



THE LION OF ST. MARK'S

OCTOBER 2010

Consecration Sunday - October 24th

Consecration Sunday is October 24 this year. We understand the concept that, from a biblical perspective, financial stewardship is not money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, we know that financial contributions are a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes. Since this goes against our natural tendencies to want to regard everything as our own possessions, we must continue to think about this and make it a part of our life a bit at a time.

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

Every attendee and member who completes an Estimate of Giving Card, does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday, October 24. We urge everyone to attend, even those who are hesitant to complete a card, because the procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend worship on Consecration Sunday, October 24. In the coming weeks, please think prayerfully about the blessings God has given to you, and about how you are called to share those blessings.

The other part of the event is the celebration meal that follows each worship service on October 24. At services on October 10 and 17 we'll be asking for your reservation for the breakfast following the 8:30 service or the lunch following the 10:30 service on Consecration Sunday. It is important that every member take part.

Our guest speaker is our own Lou Kolb. We know him as a skilled speaker, regular lector here at St. Mark's, popular radio announcer, and husband of Kathy who runs Kolb Networks from their home/office. We also know him as a committed, caring Christian leader who has important things to say to us, his brothers and sisters in the faith at St. Mark's.

*Father touch our lives and make us
Your consecrated servants!*

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Council Notes

The Council met in regular session on September 20 in the crossways room.

The Council:

- ◆ received the reports of the pastor, officers, and committees.
- ◆ heard a report from the Treasurer with a 5-year projection.
- ◆ approved a list of items which Mr. Lakey may take with him.
- ◆ approved the Thank-offering Sunday request from the Women.
- ◆ concluded with Prayer at the Close of the Day, led by Gary Weber.

Parish Register

Affirmation of Baptism—Confirmation September 12

- ◆ **Theoron Hershey**, son of Jeff & Trish Hershey
Lou DeSeau, mentor
- ◆ **Max Hospes**, son of Richard & Vicki Hospes
Steve Eyer, mentor
- ◆ **Katelyn Lauer**, daughter of Michael & Tracy Elliott
Vicki Haussmann, mentor
- ◆ **Hannah Lynn**, daughter of Bob & Kristin Lynn
Cindy Huff, mentor

Enrollment in the Catechetical process September 26

- ◆ **Ezra Buckman**, son of Sean Buckman & Vanessa Morgan
Nick Buckman, mentor
- ◆ **Morgan Comini**, son of Eric & Sharon Comini
Kirk Owen, mentor
- ◆ **Kara Hershey**, daughter of Jeff & Trish Hershey
Mary Schultz, mentor
- ◆ **Anna Zeigler**, daughter of Dan & Diana Zeigler
LuAnn Ziegler, mentor
- ◆ **Laura Zeigler**, daughter of Dan & Diana Zeigler
Karen Boone, mentor

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
Director of Music			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	Ken Shafranko, Treasurer	322-6005

Go With God, Dick Lakey!

September 13, 2010

Dear Friends:

For some time, I have been struggling with the decision to leave St. Mark's for the part-time position of organist and choir director at St. Luke Lutheran Church. It has been an extremely difficult decision, and after an enormous amount of thought and prayer, I have decided to accept the position at St. Luke.



In early August, upon learning of the death of the organist and choir director Elaine Erhard, I approached the members of the search committee at St. Luke Lutheran Church. Neither the committee members nor the pastors pursued me. As a matter of fact, they were concerned about possible problems that might arise because of my approaching them concerning the music position. They did not want in any manner to damage the relationship between the members and pastors of St. Luke and the members and pastor of St. Mark's. The decision to leave St. Mark's is completely mine, and of course I will not encourage people to follow me to St. Luke.



I wish to express my feelings of gratitude for the many years that I have been privileged to spend with the members, the family of St. Mark's. I find that many good memories abound when looking back on the years spent together. Just to mention a few would include the children's musicals and all the joy and hard work that went into them; watching the kids grow into adults and then seeing their children having a similar joy with music; the Senior Choir anthems and larger choral works, along with the picnics and choir dinners; 20 years of the Dialysis concerts; the organ and spacious sanctuary; the Handbell Choirs and the joy of having 11 people ring the same piece of music at the same time; the Lunch N' Fellowship group and our monthly meals, and some really fun bus trips. Most important in this very brief list would be all of the people and their commitment to rehearsals and the music at St.



Mark's. Adding one more to this list is my gratefulness to so many people who were so patient and kind during the medical challenges I faced over the years.

Although I feel it is time for me to walk down a new path, the people of St. Mark's will remain close in my heart and thoughts.



Dick's resignation is especially poignant to me because I was one of those on the search committee who helped to bring him to St. Mark's thirty-three years ago. I met him at the airport and sat with the other committee members to listen to him play the organ – we were convinced from the start that he was the one.

Fred Snell had been a mainstay in our church for decades and we weren't sure he could be replaced. But it was clear from the beginning Dick had his own special style which very quickly captivated all of us. My daughter remembers that all the young ladies were smitten with him and with his warm personality he endeared himself to us very quickly. I couldn't begin to list the youth productions he directed running the gamut from *Joseph's Technicolor Dreamcoat* to *Noah's Ark* to the *Wizard of Oz*. Some of the productions were composed by Dick.

He is a brilliant composer and has given us many anthems which have been performed by the Senior Choir and also the Lycoming College Choir. In addition, each week of the church year we use verses which have been composed by Dick.

Beyond all of these special talents, he has a warmth which is contagious to everyone he meets. His lunch and fellowship events, the multitude of meat loaves and spaghetti, have provided great fellowship opportunities.

So many years, so many memories – we have laughed with Dick, we have cried with him in his struggles with his health issues but most of all we have loved him as a member of our family. He will take a part of all of our hearts as he goes into a new congregation. We wish him well but I know I speak for all of us when I quote these lines:

*"And yet I'm glad our lives have touched,
That we have come to meet.
I'm glad for every dream we shared
The bitter and the sweet.
And years cannot erase the joy
The gladnesses sublime;
Dear friend, please know within my heart
I'm glad your life touched mine.*

Godspeed, dear friend.
Joyce S. Hershberger

Opportunities For Spiritual Growth

From our new Stephen Ministry Leader:

From August 1st through August 7th, I was blessed to attend the Stephen Leader training in Pittsburgh. From the opening banquet on Sunday night through the final training session on Saturday morning, I learned additional information about the Stephen Series and grew in my own faith. I am very grateful to the congregation for the providing the resources for me to attend, and especially to the family of Helen Hunt for setting aside money in her memory for Stephen Leader training. I am excited to work with Pastor Elkin and the Stephen Ministers at St. Mark as I begin a new phase in my life.



At the end of June, I retired from the Williamsport Area School District where I worked as a teacher and principal for over thirty two years. I was fortunate to work with dedicated, caring adults and 600 precious children at Jackson Elementary School for the last seventeen years. My job kept me very busy, but it was wonderful to develop relationships with the children and their families over the years.

Stephen Ministry is a way to develop Christian relationships. Stephen Ministers are lay persons who provide one-to-one Christian care to individuals who are in need. We are very fortunate to have this ministry in our congregation. If you would like more information about Stephen Ministry, to become a Stephen Minister or to receive the services of Stephen Ministry for yourself or others, please feel free to contact me at 433-0522.

Kathy Eshelman

Lutheran Shared Ministries presents THE SCHOOL OF RELIGION

Oct. 6, 13, 20 and 27th
7 – 9 p.m.

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

Please Print Your Name _____

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

Registrations MUST be in by Monday, Oct. 4th for us to prepare appropriately

Four Key Moments in Good News - The Good News in English, William Tyndale; The Good News in Social Action, Father Damian; The Good News in Music, Johann Sebastian Bach; and the Good News in Formation, putting together the canon of Scripture. Using conversation & video, we'll discern how some ancient questions continue to affect our life in the church today. Presented by Pastor Ken Elkin

Martin Luther and the Catechism - This course will highlight the different parts of the Catechism and we'll discuss them. In addition, we'll be looking at the impact Luther had on historical and faith growth in the church. Presented by: Howard Best and George Jansson.

To help with room assignments, please advise us in the space below if you have physical limitations.
If you need childcare for this event, please place name and age of child below:

Child's Name _____ Child's Age _____

Refreshments:

Oct. 6 – St. Matthew's Lutheran, Williamsport
Oct. 13 – St. Mark's Lutheran, Williamsport

Oct. 20 – St. Michael's Lutheran, Quiggleville
Oct. 27 – Church of the Savior Lutheran, Williamsport

St. Mark's Social Ministry

Family Promise Hosting in October

During the week of October 31, 2010 St. Mark's will again host up to fourteen people, many of them children, experiencing a housing crisis. Co-coordinators Jane Zimmerer and Becky Miller Pryor are seeking volunteers to set-up Fellowship Hall, prepare bedrooms, drive the Family Promise van, donate and or prepare meals, visit with the families in the early evening, stay overnight, and clean –up, including doing laundry at the conclusion of our hosting week. Many persons in the congregation have previously volunteered, but more are needed. Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex. If you are not trained, we can buddy you with a trained volunteer and provide a brief orientation.

In addition to volunteering during hosting week, money to purchase meat, cheese, milk, and fresh fruits and vegetables for lunch and dinner is needed. Checks may be made payable to St. Mark's. The memo line should be labeled "Hosting Fund."

Please speak with Jane or Becky to volunteer or to answer questions.

Save the Date for a

Saturday, Nov. 6th

6:30 pm

Mt. Laurel Room,
Pennsylvania College of Technology

**Appetizers, Desserts with Wine Pairings,
and Silent Auction to benefit
Family Promise of Lycoming County**

**Tickets will be available from
Becky Miller Pryor**

St. Mark's has been asked to create one or more baskets to be auctioned that evening. Please see the display in the Narthex for a variety of items that are needed to create a children's basket of activities.



Family Promise Volunteer Training

Wednesday, Oct. 13th

6:00 p.m.

**Messiah Lutheran
Church**

Executive Director, Melissa Magargle will be training all people interested in volunteering with Family Promise.

This training will take approximately two hours. If you wish to attend this training, call the Day Center at 567-7103 with your reservation.

HARVEST HOME SUNDAY OCTOBER 10, 2010

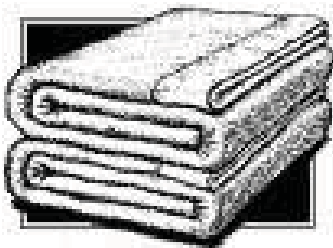


Our congregation will be celebrating a "Day of Thanksgiving" by bringing nonperishable items for the local United Churches Food Pantry. These items should be brought to the church in the provided bag or plastic bag, on Sunday, October 3rd or 10th. The food will be displayed on Sunday, October 10 at both Worship Services. People in need are given a three day supply of food. Volunteers at the food pantry are very grateful for our church families generous response every year. We hope you and your family will be part of this annual celebration as we thank God for what He has given us.

ELCA ST. MARK'S WOMEN

Blanket Sunday is October 3rd

Look for the colorful quilts on the pews. Our ladies will display their handiwork from the past year. They are beginning a new year and are inviting newcomers. Join the group any Wednesday morning at 9:00 a.m. for Morning Prayer (or later if the time is more convenient for you). Try your hand at knotting quilts or assembling and basting them. Some ladies work at home, and others come Wednesday mornings for a pleasant "morning out". This is today's version of our grandmothers' quilting bees. It's a friendly group, and coffee is available in the kitchen.



If you have been unable to help with making quilts or donating kits or soap you may contribute by making a monetary donation in the attached envelope. Be sure to include your envelope number so that you can receive credit for your contribution. (Checks can be made out to St. Mark's and designated for "Blankets"). This money will be used to purchase blankets in bulk for victims of natural and man-made disasters and to pay for shipping the quilts.

ELCA, Synod & West Branch News



Opportunity for Women to Minister at Muncy Prison

The Pennsylvania Prison Society, a non-profit organization dating to 1787, is looking for about 20 women to volunteer as mentors at Muncy Prison with their "Building Bridges-Second Chances Initiative." The mentors would help women transition to living a proper life back in their home communities (mostly in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh). The mentor would begin meeting with a mentee about 9 – 12 months before her release, visit her twice per month in prison, and then follow-up with her for one year afterwards. During the follow-up period, the mentor would help her mentee in connecting with resources, including faith communities, back home.

The ability for a mentor to maintain healthy interpersonal boundaries is a must. This is a great opportunity as we consider Jesus' words of Matthew 25:36, "I was in prison and you visited me."

For more information, please be in touch with Lisa Baird (a member of St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Quiggleville), who is coordinating this program, or Pastor Karl-John Stone at the synod office. Lisa's contact information is: lbaird@prisonsociety.org; 570-447-2530. Training will be provided for the volunteer mentors. You may visit the Pennsylvania Prison Society website at www.prisonsociety.org.

United Churches of Lycoming County



Wednesday Ecumenical Lunches ~ 12 to 1 PM

A tasty \$6 lunch, warm, ecumenical fellowship & a thoughtful program designed to enrich your life mentally, physically, spiritually and socially at Pine Street U. M.

No reservations are necessary.

6- **Rev. Aden Wertz, Pastor**, Pine Street U.M. Church
"A Visit To Oberammergau"

13- **Rev. Danesta Whaley, Council Director**
Yokefellow Prison Ministry
"God Is Doing A New Thing"

20- **Colonel Dawn Astin, Co-Commanding Officer**
The American Rescue Workers
"An Overview of Saving Grace Shelter Project 2010"

27- **Major Marie Harris, Community Relations Officer**
The Salvation Army
"Spotlight Haiti: The Disaster Recovery Continues"

Campus Ministry

The fall semester has gotten off to a good start. We held our annual kick-off and were able to meet some new students. **Deb Best** started our faith talks with **Soul Survivor: How to survive college without getting kicked off campus**. It was a very good discussion on the ten things you need to change about your life. They included: stop worrying, trusting in the Lord, prayer, faith, patience, kindness, and love. Thank you Deb for a very inspiring, thought provoking discussion. We look forward to our up-coming faith talks this semester. We will be discussing **Discerning God's Call, The Existence of God, Gideon, The Call of Jeremiah and Us, and Passing the Faith Test**. I am sure they will all lead to some great discussions.

We have also been working on some community projects as well. During the month of September, we are collecting canned food items for our United Churches Food Pantry, and in October during fall break, we will be helping to paint some rooms at Yokefellow Prison Ministry. We hope to participate in more projects throughout the year.

Do you love to bake? You may be able to help United Campus Ministry's next fundraiser. We are holding a bake sale on Wednesday September 29. If you are interested in baking cookies, brownies, cupcakes, anything...(you know how college students love to eat,) please call me at 419-5376, and I will be glad to pick them up. All money raised will fund our program.

We are always looking for our group to grow. If you have any students attending Penn College, let them know about us and what we do. Please continue to keep the students at Penn College in your prayers, and thank you for all your support.

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

Woman's Day-long Retreat:

Pine Street United Methodist Church, 441 Pine St., Wmspt,
Saturday, November 6 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**"Shaped, Formed and Molded by God:
You are His Masterpiece"**

will be led by Rev. Danesta Whaley and her team.

In addition to the retreat messages you will be treated to a light breakfast and a delicious lunch. The cost is \$20 per person and includes special gifts just for you.

Reserve your seat by Oct. 30, 2010.

Make checks payable to Pine Street UMC

(memo: Women's Retreat). For details call 570-323-4604.

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.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

These are the items that are currently needed:



Ramen noodles
cake mixes
spaghettios
sugar
graham crackers
canned fruits

canned fruit
frosting
noodles
chunky soups
regular soups
microwave popcorn

saltine crackers
tuna fish
gelatin
veggies
mac-n-cheese

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.

Christian Community

Africa Mission – St. Bartholomew's Orphanage

to benefit from the sale of beautiful handcrafted baskets and bags made by the widows of St. Bart's Orphanage in Kajo-Keji Sudan, that will be for sale October 7-8 Christ Episcopal Church's Arts and Craft show, from 10 am - 7 p.m. at 426 Mulberry Street Williamsport.

St. Bart's orphanage provides a home for more than 125 children who have lost their parents to war, disease, and famine. Widows care for the children and also for the population of a nearby leper colony. And they all fall under the umbrella of our prayerful care and support. We send not only monetary and prayer support but also mission teams of parishioners to go over and to incarnate the love of Christ for his people in this challenging part of the world. Every penny of the sale of baskets and bags at this booth go directly to St. Bart's Orphanage.

Greater Lycoming Habitat for Humanity invites you to join them at their Annual Pork & Sauerkraut fund-raising dinner

Thursday, October 14th from 4:00 – 7:00 PM.
at St Joseph the Worker Parish,
Annunciation Fleming Center.



Adult dinner tickets are \$8,
children's tickets (under age 10) are \$4.
We welcome you to join us for a fall evening of great food,
with entertainment provided by Tom Wentzel.
Take Outs are also available.
For advanced tickets, please call the Habitat office
at 570-322-2515. We hope to see you there!

Women of the ELCA Peace Pole Service: October 16, 2010

The Women of the ELCA will gather at the Upper Susquehanna Synod Office for their annual Peace Pole Service on October 16 beginning at 9:00 a.m. The theme will be "God's work. Our hands." The presenter will be Sarah Hoyes. The event happens rain or shine and a continental breakfast follows.



The Crossways Bible study materials which we have used for a number of years continue to have such a positive impact on persons all around the world. One pastor has carried it to several countries and has taught hundreds of persons since he was introduced to it in 1986. By using the teaching charts, another pastor is reaching thousands of persons in Ghana, west Africa, not previously evangelized because of their remote location. Crossways materials are flexible, and transferable across many language and cultural barriers. Pastor Elkin is a regular contributor to Crossways International, and will be glad to speak with anyone about sharing in this ministry.

Lunch 'N Fellowship

Wednesday, October 20th at Noon
Turkey, Stuffing, Potatoes & Gravy

Bring a side dish to share, a dessert & a friend!



YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

HAYRIDE AND LUNCH & MAZES

**SATURDAY, OCT. 2, 1:00 PM
AT SNYDER'S FARM, MUNCY
Children \$2.50, Adults \$8.00
YOU MUST SIGN UP TO GO!!**



Saturday, October 2, we're going on a hayride!! We'll meet here at 12:30 pm to caravan out to Snyder's Farm, north of Wal-Mart, in Montoursville, where we will enjoy a lunch of hotdogs, (provided by St. Mark's) and apples and peanuts, (provided by Snyder's.)

We are schedule on the wagons at 2:00 pm, if there are those who cannot join us until then. After the hayride, you are free to leave or enjoy the two corn mazes they set up every

year. The fee is \$5; St. Mark's provides half of that for all children that attend (so it's only \$2.50 per child).

We must know how many children and adults are attending so we provide enough hotdogs and Snyder's has enough room for everyone—YOU MUST SIGN UP TO GO!!! If you miss signing the sheet in the narthex on Sunday, Sept. 26, CALL THE OFFICE NO LATER THAN THURSDAY, SEPT. 30!!! It promises to be a fun, full day—please join us!!!



FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES BEGIN 3:00 PM., SUNDAY, OCTOBER 31

The children's instruction continues on November 7 and 14 (also at 3 PM). The sacrament will be given on Sunday of Christ the King, November 21. 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.

Attention Pre-Teens & Teens!

(grades 6-12)

Mark your calendars now!

LOCK-IN

Friday—Saturday, Nov 19-20, 2010

Movies! Scavenger Hunt! Food!

...and very little sleep...



YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Tick-tick-tick-tick-tick... Time is running out! On Sunday, November 7, after the 10:30 service, we share a light lunch and then pack and wrap Operation Christmas child boxes. For two years now, we've made the packing of these boxes an intergenerational event and had a great time doing it!!



If you've been shopping the sales and buying in bulk, you can bring your finds to the box in the staff hallway. You don't have 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 7, we'll have finger-food after the 10:30 service and begin our group pack-and-wrap!!! Sounds like fun to us!!! How about you?!

Please check out the information on the Fall Fun Fest, below, for another opportunity to donate to Operation Christmas Child and have a fun time doing it!!

Children's Church is the same Sunday. Their special offering that day will be items for the boxes. The following Sunday (Nov. 14), the children will process in of-fertory with the completed boxes. This doesn't preclude anyone packing their own boxes if they enjoy it. Those who choose to pack their own may bring them in on November 7, but the final deadline is November 14.

OCTOBER 24th

4 PM

fall fun fest!

After first being served our Consecration Sunday meals by St. Luke's, at 4:00 pm we again gather in fellowship hall for a **fall fun fest!**

Dress as your favorite biblical character (optional)! Brush up on your LBW and bible trivia!! Enter battles of wits and agility!!! Eat more food!!!!

Admittance is granted with either a material or monetary contribution to the operation Christmas child boxes which

will be packed up a mere two weeks later (see article above).

This is for children of **ALL** ages in our congregation: from 9 days up to 90+ years old—we hope to see **you** there!! Sign-up, email or call to attend!

TEEN MOVIE NIGHT!



OCTOBER 24th 6:00 PM

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL AGE

JOIN US AFTER THE FALL FUN FEST!

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

CATECHETICS

Ezra Buckman, Morgan Comini, Kara Hershey, Anna Zeigler, and Laura Zeigler have joined the ranks of those students preparing for Confirmation. Those chosen to be their mentors are Nick Buckman, Kirk Owen, Mary Schultz, LuAnn Zeigler and Karen Boone, respectively. These five join Jarrett Eyer and Dustin Pelleschi and their mentors in Bible study and discussion on the third Sunday of every month.

If you have a child in middle school who has not been confirmed, please contact us. **IT'S NOT TOO LATE.** We can still include anyone who wishes to become a part of the process. If a youth is a lot older than the other students, he or she is also welcome to participate in *The Way*. Please call Pastor Elkin or Bernadette at 323-4619 or e-mail (addresses in the front of the newsletter).

These young people and their mentors were recognized at service on Sunday, Sept. 26.

Please keep the confirmands and their mentors in your prayers.



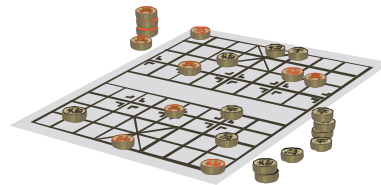
CHILDREN'S CHURCH resumes Sunday, October 10, at 10:30, in the Chapel. The children's special offering this month is food for Harvest Home! The children will process with their cans and boxes, and then add them to the offering in the front of the Nave. See you October 10!

On Consecration Sunday
(October 24)
all youth and teachers
choosing to attend
Sunday School
instead of the meal
will meet at
9:15,
in the Library,
for a movie
morning.



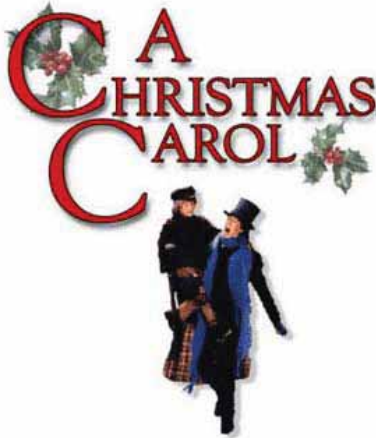
FRIDAY FUN NIGHT

October 22nd at 6:30 p.m.



Bring a snack to share & a Friend!
Transportation Available!

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY



On Friday and Saturday, December 3 and 4, 2010, Lutheran Shared Ministry (LSM) will present A Christmas Carol, dinner theatre style, in Fellowship Hall at St. Mark's Lutheran Church. All donations will go to United Campus Ministry.

On Sunday, September 26, at 1:00 p.m., and Monday evening September 27, 2008, at 6:30, auditions and a volunteer sign-up will be held in the Nave at St. Mark's. Willing folk from all the congregations in LSM are welcome to audition and sign up to assist with meal preparation and service, scenic construction and painting, costumes, props and other technical needs.

The one-act play is adapted from Dickens's story to incorporate acting interspersed with carolers. Those who are not comfortable singing are encouraged to audition for the character roles; parts are available for 7-10 men, 3-5 women, 2-4 youth, and 4-6 children. We hope to see a caroling group (not too large) from each congregation; singers may also audition for some solo work. Except for the man playing Scrooge, rehearsals (beginning in October) will be limited to one a week until mid-November when the cast will meet as a whole 2-3 times a week. A Christmas Carol is adapted and will be directed by Bernadette Haas Jones.

We would like to see at least one person from each congregation assisting with the meal and each of the technical areas (props, costumes, sets, etc.). Youth are needed to fill in the wait staff for one or both evenings. They will be instructed and supervised by an adult captain.

So, please think about this wonderful opportunity for our churches to get together at this special time of year; pencil us in on your calendars; and join us for Charles Dickens's A Christmas Carol. Come to St. Mark's on September 26th or 27th to find out more!!! Interest in any of the above can also be communicated to Bernadette at bjones@stmarkswilliamsport.org

Matthew 6:9-13 was the theme for See You at the Pole 2010, the Annual Global Day of Student Prayer. The event was held on Wednesday, September 22, at schools across the United States and in many other countries.



*See You at the Pole*TM is about youth coming together and laying aside all the labels and groups for one day, to simply connect with God in prayer and connect with fellow Christians in unity around the flag pole—whether jocks, preps, geeks, Methodists, Baptists, Catholics, sophomores, or seniors.

On Wednesday, September 22, at 7 a.m., young people all over the county gathered at their school's flagpole. They prayed for their school, friends, families, and world. This event

was organized and led by students. At each of the area schools contacted, 20-70 teens gathered, with only one school not participating. Some of St. Mark's youth were among those assembled that morning. Do teens care? Yes, evidently they do.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS ARE STILL
NEEDED FOR SEVERAL MONTHS THIS YEAR!
PLEASE CALL MICHELE TODAY!!**

Thank you! Thank You! Thank you! **THANK YOU!** Thank you!

Dear friends,

Words could never begin to express how grateful we are for all the prayers for healing of our son Zach. We KNOW it was only the prayers of dear saints like yourselves, faithfully lifting our son before God's throne of grace, that moved God's heart to heal our son. It is a miracle that has stunned all the doctors caring for him.

Thank you for the love and support you have shown us during this difficult year. The prayers, cards, words of encouragement, hugs and shared tears have strengthened us when we needed it most, and for that we are indebted.

Zach is continuing to eat, gain weight, sing 'Trust & Obey' and smile that incredible smile of his. He is truly a joyful and radiant testimony to overcoming adversity through Jesus Christ our Lord. Thank you again for being such dear and wonderful friends!

God's love and ours, Mark & Susan Mahserjian-Smith

Mary Lou Doebler
thanks everyone
for their prayers
and support.

Dear St. Mark's,

Thanks for the wonderful cross, it is an excellent reminder of my confirmation. It will be a life long treasure.

Thank you, Theoron Hershey

To the Women of St. Mark's,

For three days beginning September 15th the Women of St Mark's converged on Fellowship Hall to arrange a humongously wide assortment of goods to be sold at our annual Fall Rummage/Bazaar Sale; and what a fantastic job they did!!! On Saturday, September 18, 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 one of the most successful we have had at St Mark's for a long time. We raised about \$1200. From the baker 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, L Jane Kline, Chairperson

ST. MARK'S LIONS NEED YOU!!

The John Bower Basketball League will be starting soon! We'd like to have as many interested players come out as possible, so we can get an idea of what teams we can field!! Can we attain an older team this year??! Friends from other churches are welcome—as long as they attend Sunday School at their home church and don't have a team there. Practices will begin in—but you need to sign up before that!! We will have an interest meeting on Tuesday, October 12, at 6:30 p.m. Please plan on attending. If you can't attend, but want to play, please fill out a registration form in Michele's office ASAP. We need to know!!!!

Adults, feel free to help out Coach Rick, Coach Kirk and Coach Mike by volunteering to train our future "ballers". Contact the church office at 323-4619 or e-mail us through the website.

C'mon!! Let's have some fun!



Happy Birthday!

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



Happy Anniversary!

10/01	Kirk & Michele Owen	10/10	Frank & Phyllis Ulman
10/02	Robert & Barbara McCullough	10/16	Tracy & Andrea Gregory
10/04	Lee & Veronica Doane	10/25	Scott & Mary Kimble
10/09	Kenneth & Kathleen Caster	10/26	Louis & Linda DeSeau
10/09	Frank & Mary Lou Doebler	10/28	Russell & Lois Smith
10/09	Jeffrey & Catherine Kneedler	10/30	Romain & Evelyn Bastian
10/09	Lawrence & Norma Lehman		



News in the Pews

Once again I have the pleasure of sharing with you some of the special achievements of some of our members. Recently the Pennsylvania Association of School Retirees recognized **Phil Thomas** and **Bill Hill** for their many years of exceptional services to the education profession, to their peers and to the Association. Both Bill and Phil served as principals of their senior high schools in addition to their years as a teacher. Congratulations for a job extremely well done! And I would add for their exemplary service at St. Mark's. **Mel Wentzel**, another retired educator and also a former principal at the Williamsport Area School, is lending his expertise to a new class of student teachers at Lycoming College just beginning this part of their educational experience.

You can see **Shirley Dieffenbach** cheering on the Penn State football team with special vigor. Shirley's grandson, **Miles Dieffenbach**, is a new freshman recruit who played high school football at Fox Chapel. Miles is number sixty-five – look for him and congratulations to Shirley.

It is exciting to see the Fall activities begin at St. Mark's and I look forward to hearing your good news to share with everyone!

~ Joyce Anne Hershberger

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

HEALTH, HEALING & WHOLENESS

*"He called a child, whom he put among them, and said,
'Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.
Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.
Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me'." (Matthew 18:2-5, NRSV)*

Well, it's been one and half months since you've dropped Junior off in front of his college dorm. Before you know it, it is mid-October, and time for your young scholar to make his first visit home for the weekend. Just enough time has elapsed that the clothes he took with him can no longer be recycled (desperately need to be washed), and need to be replaced with gear for cooler weather. You've adjusted well to the empty nest— transformed that empty bedroom into a great exercise area, with free weights and elliptical machine. Sure, those first few weeks were tough for you! Sometimes the silence seemed deafening, but you've adjusted to it well – you are now able to hear the clatter of the dog's toenails on the linoleum floor – the whomp, whomp, whomp sound of clothes tumbling around in the dryer, and the phone actually ringing because no one is constantly tying up the line! Yes – things have changed, and you both know it!

Since he's been gone, and has tasted the sweet nectar of independence, it is unrealistic to think that the same home rules that kept chaos at bay six months ago, still apply. So, it's time to re-think, and re-negotiate the potential minefield of this first visit. Hopefully your channels of communication have been open (both ways) over the past six weeks, however, you can still expect some awkwardness when it comes to living under the same roof again, even if it is only a weekend. Who is this person who now has the sleep habits of a vampire? This young man you rarely actually see – because he's spending time comparing notes with his buddies who are all home for the weekend as well? Well, parents— congratulations! You've done your job admirably and there is no going back. He is breaking away, and becoming an independent young adult!

Now, if you've done *your* homework, you've taken some time to sit down with Junior (if not in person, at least by email), and discussed everyone's expectations prior to this time of brief re-entry to the mother ship. Here are just a few things you may want to consider and negotiate, before someone's expectations bump up against someone else's rules of common courtesy during the visit:

- Above all, let him know that you are very happy to have him home, and, at least inwardly, acknowledge that this is a time of redefining roles for everyone.
- Expect some differences of opinion and respectfully acknowledge them. Some teens need an opportunity to share what they have learned. Conversely, don't turn the visit into *Are You Smarter than a Fifth Grader, or Deal or no Deal!*
- If you haven't already done this, prepare him for the change in his bedroom (some folks recommend not changing the room at least for the first year or two), he may be thrilled to have his own home-gym!
- Discuss things such as curfew, being present (or not) for meals, letting you know where he will be, and what his schedule may be (as a release from the grind of studying, paper-writing and test taking, some kids need to crash/ sleep till noon, while others want to constantly be on the go ... catching up with as many friends as possible).
- If he uses the family car, who is responsible for re-filling the gas tank? Who pays for entertainment (movies, eating out with buddies or girlfriend)? If he has his own wheels, where should he park?
- Will there be friends dropping by? Spending the night?
- What about chores? Is he expected to take up where he left off with taking out the garbage, and feeding the dog? What expectations are there regarding keeping his room in order?
- Who is responsible for the laundry?
- Is there an expectation that he will be attending worship with the family?

This really *isn't* the same kid you dropped off six weeks ago – he's been replaced by a young adult, eager to make his own decisions, and just as ready to make his own mistakes. It's time for you, as his parent, to step back and admire the foundation that you've laid for him, as he continues on this new journey in life.

Autumn Blessings!

Debbie Best, Program Coordinator, Diakon Family Life Services

SPECIAL CONCERNS LIST

Patricia Alexander
505 Center St., Apt. #61
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Edith Anderson
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Nancy Bohartz
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Beatrice Doeblar
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Williamsport, PA 17701

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

Jean Gulliver
Rose View Center, Rm. #332
1201 Rural Ave.
Williamsport, PA 17701

Gail Hoffman
153 Hampton Way
Montoursville, PA 17754

**But he said to me,
"My grace is
sufficient for you,
for my power is
made perfect in
weakness."**



2 Corinthians 12:9

Charles Homan
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Montoursville, PA 17754

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Muncy Valley SKU #229
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Muncy, PA 17756

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1804 Loyalsock Drive,
Williamsport, PA 17701

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

ST. MARK'S OCTOBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1 Friday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

2 Saturday

12:30 PM St. Mark's to Snyder's Farm
1:00 PM Lunch at Snyder's Farm
2:00 PM Hayride at Snyder's Farm
2:45 PM Corn Mazes at Snyder's Farm



3 Sunday

Pentecost XIX (Blanket Sunday)

8:00 AM Holy Communion
9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Holy Communion
12:15 PM The Way Gathering
2:30 PM Life Chain 2010



4 Monday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
7:00 PM Civic Chorus

5 Tuesday

8:00 AM City Pastors
9:00 AM Morning Prayer

6 Wednesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
9:20 AM Staff Mtg & Quilting
12:00 PM Bible Study
7:00 PM School of Religion

7 Thursday

6:31 AM Men's Ministry
8:00 AM Stephen Min. I
9:00 AM Morning Prayer
10:00 AM Basket Sale @ Christ Episc.
7:30 PM Senior Choir

8 Friday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
10:00 AM Basket Sale @ Christ Episc.

10 Sunday

Pentecost XX (Harvest Home)

8:00 AM Holy Communion
9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Children's Church
10:30 AM Holy Communion
12:15 PM The Way Gathering
1:30 PM Crop Walk



11 Monday

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

12 Tuesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
6:00 PM Brownies
6:30 PM Finance Committee
6:30 PM JBBL sign-up



13 Wednesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
9:20 AM Staff Mtg & Quilting
12:00 PM Bible Study
6:00 PM FPLC Training @ Messiah
7:00 PM School of Religion

14 Thursday

6:31 AM Men's Ministry
9:00 AM Morning Prayer
4:00 PM Pork Dinner @ Annun.
7:30 PM Senior Choir

15 Friday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

16 Saturday

9:00 AM ELCA Women @ USS

17 Sunday

Pentecost XXI (Thankoffering)

8:00 AM Holy Communion
9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Holy Communion
12:15 PM The Way Gathering
5:00 PM Council Mtg at Hoss'
6:00 PM Confirmands, Parents & Mentors



18 Monday

Pastor/STS/ Chicago
9:00 AM Morning Prayer
6:00 PM Civic Chorus Board
7:00 PM Civic Chorus
7:00 PM Dog Club

19 Tuesday

Pastor/STS/ Chicago
9:00 AM Morning Prayer

20 Wednesday

Pastor/STS/ Chicago
9:00 AM Morning Prayer
9:20 AM Staff Mtg & Quilting
12:00 PM Lunch 'N' Fellowship
7:00 PM School of Religion

21 Thursday

Pastor/STS/ Chicago
6:31 AM Men's Ministry
9:00 AM Morning Prayer
5:30 PM Stephen Min. II
7:30 PM Senior Choir

22 Friday

Newsletter Deadline
9:00 AM Morning Prayer
6:30 PM Friday Fun Night

23 Saturday

9:00 AM Daniel's Closet @ Redeemer

24 Sunday

Pentecost XXII

8:00 AM Holy Communion
9:15 AM Consecration Breakfast
10:30 AM Holy Communion
11:45 AM Consecration Luncheon
4:00 PM Fall Fun Fest for All Ages
6:00 PM Teen Movie Night

25 Monday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
6:30 PM Adult Handbells
6:30 PM Council Mtg.
7:00 PM Civic Chorus

26 Tuesday

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

27 Wednesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
9:20 AM Staff Mtg & Quilting
12:00 PM Bible Study
7:00 PM School of Religion

28 Thursday

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

29 Friday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
9:15 AM Lion Crew

31 Sunday

Hosting FPLC
Reformation Sunday
8:00 AM Holy Communion
9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Holy Communion
3:00 PM First Communion Class



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

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FOR THOUGHT AND ACTION

How do people come into a relationship with the Lord Jesus and his church?
Researchers have thoroughly probed this question, and here are their results:

- ◆ an evangelistic crusade, less than 1%,
- ◆ special needs, 1 %
- ◆ pastoral visitation, 2%
- ◆ church program, 2%
- ◆ walk-in experience, 3%
- ◆ Sunday School, 4%
- ◆ a pastor's influence, 5%
- ◆ invitation and encouragement from parents, relatives, or friends, 82%



This should not just be food for thought, but also a spur for each believer's action.
Why not invite a friend to Lunch n' Fellowship or the Fall Fun Fest?