-2452
The Reverend Kenneth Elkin, Pastor		pastor@stmarkswilliamsport.org	Pastor's Home Phone	323-7367
Dick Lakey, Director of Music		rlakey@stmarkswilliamsport.org	Website: stmarkswilliamsport.org	
Bernadette Jones, Christian Education		bjones@stmarkswilliamsport.org	Gary Weber, President	322-7149
Michele Owen, Christian Education		mowen@stmarkswilliamsport.org	Todd Smith, Vice-President	220-1350
Susan M-Smith, Parish Secretary		smsmith@stmarkswilliamsport.org	Jane Zimmerer, Secretary	433-3324
Richard Wagner, Financial Secretary		rwagner@stmarkswilliamsport.org	Jackie Kinney, Treasurer	323-5980
Lou DeSeau, Environmental Services		ldeseau@stmarkswilliamsport.org	Jane Larson, Stephen Ministry	433-3380

Attention Lectors, Assistant Ministers & Ushers!

Please be certain the church office has a reliable e-mail address for sending you a copy of your schedule to serve. You may do so by sending an e-mail from the email address at which you wish to receive mail to: stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org Scripture passages will also be e-mailed to Lectors.

In the event you do not have an e-mail address you will continue to receive your schedule by the postal service.

Lycoming College Tour Choir

On Friday evening May 14th at 7:00 pm the Lycoming College Tour Choir will present its "Send Off" Concert at St. Mark's Lutheran Church. The next day the choir will depart from JFK to Buenos Aires, Argentina.

From May 15 through May 26, the choir will present performances in the cities of Buenos Aires, Rosario, and Cordoba. The concerts will take place in churches and local concert halls.

The Lycoming College Tour Choir is conducted by Dr. Fred Thayer and has been widely acclaimed as one of the finest college musical groups in the East. The 40 voice Tour Choir is selected each year by competitive audition from the 105 voice College Choir, which is comprised of students from all academic fields. This year's repertoire consists of both religious and secular music, ranging from contemporary to traditional, and includes music to satisfy all musical tastes.

The concert is open to the public. We hope that you will set aside the evening of May 14th and come out in support of the choir and enjoy a wonderful evening of choral music.

Notice of 2010 Annual Meeting



The Annual Assembly of St. Mark's Lutheran Church



will be held on Sunday, May 16, 2010,

in the Nave, following the 10:30 service of worship.

Planned for the agenda are election of Council members
and the reception of the booklet of reports

United Churches of Lycoming County



A 24 hour Devotion Line

is a way for everyone in our community to have "A Closer Walk With God". Devotions are three minutes or less and change daily and at least once on the weekend. Devotionalists change weekly. The phone number is **570-322-5762**.

WEDNESDAY LUNCHES

Join us from 12 to 1 p.m. for a tasty \$4 lunch, warm, ecumenical fellowship and a thoughtful program designed to enrich your life mentally, physically, spiritually and socially. Parking is free in the Pine Street lot from 11 to 1:30 p.m. No reservations are necessary. (Call 419-1464 to check for snow cancellation.)



FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

These are the items that are currently needed:

oodles of noodles
coffee
Saltine crackers
tea bags
Spaghetti
Fruit juices

canned fruit
elbow macaroni
cake mix & frosting
granola bars
noodles
Jello & Pudding

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 to receive food are 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.

May

- 5- To Be Announced
12- **Mr. William Kieser**, Supervisor,
Sanders Mortuary,
"General Information Your Family
Needs"
19- To Be Announced
26- **Dr. Ellen Davis**, Director of Music
St. John's Newberry United Methodist
Church and Members of the
Chancel
Handbell Choir, "Towers, Tolls, Tales"

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

ELCA, Synod & West Branch News

Think Globally, Act Synodically!

Do you have a passion for the church's mission to other countries? Does your congregation have an active ministry partner in another land? Have you been profoundly affected by your experience traveling or living in another country? Come and share your ideas, energy, and passion with the synod's Global Mission Committee, meeting next on Tuesday, May 11, at the synod office in Lewisburg. Join us for dinner at 6:00 p.m. (provided), with discussion to follow about ways to reinvigorate the Upper Susquehanna Synod's congregations in our ministry with global partners. Interested? Please contact Pastor Beth Ann L. Stone (bethann@uss-elca.org) to reserve your place at the table!



Pages Needed for Synod Assembly

Calling all youth (who have completed at least sixth grade), college students and seminarians! The 2010 USS Synod Assembly is looking for pages. You'll be needed on Friday and Saturday, June 18-19, from 7:45 a.m. until the end of the day. Responsibilities include handing out papers, bulletins, and other materials as well as serving as ushers for worship and counting votes when asked. Meals will be provided for the pages. All pages receive a free T-shirt! If you are interested in being a page please contact either Michele Owen or Bernadette Jones so they can register you to serve!

Singers Needed for Assembly Choir

The Bishop's Committee on Worship, which is planning worship for Synod Assembly on June 18-19, invites you to sing as part of the Synod Assembly Choir that will provide musical leadership for the Eucharist on Friday, June 18, at 10:00 a.m. and Saturday, June 19, at 10:00 a.m. in the Field House at Susquehanna University. In addition to leading the liturgy and hymns, the choir will prepare special music for the service. The assembly is being held in the Field House due to renovations in Weber Chapel. Interesting instrumentation is being planned. Adult and high school singers who would like to sing in the Assembly Choir should have some choral experience in church and/or school. Being able to read music is helpful but not required. Bring a friend. If you cannot attend both services, please feel encouraged to sing at one. Two rehearsals are scheduled for Sunday afternoons, May 23 and June 6, from 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. in the chapel of Zion Lutheran Church in Sunbury. A "warm-up" rehearsal will take place in some as yet to be designated place at Susquehanna University at 9:00 a.m. prior to each service. If you plan to sing in the choir, please contact David Reier at dreier@ptd.net by May 21. Indicate your name, address, day and night phone numbers, e-mail address, voice parts, and if you are available on June 18, 19, or both. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to call David Reier at 570-286-1664 during the day or evening.



Thrivent Campaign Reaches Facebook Goal

What do you get when you combine the popularity of Facebook with 10,000 Facebook users who want to make a difference? \$10,000 to support Lutheran World Relief! In a first-of-its-kind effort for Thrivent Financial, 10,000 people made a difference with just one click as part of the Fan it Forward campaign. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans launched the charitable outreach campaign February 15 on Facebook allowing fans an easy way to help others worldwide.

Wanted: A Few Good Men!

Make a difference in someone's life this summer. Camp Mount Luther is in need of men to serve as counselors this summer. In addition, volunteer nurses are needed to serve as the weekly health officer. Candidates must possess a commitment to Christ, a passion for adventure, and strong leadership skills. If you or someone you know is interested, contact Chad Hershberger, Executive Director, at the camp office at (570) 922-1587. Applications are available on the website at www.campmountluther.org



CAMP MOUNT LUTHER

Campus Ministry

We've had some exciting things happen this year with our partnership with Penn College. The religious organizations on campus are being recognized as a more formal part of the campus and we will be working with the Academic Affairs Office to help with different campus events. This is very promising as we will have more contact with the students and can form relationships with them.

As we wind down we want to thank you for your support throughout the year. Your support was especially evident at our annual Lasagna Dinner held on April 7. We are thankful for the support of our sponsors, Stroehmann, Giant, Wegmans' and Sheetz. They generously supplied rolls and gift cards to purchase supplies for the dinner. Special thanks to the following churches that have helped us by providing lasagna, cakes, and salad:

Montoursville Presbyterian

St. John Newberry United Methodist

St. Joseph the Worker Catholic

St. Mark's Lutheran

St. Matthew's Lutheran

St. Michael's Lutheran

Trinity Episcopal

St. Paul Calvary United Methodist

We were able to raise over \$500 for future mission trips. We hope you enjoyed the dinner!

The final activity for the students will be our study bags that will be handed out for finals week at the beginning of May. If you are interested in putting together study bags, please let me know by April 30th.

Five of our group will graduate this May: Michelle Mertes, Gene Raser, Chris Serphine, and Michael Yaw. Congratulations to each of you as you complete this semester and move into the next segment of your life. Best wishes to Michelle Mertes and Michael Yaw on their recent engagement.

Sharon Comini

News from the Pews

Lots of exciting things to report as we get into the Spring season- I have observed many of our congregation at all ends of the age spectrum – young and senior and those in the middle – appearing in the newspaper in recognition of their accomplishments!

Annika Waffenschmidt was a member of the cast of "Odyssey" performed at West Branch School and also wrote an article about the production for the newspaper account.

Richard Miller recently received the 2010 Outstanding Educator Award from the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce. This award is given annually to individuals for extraordinary contributions to the education profession. Dick is a secondary mathematics educator in the Loyalsock School District where he has served for thirty-seven years. He will retire at the conclusion of this school year. Great work, Dick!

Drew Haussmann was a participant in the dedication of the Medical Plaza in Montoursville. Doctor Haussmann will be serving at that new facility.

LouAnn Zeigler, Central Elementary School counselor was pictured advising new parents who were registering their children for kindergarten.

There was a tribute to **Dot Berndt** marking the 70th anniversary of her graduation from Lycoming College. Dot was a music student at the former Dickinson Seminary and has been playing the piano for 81 years. Her daughter and granddaughter were pictured and recognized as graduates of Lycoming. Dot's daughter, **Barb Horn**, has been an employee of Lycoming for 31 years as an administrative assistant in the education department. And granddaughter, **Sarah Horn**, is a corrections officer in Lycoming County.

Kara Hershey, not to be outdone by brother and honor roll student **Theoron**, has been named the Junior Rotarian for Round Hills School.

Last but by no means least, **Hannah** and **Ben Haussman** and **Sean Jensen** have had their books published in a special project at Sheridan School. Wow, we have so much to be proud of at St. Mark's – add your best wishes to these folks when you see them!

Joyce Anne Hershberger

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

Opportunities to Serve at St. Mark's

Are you the person?



Illustration by Chris Egan

The Congregation Council is looking for a very special member of the congregation who is willing to serve in the important post of Treasurer. A business or accounting background is very helpful, and attention to detail is necessary. This person works with our Financial Secretary who maintains all the records. If you are curious about the functions of the office, you are invited to speak with Jackie Kinney or Barbara Thomas who have each held the post within the past 13 years, and then also speak with president Gary Weber.

Calling All Office Angels!

Melissa Magargle, Family Promise Network director, is in need of several Office Angels who can assist at the Day Center greeting clients and answering the telephone. Hours can be set to accommodate your schedule from weekly to monthly for an hour or two. Please contact Becky Miller Pryor at 321-9523 or murphy173@verizon.net if interested in assisting at the Day Center. To date one person from St. Mark's has indicated a desire to assist at the Day Center, but more are needed.

Family Promise Hosting at St. Mark's

With a tentative opening date for Family Promise of May 19, 2010, Jane Zimmerer and Becky Miller Pryor continue planning for St. Mark's to be the first church to host families experiencing a housing crisis.

As we organize the many items donated and visualize the guests' rooms additional items are needed. We are seeking the following donations.

- ◇ small plastic wastebaskets
- ◇ a plastic hamper for used linens
- ◇ four flashlights with batteries
- ◇ twin sheet sets for overnight volunteers
- ◇ two vinyl mattress protectors (twin size)
- ◇ two small plastic drying racks
- ◇ baby wipes,
- ◇ disposable diapers in a variety of sizes
- ◇ pull-ups in a variety of sizes
- ◇ fruit snacks
- ◇ Pudding
- ◇ fruit cups (non-refrigerated)
- ◇ juice boxes.

Donated items can be placed in the bin in the narthex.

We are also accepting monetary donations to cover the cost of food while hosting. If you wish to make a donation, please make checks payable to St. Mark's and label it "Hosting Fund" on the memo line. Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

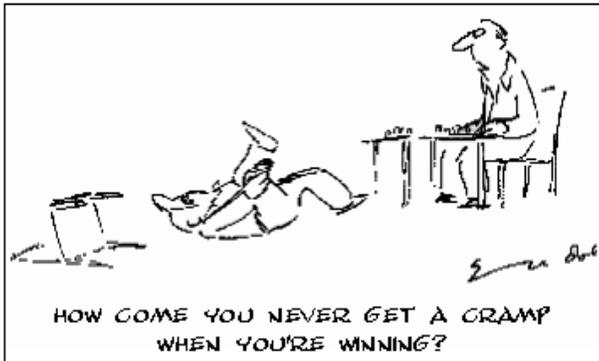


Nursery Workers Needed!

Please contact Vicki Hospes at 326-7318 to sign up as a Nursery Care volunteer. Thank you!

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

FRIDAY FUN NIGHT



**NO EXCUSES!
COME JOIN THE FUN!!!**

May 21st 6:30 PM

**TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED!
CALL 323-4619**



St. Mark's Annual Church Picnic June 6, 2010

If you are interested in being on the committee for our annual picnic, please join us in Middle Lounge on Sunday, May 16, immediately

following the 10:30 service.

If you have any ideas and would like to help, but can't make it to the meeting, please call or email Michele Owen: 323-4619 or mowen@stmarkswilliamsport.org.

If anyone would like to make a donation toward the purchase of food and supplies for the picnic, envelopes are available in the narthex for your contribution.

Once again, the Lutheran churches in the area come together to build a home for Habitat for Humanity. At various times during the year, folks of all skill levels are welcome to join in the effort by actively helping in the construction/finishing or providing meals at the work site. Anyone interested in participating in this new build should contact Todd Smith (220-1350).



WHO'S GRADUATING... from high school or college??



**Let us know so these young people can be recognized for their accomplishments!!
Call or e-mail the office—we're waiting to hear!**



Children's Church will be held on Sunday, May 9, 2010, at 10:30 a.m., in the Chapel.

The children's special offering this month is small lollipops (ex. dum-dums) or the small tootsie rolls (regular or fruit) to be handed out at

St. Mark's 4th of July celebration!

We look forward to seeing you and your family at our Mother's Day service!

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY



HEAVE-HO! LET'S GO!



Ready for the voyage of a lifetime?

At High Seas Expedition, kids explore the mighty

love of God on a journey that will change them

forever! High Seas Expedition is filled with incredible Bible-learning kids see, hear, touch, and even taste! Bible Point crafts, teambuilding games, cool Bible songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the High Seas Expedition activities that help faith flow into real life.

Plus, we'll help kids discover how to see evidence of God in everyday life—something we call God Sightings. Get ready to hear *that* phrase a lot! Parents, grandparents, and friends are invited to join us



Make a splash this summer!

Soak up the fun at VBS!



at the end of each day, because that's when we'll be having The Floating Finale—a daily celebration of God's love you won't want to miss.

So mark these dates on your calendar: Sunday, June 13, through Thursday, June 17, 2010.

Call 323-4619 or email mowen@stmarkswilliamsport.org

or bjones@stmarkswilliamsport.org

to register your children for this life-changing adventure!

YOU CAN HELP!



YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

Thanks go out to all those who have served
in any capacity for the
Iron Chef Williamsport
fundraiser for
Family Promise of Lycoming County,
without any of whom the
success of this event would not have been possible:

**A BIG
THANK YOU**
to these volunteers

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THANK YOU**
to these volunteers

ICW Committee:

Pr. Kenneth Elkin
Nicole Walz
Bob Jones
Becky Miller Pryor
Gary Chrisman
Carlos Saldivia
Bernadette Jones
Michele Owen

Master of Ceremony:

Gary Chrisman

Officials:

Nicole Walz, Competition Regulations
Chef Michael Ditchfield, Referee
Chef Rob Armstrong, Judge
Chef Peter Zerbe, Judge
Chef Michael Yaw,

ICW Teams:

Pr. Kenneth Elkin
Ruth Rees
Bernadette Jones
Rev. David Spearly
Shelly Dincher
Mike Lundy

Table settings:

Becky Miller Pryor
Bev Hieber
Janet Stroeble

Town Crier:

Ben Hartman

Herald Trumpets:

Chris Heyne
Stefen Scheib
Declan Jones

Meal Preparation:

Bob Jones, chef
Michele Fredericks,
assistant
Michele Owen
Sharon Comini
Beth Shafranko

ICW Patron Coordinators:

Joyce Hershberger,
St. Mark's
Shelly Dincher,
1st Church

Tickets & Reservations:

Pr. Kenneth Elkin
Bob Jones
Bernadette Jones
Susan Mahserjian-Smith

Centerpieces made and donated by:

Stained glass:
Shuman Miller & Carol Johnson,
Display Stand: Bob Miller

Clean-up crew:

Lou DeSeau
Kirk Owen
Beth Shafranko
Declan Jones
Michele Fredericks
Bob Jones
Michael Hooker
Pastor Elkin
Ruth Rees

Waitstaff:

Declan Jones, Dining Rm. Mgr.
Becky Miller Pryor, Hostess
Stephen Boone
Sara Jones
Devin Owen
Theoron Hershey
Corey Hospes
Max Hospes
Jarrett Eyer
Christina Comini
Riley Weber
Michael Hooker

Facilities & All-Around Supermen:

Lou DeSeau
Bob Jones

Publicity & Correspondence:

Bernadette Jones
Pr. Kenneth Elkin
Gary Chrisman
Kathy Kolb
Gary Weber

Videography:

Carlos Saldivia
Ed Ploy
Mike Morris
Aaron Fay
Rod Bower
and everyone at
First Contact Productions

Clear Channel Communications
Backyard Broadcasting
WGRC, Lewisburg
Williamsport Sun-Gazette

...and, above all, our Lord God, who gives us our resources, our talents and provides the opportunities to serve others in His Name!

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

Breakfast with the Pastor & St. Mark's Annual Easter Egg Hunt

On Saturday, April 3, 2010, almost 70 children, youth and adults gathered to celebrate the beginning of the Easter season. Declan, Sara, Devin, Riley, Theoron, Kara, Corey and Max hid the eggs, ran the dining room and were instrumental in preparing the meal of scrambled eggs, pancakes and sausage. Pr. Elkin had a talk with the children before the meal. It was a beautiful day and a wonderful time—please join us next year!



In the Kitchen on Easter Morning at St. Mark's

On Easter morning, the gang at Sunday School gathered in St. Mark's kitchen to make Easter Cookies! The children crushed the nuts, added the ingredients, mixed, whipped and dropped the cookies before popping them into the oven! At each stage of the procedure, a different Bible verse was read by one of the children which reminded us of different things that occurred during Jesus' last hours before death on the cross. The students were very involved with the activity and were excited to see that their "tombs" (the finished cookies) were empty when they broke them open!!

During experimentation with the recipe the day before, Michele and Bernadette learned that the cookies had to rest overnight in the oven—that they wouldn't be finished in 15 minutes as the directions said. No problem, back in the oven they went. When the children finished mixing and dropping their cookies, they put them into one oven which was then "sealed." The oven with the finished cookies was opened and the kids got to break open and eat those.

The rest of the story: Wednesday afternoon, as Bernadette was taking food to Sharon at the Lasagna dinner, it occurred to her to tell Sharon about the fun activity. This led to a phone call to Michele which ended in raucous laughter—the cookies were still in the oven!!!

Clothing Sale Update

On behalf of the Women of St. Mark's, Shirley Hill and Becky Miller Pryor wish to thank the congregation for their support of this recent event. Over the course of three days Fellowship Hall became filled with clothes for all occasions and for all members of the family. On the day of the sale a steady stream of shoppers bought bag after bag of clothing. At the conclusion of the sale a profit of \$443.75 had been generated. But the good will went beyond our doors. Additionally a truckload of clothing was taken to Daniel's Closet and a truckload to the West End Community Center. The Newberry Branch of NGA took several bags to support their work and finally the American Rescue Workers took the remainder. When the last bag was loaded onto their truck one of the men said "Bless you for supporting our work."

A special thank you goes to Lou and Linda DeSeau, Nancy Shires and her girls, Jane Kline, Shirley Vognet, Jackie and Shirley Kinney, Bob Jones, Michelle Fredericks, Shirley Miller, Bunny Ditchfield, Michelle, Kirk and Devin Owen, Ernestine Doane, Grace Arner, Elsie Sechler, Rick Robertson, Steve Eyer, Gary and Riley Weber, and Pastor and Donna Elkin.

Happy Birthday!

Robert Clokey	05/02	Stephen Boone	05/18	Ryan Jensen	05/24
Ruth Homan	05/02	Arthur Decker	05/18	James Kreider	05/24
Matt Wellen	05/02	Candace Dewar	05/19	Dawson Owen	05/24
Rosemary Clokey	05/06			Dustin Pelleschi	05/24
Alex Larson	05/07			Joe Peluso	05/25
Ian Elliott	05/08			Jane Angle	05/26
Carl Weaver	05/10			Norma Prato	05/26
Catherine Lundy	05/13			Jean Soars	05/26
Lori Ann Zimmerer	05/13			Audrey Albright	05/27
Karen Boone	05/14			Joyce Hershberger	05/27
Elizabeth Kreider	05/14	Amy Stugart	05/19	Kyseem Smith	05/27
Jane Larson	05/15	James Seelye	05/21	Kathleen Gilbert	05/29
Frank Vognet	05/15	Owen Lukens	05/23	Owen Gair	05/30
Robert Schultz	05/16	Catherine Drake	05/24	Steven Bieber III	05/31



Happy Anniversary!

Jeffrey & Patricia Hershey	05/01		Galen & Pamela Davenport Jr.	05/15
Hugh & Marie Byerly	05/02		Patrick & Carol Harvey	05/17
Joshua & Brittany Lynch	05/02		James & Debra Buckman	05/25
James & Elizabeth Kreider	05/08		Creighton & Christina MacGill	05/28
James & Ernestine Doane	05/09		Michael & Pamela Jensen	05/30



Special Thank You

Dear St. Mark's: Thank you for the flowers and the visits from members and Pastor Elkin. I am recovering slowly but surely and the prayers and calls are a comfort. Sincerely, Eugene Jacobs

Your generous donation of \$375 will make a difference in our community, ~ Shepherd of the Streets

Thank you for your gift of \$156 for the relief and recovery work in Haiti. ~ ELCA

Icon Tea

A modest but enthusiastic group of 26 visited the display of 50 Icons in Fellowship Hall on April 11. Rev. Dan Kovalak was our guest lecturer and shared his vast knowledge of the subject in a very interesting and entertaining way.

Our head caterer, Bob Jones and his assistants served authentic scones along with a variety of teas. It was a special afternoon learning about our wonderful collection of icons.

Parish Register

Holy Baptism

Tanya Sheets April 3rd
Audrey Marie Bower April 3rd

New Members by Affirmation

Sally Bjornstad April 3rd
Michele Fredericks April 3rd

HEALTH, HEALING & WHOLENESS

"Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." (John 21:18)

Jesus is telling Peter what to expect in the future, that he too will face the kind of fate that Jesus did. Peter, the impetuous disciple, needed to accept the sobering reality of what it meant to be a follower of Christ. Whenever I read it, this verse also speaks to me of the sacrifices that we sometimes have to make as we grow older.

No one wants to find him or herself in the situation in which they are dependent upon others for their daily activities. That is why it is so difficult to make the decision of whether or not we should give up driving. Please understand that getting older does not automatically turn one into a bad driver; however, sometimes physical limitations can make it more challenging. Stiffening in joints may make it more difficult to turn your head side-to-side to watch for on-coming traffic, to accelerate, and to brake. They can also make it uncomfortable for our hands to grip the steering wheel. Reflexes are slower, and vision problems such as glaucoma, macular degeneration, or cataracts make it more difficult to respond to the glare of on-coming headlights, street lights, or bright sunlight, and sometimes limit our peripheral vision.

We can compensate for some of these age-related conditions by carefully planning ahead: driving during the day-time; keeping to familiar streets; taking routes that avoid risky traffic spots, such as left turns and on-off ramps; not driving when we are stressed or tired; leaving at least two car lengths between our vehicle and the one in front of us; and keeping our headlights on at all times. Regardless of age, we should all wear a safety belt and stay off the cell phone when behind the wheel! Consider taking a driving refresher course (contact AAA or AARP) – in fact, by doing so, you may receive a discount on your car insurance (depending on your carrier and policy).

But when should we hand over our keys? AARP (www.aarp.org/families/driver_safety) proposes the following warning signs as indicators that we should either limit, or stop driving either temporarily or permanently (one or more):

- Feeling uncomfortable and nervous or fearful while driving.
- Dents and scrapes on the car or on fences, mailboxes, garage doors, curbs, etc.
- Difficulty staying in the lane of traffic.
- Getting lost – particularly in familiar areas.
- Trouble paying attention to signals, road signs, cones and barrels, and pavement markings.
- Slower response to unexpected situations (animals crossing, road construction, people walking/running)
- Medical conditions or medications that may affect safe driving (ex. untreated sleep apnea, diabetes, stroke)
- Difficulty judging gaps in traffic at intersections and on-off ramps
- Drivers frequently honking at you
- Friends or relatives no longer willing to ride with you
- Difficulty seeing the sides of the road when looking ahead (peripheral vision)
- Easily distracted; hard time concentrating
- Hard time looking over shoulders while backing up or changing lanes
- Frequent traffic tickets or "warnings"; driving through red lights
- Friends/loved ones expressing concern about our driving
- Frequent "near misses/close calls"

None of us wants to feel that we must surrender our freedom to be an active participant in society; however, we also need to be realistic regarding our safety, and the safety of others when we get behind the wheel. We can still be productive and enjoy a full life without driving. It takes some planning, and some sacrifice on our part. Don't wait; begin to explore other options now. You may be surprised. The money spent on maintaining a car, may go a long way toward paying someone to drive for us!

Spring Blessings!

Debbie Best, Program Coordinator Family Life Services, Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries

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*When life is more
then you can stand.....*

KNEEL



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St. Mark's May Calendar of Events

1 Saturday

Beiter's Charity Drive

2 Sunday

Beiter's Charity Drive

Easter V

8:00 AM Holy Communion

9:15 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Holy Communion

11:45 AM VBS Workshop

12:15 PM The Way Gathering

3:00 PM Conf. Assmby @ Messiah

Clarkstown

5:00 PM Family Handbells

3 Monday

Beiter's Charity Drive

Pastor at STS Retreat

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

6:30 PM Adult Handbells

6:30 PM Property Committee

4 Tuesday

Pastor at STS Retreat

8:00 AM City Pastors

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

6:00 PM Brownies

5 Wednesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

9:20 AM Staff Mtg & Quilting

12:00 PM Bible Study

6:00 PM Women's Banquet

6 Thursday

6:31 AM Men's Ministry

8:00 AM Stephen Min. I

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

7:30 PM Senior Choir

7 Friday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

9 Sunday

Easter VI

8:00 AM Holy Communion

9:15 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Holy Communion

12:15 PM The Way Gathering

5:00 PM Family Handbells

10 Monday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

6:30 PM Adult Handbells

11 Tuesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

11 Tuesday

6:00 PM Finance Committee

6:30 PM Worship & Music Comm. Mtg

12 Wednesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

9:20 AM Staff Mtg & Quilting

12:00 PM Bible Study

13 Thursday

Ascension of Our Lord

6:31 AM Men's Ministry

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

6:30 PM Mutual Ministry

7:30 PM Senior Choir

14 Friday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

7:00 PM Lyc. Coll. Tour Choir

15 Saturday

9:00 AM Mulching Party & Outside

Workday

10:00 AM VBS Workshop

16 Sunday

Easter VII

8:00 AM Holy Communion

9:15 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Holy Communion

12:15 PM The Way Gathering

5:00 PM Family Handbells

17 Monday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

6:30 PM Adult Handbells

6:30 PM Council Mtg.

7:00 PM Dog Club

18 Tuesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

12:00 PM LSM

6:00 PM Brownies

19 Wednesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

9:20 AM Staff Mtg & Quilting

12:00 PM Lunch 'N' Fellowship

20 Thursday

6:31 AM Men's Ministry

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

5:30 PM Stephen Min. II

7:30 PM Senior Choir

21 Friday

Newsletter Deadline

21 Friday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

5:00 PM Wedding rehearsal

22 Saturday

9:00 AM Daniel's Closet @ Redeemer

3:00 PM Wedding

23 Sunday

Day of Pentecost

8:00 AM Holy Communion

9:15 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Holy Communion

12:15 PM The Way Gathering

5:00 PM Family Handbells

6:00 PM Teen Movie Night

24 Monday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

6:30 PM Adult Handbells

6:30 PM LL Float Committee

25 Tuesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

7:00 PM Family Promise

26 Wednesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

9:20 AM Staff Mtg & Quilting

12:00 PM Bible Study

27 Thursday

6:31 AM Men's Ministry

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

7:30 PM Senior Choir

28 Friday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

9:15 AM Lion Crew

6:30 PM Friday Fun Night

29 Saturday

10:00 AM VBS Workshop (if needed)

30 Sunday

Holy Trinity

8:00 AM Holy Communion

9:15 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Holy Communion

12:15 PM The Way Gathering

5:00 PM Family Handbells

31 Monday

Office Closed



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*“ I Love to Tell the
Story ”*

with

Fiona Siobhan Powell



From Welsh cottages and Scottish crofts, to German castles, the voice of the storyteller once rang around the world. This universal and ancient tradition is kept alive by modern Storytellers. Fiona Siobhan Powell is one such storyteller. Wherever your ancestors were from, Fiona probably knows a tale from that land! For although Fiona specializes in tales from her native Wales, Scotland and England, over the years people have "gifted" her with stories from around the world. In this cold and lonely world of entertainment in a box, come and discover the warmth of an hour spent with laughter, and maybe a few tears in the ancient tradition of the bards!

**Women & Children
Banquet
Wednesday, May
5th 6:00 pm**

All women and children to age 12, please join us for our Annual Women's Dinner on Wednesday, May 5, at 6:00 pm. The evening begins with a meal prepared for us by our own men here at St. Mark's, under the supervision of Bob Jones. The meal includes applesauce, filled chicken breast, green beans, mashed potatoes, roll, with strawberry short-cake. All this for \$8.25 for a full portion, and \$4.50 for a half portion. Please order what you think you or your child(ren) will eat.

Reservation Envelope Inside