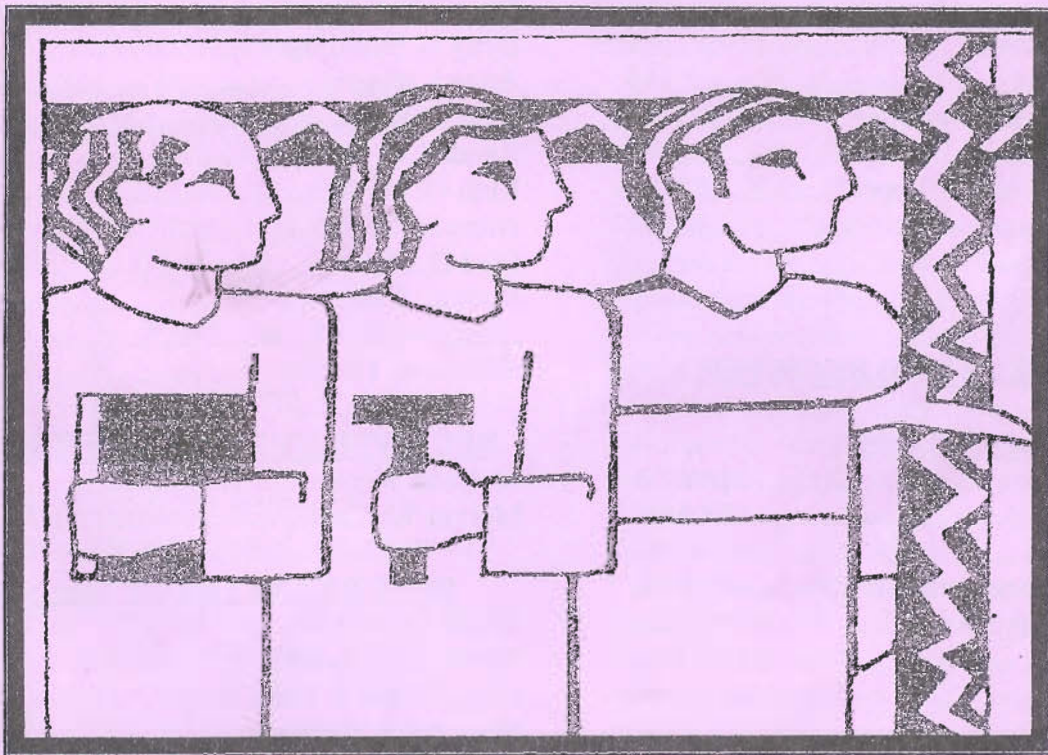


*How are they to call on one in whom they have not believed?
And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard?
And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him?
And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent?
As it is written,
"How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"*

Poised for Mission



The Report to the Annual Assembly

*May 4, 2006
St. Mark's Lutheran Church
142 Market Street
Williamsport, PA 17701*

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FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

BAPTISMS

Abigail Robertson.....11/06/05
Gabriel Nichols.....11/06/05
Emma Rylie Elkin.....01/01/06
Gabiella Anna Marguerite Gregory.....01/08/06
Kathryn Janann Haussmann.....01/22/06
Steven Eyer.....04/15/06
Lisa Rose Lewis.....04/30/06

FIRST COMMUNIONS

Kline Alt.....08/07/05
Jarrett Eyer.....11/20/05
Theron Hershey.....11/20/05

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Bonnie Eyer.....04/15/06
Bernadette Jones.....04/15/06
Robert Jones.....04/15/06
Nancy Larson.....04/15/06
Melinda Wentzel.....04/15/06
Melvin Wentzel.....04/15/06

**AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM-
CONFIRMATION**

Brett Campbell.....05/15/06
Lauren Campbell.....05/15/06
Derek Gilbert.....05/15/06
Sara Larson.....05/15/06
Taigen Thorne.....05/15/06
Tali Thorne.....05/15/06
Andrew Zeigler.....05/15/06
Peter Zeigler.....05/15/06

WEDDINGS

Scott Robbins & Melissa Winters.....08/20/05
David Williams & Cheryl Loner.....11/19/05
Timothy Rothgeb & Anita Strieby.....04/22/06

FUNERALS OF MEMBERS

Jeanne F. Schneider.....04/02/05
Betty L. Smollinger.....04/18/05
Anna L. Harris.....10/19/05
John C. Rees.....10/28/05
Randall K. Miller.....12/08/05
Ruth H. Lunger.....01/07/06
Anne L. Davis.....03/12/06
Fred D. Stover.....04/11/06
Ruth A. Best.....04/15/06
Geraldine R. Martin.....04/22/06
Wilson K. Doeblor, Jr.....04/26/06

RECEIVED BY LETTER OF TRANSFER

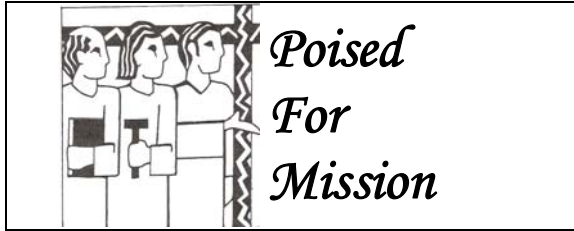
Melinda Wentzel.....04/15/06
Melvin Wentzel.....04/15/06

SENT BY LETTER OF TRANSFER

David Garverick.....06/06/05
Pastor Susie Burd Hill.....09/19/05
Greg, Jackie & Tia Kinney.....10/17/05
Mary Alice Hartsock.....01/16/06
Jean Nolan.....01/16/06
Eric Hieber.....04/17/06

RESIGNED

Kristy Arbogast.....06/06/05
Maxine Chubb.....06/06/05
Todd Clymer.....06/06/05
Mark Oberheim Family.....06/06/05
Carl Burkhardt.....01/16/06



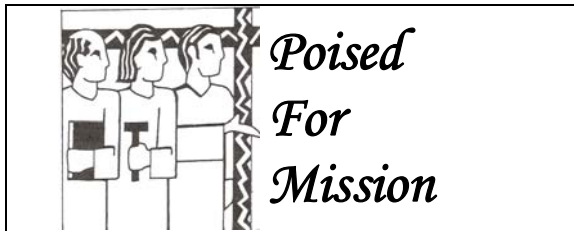
SYNOPSIS OF THE MINUTES OF CONGREGATION ASSEMBLIES

Annual Assembly on May 8, 2005

1. Elected Matt Alt and Nancy Larson to their second 3-year terms.
2. Elected Brenda Bittner, Gary Weber and Eric Comini to their first 3-year terms.
3. Received the booklet of annual reports for 2004-2005.

Special Assembly on December 11, 2005

Approved the budget for 2006



PRESIDENT'S REPORT **Bud Hershberger, Council President**

When I reflect upon the past year, it has been interesting, challenging, sometimes frustrating, yet in so many ways a time of good Christian fellowship. By almost any measure much has been accomplished as you can see by the following committee reports.

I succeeded my daughter as president of the church council which was an opportunity for the "off spring" to pave the way for the "sire".

Last summer we had fun together at the church picnic, the Serengeti Trek, the Blueberry Blast and more. We were sad to lose Alice and Matt Alt to Georgia but pleased to have Bernadette Jones join Sharon Comini as Director of Christian Education.

Senior Choir reemerged in the fall after a summer hibernation to continue its dedicated musical support of our Sunday worship. Dick added a contemporary music choir to provide intergenerational participation and the Kantorei also complemented the special music services.

In November, the congregation unanimously approved a \$332,000 budget for 2006. The record total was arrived at after careful study and much hard work by Barb Thomas, Jackie Kinney, Sue Myers and the church finance committee.

As 2006 moved along, it was clear that our special programs including the Transformation Project "handles", the adult catechumenate, Child in our Hands and Faith Milestones were functioning well and receiving continued support from our congregation.

It was with deep regret that in February Joan Blank, our parish secretary, resigned to take a full time job. Her work was exemplary and we will miss her. Bernadette Jones substituted in that position for several weeks while a search for a replacement was quickly begun.

The new secretary, Susan Mahserjian-Smith, joined the staff in early April.

This is an opportunity for me to say how fortunate St. Mark's is to have dedicated, talented and cheerful people serving on the staff of our church. My special thanks for many jobs well done go to all our staff.

In addition, I thank my church council members for all that they contribute to the mission of the church. My year spent with the officers and members of the congregational council has been both rewarding and enjoyable.

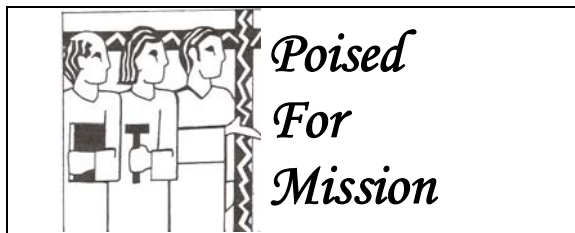
In closing I would like to recognize the hard work, commitment and faithful service given to St. Mark's by our pastor, Kenneth Elkin. He was called to our parish ten years ago this April 15 which, in itself is a milestone deserving of recognition.

Thanks also to all of the many members of the congregation who help in so many ways, seen and unseen - it is much appreciated.

Bud Hershberger

PERSONS WHO SERVED AT VARIOUS POINTS DURING THE YEAR AS COUNCIL MEMBERS & LEADERS

The Reverend Kenneth R. Elkin, Pastor
Bud Hershberger, President
Matt Fortin, Vice President
Jackie Kinney, Treasurer
Barbara Thomas, Assistant Treasurer
Nancy Larson, Secretary
Richard Lakey, Director of Music
Sharon Comini, Youth & Family Ministry
Bernadette Jones, Youth & Family Ministry
Alice Alt, Youth & Family Ministry
Jane Larson, Stephen Leader
Bob Schultz, Director of The Way
Dorothy Berndt, Archivist
John Burkholder
Frank Doebler
Robert Miller
Deborah Maggs
Kathy Dancho
Rick Robertson
Matt Alt
Brenda Bittner
Eric Comini
Gary Weber



A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

The Reverend Kenneth R. Elkin

As we reach yet another mile-marker in our congregation's history, it may seem that we have many more questions than we do answers.

- What does the Gospel of Jesus Christ have to do with our daily activities?
- What does it mean to be a part of the body of Christ?

- What activities in which we engage fit most closely with the Gospel?
- What new approaches to sharing Good News should we develop?
- In what ways does it appear that God is building up the Body of Christ?
- Is prayer a vital part of our life and ministry in this congregation?
- How do our members see themselves as evangelists?
- What does it mean to be hospitable people in this congregation?
- Is our worship weekly, or weakly?
- In what ways are we personally involved in Christian education?
- Who has graduated from the need for Christian education?
- How is our congregation active in life in this community?

The questions continue to pile up; how do we arrive at faith-filled responses?

(1) Our annual reports and statistics will provide some information from officers, staff, and committees, information which then needs to be understood and interpreted.

(2) The *Mission at the Crossroads* process is designed to give us some assistance. With the guidance from our "companion", we'll look back, look ahead, look inside ourselves, and listen for the Spirit's guidance.

(3) The key element in all of this is continuing faithfulness in worship, study, and service. We'll learn best by doing!

There is an odd phrase we use when rushing around: "making good time". It is odd because we don't "make" any time at all! We can only manage and use the time that is one of God's gifts to us. We must ask frequently if we are using that precious gift well. For me, the priorities for use of time include worship, study, care of members, family, administration, and music. There are lots of other things to be done as well, but no one person can or should attempt to do them all. That is why the Spirit has gifted each of us in a variety of ways so that we can

work together to handle all of the proper work of this parish. We have assembled an excellent staff to guide our work together, but they, too, cannot do the work that belongs to all the members together. They can facilitate, organize, and encourage us, but not replace each of us. Perhaps we all need to make use of a questionnaire that the Council filled out some time back, called "Discerning your spiritual gifts"! We are also blessed with thoughtful and dedicated leaders who have been drafted into service in so many important ways. May their numbers increase!

I have now served as pastor at St. Mark's for ten years and one month. The first thing to note is the sheer persistence of worship and study and service in which we have continued throughout that time. Days, seasons, occasions of joy and sorrow, and milestones of all sorts have been marked. Thanks be to God, we're still at it, and God's mercies are "fresh every morning," as scripture says. Aiding in this work are so many others; I'll just name two of the most visible:

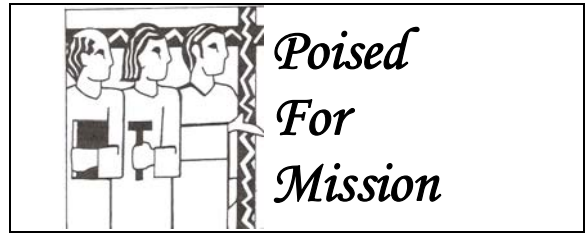
(1) The Way is the best approach to forming new and renewing members. This year's group is perhaps the most lively one yet! It keeps me upbeat. There is a place for you at the conversation table.

(2) Our care for persons in crisis is sparked by the Stephen Ministers who continue their quiet and dedicated service. They are a valuable extension of and addition to my ministry. Would you have the gifts needed to participate?

The questions continue to be asked. Where do each of us fit in when mission is at the crossroads? Do you and I want to maintain an institution, or are we called to proclaim the Lord Jesus in all that we say and do?

May the Spirit lead us to new and refreshed ministries of which we have not yet even dreamed!

The Rev. Kenneth R. Elkin



MUTUAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE

Phillip Thomas, Chairperson

The purpose of the Mutual Ministry Committee is to proclaim Jesus Christ to each other and to all the world by keeping the Pastor and staff advised of conditions within the congregation and to interpret to the congregation the ministry of our professional leaders.

Members: Karen Boone, Stephanie Fortin, Charles Greevy, Cindy Huff, Creighton MacGill, Phil Thomas, Chairman, Bud Hershberger, Council President, Pastor Kenneth Elkin

The Mutual Ministry Committee, made up of a group of extremely conscientious and hardworking men and women, is very active in the life of St. Mark's. We are sincerely interested in making our ministry here at St. Mark's as effective as it can possibly be. To that end, we meet monthly to address matters crucial to the well-being of our Church.

In addition to the routine matters typically undertaken by this committee, during the past year we have dealt with the following:

- **Staff Changes**

The Committee accepted with regret the resignation of Mrs. Alice Alt, Youth and Family Ministry co-coordinator, effective August 26, 2005 after twenty-five months of service (July 2003 – August 2005). Alice's husband, Matt, accepted a position in Georgia.

Blessed to have someone of her background and interest in our congregation, following a formal interview, effective August 15, 2005,

Mrs. Bernadette Jones was hired to succeed Mrs. Alt.

The Committee accepted with regret the resignation of Mrs. Joan Blank, Church Secretary, effective March 3, 2006 after twenty-one months of service (June 2004 – March 2006). Joan accepted a full-time position with Lycoming County.

From a field of twenty-two applicants, Mrs. Susan Mahserjian-Smith was hired effective March 27, 2006 to succeed Mrs. Blank as Church Secretary.

In and amongst all of this, the committee continued its efforts to ensure that all staff members were effective and otherwise contributing members of the St. Mark's team, especially as it relates to meeting the many and diverse needs of our congregation.

- **The Role of Mutual Ministry in the Life of St. Mark's**

Twice during the past year, the Mutual Ministry Committee has met with the Executive Committee of Church Council to discuss Mutual Ministry's role in the life of St. Mark's. The Committee's direction and strategies have been reviewed at length. It is the Committee's desire to assure that Pastor Elkin's ministry is effectively meeting the human and spiritual needs of a majority of those in our congregation. The Committee continues to be guided by the "Working Description of Committee Functions" adopted by Church Council in September 1999. In addition, to serve as an ongoing resource to Church Council, members of the Mutual Ministry Committee now attend regularly scheduled Council meetings.

- **Increasing St. Mark's Active Membership**

On September 14, 2005, Bishop A. Donald Main, joined the Mutual Ministry Committee for its monthly meeting. The hour was devoted to a discussion of methods that might successfully maintain

and grow St. Mark's current membership. Discussions also targeted strategies that could be employed by Pastor Elkin and key groups within the Church to reduce the number of inactive members.

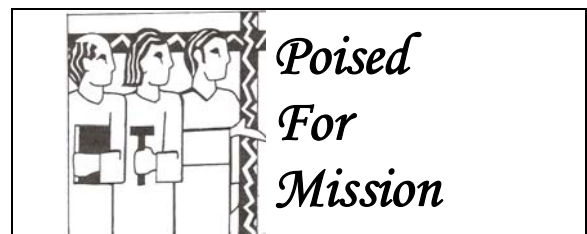
We are very fortunate to have an outstanding staff here at St. Mark's. We thank Pastor Kenneth Elkin, Dick Lakey, Director of Church Music, Lou DeSeau, Sexton, Sharon Comini and Bernadette Jones, Coordinators of Youth and Family Ministry, Susan Myers, Financial Secretary and Susan Mahserjian-Smith, Church Secretary for their dedicated service to St. Mark's and its members. We also salute and thank the many volunteers who assist the staff on a regular basis, as well as, those who have left the employ of St. Mark's over the past year.

As a committee, we continue to encourage open communication between and among staff and the congregation knowing that such interaction will lead to a stronger, more caring, and effective ministry.

Respectfully submitted,.

Philip M. Thomas, Sr.

Chairman



WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Gregg Dancho, Chairperson

The purpose of the Worship and Music Committee is to proclaim Jesus Christ to each other and to all the world by Word and Sacrament in and beyond the congregation. To this end the Committee shall see that the worship of God is conducted in good order in accordance with the Bible and the Lutheran tradition.

The Worship and Music committee, in an oversight capacity, continued to be very busy again this year within the congregation, as well

as in the community. Different methods of engraving for the columbarium memorial plate had been explored with an enhanced technique selected. Chapel renovations have occurred. Children's church is now being held there regularly, with very good attendance. Child-sized chairs have been purchased for our very young children church attendees. Due to soaring heating costs, the chapel was utilized more for weekday and evening Lenten services and helped to defray some of our fuel expense.

The committee conducted an intensive investigation into, and discussions of contemporary church service. The intent was to look into various ways to stimulate church participation for youth and adults. A contemporary choir was established of intergenerational volunteers that continue to sing during various Sunday liturgy services.

Non-perishable food, flowers, quilts, clothing, and financial contributions were disseminated to support various community, and global efforts. Outreach programs helped in our community by providing home communion for those people unable to attend regular church services; caroling was also available for the disabled at Selinsgrove Center, and parishioners in our community.

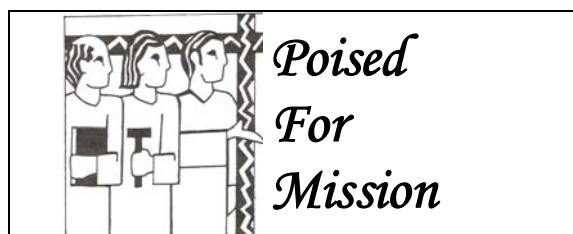
Acknowledgement must be made for the diligent service of our committee membership, the beautiful choral, solo, and instrumental music and musicians. Without the assistance, leadership and contributions of all of them, our services to the Lord would not be as fulfilling. The committee would like to express appreciation and thankfulness to Richard Lakey and Pastor Elkin – their leadership in both areas of worship and music is truly inspirational.

The Altar Guild was extremely active again this year. With their rigorous scheduled activities to keep the church supplies and articles in proper order. Additional communion assistants, lectors, greeters, acolytes, and assisting ministers were introduced this year. These volunteer positions offer continued service opportunity for our congregation, and provide much needed help to

enable the church to function in good order. More opportunities exist for assistance in our Nursery during Sunday services.

Challenges for the upcoming year are mainly focused in the areas of volunteerism, meeting parishioners' needs, and increasing congregational membership. It may not be obvious to most people that it truly takes a host of people to keep the church, music, and worship services ministering properly. This is most evident during the Christmas season and Holy Week, but this need continues every day of the year. There exists numerous opportunities for volunteer ministry here at Saint Marks. We all have gifts that were bestowed upon us. Please feel free to contact any Worship and Music Committee member if we can help you share your gifts with many, for a most worthy cause – to proclaim Jesus Christ to all through his Word and Sacrament.

Gregg Dancho



**REPORT FROM THE
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**

Richard Lakey

We are grateful to the following persons who have been soloists and instrumentalists during the past year: Jim Buckman, Stephanie Fortin, Ray Huff, Aletha Swartz, Deb Buckman, Jane Kline, Donna Elkin, Nick Buckman, Karen Boone, Hope Carlson, Rebecca Pugh, Sue McCormick, Andrew Lutzkannon, David Elkin, Pat Thayer, Marc Thayer, Deb Arnold, Becky Herd. We express our thankfulness to all those who participate in the Senior Choir, the Kantorei, the Adult Handbell Choir, the Family Handbell Choir, and the Recorder Group. Our appreciation to each and every one who has added to the life

of our church through their weekly contributions to rehearsals and worship services.

Other musical offerings during the year were:

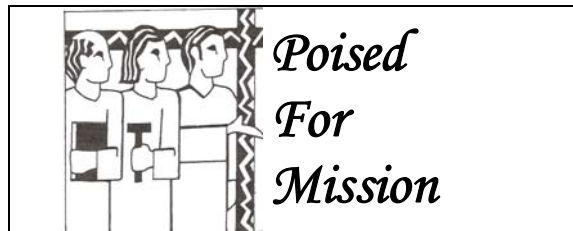
- ❖ The Suzuki Violin Concert under the direction of Pat Thayer;
- ❖ The annual Dialysis Concert on November 6;
- ❖ The Stained Glass Window and Ken Shafranko in October 23;
- ❖ The Lycoming Alumni Choir in October 9;
- ❖ The Williamsport Civic Chorus in November 20;
- ❖ The Lycoming College Chamber Choir in April 2;
- ❖ Violin students of Pat Thayer in April 23;
- ❖ The Williamsport Music Club in two evening concerts;
- ❖ The Williamsport Area High School Choirs in May 10 performing the Faure "Requiem."

Continuing goals for the coming years are:

- a) To continue to offer and expand musical opportunities for individuals within our congregations worship life;
- b) To assist with Christian Education with regards to Sunday School music, Bible School, Confirmation programs;
- c) To continue with the annual organ concert for dialysis;
- d) To continue monthly meetings and meals of Lunch N" Fellowship;
- e) To offer opportunities to the college choirs and their participation in our worship life, as well as, soloists from the college community;
- f) To offer opportunities to other choral and instrumental groups as well as individuals to participate in our worship life.

I express my appreciation and thankfulness to all of the members who participate in the various choirs and instrumental groups, and to all who contribute to help make the music program successful. There are so many who give of their time and talent. I am indeed thankful for each of them.

Richard Lakey



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

*Youth and Family Ministry Coordinators
Sharon L. Comini and Bernadette H. Jones*

The purpose of the ministry of Christian Education is to proclaim Jesus Christ to each other and to the entire world by planning and administering the total educational program of the parish. To this end, the Youth and Family Ministry Coordinators supervise educational opportunities for all youth and adults in and beyond the congregation in the Christian faith as found in the Bible and the Lutheran tradition.

Sunday Church School:

- Our current curriculum, *Life Together*, is discontinued after several years of successful use with our classes. We are currently looking into new curriculums.
- Our youth were divided into the following configuration based on numbers, age, and/or grade level: preschool; 3-4 year olds; kindergarten – grade 1; grades 2 – 3; grades 4,5,6; and grades 8+.
- Lou Kolb and Matt Fortin are currently teaching the high school class. The curriculum includes the use of books (i.e., *A Case for Christ*) and videos. The class is consistently attended by 6-10 youth.
- The monthly rotation schedule for teachers continues to be successful.
- Pastor Elkin led the Crossways Class for adults. *Crossways* is an in-depth study of the entire Bible.
- Bob Schultz led the Middles Lounge Class for high school students and adults.
- Eric Comini taught two Sunday Church School classes: in November on the book of Ephesians and, during the months of March and April, on Philipians.

- Vacation Bible School, *Serengeti Trek*, was held in June, 2005. A total of roughly 35 youth attended.
- Some of our youth attended a Peer Ministry seminar at St. Luke's; one is scheduled for St. Mark's this year.
- In October, the children filled approximately 100 canning jars (for instructional purposes) with beans and rice (for nourishment) to be sent to Liberia.
- We hosted Lutheran Shared Ministry's School of Religion.
- Four acolytes were trained and added to the roster this year.
- We organized the Seventh Annual Youth Retreat for confirmands in January.
- The Way, a process of faith formation, under the leadership of Pastor Elkin and C. Robert Schultz continued. Seven candidates affirmed their baptism and one baptism (Steven Eyer) took place on the Great Easter Vigil, April 15, 2006.
- Declan Jones, our only confirmand this year, was included in the Way program as part of his education. He also attended sessions with Pastor Elkin, as well as the youth retreat in January.
- Children's Church continued on a once a month schedule. Karen Boone and Donna Elkin alternate accompanying the hymns for the children.
- Joint celebrations for all Sunday Church School attendees were held in Fellowship Hall during the Sunday Church School hour at Christmas, New Year's Day and Easter.

Youth and Family Ministry Activities:

- Passing on Faith (formerly Child in Our Hands), remained a keystone of our family ministry at St. Mark's. Milestones celebrated this year: Receiving blankets for newborns; First Communion; Baptismal Lunch with faith chests for recently baptized; Prayer Pillows were given to children ages 2-4; children in kindergarten and 1st grade received "All the Languages of the Good News" bags; third graders received their Bibles;

- Confirmation; The Blessing of the Keys was offered to those youth who became new drivers; and the Wedding Anniversary (58 & 59 years) celebration.
- Some of our youth are still involved with the ministry with seriously ill children at the Janet Weiss Children's Hospital at Geisinger.
- The Blueberry Blast was successfully held in July with about 100 attending.
- Lutherfest, a family event, was instituted in November. About 40 members attended.
- Declan Jones, Derek Gilbert and Brandon Fortin, along with Lou DeSeau and Matt Fortin, helped to load the container for Liberia.
- Operation Christmas Child, sponsored by Samaritan's Purse, began in November. Families packed over forty shoe boxes filled with small gifts for needy children around the world.
- Family Advent Wreath Making was attended by over 26 people on the first Sunday of Advent.
- Kids' Morning Out was re-instituted and attended by over a dozen children and appreciated by their parents.
- A Christmas Cookie-Baking event was added for adults and the cookies used for our shut-ins.
- Christmas Caroling was accomplished by two teams of seven carolers each.
- Well over 100 pieces of winter warmers, scarves, hats, and gloves were collected for the Kid's Clothes Closet. Seventy-seven teddy bears were also collected and given to the Williamsport Police Department.
- The John Bower Sunday Church School Basketball League for our youth began in December and continued on through February of 2006. Sixteen of our youth helped to create two teams, a Beginner Pee Wee team and a Pee Wee team. Coach Rick Robertson headed the teams with Jeff Hershey and Kirk Owen assisting him.
- "Souper Bowl Sunday", with donations of cans of soup or money for the Food

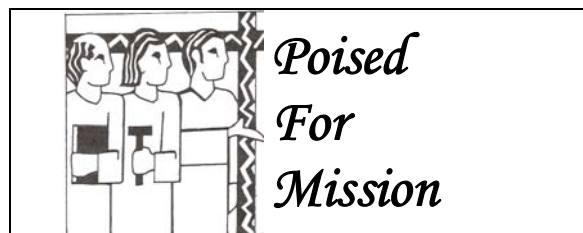
- Pantry, was held in January. Countless cans of soup and over \$35 were collected.
- We began publishing “**TEEN UPDATE,**” a newsletter for our teens, containing articles of upcoming events, opportunities for service and news concerning them.
- The Annual Easter Egg Hunt and breakfast with Pastor Elkin was held on Saturday, April 15, 2006.
- Stage curtains were finished for Fellowship Hall
- We arranged a demonstration of the new electronic voting machines for any interested members after Lunch ‘n’ Fellowship on Wednesday, April 19.
- A bowling party on March 25 was held for the younger members of our congregation. Approximately 12 young people participated and enjoyed the activity and pizza.
- The St. Mark’s Old Fashion Church Family picnic is scheduled for Sunday June 4, 2006.
- Nursery and acolyte schedules were created and followed as dates were assigned to volunteers throughout the parish.
- Family hand bell and contemporary choirs continue under the direction of Dick Lakey.

Outreach/Continuing Education:

- Sharon attended a Sunday School curriculum workshop in May and a planning workshop in July.
- Bernadette attended Little Lambs Open House with flyers about St. Mark’s and Sunday School.
- Sharon and Bernadette attended the State Sunday School Convention in October.
- Sharon visited Messiah Lutheran Church in Troxelville to discuss Passing on Faith models that are implemented here at St. Mark’s.
- Sharon and Bernadette attended a Passing On Faith workshop at Zion Lutheran Church in Turbotville.

- Pastor Elkin read for the children in Little Lambs at Christmas. We plan to continue this from time-to-time.
- Sharon attended a Women of Faith conference in February.
- Gary Weber has been instrumental in getting Youth and Family information on St. Mark’s website. To that end, we have provided him with text and photographs of our events.
- Bob Schultz designed a beautiful logo for the Milestone Ministry of Passing on Faith. We have been using it for our announcements here and is available for use synod-wide.
- Sharon and Bernadette are involved in the planning of the Synod Assembly for June, 2006. At the Assembly, they will be manning a display on St. Mark’s Milestone Ministry.
- A meeting was held with Heather Wagner, Coordinator for United Campus Ministry at Penn College to discuss ways to form a partnership with them.

**Sharon L. Comini
Bernadette H. Jones**



SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE

Becky Pryor-Miller, Chairperson

The purpose of the Social Ministry Committee is to proclaim Jesus Christ to each other and to all the world by providing opportunities to share Christian love. To this end, the committee will address social needs by leading the congregation in extending Christian compassion and helpfulness to the aged, ill, orphaned, and persons of all ages in need.

Since assuming the chairmanship of this committee in June of 2004, it has been my goal to continue with the many long-standing activities of this committee and to expand our congregation's service in additional ways to our community.

In fulfilling those goals many members of the congregation assisted with various activities throughout the year. Our outreach to the community included:

- Hosting the community on our front lawn for the Fourth of July festivities. We provided refreshments, information about St. Mark's, and good cheer.
- Entertaining the residents of the Selinsgrove Center during the Christmas season with songs, a story, refreshments, companionship and gifts.
- Supporting the work of the American Rescue Workers by collecting boxes of stuffing mix for their Christmas baskets to the needy.
- Collecting hygiene items and making monetary donations to the Shepherd of the Streets Emergency Fund.
- Supporting the work of The Pregnancy Care Center by donating clothing and baby items for the newly born and their mothers.
- Supporting the Mossy Foot Project in Ethiopia with monetary donations.
- Collecting a variety of non-perishable food for the United Churches Food Pantry. Although this is an ongoing activity for our congregation we are choosing to highlight these collections several times per year.

Pastor and other members of the congregation provide service to our community and beyond by donating their time to St. Anthony's Center, Shepherd of the Streets, a mission trip to Africa, and the New Windsor Service Center.

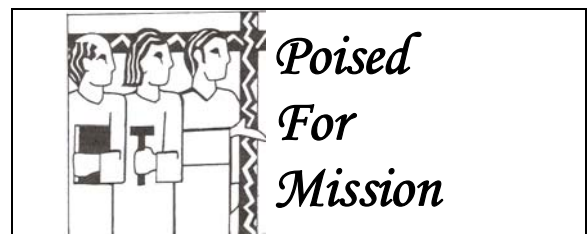
Additionally this committee has teamed with our Family and Youth Coordinators to involve our Sunday School children in Christian service. Hygiene items and food contributed by the

children have been dedicated during Children's Church. Social Ministry assists the Women of St. Mark's with their annual clothing sale. This event qualifies for matching funds from Thrivent and enables additional outreach to charities locally and globally to occur.

Many other opportunities to reach out in Christian love to our neighbors exist. I encourage you to pray and answer Christ's call to serve.

We can do no great things – only small things with great love.
Mother Teresa

Respectfully submitted,
Becky Miller Pryor
Gary Weber



STEPHEN MINISTRY
Jane Larson
Stephen Minister Coordinator

The purpose of Stephen Ministry is to proclaim Jesus Christ to each other and to all the world by providing process in which Stephen Leaders train, organize, and supervise lay persons known as Stephen Ministers to provide effective Christian Care to others.

Stephen Ministers continue to be linked in a one to one relationship with care receivers. Our dedicated St. Mark's Stephen Ministers continue to meet on a bi-weekly basis for the purpose of devotions, guidance, support and relevant continuing education. St. Mark's enrolled in the Stephen Series in December of 1997.

Some highlights from our year:

- ❖ Debbie Best, Program Coordinator for Congregational Health Ministries and Family Life Services of Diakon Lutheran

Social Ministry spoke to Stephen Ministers on four different occasions on the topic of “grief.” This was preparation for the Bereavement Ministry development which is now underway, with five persons currently under care.

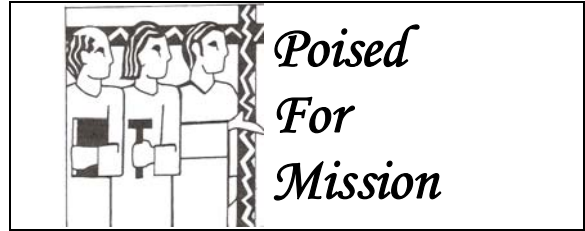
- ❖ Cathy Stopper, Program Manager, Linkage Lycoming spoke on services provided.
- ❖ Susan Newcomer, St. Mark’s member spoke about Autism.
- ❖ Joni Todhunter, RN supervisor, spoke about the nurse-Family Partnership which is a program for first-time pregnant women.
- ❖ Lisa Fogleman, Prevention Program Supervision, Valley Prevention Services, Inc., spoke about Prescription Drugs and Alcohol Abuse.
- ❖ Stephen Ministry Sunday, March 19th Stephen Ministers were introduced and a letter from a care receiver was read as a “Temple Talk.”
- ❖ Pastor Elkin spoke on the Society of the Holy Trinity.

Our ministry will continue to identify potential care receivers with the assistance of the congregation and to provide quality care to those in need.

Stephen Ministers are:

Jane Angle, Larry Bair, Lou DeSeau, Larue Dieter, Gene Jacobs, Catherine Lundy, Carol McMorris, Dr. David McMorris, Henrietta Tyson, Elsie Sechler and Carl Weaver.
Stephen Leaders are Pastor Elkin and Jane Larson.

Jane Larson



PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

*Richard Lakey & Lois Smith
Co-Chairpersons*

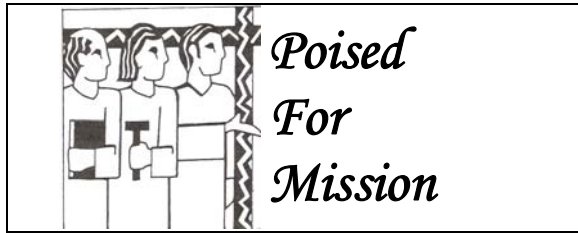
The purpose of the Parish Life Committee is to proclaim Jesus Christ to each other and to all the world by encouraging mutual care and fellowship within the congregation and presenting to the public a Christian image, which will reflect favorably on the work of Christ through this congregation.

1. The committee served several funeral lunches through the year as requested.
2. Brunch between services was served as requested.
3. Provided refreshments for the School of Religion.
4. Provided food for the Annual Bazaar and Clothing Drives.
5. Prepared and served the Usher Appreciation Dinner.
6. Helped with Shrove Tuesday and Lenten Wednesday noon and evening dinners.
7. Organized and prepared the Seder Meal during Holy Week.
8. Continued to organize after church hospitality.

The members of this committee are few and over worked. It is our hope that members of our church will be sensitive to the growing requests and offer their assistance in the coming weeks and months. Many thanks to our committee members: Marie Byerly, Beverly Hieber, Catherine Lundy, Shirley Kinney, and Shirley Vognet.

Respectfully submitted,
Co Chairpersons:

**Lois Smith
Richard Lakey**



PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Frank Doebler, Chairperson

The purpose of the Property Committee is to proclaim Jesus Christ to each other and all the world by promoting the use of the congregation's physical resources in the support of our Christian Mission. To this end the committee arranged for the promotion, protection, maintenance, repair and expansion of church properties. The Committee supervises the use of the same by the congregation and other organizations so that the facilities are adequate for the functions assigned by the congregation.

During this past year, the Property Committee has worked on several fronts - inside, outside, below and above to preserve and beautify our church property. Listed below are just some of our projects completed under the supervision of the Property Committee.

Installed:

1. Child's toilet and flooring in two Little Lambs bathrooms
2. New sink station for Little Lamb's bathroom
3. New air conditioner in Little Lambs large south room
4. Bulletin board in the southwest stairwell for Little Lambs
5. Track lighting for the chapel
6. Hanging system for icons in the chapel and nave
7. New flooring in women's restroom on the 1st and 2nd floor
8. Shelving in the kitchen's broom closet
9. New receptacles on the stage
10. Aluminum threshold at the main entrance to the chapel
11. Basement window covers in courtyard

Painted:

1. West portico posts and ceiling
2. Women's 1st and 2nd floor restrooms
3. Stage walls and ceiling
4. Sanded stage floor and sealed

Repaired:

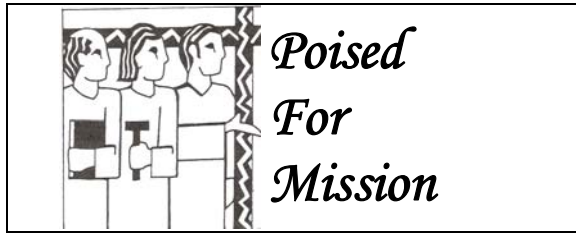
1. Sidewalk on northeast corner
2. Adjusted several entrance doors

Others:

1. Completed termite inspection
2. Trimmed bushes and trees on church grounds
3. All three boilers were serviced as part of our preventative maintenance Program for the 2005-2006 heating season.
4. Renewed boiler maintenance service for the 2006-2007 heating season
5. Re-pointing and sealing of parish house brick wall- work to begin after bridge construction

The Property Committee thanks all members of our congregation who helped this year by providing muscle or money to preserve and improve the physical appearance of St. Mark's church. My personal thanks to all members of the committee who gave their time and talents to our various projects.

Frank Doebler
Chairman



FINE ARTS COMMITTEE

Joyce Hershberger

It is the task of the Fine Arts Committee to proclaim Jesus Christ to each other and to the world by searching out what is good, true and beautiful to serve as aids in the proclamation of the Gospel.

We continue to marvel at the beauty of our newly renovated chapel, especially as Spring is coming to the courtyard, and to see more and more opportunities to use this beautiful worship space.

The committee continues to work on additional complements to the chapel, primarily a water feature to be placed near the columbarium and paraments for the altar, both of which will be memorial gifts. John Hoffman is coordinating the pottery for the water feature and its structure and the committee has met with a local craftsman to construct the altar cloth.

We purchased small chairs for Children's Church and kneeler pads were installed on the prie dieux in the chapel – thanks to Lillian Skeeby and Bob Miller.

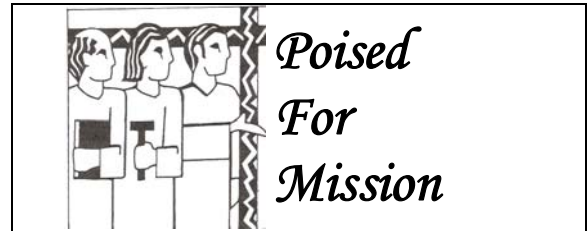
Bernadette Jones generously offered to make new stage curtains for Fellowship Hall at a very minimal cost and the committee gleefully accepted. The curtains are up and look wonderful.

The pictures of our past pastors are ready, fabric for the bulletin boards has been purchased and ready for the Property Committee to complete.

This is a very caring committed group of congregational members who serve in this special way – thanks to Lucille Weaver, Eileen

Georg, Bob Miller, John Hoffman and Jane Larson for their help and thanks also to Pastor Elkin for his constant inspiration.

Joyce Hershberger



LIAISON COMMITTEE

Joyce Hershberger

It is the task of the Liaison Committee to proclaim Jesus Christ to each other and to all the world by maintaining the connection between the Little Lambs Pre-School and the congregation.

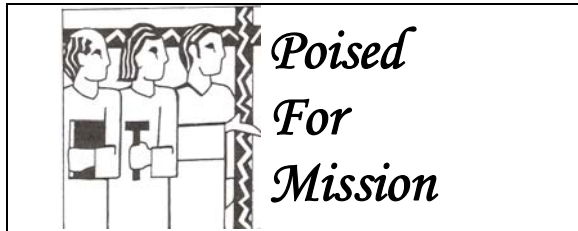
This small committee meets quarterly with Holly Tillman, the Director of Little Lambs Pre-School, to make sure dates are cleared for special events at the school, provide extra spaces when needed, set rent for the space and discuss items that may need to be referred to the Property Committee for their action.

We have enjoyed a very pleasant, mutually satisfying association with Little Lambs and hope to continue for many years.

This year we discussed alternate flooring for the basement play area and agreed that the stairwell would be painted. Holly presented a project for the future that would involve creating an outdoor play space in the parking lot. The timing would be good because the lot will have to be redone after the bridge work. We will continue to discuss this matter.

Thanks to Nancy Larson, Sharon Comini and Lou DeSeau who serve with Holly, Pastor Elkin and myself for all their dedication.

Joyce Hershberger



STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Eric Comini

The purpose of the Stewardship Committee is to proclaim Jesus Christ to each other and to all the world by initiating programs for the development of good use of all of the resources entrusted to us by God.

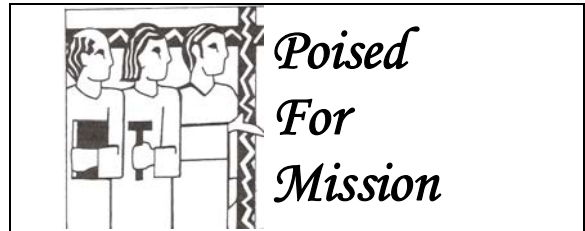
The Committee used the Consecration Sunday approach for the annual stewardship campaign. It is a Biblically faithful and appropriate way to help members think about their whole lives as a matter of stewardship. The event was centered on Consecration Sunday which we held on November 13, 2005. At the fellowship meals that day and during the week following, we had 115 estimates of giving cards returned.

In addition to the annual campaign we need to recognize the many special needs that come to our attention throughout the year.

- ❖ Things that we can make, such as the quilts and school kits
- ❖ Things that we can gather, such as socks for Mossy Foot, sweaters for Lutheran World Relief, food for the local food pantry
- ❖ Things that we can do, such as pray for the sick, visit cancer patients at Geisinger, and carry the Holy Communion to the shut-ins.

All of this is stewardship of the Gospel!

Submitted on behalf of Eric Comini



ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

Dorothy Berndt, Chairperson

It is the purpose of the Archives Committee to keep and protect the heritage of the St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

Working with the archives of St. Marks is so gratifying! Almost every Thursday morning there might be one to three of us working for a couple of hours to identify, mark and file a myriad of items from early church history to daily information concerning your church, St. Mark's.

This work began about 5 years ago and, as of this date, we have over 40 boxes filled with almost any information one might want to know about your church from 1852 to present 2006. The biggest problem...people seem to disregard the need to date an item or article or to identify the names of persons in photos and publications. Many times we place items on the bulletin board at the northeast entrance hallway requesting identifying information. It seems people just don't take time to look at bulletin boards anymore. Just think you might see an early picture or news item about yourself.

This past year a Website has been set up for St. Marks Church. Gary Weber is doing a great job adding all kinds of information about your church. If you have a computer, check it out once in awhile. The best thing is to tell your friends and relatives that live out of town to check us out:

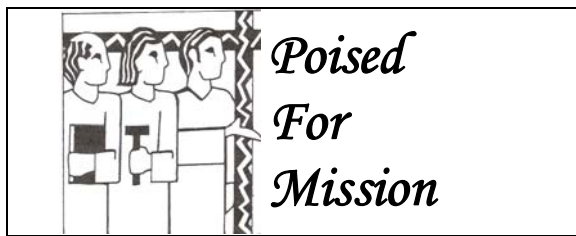
www.kolb.com/stmarks

I've sent the address to relatives and former members of St. Marks who live in various areas of the U.S. and they find the site very interesting.

There are people who don't like history and could care less what happened years ago...but we as members of St. Mark's and our own families are making history every day...just imagine what your ancestors will think when they see and read what we were doing in 2006. History can be exciting and interesting! We would love to have a few more people spend time with us...you name the time...we'll work with you anytime!

One of our goals is to have a monthly item in the Lion...but that takes a little research...we have the information...wouldn't you like to help find it? Thanks to Dr. Ted Larson, Larry Lundy, Pam Jensen and Gary Weber for their help.

Dorothy Berndt,
Archivist



MEMORIALS COMMITTEE

Carl & Beverly Hieber

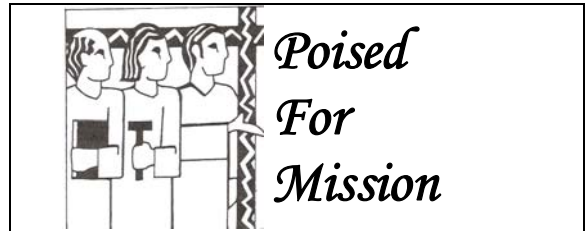
The purpose of the Memorial Committee is to proclaim Jesus Christ to each other and to the whole world through the thoughtful use of special gifts to the congregation.

Gifts have been received in memory of the following members and friends of the parish in the past year:

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| Betty Smollinger | Charles Fries |
| Wilbur Hughes | Curtis Hill |
| Randall Miller | Anna Harris |
| Helen Troxell | Eleanor Starr |
| Anne Davis | David Riley Family |
| Lawrence & Helen Eaton | |
| Fred Stover | |

A gift has been received in honor of:
Kester & Eleanor Sobers

Carl & Beverly Hieber
Chairpersons



FINANCE ANNUAL REPORT

Jackie Kinney

The purpose of the Finance Committee is to proclaim Jesus Christ to each other and to all the world by managing the financial resources of the congregation.

The Finance Committee did not have to handle as many major projects in St. Mark's as we did last year. In the course of the year we:

1. Met with our portfolio managers from M & T twice during the year.
2. Noted that the parsonage loan fund has been fully repaid.
3. Rejoiced that the "Heat contribution" envelope was well-used this winter.
4. Arranged for inspection of the west front nave window to guard against damage from the bridge construction project.
5. Prepared the annual budget for action by the Council and congregation.
6. Approved the purchase of computers and other equipment as needed.
7. Disbursed funds for special benevolence projects.
8. Handled many small regular management matters.
9. Congratulated Barbara Thomas on the completion of her duties as a most diligent Treasurer of the congregation for the past number of years.

Thanks to the committee members and our Financial Secretary who deals with the daily financial matters.

Jackie Kinney
Treasurer

**FINANCIAL REPORT
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2005**

GENERAL FUND

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>
Envelopes: Pledges	\$243,195	\$240,000
Other Religious Income	12,922	15,700
Parking Lot/Rentals	18,511	18,500
Transfer from Investment Fund	8,500	13,000
Welker/Capital – General	18,488	19,000
Welker/Benevolence – General	1,442	2,000
Heat Envelope Income	<u>1,820</u>	<u>1,000</u>
 Total Income	 \$304,878	 \$309,200
 <u>EXPENSES</u>		
Staff	\$206,951	\$204,165
Administration	15,762	15,270
Worship & Music	4,651	5,500
Christian Ed/Youth	5,154	8,950
Property	68,969	54,700
Benevolence & Charity	<u>26,389</u>	<u>26,175</u>
Total Expenses	\$327,876	\$314,760
 Income less Expense	 \$ (22,998)	 \$ (5,560)

DEDICATED BENEVOLENCE INCOME

Hunger, Food, Blankets, G Missions, St. Anthony, Shepherd, Thanks-offering	\$ 4,859
Disaster Relief	6,161
Capital Income	3,366
Organ Fund	775
Theological Fund	102

MEMORIAL FUND

Balance as of December 31, 2004	\$ 4,877
Gifts	3,283
Disbursements	(2,274)
In Trust Fund	<u>(5,000)</u>
 Balance December 31, 2005	 \$ 5,886

INVESTMENT FUND

Balance as of 12/31/04 \$460,701

INCOME

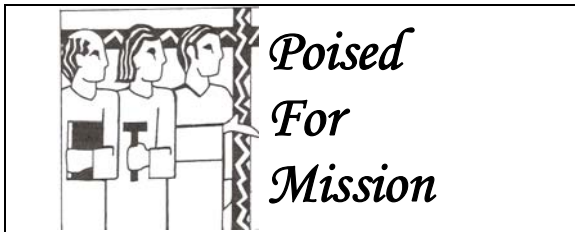
Bequests	3,000
Gifts to SS Endowment	1,000
Columbarium	2,000
Welker Trust Int (Capital/Benevolences)	6,770
Payments on loan	3,541
Interest/Dividends	11,888
Organ Fund (from General Fund)	2,000

EXPENDITURES

Fees	(6,973)
Transfers to Gen Fund cking (to pay bills)	(8,500)
Vickers Interest	(230)

Market value change +9,568

Balance ending December 31, 2005 \$484,765



**WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**

*Shirley Hill & Louise Kneedler
Co-Chairpersons*

The purpose of the Women of the ELCA is stated as a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit. We commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our calling, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.

The mission of the Women of the ELCA is to mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. God calls our local unit to support this mission with ministries both inside and outside our community.

Our group meets each week to make quilts. Some women work at home making quilts and bags for school kits. The completed quilts, school kits, sewing kits, health kits, and layettes, along with bars of soap, are distributed by Lutheran World Relief wherever needed, both in our country and overseas. We also make a cash appeal to the congregation to purchase blankets. Leftover clothing from our rummage sale is sent to local organizations and to Liberia in Africa.

Fundraiser rummage sales are held two times a year. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans matches the funds we receive from the sales. The bulk of this money is contributed to Shepherd of the Streets, United Churches of Lycoming County, Camp Mt. Luther, St.

Anthony's Center, Habitat for Humanity, Church Women United, Lutheran World Relief shipping (Project Comfort), ELCA International Disaster Response, ELCA Domestic Disaster Response, Liberia Shipping Container, American Rescue Workers, and the Needlework Guild of America.

In addition to our service projects, we plan two fellowship events. Our annual Women's Dinner takes place the first week in May and is intergenerational. This popular affair consists of entertainment and a catered dinner. A new venture will be a kitchen shower to replenish needed supplies for our church kitchen.

Our goal in progress is to create interest for additional members to join us. Our numbers continue to decrease as people age and become ill. Younger women are particularly welcome. We do appreciate our dedicated and loyal group of active workers. As always, we are extremely thankful to all of our St. Mark's family for their support in providing materials and supplies for our projects.

Louise Kneeder & Shirley Hill,
Co-Chairpersons

Lucille Weaver, Treasurer

Ernestine Doane, Secretary

Women of the ELCA St. Mark's Lutheran Church Williamsport, PA 17701 Treasurer's Report April 28, 2006		
<u>Savings Account</u>		
Balance April 11, 2005		\$ 1,722.82
Income:		
Thrivent (Spring Rummage '05) (incl. \$201 withdrawal for change)	\$562.68	
Bazaar (inc. \$375 withdrawal for change)	1,057.24	
Thrivent (Fall Bazaar)	361.00	
Bazaar	52.50	
Bazaar	7.00	
Thrivent	841.00	
Interest	<u>18.92</u>	
Total Deposits	\$2,900.38	
Withdrawals:		
Change Clothing Sale	\$260.00	
Transfers to checking	<u>-\$2,600.00</u>	
Total Withdrawals	\$2,860.00	
Balance Savings 4-28-06		<u>\$ 1763.20</u>

**Women of the ELCA
St. Mark's Lutheran Church
Williamsport, PA 17701
Treasurer's Report
April 28, 2006**

Checking Account

Balance April 11, 2005		\$245.39
Income:		
Offerings	48.00	
Transfers Savings	2325.00	
<i>Total Income</i>	\$ 2,373.00	\$ 2,373.00
Total		<u>\$ 2618.39</u>
Expenses		
Repair coffee pot	65.90	
Hearts Desire (Women's dinner)	60.00	
St Mark's s (Tableware)	126.08	
USSWO (Mission in-gathering)	100.00	
Women ELCA (4 quarters)	200.00	
St. Mark's (coffeepot)	174.94	
St. Mark's (can opener)	10.58	
Christy Haberstroh (Needlework Guild Children's Clothing)	100.00	
ELCA Int. Disaster Response	100.00	
ELCA Domestic Disaster Response	100.00	
Shepherd of the Street	200.00	
United Churches	200.00	
Camp Mt. Luther	300.00	
St. Anthony's Center	200.00	
Williamsport/ Lyco Habitat for Humanity	100.00	
Church Women United	100.00	
Lutheran World Relief Shipping Project Comfort	100.00	
ELCA Domestic Disaster Katrina	100.00	
American Rescue Workers	100.00	
Women ELCA (Liberia Container Shipping)	100.00	
<i>Total Expenses</i>	<u>\$2471.60</u>	<u>-\$ 2,471.60</u>
Balance 4-28-06		<u>\$ 146.79</u>