



# THE LION OF ST. MARK'S

MARCH 2011

## *Thoughtful, serious, yet enjoyable.*

Yes! Those three words do come together in our Lenten discipline this year. We gather as usual at 8 and 10:30 on Sunday mornings for the Holy Communion liturgy. And we also gather on Wednesdays in Lent at noon and evening. This year the midweek series will focus on the reactions of those characters around the edges of the story of Jesus Passion, such as the man whose donkey was borrowed for the entry into Jerusalem. It will be a readers-theater dialog that will stir up in us questions about our own reactions to Jesus.



### *Getting Started*

The season begins with Ash Wednesday, with Holy Communion celebrated in the chapel at 12:00 and in the Nave at 7:00 P.M. on March 9. Ashes, signs of our brokenness, mark this day as solemn.

### *A Special Wednesday*

The following Wednesday, March 16, will be very unusual. Mr. Ken Sawyer of WRAK 1400-AM, will be broadcasting his show from 10:00 until noon on that day from the Fellowship Hall of St. Mark's! This is in the middle of our week to host Family Promise of Lycoming County, and of course the rooms will be set up for their use in the evening. Our quilting group will be continuing with its work, and folks will be gathering for our monthly Luncheon Fellowship at noon. Special guests for the radio show will be the Director of Family Promise, Melissa Magargle, as well as the Director of the new Saving Grace emergency shelter, Karen Tindal-Short, and the director of Journey House. Thus all three of our community projects on behalf of folks in housing crisis will appear together and tell how they work together on this problem. Since it is only 10 days before Iron Chef-Williamsport, we'll also talk about this fund-raising project on behalf of Family Promise. It will be a busy two hours.



**IRON CHEF**  
Williamsport

### *Yes, Come!*

Members of the congregation are urged to come and be the "studio audience" for this event. Come and listen, meet the guests, stay for Luncheon Fellowship at noon, and for Mid-Day Prayers in the chapel afterward.



### *Wednesday Evening Schedule*



We gather for a supper at 6:15 each Wednesday evening. A simple meat dish is provided and folks are asked to bring an accompaniment dish to share. We move to the chapel for Evening Prayer at 7:00, and the Choir rehearses at 7:40 P.M. to conclude the day.

### *Day after day*

We sing Morning Prayer each weekday in the chapel at 9:00 A.M. On your way to an appointment or shopping, take 20 minutes and join in the prayers. It is good exercise for your mind and soul, and encourages your fellow believer as well.



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## Council Notes

The Congregation Council met in regular session on February 21 in the Crossways room.

The Council:

- \* received the regular reports of the pastor, officers, and committees.
- \* heard about Article IV of the Augsburg Confession, on justification by grace.
- \* decided on which of the 3 proposed task-forces each council member would serve in order to work on developing the goal statements put forward at last meeting.
- \* granted permission for Mary Lou Doebler's plan for donations to the local Muscular dystrophy campaign.
- \* agreed to purchase a moveable sign in order to advertize on site the availability of parking spaces.
- \* concluded with Prayer at the Close of Day in the chapel.
- \* set the next meeting for March 21, 7:30 P.M.

## Parish Register

\* The funeral service for Charles Ditchfield was held February 12, 2011 in the Nave.

**Lord,**

**Let everything I do this day  
and in this season of Lent  
come from you, be inspired by you.  
I long to be closer to you.**

**Help me to remember  
that nothing is important in my life  
unless it glorifies you in some way.  
Help me to rely on you for help.**

**Amen**

## 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
Lou DeSeau, Environmental Services		ldeseau@stmarkswilliamsport.org	Kathy Eshelman, Stephen Ministry	323-1992

# From The Shepherd of the Streets

## WEATHERING THE STORM



What if you did not know that the storm was coming with snow, wind, and ice? Most of the poor do not listen to the news on the radio or television, do not have an I-pod, or read a newspaper. Therefore, it is not unusual for them to be caught completely unaware.

What if the house or apartment you live in was poorly insulated with old windows and doors that have lost their seal and your only "music" was the mournful lament of the wind?

What if you woke up in the middle of the night, freezing because the heat had gone off, and when you checked, you discovered that you had run out of oil? What if you woke up to sub-freezing temperatures and the furnace was not working? What if your gas had been terminated for lack of payment?

What if you woke up to children crying in the middle of the night because the blankets you have been using year after year, were inadequate for such frigid weather

What if you could not send your child to school because you could not afford warm clothes or a coat warm enough to ward off the weather?

What if you or your child had cold, cough, flu, or staff infections, but you did not have the money for medicine? (Did you know that the state Access card will not pay for anything liquid or any over the counter remedy? A script for a liquid Tussin can cost up to \$128 per bottle.)

If the cold in some way invades a family, susceptibility to sickness, possibility of eviction with the retention of the children by Children and Youth, and you are unable to do anything about it. During the winter months, it is not unusual to have panicked parents in the SOS (Shepherd of the Streets) office needing oil, gas, electricity, blankets, or warm clothing. If SOS does not have the utility grant at the moment and the LIHE-AP and Crisis grants from

Public Welfare have already been used, we must become a resource for where the people can get help, and often there is none.

SOS provides blankets but we are constantly in need of more during the winter months. We help with prescriptions and over the counter remedies to combat winter infections and in the winter months our prescription and medical help jumps from \$1,200 per week to over \$2,000 per week. Individuals and businesses collect coats and winter clothing for us, which we send upstairs to the Sojourner Truth Clothes Closet for distribution. A newspaper carrier came into the office with his shoes actually held together with electrical tape, the sole of one literally flapping, and was in need of sufficient footwear to walk in the snow to deliver his papers. Others who have outdoor jobs have depended on us for thermal work clothes.

When we open the Plankenhorn grant for utility help (four-per-year of about \$15,000 each), we can purchase a minimum order of oil (100 to 125 gals. per household), we can get gas or electricity or water turned back on, or fend off a possible shutoff. A family can receive help with each utility once during a twelve month period or at my discretion, depending on their circumstances. From the first hour until we run out funds takes about eight open hours.

And so it is that we are in greater need during the cold weather season, than at other times of the year. We receive no state or federal money, but are supported by individuals and some businesses who faithfully give to us by the grace of God.

# United Churches of Lycoming County

## ECUMENICAL LUNCHES Wednesdays, 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 United Methodist Church.

No reservations are necessary.

### MARCH

2- **Rev. Larry Waltz**, President, Blooming Grove Historical Society, "Our Lycoming County Historical Societies and Museums Resource and Encourage Each Other"

### LENTEN SERIES: The Dramatic Silences

Speakers to be announced

9- **"The Silence of Seeking God"**

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

16- **"The Silence of Jesus' Last Week in the City"**

Mark 11: 9-11

23- **"The Silence of Jesus At the Table"**

Matthew 26:20-22

30- **"The Silence of Jesus At the Oil Press"**

John 18:6

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!

## CAMPUS MINISTRY



We would like to thank everyone for their generous support of our fundraising soup sale. Thank you to everyone for the many delicious soups contributed to our soup sale! Thank you to everyone who supported us with the purchase of a quart of soup! With your support we were able to raise over \$500 for our mission trip!

Our spring break Mission Trip to Washington D.C. March 6-9 is quickly approaching. We'll be staying with the Star of Bethlehem Church of God in Christ and having the opportunity to experience first hand the many needs of the poor in that area. We'll work at *Brother's Keeper*, *So Others Might Eat*, and *Martha's Table*.



Please continue to keep us and the Mission Trip in your prayers. We are so very blessed and encouraged by your support!

In His Love,  
Sharon Comini & the UCM Students

## 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 weekly. The phone number is 570-322-5762.

## ECUMENICAL LENTEN SERVICE

7:30 P.M., Sunday, March 13, 2011

**Speaker: Bishop Robert L. Driesen**  
Bishop, Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA



Sunday, March 13<sup>th</sup> will be a wonderful opportunity for each of us to witness to the love of our Lord Jesus Christ, who calls us to renew our faith and unite as people of God, with one another.

## FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

*These are the items that are currently needed:*

- |                         |                             |                      |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Ramen noodles</b>    | <b>canned fruit</b>         | <b>mac-n-cheese</b>  |
| <b>peanut butter</b>    | <b>spaghetti sauce</b>      | <b>tea bags</b>      |
| <b>Saltine crackers</b> | <b>snack bars</b>           | <b>hot cocoa mix</b> |
| <b>Granola bars</b>     | <b>canned veggies</b>       | <b>pasta</b>         |
| <b>coffee</b>           | <b>powdered drink mixes</b> |                      |

Donations are received Monday mornings from 9:30 - Noon. 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.

# St. Mark's Social Ministry

## Hosting for Family Promise

From Sunday, March 13, 2011 until Sunday, March 20, 2011 we will be hosting families with children who are experiencing a housing crisis. We are in need of volunteers



- to set up Fellowship Hall and the rooms being used for bedrooms,
- drive the van in the morning and evening,
- donate needed supplies, including washable blankets,
- donate money to offset the cost of fresh foods and milk,
- prepare meals,
- serve meals and eat with the families,
- visit in the evenings with our guests,
- stay overnight and get the coffee going in the morning,
- clean up at the end of the hosting week,
- and launder the bedding.

If you have two hours to donate you can be a volunteer and make a difference in a family's life. Please plan now to be part of that difference. If you need additional information please speak with Jane Zimmerer or Becky Miller Pryor.

Sign up sheets and vouchers for needed items are available in the Narthex.

## Pursuing Hospitality

As we prepare for our next turn at hosting Family Promise, Co-coordinator Becky Miller Pryor discovered the following paragraphs that encourage us in this good work:

***Be hospitable to one another without grumbling. —1 Peter 4:9***

In the New Testament, hospitality is a hallmark of Christian living. It is listed as a characteristic of church leaders (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:8) and is commanded for every follower of Jesus as an expression of love (Rom. 12:13; 1 Peter 4:9). But its meaning goes deeper than being a gracious host or opening our homes to guests.

The Greek word translated "hospitality" means "love of strangers." When Paul speaks of being "given to hospitality" (Rom. 12:13), he is calling us to pursue relationships with people who are in need. It is not an easy task.

Writer Henri Nouwen likens it to reaching out to those we meet on our way through life—people who may be estranged from their culture, country, friends, family, or even from God. Nouwen writes:

*"Hospitality, therefore, means primarily the creation of a free space where the stranger can enter and become a friend instead of an enemy. Hospitality is not to change people, but to offer them space where change can take place."*

Whether we inhabit a home, a college dorm, a prison cell, or a military barracks, we can welcome others as a way of showing our love for them and for Christ. Hospitality is making room for people in need.

— David McCasland

Reaching out to needy people, Showing them our love and care, is one way that God can use us to bring hope to their despair. — Sper

***Hospitality can fill the emptiness of a lonely heart.***

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# ELCA Local & National News



Make 2011 the year you resolve to make your marriage a more romantic, intimate, joy-filled relationship! For 35 years Lutheran Marriage Encounter has been enriching and revitalizing marriages by presenting weekends where couples learn tools to make this happen.

Weekends run from Friday night at 8:00 p.m. to Sunday at 5:00 p.m. and are designed to enrich ALL MARRIAGES. There is a \$45 per couple registration fee, plus toward the end of the weekend you will be given an opportunity to make a confidential contribution of whatever amount you wish toward continuation of the program. Two nights lodging, 5 meals for each of you, and all supplies are covered. The four 2011 Pennsylvania Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends are:

- March 25-27** Toftrees Resort and Conference Center, State College, PA  
(peaceful resort nestled within 1500 wooded acres);
- April 29–May 1** The Mountain Laurel Resort, White Haven, PA  
(in the beautiful Pocono Mountains just off Interstate 80  
2 hours north of Philadelphia);
- September 16-18** Olmsted Mansion and Retreat Center, Ludlow, PA  
(a 1917 Manor with beautiful modern retreat center in the Allegheny National Forest  
20 miles southeast of Warren, PA)
- November 4-6** Radisson Hotel Sharon, West Middlesex, PA  
(lovely hotel featuring king beds and in-room hot tubs—one hour north of Pittsburgh).

Registrations are limited, so sign up today to ensure that you can attend the weekend of your choice. Simply go to the website: [www.GodLovesMarriage.org](http://www.GodLovesMarriage.org) and register using your credit card, or for questions, or if you would like a brochure with registration form mailed to you, contact Pennsylvania Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber, at 724-325-3166 or email: [fjschamber@comcast.net](mailto:fjschamber@comcast.net).

## *Let's Recycle Our Blessings!*

### **An Easy Way to Recycle!**



We have some gently used altar flowers that are just waiting to bring joy to a shut-in or neighbor near you. If a Sunday delivery isn't convenient you can pick them up in the church kitchen on Monday or Tuesday. If you don't like hospitals or nursing homes why not give them to someone you know who is having a hard time. Just tell them that St. Mark's wants to give them the flowers so they will know that God loves them. Please sign up in the Narthex today!

### **The shamrock**

is the national flower of Ireland. According to legend, St Patrick the patron saint of Ireland used this three-leaf clover to illustrate the Trinity to the people of Ireland.



### **An Irish Blessing**

May the road rise up to meet you.  
May the wind be always at your back.  
May the sun shine warm upon your face  
and the rain fall soft upon your fields.  
And until we meet again,  
May God hold you in hollow of His Hand.

## YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

### Wednesday Meal Menu during



- March 16 Pasta w/ marinara or alfredo sauce & meatballs
- March 23 Hot Dogs w/ multiple toppings available
- March 30 Cheeseburger Soup
- April 06 Pierogies & Galumpki (stuffed cabbage)
- April 13 Pizza, red, white (no sauce) and veggie

### Breakfast with the Pastor and

### St. Mark's Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 23  
9:45 AM

Please join us as we have fun with our youth, ages ranging from toddlers up to grade 5, here at the church during the morning of Saturday, April 23, starting at 9:45 a.m.!

We will begin by having breakfast with the Pastor and then we will have our Easter Egg Hunt.



Donations of small erasers or egg-sized Easter toys would be appreciated and accepted! We look forward to seeing you all there!



### LENTEN SERVICES & MEALS:

Wednesdays beginning March 16:

#### Midday:

Prayer at 11:30 a.m. \*

Luncheon at noon

#### Evening:

Supper at 6:15 p.m.

Prayer & children's activity at 7:00 p.m.

*Want to join us Wednesday evenings in Lent, but don't know what to do with the kids?*

As was done last year, the children will be included in the evening meal. When it's time for evening prayer at 7:00, the children will meet in Middle Lounge for a movie or story. Michele Owen will supervise the event and will be choosing material that relates to the lessons being heard at the adult service. Everyone should be home before 8:30, so you can get your offspring off to bed.

**Please join us:**

**everyone at supper, adults at evening prayer, and children for a story time.**

(\*except on 3/16 when mid-day prayers will follow lunch.)

## YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

This summer,  
we invite Children to



PandaMania, this year's vacation Bible school event, will be hosted here at St. Mark's from Sunday, June 12, to Thursday, June 16. As kids explore a bamboo forest filled with crazy pandas, they discover that God loves us. Kids participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, dig into yummy treats and experience electrifying Bible adventures. Bible Memory Buddies, Boomer, Fez, Amanda, Lulu and Pogo, remind them of God's wild love. They'll create Bible Point crafts to take home and play with all summer long. Plus, God Sightings prompt children to look for evidence of God all around them. Each day concludes with a **Rowdy Wrap-Up**—a celebration that gets everyone involved in living what they've learned. Family members and friends (also called Very Important Pandas) are encouraged to join in daily for this special time at 8:30 p.m.

PandaMania is for kids from Pre-K to Fifth Grade and will run from 6 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. each day.

For more information, call 323-4619

## Pysanky Egg-Dying!

Learn how to dye these beautiful eggs! Bernadette will be having a workshop on the art of Ukrainian egg-dying beginning at 9:00, Friday Morning, April 16. Learn this or the American form of egg decoration in which the eggs are "dyed" by cooking them in onion skins or cabbage leaves, then scratching a design on them. Due to some of the tools being used, attendance is limited to adults or older youth. If you are interested, call or e-mail her at the office.



## YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

### One We Never Knew

Since the congregation never became acquainted with him, Kay Poliska wants to share some things about George Poliska, Sr., who died recently.

George's parents had immigrated from Galicia, Ukraine in 1908. George began Kindergarten speaking only a Russian dialect. When he was a young boy, he would scale the fences of his neighbor's houses and gardens to steal fruit and vegetables to eat. Sometimes his neighbors would yell at him to get out of their gardens, but he never got into real legal trouble over it. Pappy always preferred fresh fruit and vegetables over sweets.

George's entertainment was to dismantle a jalopy car down to the nuts and bolts and rebuild it. This fascination of repairing things lasted throughout George's life, as he was always involved in some sort of home improvement project. He claimed that he could "fix anything except a broken heart." One of his jobs was caring for the grounds and machinery at the Country Club.

George served in the US Army from 1950-1953, and was stationed in Alaska as a paratrooper.

He was a voracious eater who never got fat. Kay once gave him a meat platter instead of a dinner plate. He just smiled and said, "Now, that's more like it!"

Since he was such a diligent "care and repair" man, it seems to Kay and George, Jr. that a fine way to honor George, Sr.'s memory is with contributions to Greater Lycoming Habitat for Humanity, 540 Lycoming St., Williamsport, PA 17701.



Camp Mount Luther and the Upper Susquehanna Synod Youth Council present,  
**"How I Came to Love  
The**

**Ten Commandments,"**  
a youth retreat for those in grades 6-12.

on **Friday, March 4  
to Saturday, March 5.**

More information, including registration form, is available at the camp website, [www.campmountluther.org](http://www.campmountluther.org), or on the synod website at <http://www.uss-elca.org/synod-youth-retreat>.

# THANK YOU!

## St Marks Lutheran Church

raised:

# \$123 and 80 non-perishables

Thanks to your efforts this year, more dollars have been raised, more lives have been changed and the nation has seen the impact of people working together to help those in need.

Thank you for working to transform the time around the Super Bowl into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving.



February 6, 2011

*Tracy Bender*

Tracy Bender  
President and CEO  
Souper Bowl of Caring

## YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

### Those Hardy Souls Who Ventured Forth in February Enjoyed:

- \* JOHN BOWER BASKETBALL games!
- \* Bible study
- \* Milestone: All the Languages of the Good News
- \* Souper Bowl Sunday
- \* Snow!
- \* VBS sifting and choosing (see article)
- \* Thrivent Build Kick-off Breakfast
- \* Children's Church
- \* Monthly Catechetical meal & meeting
- \* Dancing on the Premises (every Wednesday @ 3:30)
- \* Lunch-n-Fellowship
- \* Spring is here!!!! (not)
- \* Stephen Ministry!
- \* Friday Fun Night
- \* Filming the challenge for Iron Chef Williamsport (soon on YouTube)
- \* Teen Movie Night
- \* Snow! (again)
- \* Staying warm...brrrr
- \* Prayer Pillow luncheon and Milestone

Think Spring!!! A lot is going on! Remember: if you need transportation, just call!!!



### Volunteers are needed for the Nursery

during the 10:30 services on Sundays.  
This is an hour and a half of your time about every other month—no outside preparation is required. Most of our helpers have been volunteering for years, do not have children or never use the nursery for their own children, and usually attend early service. We need members from the 10:30 service to volunteer.

Please search your hearts and call or e-mail Vicki Hospes at 326-7318 or [i2luvny@verizon.net](mailto:i2luvny@verizon.net).

Thank you!!!!

### Listen to the Children

Take a moment to listen today, to what your children are trying to say.  
Listen today, whatever you do, or they won't be there to listen to you.

Listen to their problems. Listen to their needs,  
Praise their smallest triumphs. Praise their smallest deeds,  
Tolerate their chatter, amplify their laughter,  
find out what's the matter, find out what they're after.

But tell them that you love them, every single night  
And though you scold them, make sure you hold them  
and tell them everything's all right.

If we tell our children, all the bad in them we see,  
They'll grow up exactly how we hoped they'd never be.  
But if we tell our children we're so prod they wear our name,  
They'll grow up believing their winners in the game.

Take a moment to listen today, to what your children are trying to say  
Listen today, whatever you do, and they will come back to listen to you.

~ author unknown

Contributed by Ruth Burkholder

## YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

# Some of Our Many Milestones...



### Passing on Faith: Kindergarten Milestone

Three students and their families participated in All the Languages of Good News on Sunday, February 6, 2011, with recognition in church, luncheon and a gift. This milestone is for those now in kindergarten. Owen Gair, Breanna Chicas and Conner Gaul explored the contents of their bags with Pr. Elkin (two Bible story-books, children's choir CD and icon of Jesus as the Good Shepherd) and, after their discussion, decorated the bags. A grand time was had by all!



### Passing on Faith: Two-Year Olds

This Prayer Pillow milestone is celebrated in two parts: 1) On Saturday, February 26, the parents and the 2-yr-old gathered to talk about prayer at home, then enjoyed a light lunch together. 2) At church on Sunday, February 27, the youngsters received their prayer pillows. Four children were invited to be a part of this milestone.

*As always for any of these milestones,  
if you do not receive notification  
and you feel you or your child fits in the group being recognized,  
call the church office as soon as you realize this so we can include you!*

### Blessing of the Keys:

We have a special milestone celebration for the youth in our congregation who attain their junior driver's licenses. It's a meaningful observance, during which the new driver gives up something from his or her childhood in exchange for the new responsibility of driving. We have also developed a means of recognition for those drivers receiving their senior license.



***BUT YOU NEED TO TELL US WHO SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED!!***

*Since different families have different timetables for these events,  
we can't just refer to the church register for the information.  
We have no idea which youth are reaching this important milestone in their lives—  
unless you tell us!!*

*Please let the church know if your child has recently received  
a junior or senior license as soon as possible.  
A date for celebration will be set once we know who these special teens are.  
PLEASE CALL US!!*

# YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

## ST. MARK'S JBBL LIONS END THEIR SEASON!

Our athletes played great games with lots of fantastic teamwork! Our coaches were awesome in the guidance of these young players. The Beginners and Pee Wees played well—over all winning seasons!! The Juniors worked hard on the court—many times only five of them playing back-to-back games! All-in-all, we have a fantastic group of kids representing us!

A celebratory party was held February 26, at noon, here in Fellowship Hall: pizza and snacks, games and awards. These special youth and their coaches were recognized at service on Sunday, Feb. 20.

When you see any of these players or their coaches, please congratulate them on their dedication and good sportsmanship. These kids and their leaders did an awesome job and were a joy to watch. They are:



### Juniors

#### ***Coach Kirk Owen***

Stephen Boone  
Morgan Comini  
Christina Comini  
Max Hospes  
Corey Hospes  
Sara Jones  
Devin Owen  
Sophia Santalucia  
Chase Willard



### Pee-Wees

#### ***Head Coach Rick Robertson***

Melissa Bicchle  
Liam Breasette  
Makensie Doebler  
Caden Fisher  
Hannah Hausmann  
Ben Hausmann  
Aimee Holzapfel  
Dylan Ott  
Dawson Owen  
Lynna Robertson  
Cody Shimp  
Annika Waffenschmidt  
Gavin Willard

### Beginner Pee-Wees

#### ***Coach Mike Jensen***

Owen Gair  
Gabriella Gregory  
Mark Halterman  
Sean Jensen  
Ashton Ott  
Abbigail Robertson  
Amalie Robertson  
Sahaad Smith



### Special note of thanks!

**We wish to thank Mike Jensen, Kirk Owen and Rick Robertson for coaching our teams. We would not have had a program without them. Thanks, guys!!**



**Children's Church**  
**Sunday, March 13th at 10:30 a.m.**  
**in the Chapel.**



**This is to be a special service, planned and led by our catechetical students. Please bring your children to support our older youth and hear what they have to say. We look forward to seeing you and your family there!**

Thank you! Thank You! Thank you! Thank You! Thank you!

Dear Friends at St. Mark's Lutheran church,

Your recent \$100 donation to the Shepherd of the Streets Ministry is deeply appreciated. Your gift of love is the spark needed for the candle to burn brighter in the hearts of those walking a difficult road. Thank you again for your kind-hearted generosity. May the Lord's Special Blessings be upon you all.

Karen Nelsen, Volunteer

## St. Paul Lutheran Church Scholarship Program

# ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS & STUDENTS IN COLLEGE!

### The Scholarship Program:

The St. Paul Lutheran Church Scholarship Program was founded by the congregation of the former St. Paul Lutheran Church in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. St. Paul Lutheran Church, prior to its closing, established this special scholarship program to benefit Lutheran students in Lycoming County, Pennsylvania, in perpetuity.

### Eligibility

Eligible candidates will be graduating seniors of a high school, or a high school graduate equivalent, located in Lycoming County, Pennsylvania. Candidates must be members of a Lutheran church, and eligible candidates also include those individuals who were members of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, at the time of its closing. Candidates must be attending, or plan to attend in the 2010-2011 academic year, an institution of higher education (academic, technical, or vocational). Eligible candidates must also have a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale and demonstrate involvement in church and community. Candidates may reapply in successive years for scholarships available from this program.

### Scholarship Awards

Scholarships awarded in 2011 will be available only for the 2011-2012 academic year. Scholarship awards may be used only for educational expenses, including tuition, books, laboratory expenses, or other education-related expenditures that are approved by the Foundation.

### Selection of Recipients

The number of scholarships awarded, the amount of the scholarship awards, and the selection of scholarship recipients will be determined by the Foundation.

### Application Process and Deadline

Students who wish to apply to the scholarship program must complete an application and required letters of recommendation and submit materials postmarked no later than **April 15, 2011**. The application and required attachments will be available in the staff hallway or online at [http://www.thelcf.org/grants/scholarship\\_applications](http://www.thelcf.org/grants/scholarship_applications).

## Happy Birthday!

Ruth U. Pile	03/01	Aletha Swartz	03/13	Beatrice Doebler	03/21
Richard Hafer Jr.	03/03	Romain Bastian	03/14	Randy Lukens	03/21
Jessica Curry	03/04	Kimberly Caster	03/15	Lauren Sims	03/22
Trisha Harvey	03/05	Roxanna Larson	03/15	Christopher Hoagland	03/23
Barbara Switzer	03/05	Eileen Georg	03/16	Gary Weber	03/24
Pamela Lehman	03/06			Nancy Bohartz	03/25
Robert Shaible	03/06			Sara Larson	03/25
Madison Walz	03/06			Jonathan Bower	03/27
William Hibschman	03/08			Raymond Stiller	03/27
Rose Marie Hafer	03/09			Sandra Edler	03/28
Robert Lynn	03/09	Dinah Labenberg	03/16	David Walz	03/28
Patricia Thayer	03/09	Hannah Lynn	03/16	Mark Bittenbender	03/29
Beulah Wrede	03/09	Henrietta Tyson	03/17	Tyler Bower	03/29
Mason Peluso III	03/10	Alan Matthew Zimmerer	03/17	Carl Hieber	03/29
Michael Kinney	03/11	Diana Davenport	03/18	April Lewis	03/29



## Happy Anniversary!

Ralph & Elda Zeigler Sr.	03/01
Gary & Donna Clark	03/06
Kenneth & Lois Winters-Goldy	03/19

## News in Our Pews

We have a bit of a celebrity in our midst in the person of **Catherine Goertz**. Catherine and her sister, Mary Ellen Shoemaker, a resident of Harper House in Cross Keys, Md. and a member of Ascension Lutheran Church, were featured in this month's issue of The Lutheran and also in the Baltimore newspaper! Mary Ellen's church wanted to do something special for Maundy Thursday and decided to invite members who were born in 1930 or earlier, many of whom had not been able to attend worship services because of a disability. As they arrived they were met by the ushers who took them into the sanctuary to their assigned seats. The two pastors, both Rev. Cobb, announced there would be no standing. The attendees were given name tags and seated in alternate rows to make the communion easier for those in wheelchairs and the like. The service was followed by a luncheon attended by over 200 persons with a menu tailored to their needs. The Pastors visited with each person in attendance and everyone had a wonderful time. As a follow-up the Pastors visited each member in the home with a recorder to ask them what their faith had meant to them and those reflections were compiled in a book of devotions. You can see the story in this month's Lutheran or I am sure Catherine would be glad to give you more details—best wishes to Catherine and her sister!

More good news – **Stephen Boone** participated in the Pa. Music Educators Ass. Orchestra festival as a member of the cello section –congratulations to him!

**St. Mark's Fourth of July** event was featured in the Ark, the newsletter of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. 275 people took part this year in the 13<sup>th</sup> year of the celebration.

A note from **Dorothy Faries Coleman Lucas** of Vero Beach, Fl, former longtime member, asking to be remembered to St. Mark's congregation.

And finally, on a personal note, my heartfelt thanks to all the members of St. Mark's for their notes, prayers, flowers, food and moral support during my recent surgery. I cannot tell you how much it meant to me and how much it helped in my recovery! You are wonderful caring persons and are all very dear to me. God bless you all!

~ Joyce S. Hershberger

# HEALTH, HEALING & WHOLENESS

***“He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, ‘Lord, teach us to pray’....” (Luke 11:1)***

If you have been raised in a faith tradition in which praying aloud by anyone other than the pastor or worship leader is not the norm, offering prayer and comfort to another via prayer (often called *Prayers of Intercession*), in his/her presence, can be a very intimidating! However, bear in mind that there is no right or wrong way to pray – just many different approaches. Sometimes the old familiar prayers, such as the Lord's Prayer, the Hail Mary, or the Jesus Prayer are most helpful. At other times just one word is sufficient: “Help!” “God.” “Jesus!” “Savior.” Paul reminds us that *the Spirit helps us with sighs too deep for words*. (Romans 8:26) Rev. Deborah Patterson, in her book, Healing Words for Healing People, reminds us: “Pray on your knees, on your back, on your feet. Pray as you wake, or before you go to sleep. Pray in thanksgiving before you eat, or for guidance before you begin your work.” She goes on to say, “Can you breathe? Can you think? Can you talk? If you can do any of these things, you can pray.”

**LIFE IS SHORT  
PRAY HARD.**

Whether you are a parish nurse, a lay visitor, or are just someone visiting a friend who is ill, there are many prayer resources that can assist you. Several of my favorites are, The Hospital Handbook: A Practical Guide to Hospital Visitation, by Lawrence Reimer and James Wagner, Healing Words for Healing People by Deborah Patterson, and Prayers for Help and Healing, by William Barclay. You may also come from a faith tradition which has its own bound Book of Prayer or Book of Common Prayer. These resources offer prayers that can be adapted to fit many different situations, or can be used during personal devotional time.

If you have favorite scripture passages, or prayers that have been of comfort to you, consider copying them onto one side of a plain post card, and place your signature on the back – if you are comfortable with a computer, design them to be printed as needed. Think of them as you would greeting cards; they can provide you with the words that you've always wished you could find in the midst of a difficult situation. These handy cards can then be left with the person (s) with whom you are visiting, to serve as tangible reminders that someone is praying for, and with them. They can also serve as “calling cards” for the times you may visit someone in the hospital, only to find that he/she has been taken for testing or a procedure.

One example of a personal-favorite, hope-filled scripture, is Romans 8:37-39, *“In all these things we have complete victory through Him who loved us! For I am certain that nothing can separate us from His love: neither death nor life, neither angels nor other heavenly rulers or powers, neither the present nor the future, neither the world above nor the world below – there is nothing in all creation that will ever be able to separate us from the love of God which is ours through Christ Jesus our Lord.”*



Another is taken from 2Corinthians 4:7-9, *“We who have this scriptural treasure are like common clay pots, in order to show that the supreme power belongs to God, not to us. We are often troubled, but not crushed; sometimes in doubt, but never in despair; there are many enemies, but we are never without a friend, and though badly hurt at times, we are not destroyed.”*

Rev. Patterson ends the first chapter of Healing Words .... with these profound statements, “God loves us whether we pray or not. Always. No matter what. And prayer [just] might help us to believe it. Amen!”

*Spring Blessings to all!*  
Debbie Best RN, BSW, MHA

## SPECIAL CONCERNS LIST

**Patricia Alexander**

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

**Edith Anderson**

The Hillside, Room #109  
2725 Four Mile Drive  
Williamsport, PA 17701

**Nancy Bohartz**

624 Sixth Ave.  
Williamsport, PA 17701

**Marie Byerly**

Sycamore Health Center  
1445 Sycamore Rd. Rm. 547  
Williamsport, PA 17701

**Please Note Address Change:**

Bonita Crossley  
**73 Pine St.**  
Hills Grove, PA 18619-9300

**June Decker**

Williamsport Home, Room 404  
1900 Ravine Rd.  
Williamsport, PA 17701

**Larue Dieter**

2150 Warrensville Road, Apt. 2  
Montoursville, PA 17754

**Beatrice Doeblner**

Williamsport Home, C-1212  
1900 Ravine Rd.  
Williamsport, PA 17701

**Jean Gulliver**

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

**Charles Homan**

2215 Warrensville Rd.  
Montoursville, PA 17754


**Ardath Houser**

Muncy Valley SKU #229  
215 East Water Street  
Muncy, PA 17756

**Charlotte Hughes**

140 Blueberry Lane  
Williamsport, PA 17701

**Eugene & Reba Jacobs**

1306 Faxon Parkway  
Williamsport, PA 17701

**Anne Miller**

947 Hepburn St.  
Williamsport, PA 17701

**Mary Helen Scinicarello**

Danville St. Hosp. #311  
Danville, PA 17821

**Eleanor Sobers**

425 W Highland Ave.  
S. Williamsport, PA 17702

**Robert Smith**

Elmcroft of Loyalsock, Rm. 130  
2985 Four Mile Drive  
Montoursville, PA 17754

**Anna Stiadle**

Williamsport Home, Apt. 112  
1900 A. Ravine Rd.  
Williamsport, PA 17701

**Ira Tuxford**

210 Louise Ave.  
Montgomery, PA 17752

**Beulah Wrede**

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

**Ralph Zeigler Sr.**

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

## Lunch 'N Fellowship

**Wednesday, March 16th at Noon**

**Serving Pasta with Marinara or Alfredo Sauce  
and Meatballs too!**



**Bring a side dish & a dessert to share! Why not bring a friend?**

# ST. MARK'S MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**1 Tuesday***Pastor Away*

8:00 AM City Pastors  
 9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
 6:00 PM Brownies

**2 Wednesday***Pastor Away*

9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
 9:20 AM Quilting  
 12:00 PM Bible Study  
 3:30 PM Praisercise

**3 Thursday**

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

**4 Friday**

9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
 4:00 PM Suzuki Group

**5 Saturday**

6:00 AM Catechetical Trip

**6 Sunday**

8:00 AM Holy Communion  
 9:15 AM Sunday School  
 10:30 AM Holy Communion  
 11:45 AM Family Handbells  
 12:15 PM The Way Gathering

**7 Monday**

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

**8 Tuesday**

9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
 12:00 PM Finance Committee @ Ross

**9 Wednesday****Ash Wednesday**

9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
 9:20 AM Staff Mtg & Quilting  
 12:00 PM Bible Study  
 12:00 PM Holy Communion Chapel  
 3:30 PM Praisercise  
 7:00 PM Holy Communion Nave  
 8:00 PM Senior Choir

**10 Thursday**

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

**11 Friday**

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

**13 Sunday****Hosting FPLC**

8:00 AM Holy Communion  
 9:15 AM Sunday School

**13 Sunday**

10:30 AM Children's Church  
 10:30 AM Holy Communion  
 11:45 AM Family Handbells  
 12:15 PM The Way Gathering  
 7:30 PM Pre-Lenten Ecumenical Service

**14 Monday****Hosting FPLC**

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

**15 Tuesday****Hosting FPLC**

9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
 12:00 PM LSM @ COS  
 6:00 PM Brownies  
 6:00 PM Executive Comm  
 7:00 PM Mutual Ministry

**16 Wednesday****Hosting FPLC**

9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
 9:20 AM Staff Mtg & Quilting  
 10:00 AM Ken Sawyer Radio Show  
 12:00 PM Lunch N' Fellowship  
 12:30 PM Lenten Mid-Day Worship  
 3:30 PM Praisercise  
 6:15 PM Lenten Evening Meal  
 7:00 PM Lenten Evening Worship  
 7:30 PM Senior Choir

**17 Thursday****Hosting FPLC**

6:31 AM Men's Ministry  
 9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
 9:20 AM Stephen Ministry

**18 Friday****Hosting FPLC****Newsletter Deadline**

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

**19 Saturday****Hosting FPLC****20 Sunday**

8:00 AM Holy Communion  
 9:15 AM Sunday School  
 10:30 AM Holy Communion  
 11:45 AM Family Handbells  
 12:15 PM The Way Gathering  
 6:00 PM Confirmands, Parents & Mentors

**21 Monday**

9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
 6:00 PM Civic Chorus Board  
 6:00 PM Iron Chef Chat

**21 Monday**

6:45 PM Handbells  
 7:00 PM Civic Chorus  
 7:00 PM Dog Club  
 7:30 PM Council Mtg - Crossways

**22 Tuesday**

9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
 6:30 PM Family Promise Board

**23 Wednesday**

9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
 9:20 AM Staff Mtg & Quilting  
 11:30 AM Lenten Mid-Day Worship  
 12:00 PM Lenten Mid-Day Meal  
 3:30 PM Praisercise  
 6:15 PM Lenten Evening Meal  
 7:00 PM Lenten Evening Worship  
 7:30 PM Senior Choir

**24 Thursday**

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

**25 Friday**

9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
 4:00 PM Suzuki Group

**26 Saturday**

9:00 AM Daniel's Closet @ Redeemer

**27 Sunday**

8:00 AM Holy Communion  
 9:15 AM Sunday School  
 10:30 AM Holy Communion  
 11:45 AM Family Handbells  
 5:00 PM Iron Chef Williamsport

**28 Monday**

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

**29 Tuesday**

9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
 6:00 PM Brownies

**30 Wednesday**

9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
 9:20 AM Staff Mtg & Quilting  
 11:30 AM Lenten Mid-Day Worship  
 12:00 PM Lenten Mid-Day Meal  
 3:30 PM Praisercise  
 6:15 PM Lenten Evening Meal  
 7:00 PM Lenten Evening Worship  
 7:30 PM Senior Choir

**31 Thursday**

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

**The 3rd  
Annual  
A**

**IRON CHEF**  
*Williamsport*

*The Title Defenders:*

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**

*The Challengers:*

**St. Joseph the Worker Parish**

Enjoy a delightful meal, good company, and  
an exciting competition for a great cause:

**FAMILY PROMISE OF LYCOMING COUNTY**

Tickets \$25 per person



**Sunday, March 27**

**5:00 PM**

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**

**142 Market Street**

**Williamsport, PA**

*Phone 323-4619 for reservations.*

**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](mailto:stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org)



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