



The Lion of St. Mark's

MARCH 2015



Singing with the Scriptures

The midweek series of services this year will focus on several of the songs of scripture.

We began on Ash Wednesday with Psalm 51, David's admission of guilt following the episode with Bathsheba. In the next two weeks we look at the two Canticles in Luke 1, the *Benedictus*, Zechariah's song regarding the birth of John the Baptist, and the *Magnificat*, Mary's song of joy which follows the angel's announcement of the impending birth of Jesus.

The midpoint of the season is consideration of the victory song, "This is the Feast" which is drawn from a group of passages in the book of Revelation.

The next two weeks we turn to Luke 2 and hear the *Gloria in excelsis*, the angels' hymn of praise, and the *Nunc dimittis*, Simeon's song of joy at the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple.



In Holy Week, we close the season with Psalm 136 as part of the *Seder* celebration.

In subsequent weeks, we gather for Mid Day prayer at 11:30 with lunch following; and for Evening Prayer at 7 PM preceded by supper at 6:15.

INDEX & UPDATE

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Council Update

- 1 The Congregation Council met in regular session on
- 2 February 16 in the Library. The Council:
- 2 † received the regular reports of the Pastor, Officers, and Committees.
- 2 † nominated Lou Kolb, Shelby Weber, Audrey Comerford, and Becky Miller Pryor for terms on Church Council, for consideration by the Congregation at the May Annual assembly.
- 3 † approved a request from the region's Heroin Task Force for our building to be available on Sunday, April 19 as a place of prayer and respite for participants in a Prayer Walk to be held that afternoon throughout the city. Volunteers will be sought to assist Becky Miller Pryor in hosting this event.
- 4 † heard about movement in seeking bids for the boiler replacement project slated for this summer.
- 4 † after discussion, adopted the following as the Mission Statement for St. Mark's Church:
To know Christ and to make Christ known.
- 5 It will begin appearing in our literature as soon as possible.
- 5 † noted that the next regular meeting will be March 16 in the Library.
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"That's Great! I don't know anyone else who gave up tanning salons for Lent!"

WHAT GOD GAVE UP FOR LENT

HIMSELF

Staff & Officers Contact Information

- Website: stmarkswilliamsport.org
 Main E-Mail: stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org
 Church Office 323-4619 Church fax 323-2452
 Rev. Kenneth Elkin, Pastor pastor@stmarkswilliamsport.org or 323-7367
- Jungwha Kim, Director of Music jkim@stmarkswilliamsport.org
 Bernadette Jones, Christian Ed. bjones@stmarkswilliamsport.org
 Michele Owen, Christian Ed. mowen@stmarkswilliamsport.org
 Graydon Yearick, Financial Sec. gyearick@stmarkswilliamsport.org
 Lou DeSeau, Environmental Serv. ldeseau@stmarkswilliamsport.org
 Susan M-Smith, Parish Secretary smsmith@stmarkswilliamsport.org
 Ray Huff, Council President rhuff6@verizon.net or his home phone 368-1473
- Walt Hausmann, Vice-President 525-3283
 Shelby Weber, Secretary 322-7149
 Wanda Fortin, Treasurer 337-3931
 Mel Wentzel, Director, *The Way* 327-8286
 Kathy Eshelman, Stephen Ministry 433-0522
 Michele Fredericks, Parish Life michele.l.fredericks@gmail.com
 Donna Elkin, Family Promise donnaelkin@gmail.com or 323-7367 (home) or 419-2949 (cell)
 Deb Maggs, Family Promise fdjmaggs@aol.com or 322-8109

Regulations revised...action needed!

Thank you to all who hear and answer the call to work with the youth of our parish. We hold dear God's call to proclaim the Gospel to persons of every age, as Jesus himself said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these the kingdom of heaven belongs." [Lk.18:16] Through our many ministries, the congregation seeks the growth and health of the whole person: spirit, mind, emotion, and social interaction. For many years St. Mark's has had a policy to help us guard the safety of our youth. We were among the first local Lutheran congregations to develop such a written policy. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has enacted a law with strengthened provisions, which now requires all people who work with youth to have state police background checks and child abuse clearances. We will need to revise our policy and renew our records.

Everyone who teaches Sunday School, works with a group of youth, volunteers for Vacation Bible School or other youth events and trips, mentors a catechetical student, or has any other regular connection with youth of the church will need to have updated paperwork. The person appointed to manage these records is Michele Owen. Please speak with her to learn the procedures we need to follow. Some of the work can even be done online, and by law, must be completed before this summer. The Council has determined that the congregation will pay the fees for these clearances as part of our operational costs. We will provide an opportunity for anyone who wishes to make a contribution toward the considerable cost associated.

Meals to End Hunger...GOT CHANGE?



Pastor Kerry Aucker of St. John's Lutheran in Jersey Shore is organizing a meal packaging event on Saturday, April 11, 2015 in Jersey Shore. He hopes to receive funds and volunteers to package more than 40,000 meals of protein fortified macaroni and cheese or rice with beans to be distributed to area food banks. Each meal costs just \$.25 to produce. The Social Ministry Committee hopes to collect quarters for the cost of the meals and to sign up a team of volunteers to work one or two hours the day of the event. Look for donation containers and sign-up sheets in the Narthex.

It's 2nd Saturday & We're Cookin' with Janet

Saturday, March 14th ~ 10:00 AM

**We're making Chocolate Candy!
Just in time to fill those Easter Baskets!
Join us in the kitchen!**



The News in our Pews

I decided this month to change the format and feature responses from our members about marriage since it is the month of February and Valentine's Day. It has been a fascinating experience as I played the roving reporter and received great answers from our couples of varying years of marriage.

A classic response by the husband is I let her have her own way but **Ray Huff** embellished that a little- he said he always has the last word, " Yes dear!" But he added his marriage to **Cindy** was successful for 43 years because he married "out of his league!"

Our own Martin Luther said "Let the wife make the husband glad to come home and let him make her sorry to see him leave!" Lots of our long time married folks paraphrased this thought. **Phil Thomas** who with **Barbara** will celebrate fifty years of marriage said "I fell in love with her smile and have loved her for all these years" Lovely sentiment! Barbara does have a lovely smile!

Carl Albright paid a beautiful tribute to **Audrey** - He said he loves her as much without makeup as he does with it!

Gregg and **Kathy Dancho** appreciate their differences - they complement each other - what one doesn't do well the other does and they always express their appreciation to each other when they do.

The philosopher Nietzsche said "It is not lack of love but lack of friendship that makes unhappy marriages" and that friendship was emphasized by many of our couples especially those married for decades.

Ted and **Jane Larson**, having shared 58 years together, agree that is crucial that two people genuinely like each other and share that friendship.

My own **Harold** and I agree that mutual respect, friendship and love and the enjoyment of being together as much as possible contribute to our almost 53 years of marriage.

Our daughter, **Susan**, observed that 90% of marriages with an autistic child fail but their close working bond and a good sense of humor work for them. She shared that when they argue they hold hands - good tip!

The **Stillers**, **Mary Ann** and **Ray**, have a mutual love for music and that has sustained their marital relationship. On the flip side, **Carl** and **Lucille Weaver**, after 65 years, say endurance plays a big part (and lots of homemade ice cream)

Commitment - that is the word used by several couples including my daughter **Pam Jensen** and her husband, **Mike**. **Holly Tillman** said she did not believe in divorce, murder perhaps, but not divorce - unfortunately that is credited to Dr. Joyce Brothers but is still an interesting observation.

Donna Elkin says that marriage for them is allowing each of them to spread our wings and fly off independently, but always coming back to enjoy the love they have found with each other.

What was wonderful about this exercise that lots of married couples said that this request gave them a chance to think about their marriage and what made it work - thanks to all who shared that with all of us!

I will close with a quote Donna shared with me that was in some papers of her Mother's:

*Woman was created from the rib of man
She was not made from his head to top him,
Not out of his feet to be trampled upon
But out of his side to be equal to him
Under his arm to be protected
And near his heart to be loved.*

Happy Valentine's Day 365 days of the year!

~ Joyce S. Hershberger

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

April Lion Article Deadline

All articles for the April issue of the Lion are due no later than 9:00 AM, Friday, March 13. Thank You!

Bazaar Room Update



The weather outside has been frightful, so if you are passing the time indoors by cleaning closets or cupboards, the Women of St. Mark's continue to welcome your donations. The Bazaar Room is open for your donations of holiday decorations, housewares, toys in good condition and other treasures you no longer need or want. Please be sure all donated items are clean, in good condition and working properly. We are asking anyone who is placing items in the Bazaar Room to pack them securely in a box that we can move easily at the time of the bazaar. Computer paper boxes or similar sized boxes are ones we can move easily.

We **cannot** accept cribs, mattresses, car seats, broken or non-working items of any kind, mismatched plastic containers, outdated computers/electronics, TV's, textbooks, encyclopedias or large pieces of exercise equipment. Clothing may be donated to Daniel's Closet.

This year's Fall Bazaar will be Saturday, September 12, 2015.

With your help it will be a success.

Contact Shirley Hill or Becky Miller Pryor with questions.

Daniel's Closet

Saturday, March 28, 2015 from 9:00am – 11:00am

Winter clothing and coats in good condition, accessories, shoes and boots in all sizes from infant to adult are in great need. The greatest needs are for children's clothing, plus size clothing for men and women and shoes, boots and sneakers for children and adults.

March's outreach is scheduled as follows:

- † Drop-Off at Redeemer Lutheran Church Thursday, March 26, 2015 from 5:00 pm – 6:00pm.
- † Other times for drop off may be arranged by calling Redeemer's office at 570-322-2333. Michele Owen has graciously offered to take any clothing brought to St. Mark's to Redeemer.



Sharing In The Caring

Many thanks are given to the congregation for their regular donations of non-perishable food items. Recently our bins were full and delivered to the United Churches Food Bank. Please read the information that follows and prayerfully consider your response.

Gail Burkhart, coordinator of the **United Churches Food Bank** reports that the need for non-perishable food items is greater now than at any time in their past history. In January, almost 550 people came to the Food Bank for assistance. This was 150 more folks than this time last year! Please consider regularly donating one or two non-perishable food items to assist with their outreach. Donations may be placed in the bins in the Narthex.

The Shepherd of the Street's office is in great need of family hygiene items as well as baby care items, disposable diapers in all sizes and bedding (especially blankets.) Bedding may be gently used or new. Please also consider donating an item or two to the Shepherd's outreach. These donations may also be placed in the bins in the Narthex.

United Churches of Lycoming County

FOOD PANTRY ITEMS CURRENTLY NEEDED:

Canned Veggies	Microwave Popcorn	Jello	Hot Chocolate Mix
Canned Fruit	Pop Tarts	Sugar	Canned Milk
Powdered Drink Mix	Stovetop Stuffing	Tea Bags	Saltine Crackers
Hamburger Helper	Oodles of Noodles	Oatmeal Packets	Ketchup
Canned Potatoes	Chicken Noodle Soup	Powdered Milk	Mustard

Hours are: 9:30 - Noon on Mondays for delivery.

**Tuesdays/Thursdays from 10-3 clients by appointment only 570-322-1657
Castellano Center, 320 Park Ave., Williamsport, PA**

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!

March Wednesday Ecumenical Lunches

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

No reservations are necessary.

- 4- **Mrs. Gail Landers**, Trained Facilitator, Samaritan Counseling's Safe Church Program and Member of New Covenant United Church of Christ, *"Sacred Safety"*
- 11- **Rev. Martha McCracken**, Pastor, St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Quiggleville, *"Seafarers Ministry of North American and the Caribbean"*
- 18- **Mrs. Nancy Baumgartner**, Free-lance Writer, *"Glimpses of God and Other Words"*
- 25- **Rev. Velinda Webb-Smith** and **Ms. Christine Carroll**, Sojourner Truth Ministry,

The Latest from Family Promise

We finished a very successful week hosting two families in January. The families were wonderful guests, and we especially enjoyed holding the sweet 8 month old little girl who was full of smiles. Many thanks to the volunteers from our church and from Bethel and First Presbyterian churches who work with us. Debbie and I are so blest to be coordinators at St. Marks where we have no trouble finding willing workers for this ministry. Would you believe that the total number of hours donated to hosting this week were 286! And we may have missed some. Great Job, St. Marks!!!

Our next hosting week will be May 10 - 17. If you want to sign up early, contact Deb, Donna, or the office. If you haven't volunteered before, but are interested, let us know and we will happily add you to the list of volunteers. If you don't know how you can help, check with us. There are all kinds of jobs.

A letter will be coming to all volunteers from St. Marks who have worked or expressed interest in Family Promise over the first five years of its operation in Williamsport. We are simply trying to check in with everyone to make sure all information is up to date. If you don't get a letter before the May hosting, please let us know.

IRON CHEF WILLIAMSPORT has become a major fund raiser for Family Promise and we are proud that St. Marks offers this to them. The competition is March 1 and is a fun time for all, except maybe the chefs who are under stress to win. This is the seventh time it has been held. If you haven't made it to one yet, try to get there now or in the future. You can also watch the competition on your computer. Check with the church for the link.

Lunches for Habitat Builds ~ Can You Help?



In 2015 the Social Ministry Chairperson (Becky Pryor) would like to schedule up to four lunches (one per season) to support a Habitat build. For this to be possible I need help from the congregation. We will need various food items and monetary donations to purchase the items not donated. We will also need a few folks to serve lunches at the Habitat site. Please speak with me if you can assist in any of those ways. I am confident that with planning we can respond in Christ's name. **I am in the process of scheduling a Saturday date for March or April.** Please see our weekly bulletins for updates.

A Heartfelt Thank You from Michele & Daniel's Closet!

Daniel's Closet - Michele would like to thank everyone that donates to Daniel's Closet. Clothes donations remain seasonal, April will be when they start accepting spring/summer clothing drop-offs. Drop-offs are the third Thursday of every month. Just a reminder to please keep bazaar items separate from clothing donations. Bazaar items go to the Bazaar Room but clothing drop offs can be placed in Michele's office. Thank you for your continued support of this program!!! If you have any questions please call Michele at 323-4619 or email mowen@stmarkswilliamsport.org

It's Time to Think about Camp Mount Luther!

**It's time now to think about being part of the camp's 2015 programs!
This year's summer camp season will begin on June 14 and run until August 16.**

There are programs for all ages from preschool to senior high, and also for adults and families.



During your time at camp, you'll experience the love of Jesus Christ in new ways as you live in an intentional Christian community. You'll connect with God's creation, as you swim, play, sing, eat, do crafts, and maybe even you'll get buried in the sand!

You'll serve God with a smile, as you learn more about how to be a disciple in an ever-changing world.

You may even discover some gifts you have that you can use to help others!

Camp provides a safe place for people of all ages to relax and unwind in nature, discover God's love, sing around the campfire, learn more about themselves, and make new friends while at the same time being renewed in mind and spirit.

The summer brochure will be outside of Michele's office if you are interested in any programs, ***the church pays at least half of the amount of the program.***

Calling the hearts, hands and feet of Christ!

We still need some volunteers to teach our Children's Sunday School classes over the next few months. It is only a month long commitment and Michele will have all the materials and the Sunday School room ready for you. If you feel you're not ready to teach alone why not co-teach with another member? Contact Michele if you would consider filling a spot either alone or with another adult. Thank you!

Special Concerns List

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

Edith Anderson
Rose View Center
1201 Rural Ave.
Williamsport, PA 17701

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

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

Larry Bair
The Meadows
2160 Warrensville Rd.
Montoursville, PA 17754

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

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

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

Charlotte Hughes
140 Blueberry Lane
Williamsport, PA 17701

Reba Jacobs
c/o Holly Carlson
524 Locust Dr.
Danville, PA 17821

Irma Logan
Valley View Rm. 401-1
2140 Warrensville Rd.
Montoursville, PA 17754

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
Rose View Center
1201 Rural Ave.
Williamsport, PA 17701

Robert Swartz
1522 Country Club Lane
Williamsport, PA 17701

Henrietta Tyson
Valley View Nursing Ctr. Rm. 601
2140 Warrensville Rd.
Montoursville, PA 17754

Beulah Wrede
Williamsport Home, Rm. 413
1900 Ravine Rd.
Williamsport, PA 17701

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

Happy Birthday!

03/01 Ruth U. Pile
03/05 Trisha Harvey
03/05 Barbara Switzer
03/06 Robert Shaible
03/06 Madison Walz
03/09 Rose Marie Hafer
03/09 Robert Lynn
03/09 Patricia Thayer

03/09 Beulah Wrede
03/11 Michael Kinney
03/14 Romain Bastian
03/15 Kimberly Caster
03/15 Roxanna Larson
03/16 Eileen Georg
03/16 Dinah Labenberg

03/16 Hannah Lynn
03/17 Henrietta Tyson
03/17 Alan Zimmerer
03/21 Randy Lukens
03/22 Lauren Sims
03/24 Gary Weber
03/25 Sara Larson

03/27 Jonathan Bower
03/27 Raymond Stiller
03/28 Sandra Edler
03/28 David Walz
03/29 Mark Bittenbender
03/29 Tyler Bower
03/29 Carl Hieber
03/29 April Lewis

Anniversaries

03/06 Gary & Donna Clark

03/19 Kenneth & Lois Goldy

Flowers for St. Mark's at Easter



If you would like to assist in the decoration of the church at Easter, please use the envelope enclosed to place your order. You may mail the order and your check to the Church office or place it in the Offering plate. The last day that orders will be accepted is Palm Sunday.

St. Mark's March Calendar of Events

Sunday, March 1 Lent II

8:00 AM Holy Communion
 9:15 AM Sunday Church School
 10:30 AM Holy Communion
 5:00 PM Iron Chef 2015



Monday, March 2

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

Tuesday, March 3

Pastor attending STS Deans in S.C.

8:00 AM City Pastors
 9:00 AM Morning Prayer
 6:30 PM Stephen Ministry training

Wednesday, March 4

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
 9:20 AM Quilting
 11:30 AM Mid-Day prayer
 12:00 PM Lenten Lunch
 1:15 PM Pericope study
 6:15 PM Lenten Supper
 7:00 PM Evening Prayer

Thursday March 5

Pastor returns from STS Deans in S.C.

6:31 AM Men's Bible Study
 9:00 AM Morning Prayer
 7:00 PM Choir

Friday, March 6 *Council Agenda Deadline*

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

Saturday, March 7

Sunday, March 8, Lent III

8:00 AM Holy Communion
 9:15 AM Sunday Church School
 10:30 AM Holy Communion
 10:30 AM Children's Church
 12:00 PM Personnel Committee

Monday, March 9

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

Tuesday, March 10

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
 10:00 AM Bible study
 11:00 AM Little Lambs Liaison
 6:30 PM Stephen Ministry training

Wednesday, March 11

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
 9:20 AM Staff, Quilting
 11:30 AM Mid-Day prayer
 12:00 PM Lenten Lunch
 1:15 PM Pericope study
 6:15 PM Lenten Supper
 7:00 PM Evening Prayer

Thursday, March 12

6:31 AM Men's Bible Study
 9:00 AM Morning Prayer
 7:00 PM Choir

Friday, March 13 *Lion Article Deadline*

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

Saturday, March 14

10:00 AM 2nd Saturday ~ Chocolate Candy

Sunday, March 15, Lent IV

8:00 AM Holy Communion
 9:15 AM Sunday Church School
 10:30 AM Holy Communion
 12:00 PM Property & Finance Joint Meeting
 6:00 PM Catechetical session

Monday, March 16

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
 6:30 PM Congregation Council
 7:00 PM Bell Choir
 7:00 PM Civic Chorus
 7:00 PM Dog Club

March Calendar of Events continued

Tuesday, March 17

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
10:00 AM Bible study

Wednesday, March 18

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
9:20 AM Staff, Quilting
11:30 AM Mid-Day prayer
12:00 PM Lenten Lunch
1:15 PM Pericope study
6:15 PM Lenten Supper
7:00 PM Evening Prayer

Thursday, March 19

6:31 AM Bible Study
9:00 AM Morning Prayer
9:30 AM Stephen Ministry
5:00 PM Daniel's Closet Drop-Off
7:00 PM Choir Practice

Friday, March 20

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

Saturday, March 21

9:00 AM Daniel's Closet

Sunday, March 22 Lent V

Stephen Ministry Sunday
8:00 AM Holy Communion
9:15 AM Sunday Church School
10:30 AM Holy Communion
6:00 PM Teen Movie Night

Monday, March 23

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
1:30 PM Mutual Ministry Comm.
6:30 PM Lutheran Shared Ministry
7:00 PM Bell Choir
7:00 PM Civic Chorus

Tuesday, March 24

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
10:15 AM Bible Study

Wednesday, March 25

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
9:20 AM Staff, Quilting
11:30 AM Mid-Day prayer
12:00 PM Lenten Lunch
1:15 PM Pericope study
6:15 PM Lenten Supper
7:00 PM Evening Prayer

Thursday, March 26

6:31 AM Bible Study
9:00 AM Morning Prayer
7:00 PM Choir Practice

Friday, March 27

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

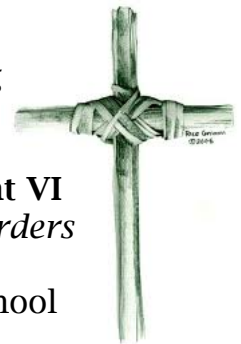
Saturday, March 28

9:00 AM Palm-cross making

Palm Sunday, March 29, Lent VI

Deadline for Easter Flower Orders

8:00 AM Holy Communion
9:15 AM Sunday Church School
10:30 AM Holy Communion



Monday, March 30

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

Tuesday, March 31

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
10:00 AM Bible Study