



# The Lion

# of St. Mark's

AUGUST 2013



## *The Way*

**Have a yearning desire to cultivate a closer relationship with Jesus and learn more about the teachings of Martin Luther?  
Has the time come for you to reaffirm your baptism in Christ?  
Do you want to learn more about St. Mark's and cultivate stronger fellowship with others here at St. Mark's?**

If any of these ring a bell then "The Way" is especially for you. Throughout the year we share our thoughts and ideas leading to the reaffirmation of our baptism in Christ. Along the journey of faith we have the opportunity to experience a spiritual growth in the community of the church as well as within ourselves. Please consider becoming a member of "The Way" and contact Mel Wentzel at 327-8286 or Pastor Elkin at 323-4619.

Please consider being a candidate or sponsor in our new group forming in September. We look forward to great discussion as we share, learn and follow along on "The Way". Several of our most recent members have commented.....

*"I thought I knew a lot about our church and the Lutheran liturgy but after starting "The Way", I knew my knowledge was minimal. The Way has taught me so very much. The field trips though the church, especially the tour with the description of all the colored windows and what they represented, were very enlightening. The weekly handouts to create our own notebook were great to keep for future reference. The discussions and fellowship with other Christians who are on this same spiritual journey was a big help to me. My confidence has increased, and I feel more empowered to share with others my faith and my love of the Lord. I also enjoyed searching for information in the Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW) and learning how each Sunday service is planned. I feel very blessed that our church offers The Way to give us the opportunity to grow in our faith."*

- **Carol Confer**

"The Way was an amazing experience for me. I was a new person coming into the church deciding if I wanted to join the church and Pastor recommended I join The Way. This has not only brought me to love the church and the people in it, but it also was the best therapy I could have ever asked for. I enjoyed having a sponsor who guided me through the experience. I definitely will leave The Way with great life long friends, a church I belong to and a greater passion for the word of God."

- **Mae Thaljih**

*"The Way taught me to listen more intently to each scripture lesson and relate it to my personal life. We learned to ask, "How is this speaking to me?" I have now transferred that experience over into every service automatically. What a valuable life-long tool that has become and how we learned to see important doctrines in a new adult light and our spirits were re-awakened. The most meaningful experience was the Easter Vigil. This was the time when our baptisms and faith were re-affirmed."*

- **Sally Bjornstad**

"The Way helped me focus my faith. Thanks to The Way I have been able to closer analyze my own beliefs and better understand fellow Christians. I am grateful for The Way and its ability to reiterate the important lessons the Lord has to give us."

- **Adam Zitta**

*"I looked forward to our Sunday gatherings as an extension of worship. The opportunity to analyze scripture allowed me to follow it more clearly. The Way fueled discussion in my daily life and reinforced the lifelong lessons we often forget."*

- **Lynn Detwiler Zitta**

"St. Mark's program, The Way, is appropriately named. This opportunity provided me with a pathway to reconnect me as an attending and participating member of a viable church life...It was surprising how smoothly we moved into avid discussion, questions, and individual sharing. I appreciated the opportunity to affirm my Lutheran upbringing as well as learn a great deal of St. Mark's history and building."

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## Council Update

The Congregation Council did not meet in July.

## Parish Register

- ◆ Pastor Elkin officiated at the funeral for Mary Ellen Master-son on June 30, 2013 at the Sanders Funeral Home, on behalf of St. Matthew Church.
- ◆ Pastor Elkin officiated at the wedding for Ryan Miller and Jacki Smith on July 6, 2013 in the nave, with reception following at the Williamsport Country Club.
- ◆ Pastor Elkin officiated at the funeral for Russell Smith on July 14, 2013 in the nave, following the regular Sunday liturgies.



## Staff & Officers Contact Information

Website: [stmarkswilliamsport.org](http://stmarkswilliamsport.org)

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
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| Wanda Fortin, Treasurer               | 322-1286   |
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| Kathy Eshelman, Stephen Ministry      | 433-0522   |
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# Voices & Bells Needed!

## St. Mark's Senior Choir and Choir member-to be!



Choir practice will resume the **Week of Labor Day, Thursday at 7 pm. (Sep. 5)** Join us as we sing out from our hearts. We need Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass, basically everyone.

Also we need ringers. Which way would you like to help us? I have been told "Singing is praying twice." Do you agree? Well...?

## CROP WALK 2013



According to records, on **October 13<sup>th</sup>** of this year, UCLC's **34<sup>th</sup>** walk will take place. During the past **33** years the Greater Williamsport Walk has collected **\$748,574.93**.

And throughout **Lycoming County, in Williamsport - Jersey Shore - Hughesville - Muncy - Montgomery** we have raised well over **\$1,000,000** to help **CROP** stop hunger!

Thank you for doing your part in fighting hunger both locally and globally. **25%** of the money we collect comes back to our community and is distributed equally to the **American Rescue Workers Food Pantry, the Sonlight House of Muncy, the United Churches Food Pantry, St. Anthony's Center, and the Love Center of Jersey Shore.** The other **75%** is distributed by **Church World Service** nationally and internationally to help people who are hungry. We have taken a local allocation for the past **15** years, which has brought a total of **\$61,861.80** back into our community. Other walks in our county have added to this total! Together, we can make a difference!

## Family Promise Hosting

No sooner than the July Fourth celebration was finished than preparations began for hosting four families with children experiencing a housing crisis from July 7 – July 14, 2013. This week of hosting was a hectic one for our volunteers. We had illness, new jobs, changing schedules and a very pregnant mother needing our hospitality.

I am happy to report that St. Mark's did another great job of meeting a variety of needs this hosting week. Thank you to everyone who assisted by donating food and money, setting up or tearing down, driving the van, preparing and serving meals, playing with the eight children staying with us, doing laundry, or sleeping overnight and getting folks out the door in the morning. Despite the heat and the confusion it was a job well done.

We continue to enlarge our pool of volunteers with the addition of Pastor Lisa Dabney and congregants from Bethel Linden Presbyterian. They join with the volunteers from First Presbyterian.

Our final week of hosting in 2013 will be from September 30 – October 6, 2013. Becky Miller Pryor continues to need individuals who are willing to serve in leadership roles. Many other hosting churches have several people filling the coordinator's role. This approach could work for us. Please speak with me if you need more information or feel called to serve.

# KITS, KITS AND MORE KITS - BUT NO CABOODLES!

You can make up a School Kit, Personal Care Kit, a Baby Care Kit, or a Fabric Kit.

Items needed for these kits are listed on handout sheets in the Narthex.

Soap bars (in the original wrappings) can also be donated.



All kits and soap bars are due in September.

Won't you share our  
incredible blessings  
with those less fortunate?



## Fabric Kit

2 pieces of cotton or cotton-blend fabric (no knits or 100% polyester). Each piece should match one of the sizes below:

- 2¼ yards of 60" wide fabric, or
- 3 yards of 44" wide fabric, or
- 4 yards of 36" wide fabric

2 spools of neutral-colored all purpose thread, 250-300 yards

Fabric should have no stains or holes. Pieces do not need to match in size or color/pattern. Fold thread and one piece of fabric inside second fabric piece and tie with yarn, sturdy string, ribbon or a strip of fabric.



## Personal Care Kit

- 1 light-weight bath-size towel (max. 52" X 27"), dark color
- 2 bath-size bars (4 to 5 oz.) of soap, any brand, wrapped
- 1 adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging or sealed in a business-size envelope
- 1 sturdy comb, remove packaging
- 1 metal nail clippers - remove packaging

Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed. All items should be new and in good condition. Wrap all the items in the towel and tie securely with ribbons or yarn.

## School Kit

4 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper approximately 8" X 10½";  
no loose-leaf paper

1 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters and inches

1 pencil sharpener

1 blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)

5 unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band

5 black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band

1 box of 16 or 24 crayons

1 2½" eraser

1 sturdy drawstring backpack-style cloth bag approximately 14" X 17" with shoulder straps (no standard backpacks)

Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed. All items should be new & in good condition. Remove any excess packaging,



## Layette Kit

2 lightweight cotton t-shirts

2 long- or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet)

2 receiving blankets, medium-weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn, up to 52" square

4 cloth diapers, flat fold preferred

1 jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with a hood, or include a baby cap

2 pairs of socks

2 bars of gentle soap (4-5 oz bars)

1 hand towel, dark color wrapped

2 diaper pins or large safety pins

Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed. Gently used, clean items (no stains or tears) or new. Wrap items in one of the receiving blankets and secure with diaper pins.

## Sunday School



*September is just around the corner! Please, look at your schedule for the coming year to find a month or two (or three? or more?) that you can assist our children by teaching Sunday School. This is one of the most valuable and rewarding ministries of St. Mark's: creating the foundation on which the church can grow in years to come. Please search your hearts, talk to those who are already involved and call the office today to volunteer (or email or facebook Michele).*

### LOOKING AHEAD:

*August 25: Teacher Preparation and overview for the coming school year! Join us in the Crossways room as we review the curriculum for our young students in Sunday School! If you've never taught before, this is a great time to find out what it's all about! Even if you're not signed up to teach, come and find out what it's all about! Refreshments!*

### ...AND IT BEGINS:

*September 1:*

*Please join us for breakfast and conversation in Fellowship Hall.*

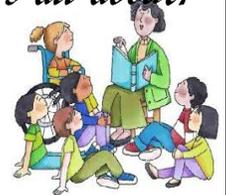
*Meet with the teachers of our adult classes...find out what they're doing!*

*September 8: regular classes for all ages resume*

*Upstairs: Pre-K & K, 1st, 2nd, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4th, 5th grades and Middle School*

*Middle Lounge: Adult discussion group*

*Crossways Room: Adult class with Pastor Elkin*



## Celebrating Independence Day with St. Mark's

*Written by Gary Weber for our web site  
and reprinted here for your enjoyment.*

An Independence Day tradition continues. St. Mark's again hosted hospitality tables on July 4, as part of a city-wide celebration of Independence Day. Everyone who passed the church was offered free food and drink by one of many volunteers stationed along the street.

This year was the biggest and best celebration St. Mark's has ever had. The word on the street is that St. Mark's is the place to be on Independence Day. Volunteers were busy manning the tables from 5:30 until everything was eaten and drunk, and it was time for the fireworks.

How much did the revelers consume...?

- 500 bottles of water or cans of soda
- Gallons of lemonade and ice tea
- 250 packages of little snacks
- Pounds and pounds of candy
- Hundreds of trinkets and kiddy tattoos.

26 pounds of popcorn (probably more than 400 bags popped)

350 hot dogs (maybe more because many folks took one without a bun)

Nick and Sean Buckman with guidance from Jim brought in sound equipment to broadcast the radio simulcast to the crowd outside. St. Mark's organist Jungwha Kim with assistance from Karen Boone and Ray Huff played a concert before the fireworks.

Over 90 people participated in the patriotic program in our nave with many more listening on the front lawn, thanks to the Buckman family broadcasting live.

People donated \$433.60 to St. Anthony's Center. This too is an all-time high.

Thanks to the Pepsi Bottling Company of Williamsport for donating 10 cases of water and 10 cases of soda. Thanks also to the congregation for financially supporting the event and donating other food and supplies.

In all, a wonderful outreach to the community – thanks to all who helped out in one way or another.

## Women's Fall Bazaar

**Saturday, September 14, 2013**

**9:00am – 1:00pm**

**Got Stuff? We can sell it.**

The Women of St. Mark's need your no-longer-needed items for our annual bazaar. We are looking for house wares, small kitchen appliances, linens, small pieces of furniture, lamps, holiday decorations, knickknacks, electronics in working order, books, toys, games, jewelry, handbags, totes, pictures, mirrors, athletic equipment, tools, and treasures of all kinds.



If you are reorganizing, redecorating or still cleaning out those nooks and crannies,

think of our sale and place those items in the Bazaar Room in the basement.

When you are depositing items in the Bazaar Room, please try to keep items as far away from the door as possible.

***We are unable to accept encyclopedias, cribs, car seats and booster seats.***

Speak with Becky Miller Pryor if you wish to donate a computer or television.

These items are difficult to sell and require additional work to recycle.

Speak with Shirley Hill or Becky Miller Pryor if you have additional questions.

## Daniel's Closet



**Daniel's Closet Distribution Day**

**Saturday, August 24, 2013**

**9:00 am – 11:00 am**

**Redeemer Lutheran Church**



Please consider donating your family's clean, usable summer clothing, shoes and accessories to Daniels' Closet.

Items may be dropped off at Redeemer's church basement on

Thursday, August 22nd from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm

or you may contact Redeemer Church at 322-2333 to arrange another time for drop off.

Michele Owen has graciously agreed to transport any clothing brought to St. Mark's.

## Ongoing Social Ministry Needs

- ◆ **Shepherd of the Streets** is continually in need of hygiene items in regular sizes. Donations may be placed in the tub in the Narthex.
- ◆ Official **Family Promise volunteer training** for interested people will be August 14, 2013 at 6:00 pm at the Day Center. All volunteers need to receive this official training. Contact Melissa Magargle at 567-7103 to register.

# MILESTONE MINISTRY

## Progressions

On Sunday, August 4, we recognize **Christina Comini, Brandon Fortin, Corey Hospes, and Sara Jones** who have just graduated from high school and are heading to college.

We also recognize their parents as they get ready for them to leave the nest.

We pray that God will be with them and guide them into a new, stronger relationship with each other and with Him.

At an extended hospitality after the 10:30 service, hopefully in the courtyard, there will be opportunity to wish these young adults well, encourage their parents and record contact information.

## 70+, Single and Still Praising God

A celebration for seniors who are widowed or were never married will be held on Sunday, August 11th. We will celebrate them for their years of service and friendship. When they RSVP to the event, we ask them to let us know 2-3 hymns which are significant in their lives. These are incorporated into the service that day or used for a sing-a-long after lunch. We request mementos from an important moment in their lives and create a display for the event. All in all it is a lovely time of fellowship!

## Blessing of the Keys

*REMINDER:* We have a special milestone celebration for the youth in our congregation who attain their junior driver's licenses.

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

Please remember, we are human and therefore fallible (along with our computers). If you or a friend have not received notification of any of these milestones and feel that you should, *PLEASE CALL US!!*

## Lion Article Deadline

All articles for the September issue of the Lion are due

# NO LATER

than **Friday, August 23rd!** Thank You!



# Confirmation Camp

**Annika, Ben, Dawson, Evan, Grace, Makensi, Sadie, Stefan, and Taylor** begin confirmation camp on August 5!

Their books are ready to be printed, the air conditioner is ready to be turned on, snacks are inventoried, drinks are ready to be chilled, and Pastor Elkin and Bernadette are ready, too!!



**Summer  
Confirmation  
Camp**

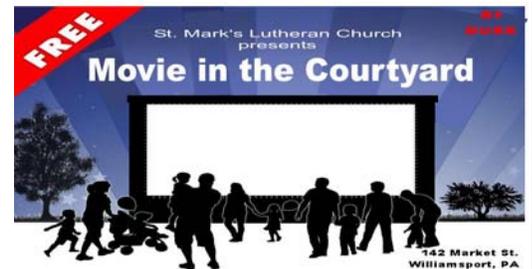
These three days are always an exciting time around the church, culminating with a pool party for the kids and their families and mentors. Please keep them in your prayers Monday through Wednesday of that week.

## Courtyard & Teen Movie Nights

**Movie in the courtyard!**

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 23, AT DUSK!**

**JOIN US EARLY FOR REFRESHMENTS!**



**Sunday, Aug. 25, 6 pm**  
**Bring a friend and join us!**

## New Catechetical Class Forming!



Letters inviting students to become a part of the confirmation process will soon be going out. If you have a student in sixth or seventh grade and do not received one of these letters, PLEASE LET US KNOW. Sometimes we miss things in the computer systems.

If you have an older child who has not been confirmed, please contact us. We can 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*. (See page 1). Please call Pastor Elkin or Bernadette at 323-4619, email (addresses in the front of the newsletter), or facebook.

# Operation Christmas Child



**OUR GROUP PACK'N'WRAP IS SCHEDULED FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2013 AFTER THE 10:30 SERVICE**

Now is the time to take advantage of those back-to-school sales, picking up small boxes of crayons, tablets, socks, toothbrushes, bars of soap, small toys, flashlights...etc. We need at least 50 of each.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW, SO YOU CAN JOIN US THEN!!!**

## IDEA FOR YOU SEAMSTRESSES OUT THERE:

**MOMS! REPURPOSE YOUR DAUGHTERS' OLD TANK TOPS or T-SHIRTS FOR OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD!!!**

1. *obtain tank top or t-shirt (buy new or see if Michele or Bernadette have collected any)*
2. *cut it off for a high, natural, or drop waist, based on the size of the shirt (or to get rid of a stain or tear, if recycled)*
3. *cut your fabric (scrap or from the bargain bin) in a strip, width = 1½ times the circumference of the bottom of the shirt, length = desired length of finished garment (add for seam allowance & hem)*
4. *sew the short ends together, right sides facing, zigzag to prevent fraying*
5. *gather the top to fit the shirt and attach (right sides facing), zigzag*
6. *hem or add ruffle, if desired*
7. *bring the finished dress to church in time for the Pack' n' Wrap*
8. *imagine a little girl's face as she opens her shoebox gift and sees her new dress!*



## Acting Classes are being scheduled

**Bernadette is starting acting classes in September!**

**These are for middle-high school students who have an interest in performing or just want to get used to speaking in front of others.**

**More information and an interest sign-up sheet will be outside Bernadette's office. Classes will be scheduled to accommodate as many of those interested as possible.**

## *Thank You Notes*

Pastor Elkin, Thank you for all your help in my yard! Thanks also to Lou DeSeau, Michele & Kirk Owen and all the boys and girls who helped with the work! - **Lillian Skeeby & Pickles the cat.**

Friends and Co-laborers at St. Mark's: Thank you so much for your generous contribution of \$62.50 that you recently gave to the work of Yokefellow Prison Ministry. We are blessed by your co-laboring with us in the ministry to those incarcerated. May you continue to share in HIS gospel and make a difference in all HE has given into your hand. - **Pastor Danesta (Nessie) Whaley**, Director, YPM Upper Susquehanna Ministry

## 2013 Synod Assembly Summary

### "Woven Together in Christ"

The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Assembly of the Upper Susquehanna Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) was held at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, PA, on June 14 and 15, 2013. The theme this year was "Woven Together in Christ" and celebrated the synod's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The assembly was a time to celebrate the work of the synod since its birth in 1988.

Approximately 350 lay persons and clergy who are members of congregations of the synod attended plenary sessions, workshops, and worship during the two-day event. Workshops were held over the lunch period and were themed around topics to help "equip the saints." The workshops provided practical information that attendees could use in their own congregations. Dr. Rick Carlson, the Glatfelter Professor of Biblical Studies at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg was the Bible Study leader. The assembly also heard greetings from President L. Jay Lemons from Susquehanna University.

Representatives from both companion synods gave remarks. Regional Bishop Christian Schmidt from the Ansbach-Würzburg Kirchenkreis in Germany spoke to the assembly and introduced a delegation from Bavaria. Also, Pastor Edwin Flomo gave greetings from Bishop D. Jensen Seyenkulo of the Lutheran Church in Liberia.

The Rev. Marsh Drege of Seafarer's and International House in New York City attended the assembly on Friday to give an update on their work and to thank the USS for continuing the collection of Christmas satchels for seafarers, which they've done for the past two years.

### Actions of 2013 Assembly

- ◆ Re-elected Rev. Robert L. Driesen as bishop for a second six-year term. Driesen was elected with 178 votes to 88 votes for Rev. Daniel May, pastor of Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, Turbotville, on the fifth ballot. During his annual report, Driesen gave a look back at the last 25 years and how life has changed in that time period.
- ◆ Adopted the 2014 budget of just over \$1.1 million.
- ◆ Adopted the 2014 Salary, Housing, and Health Benefit Guidelines for rostered leaders and Associates in Ministry.
- ◆ Passed a memorial in support for Peacemaking with Justice in Israel and Palestine.
- ◆ Collected two in-gathering offerings: one for Camp Mount Luther and one for Zion (Arbogast's) Lutheran Church, Mount Pleasant Mills. The collection for the camp was for their Birthday Candle Project, raising funds to retire the debt of their Evergreen Center Dining and Activities Building. The assembly gave just over \$2,000 to that cause. The assembly gave \$1,600 to Zion (Arbogast's) to help with recovery after a fire at their church.
- ◆ Collected almost \$6,200, mostly in quarters, to send to ELCA World Hunger as part of their "good gifts" program providing livestock and tools to help families escape the cycle of poverty and hunger.

### Tapestry Celebrates Anniversary

As part of the synod's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, each congregation in the synod was invited to help with a weaving project. The end result was a tapestry that was hanging in Weber Chapel Auditorium for the assembly. The tapestry represented everyone in the synod "Woven Together Through Christ." Shirley Heasley of First, Mifflinburg, sewed each of the six pieces of the weaving which traveled through each of the synod's six conferences this winter.

*Continued on page 11*

## 2013 Synod Assembly Summary—Continued from page 10

### Camp Staff Installed; 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrated

On Friday morning, Bishop Driesen installed the Camp Mount Luther 2013 Summer Ministry Team for their work on behalf of the synod. That morning's Eucharist was a celebration of the synod's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Camp Mount Luther, which also takes place this year. Chad Hershberger, Executive Director of the camp, gave an update later Friday afternoon about the golden anniversary and some of the special events happening to commemorate that milestone. Bishop Emeritus A. Donald Main was the preacher for the Friday Morning Eucharist.

### Blast on the Grass

Friday evening was a special time of celebration, relaxation, and fun to commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. "The Blast on the Grass" was held outside at Susquehanna University, featuring a pig roast meal and entertainment by Hannah Bingman, Van Wagner, and Stained Grass Window.

### Milestones Celebrated

Congregations celebrating milestones this year were honored at the assembly, including Christ's United Lutheran Church, Millmont (50<sup>th</sup> anniversary), and Christ Lutheran Church, Milton (125<sup>th</sup> anniversary). Three individuals were recognized for their own milestones in 1988: Daniel Spigelmyer, who was baptized that year; Rev. Sarah Hershberger, who was confirmed; and Rev. Dan May who was ordained in 1988. During a service of Holy Eucharist on Saturday morning, Richard A. Adams was ordained. Adams has been called to the Liberty Valley Parish in Tioga County. The Rev. Boyd Gibson and Rev. Dr. Theodore Lindquist, Jr. were also remembered posthumously during the service. Six pastors were also installed as conference deans on Saturday.

### Report of the Elections Committee

- ◆ Elected as Vice President for a four-year term was Karla Bohmbach of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Shamokin Dam.
- ◆ Carol A. Waltz of Messiah Lutheran Church, South Williamsport, was elected as synod secretary.
- ◆ Elected to Synod Council for three-year terms were the following: Edward Coup of Christ, Milton; Samuel Leister of St. Stephens, Licking Creek; The Rev. Amanda Range of the Salem Parish, Selinsgrove; The Rev. Jeffrey Bohan of St. Luke, Bloomsburg; Christy Zeigler of St. Luke, Sunbury; Sandra Olson of Siloa, Morris Run; and Courtney Schrey of Botschaft, Grubbs, Mt. Pleasant Mills (Young Adult Member).
- ◆ The assembly elected Joan Fulkroad (St. Stephen's, Licking Creek), The Rev. Lisa Schuster (Trinity, McClure), George Groff (Trinity, Sunbury), and The Rev. James Rill (United, Sunbury) to the Committee on Discipline.
- ◆ The Rev. Paul Kampa (St. John, Belleville), The Rev. Matthew Schuster (Messiah, Troxelville), and The Rev. Theodore Cockley (St. Luke, Williamsport), Frank Bardo (St. John, Jersey Shore), and Jeffrey Mitchell (St. Paul Erdley's, Middleburg) were elected to the Consultation Committee.
- ◆ Elected to a four-year term on the Board of Directors of Susquehanna University was The Rev. Dr. Lois Martin, St. Matthew, Shamokin Dam.

## *The Adventures of Donna in France, Part 2*

*Donna Zierdt Elkin was in Bron, France in May and June caring for grandson Eliot while daughter Katy and son in law Esteban were in rehearsals for the baroque opera Don Quixote. The June issue of the Lion carried her report of arriving there, and her adventures now continue:*

I was summoned to the rehearsal this morning. The fanfare [which Donna wrote] was first up and it was a glorious experience. We climbed to the top of the hill over the main gate and played to the imaginary 400 people below. It was a steep climb, made more difficult by the muddy grass. While playing, I could look over the city to the mountains in the distance. After we finished, I did take an accidental slide down the slope in the mud, but no damage was done to me.

Then I got to watch a tight rope walker go above me while listening to a barrel organ play some Klezmer and then, surprisingly, go into "Rock Around the Clock." I wish I had packed my camera to make a video of my grandson Eliot dancing away to that! Then I explored the castle just a bit. It is a maze of tunnels, stairways, hallways, and many rooms. I passed by rehearsing shadow theater actors, acrobats, shawms and a hurdy gurdy. There was a skit completely in French where three actors assumed all the characters in Don Quixote to act out a summary of the play in 15 minutes. They had me howling with laughter, even without knowing what they were saying.

Then it was time for Eliot and me to go home. We strolled down Rue de Franklin Delano Roosevelt, picking up a gyro, pizza, spinach tart, and apricot croissant. We'll have a nice lunch today at Maisson des Arts, our home away from home.

I never learned a foreign language well enough to actually speak it. Fluency takes lots of practice. But I know a few words here and there. For the most part I'm in France without knowing enough French. So what is that like? Pointing, observation, and pantomime are what I use. Luckily most people here know at least a bit of English. Some funny things do happen. I helped unpack groceries and put the plastic bottle with a daisy on it in the refrigerator. "What is the oil doing in the refrigerator!" said Esteban later. I thought it was milk.

There are no signs in English, so I have learned enough French to find the entrance and exit on the subway. I'm getting used to using Euros, but, while understanding most numbers in Spanish, the French numbers are a mystery. I even was told that there is no number seventy, that the French number is sixty and ten. It gets more complicated from there. I am so thankful for the price to be displayed at the register. I have figured out the tram system but I know to watch the printed signs, not listen for the announcement of the stop. French does not sound like it looks. Even a simple word like yes is spelled oui but is pronounced wee. Sometimes the names are surprising. Like Roosevelt Street, named after the U.S. president during World War II. The best one is that I'm finding myself going to the Casino almost every day. No, it's not what you think. Casino is the name of the grocery chain here, like Weis or Giant back home. And my favorite on the side of a company car - Fonee -the phone company

You might be thinking that a Baroque opera would be very formal and stuffy music. I've read the libretto and I don't think that will be the case this time. Besides crazy Don Quixote, there is a bear, monkey, and a trip to the Congo in the script. I did hear African style drumming coming from a rehearsal.

The next week was challenging because they started practicing at night for the outdoor performances. The lighting was not up until the last minute because I guess no one wanted to work with electricity until the rainy spell was over.

It was a good party on June 2. This is a little apartment so we set up a table in the entryway which Katy calls the living room. Somehow 13 people squeezed in. I helped her make pasta with eggplant for everyone. People brought cheese, drinks, and small gifts. Katy had to teach them how to play pin the tail on the donkey using a Don Quixote poster. Had no cake for Katy's birthday, but instead five flavors of ice cream. Yum.

One morning I woke up to see two humongous green eyes attached to a gray striped cat. He greeted me with a meow. When I moved, he fled fast. He must have left through the window through which he entered. It turned out that it is Adriana's pet, living next door, who took the roof route to get here.

Speaking of the roof, I now can see how these quaint French red tile roofs are put together, since there is one right outside my window.

Also from my window I can see the neighbor's garden and swimming pool. Unless it's heated, their swimming season must be really short.

***Continued on page 13***

## ***The Adventures of Donna in France, Part 2 -Continued***

Now that the weather is nicer and the windows are open, I wonder if we will get the cat coming back, or maybe even some other visitors. There are no screens on the windows here.

We all went to the Casino grocery store. Eliot had a great time picking out groceries and putting them in the cart. Esteban had a not so great time putting them back on the shelf. This is why I have not taken Eliot shopping by myself.

One day I took Eliot to visit the rehearsals. Adriana was the first person we found upon arriving. She showed us her game booth which was little figures to be knocked down by soft balls. I watched Esteban miss every time and Eliot use them as soccer balls. Walking over, I was offered a chance to play by Adriana. She was practicing her spiel for the show. Yeah American! I used four balls and hit each of the four figures, knocking all but the last into the pit. Katy said she had done the same! We were both banned from playing again as Adrianna would use up all her prize wine on us.

Katy gave us a tour of the stage area. Very impressive. They built a forest of trees that were lying flat but that will be raised in place with a neat rope system by the actors. There was a system that will transport the riding Quixotte on his horse onto the stage. At the side is a trapeze. In the back is a big round ball which Katy said will glow like the moon. The orchestra plays in a gazebo-like structure to the side of the stage. While I was looking at that, Eliot enjoyed running across the rows of stadium seating.

Oh, yes, earlier he got upset, and I found out it was watching Adriana standing on her head on the mats. Must have been some kind of yoga. Anyhow, I think Eliot was scared of watching his friend in such a position. He kept crying about it. But he is easily diverted so all was well.

One day the flea market was open and Adrian managed to fill a van with props for free. He is amazing. Three large fancy royal looking upholstered chairs, an ox yoke, other wooden chairs and much more. Today was also fun as I demonstrated my athletic prowess against Adrian in ping pong. I was losing at first, but soon that changed. Funny, after I started winning, the game ended. USA over Argentina once more!

On the day of the first pre-production performance it was supposed to rain. I hope this is the last of that for the next 40 performances. Friday will be opening night. The performances are Tuesday to Saturday nights with Sunday and Monday off. 400 tickets are sold for each night, and most days are already sold out. The season continues until early August, when Katy and family will return to Barcelona.

*Next issue will have a description of the opera itself,  
and the adventure of Donna and Pastor getting home again.*

## ***Suicide Prevention***

***Suicide and Depression: Let's Talk About It***  
***Wednesday, August 7, 6:30 p.m.***  
***Messiah Lutheran Church, Shaheen Hall***  
***For Teens, Tweens, and Adults***

**How do we talk about suicide and depression and how can we respond?  
Learn the warning signs and where to get help.**

***Help a loved one, a friend, yourself.***

## Tweens Day

This summer's Tweens' Day was on Wednesday 7/17/13. Five adults (Pastor, Lou, Kirk, Michele and Devin) and 5 "tweeners" (Dawson, Dylan, Hannah, Sadie and Taylor) met and proceeded to Lillian Skeeby's home to accomplish some yardwork.

We were very productive despite the heat. We split up into two groups, with Pastor and two students returning to St. Mark's to mulch in the courtyard. We were able to finish both projects by noon in time to join Lunch 'n Fellowship.



Afterwards Pastor, Michele and the kids watched the movie "Up" with a discussion afterwards led by Pastor.

We had a great day with our service projects, food, fun and relaxation.

We would like to thank Lillian (and her cute little doggie "Pickles") for allowing us to donate our time at her house!

### SAVE THE DATE!!!

**Evan Barone, Ben Haussmann, Dawson Owen, and Stefan Weber  
are being confirmed on SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2013!**

They have finished their two-year course of study with their mentors,  
Gary Weber, Bob Schultz, Lou DeSeau, and Ray Huff.

## Lunch N' Fellowship

**Wednesday, August 21st at Noon  
serving**

**Bob Jones' Famous Pulled Pork!**

**Please bring a dish to share and a friend!**



## The News in Our Pews

Sometime this winter, maybe on a snowy February day, someone will say – Wouldn't it be nice to have summer back? Be careful what you wish for –this summer is one to remember- one that tests the determination of the congregation to come to worship despite temperatures and humidity that would test the patience of saints. But as I write this, relief is in sight and then maybe those temperature, lovely days we enjoy will be back – whatever you do don't wish for a snowy winter day – your wish may come true!

The newspaper is often full of exciting events at Little Lambs Preschool – a space camp complete with rocket launch was held in June and in July an art camp – looked like everyone was having a wonderful time – it is a blessing to have this great preschool at St. Mark's – a blessing we have enjoyed for many years!

Congratulations to **Ruth and John Burkholder** on their 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary! Ruth and John were married at St. Mark's by the **Rev. Dr. J. Ray Houser** whom many of us remember – those who have been St. Mark's members for many years! **Ruth** probably holds the record for choir membership as well but is closely followed by **Carl Weaver**!

Caught a glimpse of **Jane Kline** touring Reptileland as part of her work at the Visitors' center – I think she was holding something which wasn't clear – maybe an anaconda!

Somehow missed a photo of **Jackie Kinney** in the newspaper participating in an Aqua Zumba party fundraiser to benefit Relay for Life – it is wonderful to have our members taking part in efforts to raise money for community causes – good work, Jackie!

In August I would like to feature our young people who are off to college or who have graduated and are planning careers so please send information to me at [deermountain2@comcast.net](mailto:deermountain2@comcast.net) – if you are missed it is your fault for not getting in touch – stay cool!

*~Joyce Anne Hershberger*

Please submit items to Joyce via her email [deermountain2@comcast.net](mailto:deermountain2@comcast.net) or call her at 322-0410.

## Join Us in Prayer for Our Youth

Our next prayer time will be  
Sunday, August 18th at noon in the chapel.

Please join us as we remember our youth,  
21 and under in a time of prayer.



## United Churches of Lycoming County

### FOOD PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED DURING THE SUMMER:

|          |               |                     |               |          |                  |
|----------|---------------|---------------------|---------------|----------|------------------|
| Tea Bags | Canned Fruit  | Oodles of Noodles   | Tomato Soups  | Saltines | Powdered Creamer |
| Ketchup  | Mac N' Cheese | Spaghetti Sauce     | Pork N' Beans | Mustard  | Chunky Soups     |
| Cereals  | Pasta         | Chicken Noodle Soup |               |          |                  |

### ESPECIALLY NEEDED FOR THE KIDS DURING THE SUMMER:

Powdered Drink Mixes, Microwavable Popcorn, Microwavable Soup Cups, Microwavable Mac N Cheese Cups  
Hours are: 9:30 - Noon on Mondays for delivery Tuesdays/Thursdays from 10-3 clients by appointment only  
Mater Dolorosa Social Hall, 635 Hepburn St, Wmspt.



**24 hour Devotion Line** is available to encourage you in your relationship with God.  
Devotions are under three minutes and change weekly. Call 570-322-5762 anytime!

## Happy Birthday!

08/01 James Buckman  
 08/01 Larue Dieter  
 08/02 Michele Ramsauer  
 08/03 Aric Larson  
 08/03 Emily Satifka  
 08/03 Matthew Welker  
 08/04 Alona Hopley  
 08/04 Frank Ulman  
 08/05 Creighton MacGill  
 08/06 Donna Miller  
 08/07 Dorothy Burd  
 08/07 Donna Clark  
 08/07 Bret Foust  
 08/07 Louis Kolb  
 08/08 Charles Fortin  
 08/08 Christopher Lauer  
 08/08 Audrey Wacker  
 08/09 Mary Kimble  
 08/10 Susan Newcomer  
 08/10 Lynna Robertson  
 08/10 Karen Staffini  
 08/10 Leigh Travis  
 08/11 Gillian Buckman  
 08/11 Charles Greevy  
 08/12 Marie Byerly

08/12 Maxine Chubb  
 08/12 Louis DeSeau  
 08/12 Meriah Doane  
 08/12 Ashley Winner  
 08/14 Ray Huff  
 08/15 Carl Albright

08/18 Stacie Bieber  
 08/18 Elizabeth Lewis  
 08/19 Sean Clouser  
 08/20 Lawrence Lehman  
 08/21 Gregg Dancho  
 08/21 Renee Hinds  
 08/22 Steve Eyer  
 08/22 Andrew Kneeder  
 08/22 Janelle Lukens  
 08/23 Kay Poliska  
 08/23 Daniel Zeigler  
 08/26 Nathan Clouser  
 08/27 Andrea Gregory  
 08/28 Galen Davenport Jr.  
 08/28 Jonah Schreckengast  
 08/28 Amanda Weaver  
 08/29 Evan Doebler  
 08/29 Shirley Kinney  
 08/29 Ashton Ott  
 08/30 Lorraine Barone  
 08/30 Vanessa Morgan  
 08/30 Lou Ann Zeigler  
 08/31 Carl Smollinger  
 08/31 Melinda Wentzel  
 08/31 Bobbie Yetsko



08/15 Kathleen Dancho  
 08/15 Frank Doebler  
 08/15 Beverly Hieber  
 08/15 Amie Larson  
 08/16 Robert Swartz  
 08/17 Tiffany Jarrett  
 08/17 Pamela Travis

## Happy Anniversary!

08/01 Ernest & Nancy Larson  
 08/02 Ronald & Donna Baker  
 08/03 David & Tracey Heaps  
 08/06 Theodore & Barbara Larson III  
 08/06 Raymond & Mary Ann Stiller  
 08/06 Carl & Lucille Weaver  
 08/09 Fred & Patricia Thayer  
 08/10 Robert & Rosemary Clokey  
 08/10 Timothy & Deborah Maggs  
 08/10 Kenneth & Laura Schreckengast

08/13 Kenneth & Beth Shafranko  
 08/14 Neil & Kathy Eshelman  
 08/14 Edward & Brenda Gair  
 08/18 Carl & Beverly Hieber  
 08/22 Douglas & Beverly Schmitt  
 08/24 Paul & Jane Zimmerer  
 08/25 David & Carol Butters  
 08/26 Charles & Gloria Greevy  
 08/28 Philip & Barbara Thomas  
 08/30 Valerie Doebler & Thomas Waffenschmidt

## Ongoing Collections



We are still collecting used stamps. There is a basket for collection in the Narthex. The stamps are used at the Veteran's Hospital by patients for their therapy. Thank you for your contribution.

The tabs we collect are taken by Pastor Elkin to the Ronald McDonald House and later sold at a recycling center. The money is then used for the operation of their facility. Even a few tabs add up, so please keep collecting. There is a collection container for tabs in the Narthex and near the Crossways hallway.



## Special Concerns List

**Patricia Alexander**  
505 Center St.  
Apt. #61  
Williamsport, PA 17701

**Edith Anderson**  
The Hillside  
Room #104  
2725 Four Mile Drive  
Montoursville, PA 17754

**Jane Angle**  
Rose View Court  
Rm. 206  
1251 Rural Ave.  
Williamsport, PA 17701

**Dottie Bingaman**  
Williamsport Home  
Apt. 708  
1900B Ravine Rd.  
Williamsport, PA 17701

**Jim Buckman**  
1974 Jacks Hollow Rd  
Williamsport, PA 17701

**Marie Byerly**  
Sycamore Manor  
Rm. 547  
1445 Sycamore Rd.  
Montoursville, PA 17754

**Kay Crane**  
Williamsport Home Rm. 213  
1900B Ravine Rd.  
Williamsport, PA 17701

**Bonita Crossley**  
Highland Care Center  
Room 318 Bed # 2  
918 N. Main St.  
Laporte, PA 18626

**Art Decker**  
Williamsport Home  
Apt. 1209  
1900C Ravine Rd.  
Williamsport, PA 17701

**Larue Dieter**  
2150 Warrensville Rd  
Apt. 2  
Montoursville, PA 17754



**Catherine Goertz**  
Williamsport Home  
B-816  
1900 Ravine Rd.  
Williamsport, PA 17701

**Charlotte Hughes**  
140 Blueberry Lane  
Williamsport, PA 17701

**Reba Jacobs**  
1306 Faxon Parkway  
Williamsport, PA 17701

**Irma Logan**  
Valley View Nursing Ctr.  
Room #401-1  
2140 Warrensville Rd.  
Montoursville, PA 17754

**David & Carol McMorris**  
330 Forest Hills Circle  
Prescott, AZ 86303

**Robert Miller**  
947 Hepburn St.  
Williamsport, PA 17701

**Kay Poliska**  
1100 Allen St.  
Montoursville, PA 17754

**Elizabeth Ruesskamp**  
Willow View Personal Home  
124 Emery St.  
Williamsport, PA 17701

**Mary Helen Scinicarello**  
Danville St. Hosp.  
#311  
Danville, PA 17821

**Robert Smith**  
1901 Warrensville Rd.  
Montoursville, PA 17754

**Beulah Wrede**  
Wolf Run Village, Apt. A-15  
3750 Route 220 Highway  
Hughesville, PA 17737

**Elda Zeigler**  
Rose View Court  
Apt. 209  
1251 Rural Ave.  
Williamsport, PA 17701

## St. Mark's AUGUST Calendar of Events

### 1 Thursday

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

### 2 Friday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

### 4 Sunday

#### Pentecost XI

8:00 AM Holy Communion  
9:15 AM Summer Forum  
10:30 AM Holy Communion  
10:30 AM Progressions  
Milestone  
11:45 AM Hospitality in  
Courtyard

### 5 Monday

9:00 AM Confirmation Camp  
9:00 AM Morning Prayer

### 6 Tuesday

9:00 AM Confirmation Camp  
9:00 AM Morning Prayer

### 7 Wednesday

9:00 AM Confirmation Camp  
9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
9:20 AM Staff Mtg.  
5:00 PM Confirmation Camp  
Pool Party  
6:30 PM Suicide Prevention @  
Messiah

### 8 Thursday

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

### 9 Friday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

### 11 Sunday

#### Pentecost XII

8:00 AM Holy Communion  
9:15 AM Summer Forum  
10:30 AM Holy Communion

### 11 Sunday

12:00 PM 70+ & Single  
Celebration

### 12 Monday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
6:30 PM Property Committee

### 13 Tuesday

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

### 14 Wednesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
9:20 AM Staff Mtg.  
11:45 AM Bible Study  
6:00 PM FPLC Volunteer  
Training

### 15 Thursday

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

### 16 Friday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

### 18 Sunday

#### Pentecost XIII

8:00 AM Holy Communion  
9:15 AM Summer Forum  
10:30 AM Holy Communion  
12:00 PM Prayer 4 Youth/  
Chapel  
4:00 PM Installation @ St.  
Lukes Williamsport

### 19 Monday

#### Lion Article Deadline

9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
6:30 PM Council Mtg.  
7:00 PM Dog Club

### 20 Tuesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

### 21 Wednesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

### 21 Wednesday

9:20 AM Staff Mtg.  
12:00 PM Lunch N' Fellowship  
6:30 PM Worship & Music  
Comm.

### 22 Thursday

6:31 AM Men's Ministry  
9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
5:00 PM Daniel's Closet Drop  
Off

### 23 Friday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
8:45 PM Movie in the Courtyard

### 24 Saturday

9:00 AM Daniel's Closet

### 25 Sunday

#### Pentecost XIV

8:00 AM Holy Communion  
9:15 AM Summer Forum  
10:30 AM Holy Communion  
6:00 PM Teen Movie Night

### 26 Monday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

### 27 Tuesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
9:20 AM Lion Crew

### 28 Wednesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
9:20 AM Staff Mtg.  
10:00 AM Staff Reviews  
11:45 AM Bible Study

### 29 Thursday

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

### 30 Friday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer