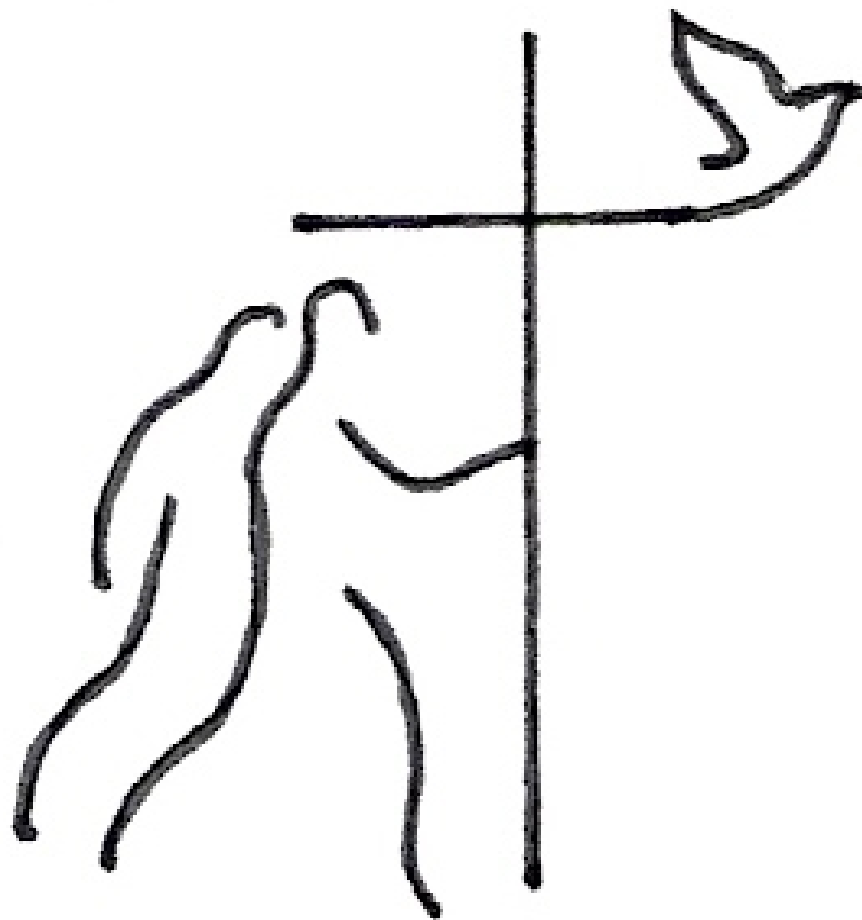


"I press on toward the goal..."

Philippians 3



The Report to the Annual Assembly

May 20, 2007
St. Mark's Lutheran Church
142 Market Street
Williamsport, PA 17701

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FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

BAPTISMS

Noah Andrew Hallabuk.....06/04/07

FIRST COMMUNIONS

Max Hospes.....10/08/06

Corey Hospes.....10/08/06

James Newcomer.....10/08/06

RECEIVED BY AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Kathryn Eshelman.....10/01/06

Ruth Sherlinski.....10/01/06

Rachel Clausen.....04/07/07

Megan Maiolo.....04/07/07

Cheryl Williams.....04/07/07

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM- CONFIRMATION

Declan Jones.....08/13/06

WEDDINGS

Timothy Frazier & Renee Grinnell.....08/05/06

Frank Rose & Tracey Hartzel.....11/11/06

FUNERALS OF MEMBERS

Joanne G. Lamade.....11/05/06

Frank E. Pile, Sr.....01/14/07

Dorothy Rivetti.....01/18/07

Jane E. Doebler.....03/06/07

Elizabeth Metzger.....03/20/07

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR FORMER PASTOR

The Rev. Walter Brandau.....01/20/07

SENT BY LETTER OF TRANSFER

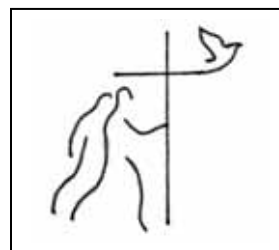
Joyce Jones.....to Holy Trinity, Kingston PA

SENT BY LETTER OF COMMENDATION

Jeff Hieber..... to Gettysburg Presbyterian, PA

Scott & Tammy Miller & family

..... to Lycoming Center Presbyterian, PA



SYNOPSIS OF THE MINUTES OF CONGREGATION ASSEMBLIES

Annual Assembly on May 4, 2006

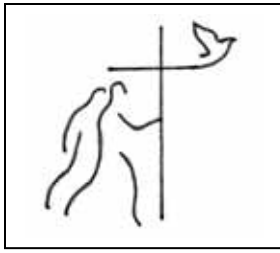
1. Council members elected
2. Retiring Council members recognized
3. Received the booklet of annual reports for 2006-2007.
4. Recognized Pr. Elkin's 10 years of service.

Special Assembly on December 10, 2006

Approved the budget for 2007

Special Assembly on February 11, 2007

Approved the purchase of tower bell controller system at a cost of \$11,995



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Bud Hershberger, Council President

Was it just a short time ago that I did my report for 2005-2006? It is hard to believe a year has passed but people will tell those of us in our seventies that the sands of time move faster with each season.

Nevertheless, much has happened in our church since last May. At our Spring Congregational Assembly we welcomed new council members:

- Donna Clark
- Mike Jensen
- Beth Shafranko
- Jane Zimmerer

Deborah Maggs was elected to a second term and Dorothy Berndt, John Burkholder, Frank Doebler and Bob Miller were recognized for many years of dedicated service to the church as their terms ended.

During the summer, the church began a major undertaking, which could lead us to a brighter future at St. Mark's. The project, called "Mission at the Crossroads," could eventually involve all of our congregation in a variety of programs and activities.

With the approach of the fall season, the mission chairmen and committees put the visioning process in high gear through the months leading up to this May.

As always the fall was a busy time for committees, church schools, musical groups, etc. In December, the congregation approved a

record budget for 2007 of \$334,800.

Over the winter the church was as active as always, which you can see in the reports that follow.

In January our financial secretary left us for a full time position. Mr. Richard Wagner was hired and began work on February 7.

During the winter and into the spring, the Pastor and several of our members have been meeting on a project concerning Hospitality for Homeless Families. This is a very forward-looking activity that would involve many members of our congregation.

Our church staff continues to be outstanding in their hard work and their dedicated and cheerful approach to their tasks.

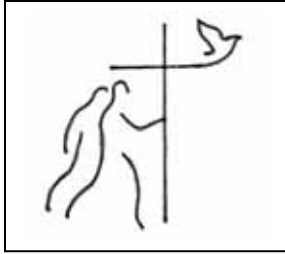
Church council has been a joy to work with and I appreciate very much the work they and the standing committees do for the benefit of St. Mark's and its' mission.

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
Brenda Bittner, Assistant Treasurer
Nancy Larson, Secretary
Richard Lakey, Director of Music
Sharon Comini, Youth & Family Ministry
Bernadette Jones, Youth & Family Ministry
Jane Larson, Stephen Leader
Bob Schultz, Director of The Way
Dorothy Berndt, Archivist
Donna Clark
Mike Jensen

Jane Zimmerer
Deborah Maggs
Rick Robertson
Beth Shafranko
Eric Comini
Gary Weber
Declan Jones, youth observer



A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

The Reverend Kenneth R. Elkin

As I write this report, it is raining outside. I find spring rains delightful, because they help the landscape to turn fresh and green, they soften the soil for the coming growing season, they inspire the spring flowers to burst into bloom, and they recharge the water supply for difficult and hot days ahead.

Others don't see things this way. Instead, they may see an interruption in activities in which they would rather be engaged, a pointless bother, a depressing time, a restriction. How do you view the spring rains?

Perhaps this moment in our congregation's history is a bit like a positive view of the time of the spring rains. Like recharging the water supply, we must be engaged in thought, study of the scriptures, and reflection. These things recharge our minds for growth. I must study in preparation for sermon-writing and service-planning each week. I must study to lead or participate in Bible studies each week. I must study to lead a Sunday Church School group each week. I must study in general terms to be ready for groups, committees, and organizations; for our common ministry within the congregation and also in the ways we reach beyond this circle. It is not an interruption, but a necessary

part of the life of a Christian congregation and its pastor. What are the appropriate times and places for *you* to be engaged in study? It is the necessary spring rain for all of us.

Our *Mission at the Crossroads* process is surely part of the spring rains for us. Its purpose is to recharge the water supply for the hard, hot days ahead. What are the best plans that we can make? How are they reflective of the Good News of Jesus that is to be active in all that we do? These are not questions only for an interest-group or the Council, but for every member to engage in the arena of his or her own life, in the things we do together and the things that we do individually. We might regard the whole thing as a irritating bother, but that would be unfortunate. We can neither do existing things thoughtlessly nor new things without examination to see if they are congruent with the life and faith of the church. We can't grow bananas outdoors in Williamsport. They do not fit here. Neither can we adopt ideas and practices from the pagan culture around us without checking if they fit, if they will obscure or assist in the clear proclamation of the Gospel. It is an important part of my Call in this congregation to guide and direct this reflection. It is not a restriction, but a life-sustaining engagement we share.

The landscape can be green even during the spring rains as well as afterward. We recently welcomed three persons who completed the 20 session series of reflective experiences we call *The Way*. We rejoice to welcome visitors on Sunday morning that come and continue to come to worship and other activities. We need to learn how to make the welcome easy, gentle, and automatic in our dealings with friends, relatives, and neighbors. In a recent sermon, I related how I am currently engaged in a gentle dialog with a person by e-mail. What ways are open to *you* in your daily life?

Mission at the Crossroads has been in process for nearly a year now. Many people have been engaged in it with varying levels of intensity. It has been a rainy time: regarded by some as life-giving, by others as a bother. Let us pray for God's continuing guidance, so that it may be the former rather than the latter.

Most persons don't think about the wide range of activities of the pastor. The following are just a few samples of the variety of things that ask for my attention, in a loosely chronological order since last May.

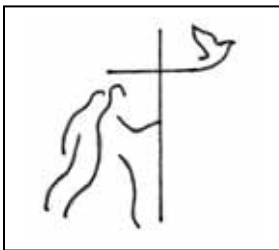
1. Helped to select, encourage, and work with a wonderful new Parish Secretary, Susan Mahserjian-Smith. She has been a most effective partner in our staff-team.
2. Worked with seven couples in preparation for marriage.
3. Met with families in preparation for Holy Baptism.
4. Officiated at funerals for members and others.
5. Assisted and encouraged our work crews in and around the church, as well as in the semi-annual trips to New Windsor Service Center.
6. Rejoiced in son David's graduation from Temple University and his entry into the graduate program at Duquesne U.
7. Assisted the Shepherd of the Streets by covering for a few days of his vacation and hospital-recovery times during the year.
8. Welcomed two seminarians who are interning in the area to several of our events during the year.
9. Traveled to Israel to take part in an archaeological expedition in the ancient city of Tiberias. It was three weeks of very hard work, but one of the most enjoyable things that I have done in a long time.
10. Made use of some of the photos I took during that trip on Wednesdays in Lent.
11. Oversaw the preparations surrounding the memorial service for Pastor Brandau.
12. Served as accompanist for Donna's school concerts in December and April.
13. Gathered our far-flung family for holiday celebrations.
14. In January, hosted a dinner for persons who serve in the church nursery
15. Attended the retreats and prayer-sessions held by the Society of the Holy Trinity.
16. Served as the musician for the April/May retreat, which involved composing and performing music and gathering and

- directing other musicians for 6 services in the two days.
17. Helping to host staff lunches and gatherings.
18. Helping to interview and select our next Financial Secretary, Richard Wagner.
19. Beginning to investigate the idea of *Family Promise – the Hospitality Network* together with other congregations in the area.
20. Lead in planning and carrying out the catechetical-age/ parent/mentor trip to Philadelphia. It provided a range of information and experiences in historical settings and present-day life.
21. Will be one of the leader-team for encouraging congregations who have not yet moved to weekly Communion to do so.
22. And then there are the numerous other things such as hospital visits, home visits, shut-in visits, new member conversations, times for counsel and admonition, individual confession and absolution, committee meetings and other gatherings, Council deliberations, classes, and many more.
23. Although I spend an excessive number of hours engaged in ministry activities, I also still take care of flower and vegetable gardens and care for home and family.
24. We are blessed with a harmonious and hard-working staff who labor together for the sake of the Lord Jesus and the assistance of each other. I am pleased that we have gathered together this group of persons, as well as key volunteers such as Jane Larson, Stephen Ministry Leader, Bob Schultz, Director of *The Way*, Council members and officers, Christian education teachers and helpers, and others.
25. The most important things that I do are centered around the Sunday morning proclamation of the Word. Sermon, lessons, hymns, other music need to be carefully brought together so that the Word may not be hindered, but have free course among us.
26. We are now in our third year of offering Morning Prayer on each weekday throughout the year. It is forming the participants into more effective Christians in the best way; through the Word.

At least that was a broad sampling of some of my activities throughout the year. If there arise questions or curiosities about these or other activities, the querulous are warmly welcomed to call me and I will be glad to describe a particular facet of my work in more detail.

As I finish this page, it is still raining outside; but it is a gentle rain, watering, softening, an enlivening. May the Holy Spirit do the same kind of gentle work among us now and always.

Your servant in Christ,
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, Creighton MacGill,
Cindy Huff, Pastor Kenneth Elkin,
Bud Hershberger, Council President,
Phil Thomas, Chairman

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 regularly to address matters crucial to the well-being of our Church.

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

The "Working Description of Committee Functions" adopted by Council in September, 1999, continues to guide the committee's activities. The committee will continue to focus on lay employee issues – filling vacancies and terminating employment when necessary, setting compensation and providing stipends, monitoring performance, reviewing job descriptions, and evaluating staffing levels, among others. The committee will continue to serve as a resource to Church Council through its presence at Council meetings and by meeting with the Executive Committee as necessary. Any parishioner concerns which come to the committee will be reduced to writing and forwarded to the Executive Committee of Church Council for disposition. The committee is also directly involved in the "Mission at the Crossroads" process which is now under way.

Staff Matters

- The Mutual Ministry Committee developed a "Severance Package" policy which was added to the "Policy Manual for Lay Employees" in May 2006.
- In May 2006, the committee again discussed the development of an annual evaluation process for Pastor Elkin. It was determined that the Executive Committee of Church Council along with two representatives of the Mutual Ministry Committee would take on this assignment. The resulting evaluation was expanded to involve the congregation, Church Council, and the Pastor. The evaluation process was undertaken on the evening of July 12, 2006 by the Executive Committee of Church Council along with two members of Mutual Ministry. The evaluation instrument, taken from Pastor and People: Making Mutual Ministry Work, targeted three components – the Pastor, Council, and congregation. The 40-question instrument was distributed to the evaluation team in advance allowing them to identify a rating and provide comment for each item.

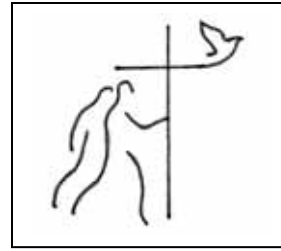
Following an in-depth discussion of each of the 40 items by the team on the evening of July 12, Nancy Larson, Council Secretary, developed a summary of those discussions. With some additional modifications, the report was adopted by the team following the 10:30 service on July 16. This finalized evaluation was shared with Church Council in executive session on August 21.

- The Committee accepted with regret the resignation of Mrs. Susan (Myers) Bennett , Financial Secretary, effective January 31, 2007 after four (4) years of service to the people of St. Mark's. Susan is now employed by the Williamsport Area School District.
- After advertising the position, screening applications, and conducting a series of interviews, Mr. Richard Wagner was hired to succeed Mrs. Bennett effective February, 7, 2007, as St. Mark's Financial Secretary.

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, Dick Wagner, 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



MISSION AT THE CROSSROADS

The Reverend Kenneth R. Elkin

The purpose of Mission at the Crossroads is to help us to plan how best to carry out the mission of our Lord Jesus Christ in this time and place.

The process began when the idea was introduced to the congregation Council in 2005. At that point, it was the Council's judgment that other things needed to be concluded before the process began, and so it was laid aside.

Beth Yenchko, ELCA regional Mission Director , has met with us a number of times during the year, offering guidance, insight, and helping us to manage the process. She is a skilled facilitator.

Some have been impatient with the gentle pace of the process, but it has been necessary so that each voice could be heard, and each thought evaluated. There was no master time-line that had to be followed. We worked on one step, and then decided what step to take next. We kept saying that it would take as long as was needed to do the job well.

The Council in April 2006 appointed a task-force chaired by Nancy Larson to get things underway. An initial gathering was held on May 17. Information began to be gathered. Questionnaires were given to persons attending worship on July 9, 16, and 23. Results were sent out for statistical tabulation. Members of the congregation were invited to attend any or all of the general gatherings. The second general gathering was held on June 28.

A Congregational learning event was held on September 13, where we received the reports from the information gathering, and began to make observations on the basis of that information.

A short series of questions was asked of 14 different groups within the congregation during the fall months. These responses in the visioning process were gathered and presented to the next gathering, held on December 6.

Interest-groups began to coalesce at the next gathering on January 17, and the brainstorming moved toward goal-writing. That work continued on February 7, and then the four groups centering on (1) growth and diversity, (2) evangelism, (3) youth Christian education, music, and (4) change and preserving tradition decided to each meet independently during February and March to flesh out goals and work on a mission statement.

The four groups met again jointly on April 11 and heard each other's reports. They clarified and emended portions of the reports, and then ranked the goals in order of importance. This brought to an end the work of the general group.

The Council received this report at its April meeting. The Council then determined to meet as a committee of the whole on May 19 and invite appropriate committees and other leaders to join in the conversation about how the goals might be implemented.

The goals are listed here, prior to that May 19 meeting. Many decisions must be reached and many resources brought together. The Council will perhaps assign some goals to standing committees and perhaps establish task forces for others. Suffice it to say right now that there are many things for us to be doing together in the life of St. Mark's congregation, and the enthusiastic participation of many persons is needed and necessary. All of the supporting ideas are not given here, but will of course be widely publicized after the May 19 meeting.

1. GOAL: To find effective ways of spreading the news of Jesus Christ in our church's activities both in and outside of the church.

2. GOAL: To offer non traditional/contemporary family worship service.

3. GOAL: To establish a warm and friendly atmosphere that will make visitors and potential new members feel welcome and encourage them to return to St. Mark's.

4. GOAL: To encourage our youth to become more involved in worship.

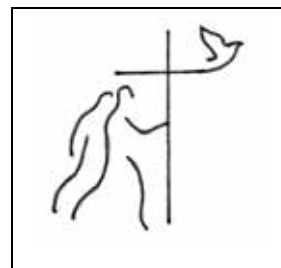
5. GOAL: To increase space for hospitality and related uses.

6. GOAL: To reach out to new residents.

7. GOAL: To entice our inactive members and to reinvigorate our active members to participate in the worship and social activities of St. Mark's.

8. GOAL: To enable and to encourage the congregation to become more family-like by providing opportunities more socialization.

9. GOAL To encourage members of the congregation to participate in one of the mission-opportunities that are available to us.



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 & Music committee, in an oversight capacity, continued to be very busy again this year within the congregation, as well as in the community. We have two marvelous spaces for public worship: the nave where we sang 104 Sunday liturgies, weddings, funerals, concerts, and other events; & the chapel where we sang 225 services of Morning Prayer, 13 Lenten services, funeral visitations, & more.

The committee is pleased to recognize musical groups serving in the church's worship: the senior choir, the contemporary choir, the Kantoei, the adult handbell choir, the family handbell choir, brass groups, and soloists.

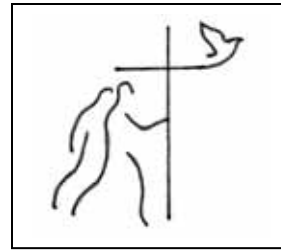
Non-perishable food, flowers, quilts, clothing, and financial contributions were gathered and then shared in support of various community, and global efforts. Outreach programs helped in our community by providing home communion for those people unable to attend regular church services; and we also reached out to them with carols, cards, visits, flowers, phone calls, and more.

Acknowledgment must be made for the diligent service of our committee members, musicians, the behind the scenes helpers, and those who share in worship leadership roles. It takes all of us together to praise God! 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. The service opportunities are always expanding. Opportunities exist especially for assistance in our Nursery during Sunday services.

In the coming year, one project will be the installation of the tower bell controller system. We also look to expand the number of persons, especially young persons, who are engaged in musical leadership in the church's worship.

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, David Elkin, Pat Thayer, Jessica Lewis, Jennifer Lewis, Joanna Petrie, Rachael Clausen, Jenn Mainwaring. We express our thankfulness to all those who participate in the Contemporary Choir, Senior Choir, the Kantoei, 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:

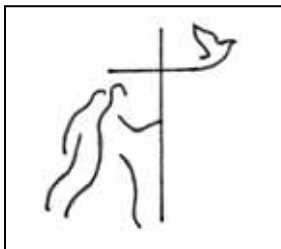
- ❖ The Suzuki Violin Concert under the direction of Pat Thayer;
- ❖ The annual Dialysis Concert;
- ❖ The Stained Glass Window and Ken Shafranko;
- ❖ The Lycoming Chamber Choir;
- ❖ The Williamsport Civic Chorus;
- ❖ The Lycoming College Tour Choir;
- ❖ Violin students of Pat Thayer;
- ❖ The Williamsport Music Club in two evening concerts;
- ❖ Organ Concert for Dr. Schweikle's Memorial Service;
- ❖ Kantoei Choirm Vivaldi's "Gloria:"
- ❖ Summer Choir Canp Musical, "The Seeds That Grew To Be A Hundred."

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:

- This is the last year with the current curriculum, *Life Together*. The new curriculum, *Growing in Christ*, published by Concordia, was selected after consulting with a committee of parents.
- 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.
- We have created a junior high class this year. Families have the option of beginning the confirmation process in sixth or seventh grade. Eighth graders confirmed the previous year will stay in that class to help the younger students. We hope to eliminate the “graduation” expectations of not returning to Sunday School after confirmation.
- The five members of the new confirmation class met on the third Sunday of every month with their families, mentors, Pastor and Bernadette. They all have been involved in a variety of service projects.
- Lou DeSeau and Bob Jones are currently teaching the high school class. The curriculum revolves around topics of concern with the students and revisits prayer and parts of the service. 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.
- The Middle Lounge Class for high school students and adults was guided by a rotation of leaders on a variety of subjects.
- Vacation Bible School, *Fiesta!*, was held in June, 2006. A total of roughly 40 youth attended.
- We hosted Lutheran Shared Ministry’s School of Religion.
- We organized the Eighth 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. Three candidates affirmed their baptism and became members of St. Mark’s on the Great Easter Vigil, April 7, 2007.
- Children’s Church continued on a once a month schedule.

- Joint celebrations for all Sunday Church School attendees were held in Fellowship Hall during the Sunday Church School hour at Christmas Eve, New Year's Eve 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 (54 to 58 years) celebration.
- Annual Church Picnic was held here at St. Mark's to avoid predicted severe thunderstorms. In spite of the change of location, about seventy people attended.
- The acting class performed scenes and monologues they had been studying on a Sunday evening and at Lunch 'n' Fellowship.
- Family Programs instituted last summer: St. Mark's Summer Playgroup met at various parks in and around the Williamsport/ Montoursville every other week. A Parenting Forum ran for eight weeks, during the normal Sunday School hour. St. Mark's Goes to the Movies invited families to go once a week to see family-rated (G, PG) films at the Mall.
- St. Mark's Church Choir Camp was held for one week last summer. The cast of 28 rehearsed "The Seeds that Grew to be a Hundred" for performance that Saturday evening and for Sunday service.
- Revolve Tour: This two-day, faith-building, event in Philadelphia was attended by for of our girls, a guest and their mothers.
- Brandon Fortin, along with Lou DeSeau, Matt Fortin and Pastor Elkin, helped to load the container for Liberia.
- Operation Christmas Child began in November. Families packed 36 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 attended by over a dozen children and appreciated by their parents.
- The Christmas Cookie-Baking event produced the cookies sent for our shut-ins.
- Christmas Caroling was accomplished by three teams of five-to-six carolers each.
- Christmas Pageant: "The Simple Gifts of Christmas," a musical retelling of the Christmas story, was presented by over 40 youth and adults on Sunday, December 24.
- Well over 100 pieces of winter warmers, scarves, hats, and gloves were collected for the Kid's Clothes Closet. 110 teddy bears were also collected and given to the Pregnancy Care Center and the Wise Options for Women shelter.
- The John Bower Sunday Church School Basketball League for our youth began in December and continued on through February of 2006. 23 of our youth helped to create three teams in conjunction with Messiah Lutheran. Coach Rick Robertson headed the teams with Jeff Hershey and Kirk Owen assisting him.
- 96 cans of soup and over to \$118 were collected for "Souper Bowl Sunday", held in January.
- A monthly Fun Night was instituted in February and has continued to be well attended.
- The confirmation class went to Philadelphia.
- The confirmation class prepared and led a Children's Church service.
- The Annual Easter Egg Hunt and breakfast with Pastor Elkin was held on Saturday, April 8, 2007.
- The St. Mark's Old Fashion Church Family picnic is scheduled for Sunday, June 3, 2007.
- Summer Choir Camp will be held this summer. They will rehearse and present "IN THE BEGINNING... a Musical Story based on Genesis 1 and 2," by Dick Lakey
- Nursery and acolyte schedules continue to be created and followed.
- Family hand bell and contemporary choirs continue under the direction of Dick Lakey.

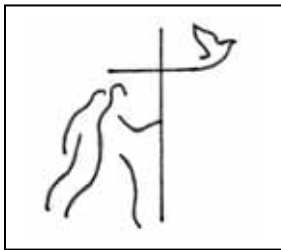
Outreach/Continuing Education:

- Synod Assembly: Sharon and Bernadette set up St. Mark's display of our milestone ministry. Bernadette attended the assembly and manned the display during breaks.
- Sharon and Bernadette attended the 2006 Summer Training Event: "INVEST IN A LIFE" at St. John's U.C.C., in Lewisburg.
- Habitat for Humanity: Three of our youth, along with several adults, worked all day on the Charles Street project.
- Bernadette and Sharon 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.
- We became very involved with campus ministry this year.
 - Through Penn College we served dinner for their campus ministry group twice.
 - Pans of lasagna were made for a fund-raising dinner for their mission trip.
 - Sharon went on a mission trip to D.C. with the Penn College UCM group.
 - Penn College students made a presentation about their mission trip during Sunday School.
 - We created finals week “survival kits” for students of the Penn College UCM.
 - We sent care packages and “survival kits” to our own students in school.
- 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.

Sharon and Bernadette are involved in the planning of the Synod Assembly for June, 2007. At the Assembly, they will be manning a display on St. Mark’s Milestone Ministry as well as conducting a workshop on milestones.

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.

The purpose of the Social Ministry Committee is to proclaim Jesus Christ to each other and to the entire 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 congregation and the community included:

- Hosting the community on our front lawn for the Fourth of July festivities. We provided refreshments, trinkets, information about St. Mark’s, and good cheer. Monetary donations are accepted on behalf of St. Anthony’s Center.
- Welcoming vicars Matthew & Elisabeth Schuster to our area by hosting a question & answer program about their training & service to God. We remain in contact with them as they continue to serve in the Jersey Shore area.
- Providing information on Organ Donor Awareness Sunday in the form of a temple talk by Dr. Drew Haussmann. Additional information & literature was available in the Narthex.
- Entertaining a new group of residents & their aides at the Selinsgrove Center during the Christmas season with songs, a story, refreshments, companionship & gifts. More than 10 members of the congregation made this trip.
- Supporting the work of the American Rescue Workers by collecting canned goods for their Christmas baskets to the needy.
- Collecting hygiene items and making monetary donations to the Shepherd of the Streets.
- Working at a Habitat for Humanity site during the “Lutheran Build” on Charles St.

- Providing lunch for the family and workers at the Dove Street Habitat for Humanity site.
- Supporting the work of the Pregnancy Care Center by donating clothing, baby items, and hygiene products for the newly born and their mothers. The Newberry Branch of NGA assists us with clothing for new mothers, as it is available.
- Teaming with the Women of St. Mark's in collecting school kits, sewing kits, layettes, and hygiene kits for Lutheran World Relief.
- Collecting a variety of non-perishable food for the United Churches Food Pantry several times per year.
- Participating in meetings of the Interfaith Hospitality Network as a step to ending homelessness for families experiencing difficulties in our community.

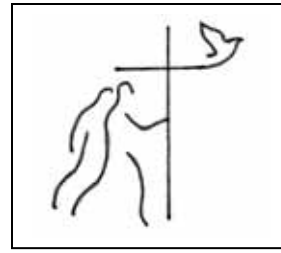
Pastor and other members of the congregation provide service to our community and beyond by donating their time to St. Anthony's Center, Shepherd of the Streets, a dental mission trip to Tanzania, and the New Windsor Service Center.

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.

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 welcome any member who would like a more active role in this service on behalf of our Lord.

**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. Stephen Ministers meet with care-receivers one hour weekly. 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:

- Stephen Ministry Sunday, February 11th. Stephen Ministers were introduced to congregation of 10:30 service. A "Temple Talk" letter from a care-receiver family was read at both 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services.
- An "Information Meeting" about Stephen Ministry was held March 25th for the purpose of recruitment.
- Stephen ministers met at Parsonage and Pastor Elkin hosted brunch.
- In October, Pastor Elkin spoke about the Society of the Holy Trinity.
- Andria Larson, Owner of Comfort Keepers spoke of their care-giving services.
- Our Bereavement Ministry continues.

Our ministry will continue to identify potential care-receivers with the assistance of the congregation and to provide quality care to those in need. Hopefully a new training class will begin soon.

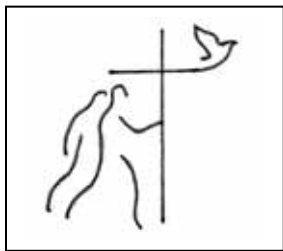
Stephen Ministers are:

- Jane Angle
- Larry Bair
- Lou DeSeau
- Larue Dieter
- Gene Jacobs
- Catherine Lundy
- Carol McMorris
- Dr. David McMorris
- Henrietta Tyson
- Elsie Sechler
- Connie Shaible
- Carl Weaver

Stephen Leaders are:

- Pastor Elkin
- Jane Larson

Jane Larson



PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

Richard Lakey & Lois Smith, Co-Chairpersons

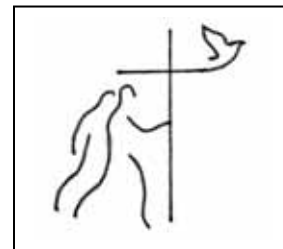
The purpose of the Parish Life Committee is to proclaim Jesus Christ to each other and to all the world by encouraging mutual care and fellowship within the congregation and presenting to the public a Christian image, which will reflect favorably on the work of Christ through this congregation.

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, Beth Shafranko, and may other faithful servants who so kindly add their assistance to meet the numerous requests during the church year.

Lois Smith & Richard Lakey



PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Frank Doeblner, 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. New Church sign installed corner of Mulberry & Canal Sts.
2. Drapes finished for stage
3. New trap installed for Little Lambs west restroom.
4. New micro switch installed in kitchen dishwasher.
5. Replaced cast iron drain lines for sinks on west side of kitchen.
6. Installed new hinges on southeast doors.
7. Water flow meter installed on Nave boilers.
8. Motion sensor light in East stairwell.
9. Commode for men's first floor restroom in Parish house.
10. Relay for lighting in Nave.

Painted:

1. Southwest stairwell walls and steps.
2. Southeast stairwell walls and steps.
3. East stairwell steps.
4. Offices for Bernadette & Sharon

Repaired:

1. Vacuum backpack repaired.
2. New pump & piping installed in courtyard fountain.
3. Roof leak over main lounge repaired.
4. Tiles in main lounge replaced.
5. Cleaned, repaired and painted wall in basement.
6. Rewired old floor buffer.
7. Replaced light switch in Fellowship Hall.
8. Replaced doorknob for garbage room.

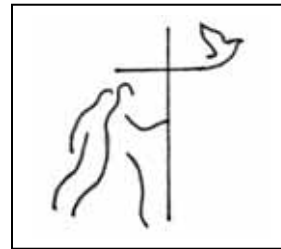
Others:

1. Trees pruned in courtyard & north side of church.
2. Spread mulch in courtyard and around the church.
3. Little Lambs purchased closet for Sunday School materials.
4. Preventive maintenance on boilers completed for 2006.

5. Purchased new Vacuum backpack and using old one on second floor of parish house.

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 thank you to each member of the committee who generously gave their time and talents to our various projects.

Frank Doeblner



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.

The committee spent a great deal of time this year working with Judy Reid, a local weaver, to create an antependium for the altar in the chapel. We reviewed several designs finally deciding on the best one for the chapel. The construction of the cloth took several months but it is completed and very beautiful. Funds for the project came from a gift from Susie Hasskarl.

We postponed construction of a more elaborate water feature for the chapel and purchased a temporary one from Town and Country Pools.

A new sign directing visitors & others to the church was discussed, constructed and is in place on Mulberry Street.

For some time we have discussed ways to increase

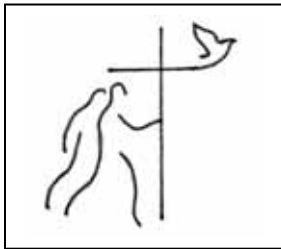
storage space in some areas of the parish house, most notably the choir room, organ room and the Crossways room. We would like to improve the appearance of those areas and selected some cabinetry at Grizzly. We secured approval for this work and it will be done in the summer months.

The photographs of the past clergy and deaconesses are framed, the boards are covered and the finished products are hung in the hallway near the choir room. Lighting will be added later.

Most recently we are working with the high school class to select paint for their Sunday school room.

Thanks to a great committee- Lucille Weaver, Jane Larson, Bob Miller, John Hoffman & special thanks to Pastor Elkin for all his help and 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.

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

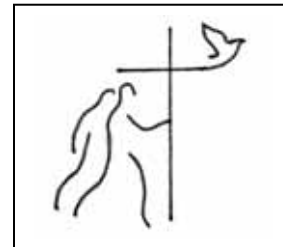
This year we arranged for various maintenance items, talked about some needs for painting in the spaces they utilize and planning for special maintenance projects to be done in the summer.

Probably our largest project will be to construct an outdoor play area in a portion of the parking lot. The lot will have to be refurbished after the bridge construction work. It is Holly's plan to secure grants for various portion of the job and do the actual construction after the bridge is completed in the summer of 2007.

Our working relationship has been mutually beneficial to the nursery school and to St. Mark's and we look forward to being together for many years.

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

Joyce Hershberger



STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Eric Comini

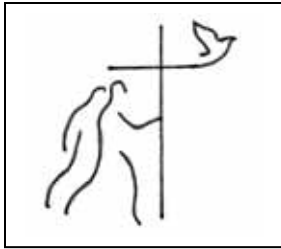
The purpose of the Stewardship Committee is to proclaim Jesus Christ to each other and to all the world by initiating programs for the development of good use of all of the resources entrusted to us by God.

The Committee used the Consecration Sunday approach for the annual stewardship campaign. Consecration Sunday was held on October 15, 2006. The Reverend Gregory Kramer was the guest

preacher for Consecration Sunday this year. He also presented a workshop on "Planned Giving" after the luncheon.

The children of St. Mark's helped in Consecration Sunday as well. They were given their own children's church offering envelopes and a bank to encourage their giving.

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.

The archives of the Church is important and it is a never ending job. Each week we could be given something to add to our collections..... some weeks there is nothing but still there are many things from the past that must be recorded. This is a voluntary job and there are only a few people who seem to be interested in assisting with this work.

It has been almost 6 years since we began sorting and filing memorabilia.....our files have been used several times for research and it is so good to be able to find something when we want it. Our most difficult problem is matching names and dates to photos and ephemera. Items are placed on the bulletin board in the choir hallway from time to time but I find not too many people use this area. The narthex is too small to have more than one bulletin board for such purposes, and not too many people use the office hallway so our purpose of posting photos and information is lost.

We hope you have seen the Photo Gallery of St. Marks pastors in the choir hallway. We found photos of our early pastors in church brochures.... they were very small. Ted Larson used a computer to enlarge the photos, then matted and framed them. It is a job well done and one that St. Mark's members should appreciate.

We began our work in an unused Sunday School Room....shelves were added to a closet which is now filled with boxes of history.....but this past year we lost our room which makes it more difficult to do our work. It is our hope that a permanent place will be found so we can have all of our work in one place...with much needed room for the future. Keeping and protecting our church history is an ongoing process and a necessity.

If you have a computer you are in luck! Gary Weber is always adding historical information on our new website. Check this out, you'll really be surprised!

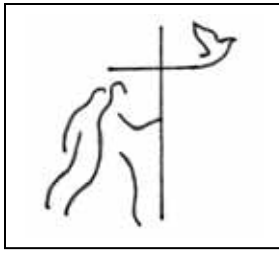
<http://www.stmarkswilliamsport.org>

We have written articles for THE LION with interesting information and it is our hope that you have found them informative. We will continue to write items of interest in the coming months. If you would like us to check something special please let me know (326-9459). An article on the history of St. Marks Newsletters is now in process.

History in any shape or form is interesting, especially of our family (St. Marks). Wouldn't you like to help us preserve this history? Maybe one of our teens, a newly retired member, or a senior member? Since we are volunteers our work hours are varied, but we try to meet once each Thursday morning for a few hours. I will be waiting to hear from YOU.

Many thanks to Dr. Ted Larson, Pam Jensen, Larry Lundy, Gary Weber & Roxie Larson for their kind help.

Dorothy Berndt



MEMORIALS COMMITTEE

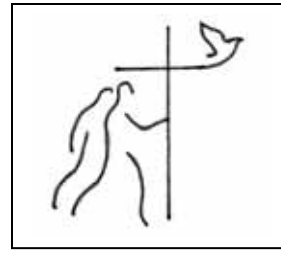
Carl & Beverly Hieber, Chairpersons

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:

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Wilbur Hughes | Joanne Lamade |
| Geraldine Martin | Ruth Best |
| Wilson Doebler, Jr. | Jane Doebler |
| Elizabeth Metzger | Frank Pile, Sr. |
| Walter Brandau | Ruth Lunger |
| Marie Shempp | |

Carl & Beverly Hieber



FINANCE ANNUAL REPORT

Jackie Kinney, Treasurer

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.

Finance Committee handled the following items in the course of the year:

1. Met with our portfolio managers from M & T Bank in February and August.
2. Heat Contribution envelope was well used this winter. Thanks again to the congregation.
3. Purchased the Mulberry Street Sign.
4. Purchased a Laptop Computer for usage by Pastor Elkin.
5. Disbursed Funds for Special Benevolence projects.
6. Prepared the annual Budget for action by Council and Congregation.
7. Handled many small regular management matters.
8. Accepted the resignation of our Financial Secretary, Sue Bennett, and thanked her for her work performance of the past number of years.

Thanks to Barb Thomas, Brenda Bittner, Bud and Joyce Hershberger, Creighton MacGill, Larry Lundy, Charlie Fortin, Art Decker, Carl Hieber, Audrey Albright and Pastor Elkin for all your help with the Financial Matters.

Jackie Kinney

ST MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
FINANCIAL REPORT
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2006

GENERAL FUND:

INCOME:	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Envelope: Pledges	\$266,401	\$248,000
Other Religious Income	13,377	14,100
Parking Lot/Rentals	17,577	17,500
Transfer From Investment Fund	11,558	10,000
Welker/Capital-General	19,333	19,000
Welker/Benevolence-General	2,148	2,000
Heat Envelope Income	6,639	2,000
Total Income	\$337,033	\$312,600
EXPENSES:		
Staff	\$213,786	\$209,225
Administration	16,962	15,700
Worship & Music	4,444	5,350
Christian Ed/Youth	5,971	8,300
Property	65,688	66,700
Benevolence & Charity	19,273	27,125
Total Expenses	\$326,124	\$332,400
INCOME LESS EXPENSE	\$10,909	(\$19,800)

DEDICATED BENEVOLENCE INCOME:

Hunger, Food, Blankets, G Missions, St. Anthony Shepherd, Thanks-Offering, Mossy Foot, Misc,	\$5,505
Capital Income	2,318
Organ Fund	726
Theological Fund	145

MEMORIAL FUND:

Balance as of December 31, 2005	\$5,886
Gifts	9,802
Disbursements	-6,866
Balance as of December 31, 2006	<u>\$8,822</u>

INVESTMENT FUND:

Balance as of 12/31/05	\$484,765
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Income:

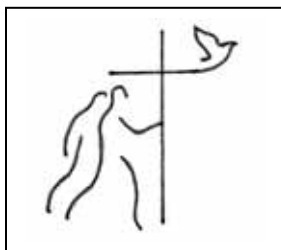
Gifts to SS Endowment	\$443
Interest/Dividends	20,237
Total Income	\$ 20,680

Expenditures:

Fees	(\$8,538)
Transfers to Gen. Fund Checking	-11888
N. Schultz Transfer	-3845
Total Expenditures	\$ (24,271)

Market Value Change

	\$ 37,251
Balance as of 12/31/06	\$ 518,425



WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Shirley Hill & Louise Kneeder, Co-Chairperson

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 Women of St. Mark's is a functioning member of the churchwide Women of the ELCA, as a unit of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. We strive to uphold the mission and high standards of our governing body. Our faith in Jesus Christ directs our support of ministries at home and around the world.

Our quilters continue to meet each week to complete quilts. Quilt tops and school bags are made by individuals at home. On Blanket Sunday in October we displayed the quilts and some of the school kits, health kits, sewing kits, layettes, and soap bars donated by the congregation. These were sent, as well as a monetary collection to purchase blankets, to Lutheran World Relief. In addition, sweaters, sweatshirts, and jeans left over from our rummage sale went to Lutheran World Relief. T-shirts were sent to Liberia. All other clothing left over was given to local charitable groups.

Two rummage sales a year provide the funds which enable us to operate our budget. We are grateful to Thrivent Financial for Lutherans who match the funds we raise from our sales. The greatest portion of these funds was distributed to the following charities:

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. We also purchased items for our own church as needed.

Two fellowship activities provided social interaction. Our annual Women's Dinner and a congregational kitchen shower were intergenerational. The kitchen shower added the benefit of restocking our church kitchen.

We continue to invite additional members, particularly younger women, to our diminishing ranks. Our sincere thanks go to the members of the entire congregation of St. Mark's for their consistent support in providing us with materials and supplies for our projects. We rejoice in the cooperation of all our church groups, as we work together to achieve our common goals.

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 30, 2007**

Checking Account

Balance April 28, 2006 \$146.79

Income:

Offerings 23.00

Transfers Savings 2300.00

Bazaar 27.00

Total Income \$ 2,350.00 \$ 2,350.00

Total **\$ 2,496.79**

Expenses

Becky Miller Pryor (Ad Clothing Sale) 31.84

Korean Dancers (Women's dinner) 75.00

Shirley Hill (Tableware) 159.83

USSWO (Mission in-gathering) 100.00

Women ELCA (4 quarters) 200.00

St. Mark's (Bazaar Ad) 32.60

Diakon Lutheran (Deb Best) 30.00

Deb Buckman 100.00

(Needlework Guild Children's Clothing)

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 100.00

Habitat for Humanity

Church Women United 100.00

Lutheran World Relief

Project Comfort 100.00

Cash Gift to Lou DeSeau 100.00

American Rescue Workers 100.00

Women ELCA

(Liberia Container Shipping) 100.00

Total Expenses \$2429.27 -\$ 2,429.27

Balance 4-30-07 **\$ 67.52**

Savings Account

Balance April 28, 2006 \$ 1,763.20

Income:

2006 Clothing Sale \$727.25

(incl. \$260- withdrawal for change)

Thrivent (Matching Funds) 408.75

2006 Bazaar 1,042.34

(inc. withdrawal for change)

Thrivent Financial (matching funds) 735.00

Donation to '07 Clothing Sale 500.00

2007 Clothing Sale 700.50

(including \$260- withdrawal for change)

Interest 20.89

Total Deposits \$4,134.73 \$4,134.73

5,897.93

Withdrawals:

Change 4/07 Clothing Sale \$260.00

Change 10/06 Bazaar 300.00

Transfers to checking \$2,300.00

Total Withdrawals \$2,860.00 -\$2,860.00

Balance Savings 4-28-06 \$ 3,037.93