

**Give, and it will be given to you.
A good measure, pressed down, shaken together,
running over, will be put into your lap;
for the measure you give will be the measure you get
back."**

Luke 6:38



Artwork by Shirley Dieffenbach

The Report to the Annual Assembly

**May 18, 2008
St. Mark's Lutheran Church
142 Market Street
Williamsport, PA 17701**

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FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

BAPTISMS

Jack Fortin.....July 1

FIRST COMMUNIONS

Ezra Buckman.....November 18
Morgan Comini.....November 18
Kara Hershey.....November 18

RECEIVED BY AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

Clint Eppleman.....March 22
Todd Smith.....March 22

WEDDINGS

Deven Neece and Susan ReederJune 23
Shawn Williams and Dana Rowland.....July 7
Scott Ulmer and Lori Lorson.....September 8
Todd Fortin and Louann Hiller.....November 3
Bryan Kling and Vicki English.....November 1
Joseph Reiter and Rachel Clausen.....December 29
Bryan Taylor and Traci KinneyApril 12
Clint Eppleman and Megan Maiolo.....April 26

FUNERALS

Thomas Anstey.....May 30
Joanne Mackey..... June 9
Marian Rubendall.....June 11
Phyllis Maneva.....June 13
Elizabeth Busch..... July 3
Joanne UpdegraffJune 30
Kyle Neece.....July 19
Daniel Walz, Sr.....July 19
William Poff.....August 1
Robert Lamade..... August 3
Steven Simmons.....August 9
Geraldine ShipmanAugust 9
Louise KneedlerAugust 26
Lavina Schaefer..... August 28
Anna Belle SmithAugust 30
Col. Robert StuempfleSeptember 4 & 7
Jeannette Aderhold..... October 10
Kester Sobers.....November 7 & 9
Doris Buzzerd.....November 24
Leona Bogert.....November 29
Rob Curry.....December 27 & January 3
Calvin Bennett.....December 28
Rebecca Bennett (no relation to Cal)...December 28
Annette Lipousky.....January 22, 2008
John Hollenback.....February 23 & 26
Glenn Lunger..... March 1 & 2
Lucille Markel.....March 20
Earl Foulkrod.....March 28
Harold Brannaka.....April 2
Joseph Craven..... April 7

SENT BY LETTER OF TRANSFER

Linda, Stephanie & Barbara Herbst to St. Luke Church.

RECEIVED BY LETTER OF TRANSFER

- Jeff Wheeland was approved to become a member by Letter of Transfer from Bethany Church, Montoursville.
- Craig Johnson by Letter of Transfer from Messiah South Williamsport.

RECEIVED BY LETTER OF COMMENDATION

- Herbert Poff by Letter of Commendation from First United Methodist.
- Eleanor Waldeisen Whiting by commendation from Covenant Central Presbyterian Church



SYNOPSIS OF THE MINUTES OF CONGREGATION ASSEMBLIES

The **Annual Assembly** of the congregation was held on Sunday May 20, 2007 following the 10:30 service.

1. Elections for five Council seats were held, all nominees being elected.
2. Retiring council members were thanked for their service.
3. The booklet of reports of pastor, officers, committees and organizations of the church was received as it had been printed and distributed in the two prior weeks.
4. Committee chairs and the parish musicians were thanked for their service.
5. The meeting was adjourned without further business.

A **Special Assembly** of the Congregation was held on Sunday, December 9, 2007 following the 10:30 service for the purpose of action on the 2008 budget. It was approved by voice vote as presented.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Bud Hershberger, Council President

These are exciting and stimulating times we live in - certainly, this past year has been memorable for the challenges we faced and the successes we were able to achieve.

At our spring congregational assembly we welcomed new council members Donna Clark, Mike Jensen, Beth Shafranko and Jane Zimmerer. Deb Maggs was elected to a second term and we said thanks and farewell to Dot Berndt, John Burkholder, Frank Miller, all of whom had completed their second term.

The newly reorganized council got off to a fast start in May with a five hour retreat at Lycoming College. There was much discussion, a wonderful exchange of ideas and the establishment of ambitious goals for the coming year.

In June Joyce and I, along with Pastor Elkin as voting members, attended the annual synod assembly at Susquehanna University. It was an exciting two days with the eventual election after five ballots of Pastor Robert Driesen as the new Bishop of the Upper Susquehanna Synod (he won by a margin of two votes and Joyce and I take credit for the victory!)

Every year the summer season is busy but not as frantic as the other months. Then come the fall and the beginning of many activities. The stewardship committee was particularly busy and in December the congregation approved a budget of \$340,000 for 2008.

The winter months never slowed, especially with the very early arrival of Lent and Easter. Spring brought special excitement and relief at knowing the bridge project would soon end and the church would have a new southern exposure.

It bears repeating how blessed we are to

have such a superior staff to support the congregation and its endeavors. I personally feel very fortunate to work with an exceptional church council and hard working committees. Their reports are presented throughout this annual summary - I'm sure you will agree that great things are happening at St. Mark's!

~ Bud Hershberger



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

The Reverend Kenneth R. Elkin, Pastor
 Bud Hershberger, President
 Gary Weber, 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
 Beth Shafranko
 Eric Comini
 Nick Buckman
 Bob Jones
 Bob Miller
 Declan Jones, youth observer

A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

The Reverend Kenneth R. Elkin

The following is a sampling of the Pastor's activities, gleaned in semi-chronological order from the regular reports given to the Council during the year.

1. Pastor met with a new group of persons who began service as Communion visitors.
2. Pastor led the Wednesday Bible study time that concluded a study on the geography of the Holy Land during the spring. They explored C.S. Lewis' *Screwtape Letters* in the fall, and have begun enjoying *Pilgrim's Progress*.
3. Pastor served as accompanist for Donna's elementary school concerts in December and again in the spring.
4. Through the year, the Pastor met with a number of couples planning for marriages.
5. Pastor led the Thursday morning Bible study, which has been working on the Psalms, one each week.
6. Pastor led the Crossways group as they finished Paul's letters from prison during the spring. In the fall, they examined the Apostles' Creed, line by line. In the winter, they explored the work of Martin Luther and the first 20 articles of the Augsburg Confession of 1530
7. *The Way* for 2006-2007 concluded on Sunday 5/27, Pentecost.
8. *The Way* for 2007-2008 began in September and concluded on 5/12, Pentecost. Pastor Elkin and Bob Schultz continue to be the leaders for this wonderful effort to mold and encourage discipleship.

9. Pastor and Bernadette had a series of contacts with Carlos Saldivia of First Contact Graphics culminating in a filmed interview with the Pastor. Small portions of the interview will be readied for placement on our website and YouTube. Last summer, a postcard was developed, printed, and sent to each pastor in the Upper Susquehanna Synod (except the most local ones) and to selected Lutheran pastors in the central region of the state, concerning our availability to serve local college students. First Contact also recast our Holy Week newspaper ads.
- 10 Pastor and Becky Miller Pryor gave an interview to Lou Hunsinger concerning Family Promise for the Webb Weekly.
- 11 Pastor and Jane Larson began the new Stephen Ministry training group on June 21 and continued on 17 Thursday evenings after that. The new group of five Stephen Ministers was commissioned on November 4. New and current Stephen Ministers were honored at a luncheon for them and their spouses on Sunday after the liturgy on November 4.
- 12 Pairs of catechetical students were with the Pastor on July 31, Aug 1, and Aug 2, to get more of a flavor of what happens in the life of the parish besides Sunday morning. They were very busy days, and the students were able to help with a number of tasks as well as engage the pastor in conversation.
13. Pastor Elkin served as the chief organizer for the summer forums held each Sunday morning at 9:15. Topics included:
 - 6/10 *Family promise*
 - 6/17 Archaeological digging in Israel
 - 6/24 Carl Hieber's medical mission
 - 7/01 Carl Hieber, part II
 - 7/08 Bishop Main
 - 7/15 Archaeology, part II
 - 7/22 Dr. Smith, Shepherd of the Streets
 - 7/29
 - 8/5 & 8/12 *Martin Luther* film
 - 8/19 & 8/26 readers' theater
14. In October, Pastor engaged in an archaeological trip to the island of Menorca, off the coast of Spain. A first century BC Roman town and military camp is the excavation site. A one day side-trip to Granada for Pastor and Katy was added in order to see the Alhambra. The trip was described in pictures at Luncheon Fellowship and again on Wednesday evening November 14 at 7:00 in Fellowship Hall. The Pastor wishes to express thanks to the many persons who accepted and continued in responsibilities during the pastor's time in Spain. All of our planned activities continued without interruption.
15. Pastor and several members offered time at the concession stand at Little League on behalf of the Arts Council mural project, in return for Mr. Saldivia's kindness in helping us develop the postcard.
- 16 The "75, Single, and Still Praising God" Milestone was well-received by the more than 20 honorees on August 26. Thanks are due to Bob and Bernadette Jones, Sharon Comini, Becky Miller Pryor, Lois Smith, and others who helped to plan and execute the event, as well as youth servers Declan and Sara Jones, Sara Larson, and Marc Kinney.
17. The In-Between breakfast was held on September 2 in Fellowship Hall, in-between summer and fall, and in-between the services. Good food and good conversations.
18. Pastor often has the pleasure of giving tours of the nave, including to two children who had questions about the meaning of the church windows.
19. Pastor welcomed Sister Henry Lambert to the Luncheon Fellowship on September 19, and led a question and answer time with her.
20. The catechetical group added first-year participants, and met the third Sunday each month through May. The method of the meeting of mentors with students while the pastor meets with parents has been very successful.
21. New Worship Task Force met and agreed to a schedule of a Service of Word and Prayer on the first Sunday of the month and a Service of Word and Praise on the third Sunday of the

month, The first of these was held on November 4th. Others were postponed until this coming summer.

22. Pastor and Bernadette met with three students for three sessions to prepare for First Communion which was celebrated on November 18.
23. The parish welcomed Bishop Driesen on December 2 at worship, at a forum, at lunch, and with the Council. He helped us celebrate the Third Grade Bible Milestone.
24. Pastor helped to lead the group of persons who took a Christmas party to a room of profoundly disabled persons at the Selinsgrove Center on December 4. We should do something for residents and staff at some other season of the year also.
25. Pastor and Council members and spouses were the guests of Bud and Joyce Hershberger at a dinner held at the Women's Club on December 5.
26. Pastor and the members of *The Way* got together on December 15 and baked 60 dozen cookies which were given to shut-ins, a few to the members of the group itself, and to the congregation at the first service on Christmas Eve.
27. Pastor presided at the Remembrance Service held on Sunday, December 30. More than 50 were in attendance and expressed appreciation for this event. Our special thanks to the Burkholders who continue to make the beautiful keepsake ornaments we give to each person naming a loved one.
28. Pastor helped to facilitate the Bread-Baking event led by Katy Elkin on January 2 in the church kitchen. Fourteen persons (the absolute maximum) took part and had a great time.
29. Pastor worked with three boys in preparation for service as acolytes.
30. Pastor led the Wednesday Lenten series of meal, worship, and study, at noon and evening, this year under the theme *Where Jesus walks; where we walk*. Each week's study-time had a different focus.

Ash Wednesday – *In deep conversation with the Father*. The sermon centered on Jesus' prayer with the Father, and our prayer following that model.

Second Wednesday – *At the place of Baptism* In study-time we viewed photo of places of Baptism in Israel and the wild variety of shapes of fonts in the ages of the church, and discerned the theological message of those shapes and configurations.

Third Wednesday – *In hometown* We viewed a brief video about Sepphoris, a Roman town very near to Nazareth, and discovered the possibility that Jesus had a more cosmopolitan background than we usually imagine; and then thought about our own hometown.

Fourth Wednesday – *At work in daily life* We viewed photos of daily life in Jesus' day, daily life in Israel these days, and thought about our own roles in daily life today.

Fifth Wednesday – *In conflict* We participated in a simulated archaeological dig at tables in Fellowship Hall, finding shrapnel from bombs landing on our imagined site near Ashkelon in Israel this week, and also digging to find remnants of conflict from a Roman camp 2,000 years ago. We went home with a series of questions for reflection on what we would feel, what we would do, and what scripture resources we might use if we were in Ashkelon today, if we were in that Roman camp 2,000 years ago, and as we live here in Williamsport today.

Sixth Wednesday – *On the way of the Cross* We examined our series of watercolors of the way of the cross, with their many connections to the Bible, and meditated on our own lifepath.

Wednesday in Holy Week – *In the meal of the covenant* We keep the Seder, the remembrance of the Passover.

31. Pastor met with fellow members of the Society of the Holy Trinity for overnight retreats in May and December and a one-day retreat in March.
32. Pastor and Bernadette led the catechetical trip to Gettysburg on March 15. About 20 persons took part in the venture. We were hosted by Seminarians Matt and Lisa Schuster, graduating in May, and preparing for ordained ministry in the Upper Susquehanna Synod.

33. Pastor presided at our Holy Week services: Morning Prayer each weekday, Seder, Holy Thursday Communion at noon and evening, Good Friday community service, and evening Tenebrae, Great Vigil of Easter on Saturday, and our two Palm Sunday and two Easter Day services; for a total of 15 services from Sunday to Sunday. Thanks to the many persons who took on leadership roles and supporting roles in all of the Holy Week events. We had great cooperation.

ITEMS OF ECUMENICAL INTEREST

1. We welcomed the Lycoming College Tour Choir for a concert on Thursday, May 10 in the nave, in preparation for their European tour.
- 2.. Pastor filled in for the Shepherd of the Streets several days during the year. Pastor Elkin spoke briefly with pastors of the West Branch Conference in regard to making Holy Communion available to our parishes weekly.
3. St. Marks was the first congregation to agree to serve as a host congregation for Family Promise. The program cannot begin until we get 13 congregations to agree to serve. At the moment, we have 7, with others expressing interest. [The pastor has had to turn away several families who might well have qualified for assistance under such a program.] Pastor and Becky Miller Pryor have met with folks from other congregations to introduce this including about 20 persons in the leadership teams of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, the American Baptist pastors monthly meeting, etc. We are still searching for the right person to serve as the president of the fledgling organization. In the meantime, Pastor serves as the Vice-president of the steering committee.
4. Pastor served as the musician for the regional retreat of the Society of the Holy Trinity meeting in Ligonier on April 30-May 1. Since it was at an Orthodox retreat center, there was no organ. Pastor wrote antiphons and psalm tones, etc. for use with tone-chime accompaniment. The presenter was Dr. Pfatteicher of Pittsburgh, who spoke on the daily prayer offices and more. [He was the author of numerous books, including the *Commentary on LBW, the LBW*

Desk Edition, Festivals and Commemorations, Commentary on the Occasional Services, etc.].

5. Together with Bud and Joyce Hershberger, Pastor attended the West Branch Conference annual assembly at Messiah Church on April 29. Pr. Anke Deibler was elected to be the next Dean of the Conference, and a new structure for the Conference Cabinet was approved. Each congregation's synod assembly voting members will be the members of the Cabinet, which will meet quarterly.
6. Pastor attended the Bishop's Retreat held at Wellsboro on April 30/May 1. The presenter was Dr. Wengert, from the Philadelphia Seminary, speaking on the continuing significance and applicability of the Small Catechism in today's setting.
7. Pastor and Lou DeSeau took part in the working bus trip to New Windsor MD on May 7. It was a very busy and successful day for 37 persons from all around the area.
8. Pastor, together with Bud and Joyce Hershberger as voting members, Donna Zierdt Elkin as Associate in Ministry voting member, Bernadette Jones and Sharon Comini workshop leaders, Eric Comini as a visitor, and Sara Jones as a Page, attended the Synod Assembly on June 15-16 at Susquehanna University. The highest profile decision was the election of a Bishop inasmuch as Bishop Main was retiring. Another important decision concerned restructuring of the Synod, as well as usual decisions about budget and ongoing work.
9. Bishop Main preached at St. Mark's on Sunday, July 8, and was the leader of the Forum at the 9:00 hour that day also.
10. Bette McCrandall, our missionary in Liberia, was home during the summer, and was planning to visit us. However, she was diagnosed with cancer and engaged in a series of treatments. They were successful, and she returned to her work in Liberia in the fall.
11. Bishop-Elect Driesen's installation was on October 21 at Susquehanna University.
12. Donna held her final workshop as Synod Cantor on October 13.

- 13 Pastor gave a presentation on the Tiberias excavation to an enthusiastic senior group at First United Methodist in Muncy on October 24.
- 14 Pastor gave a presentation on the Tiberias excavation to an ecumenical group at Pine Street United Methodist Church on October 31.
15. Pastor gave a presentation on the Adult Catechumenate (*The Way*) to the Conference Cabinet on Thursday, November 1.
16. In January, we began to make plans to share arrangements for Consecration Sunday with St. Luke Church next fall.
17. Lycoming College Chamber Choir visited on March 30, and performed admirably. A composer in residence from Poland was also present and a work was premiered.
18. Pastor led the Bible study with students at Penn College on April 7 and 14 at 8:00 P.M. Pastor used several of our icons to prime the conversation.
19. Sharon Comini has been tapped to serve as the interim coordinator for the campus ministry. The predecessor and spouse are moving out of state very shortly. Decisions about permanent staffing will be made during the summer.

~ The Rev. Kenneth R. Elkin



MUTUAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE

Carl Hieber, 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, Ruth Rees, Beth Shafranko, Pastor Kenneth Elkin, Bud Hershberger, Council President, Carl Hieber, Chairman

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.

Activities

1. Approved the raising of Richard Wagner to the job rate after his probationary period of service as Financial Secretary.
2. Thanked departing committee members and welcomed new ones.
3. Received the annual report of the Ministry Review Team concerning pastor and parish.
4. Received the reports of the staff review conversations with the pastor.
5. Made salary recommendations to the Finance Committee.
6. Developed a basic job description for Publicity Director and sent it to council.
7. Reviewed the work of the part-time staff and agreed to encourage them in their work.
8. Began to work on the updating of our policy for those who work with the children and youth in the parish.
9. And, as always, discussed activities and events in parish life and their impact on the life and work of our pastor, staff, and 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, 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.



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.

1. The Council met in special 5-hour retreat session on May 19, 2007 to decide how best to proceed in each of the nine goal areas and make assignments for continuing work. The Council also adopted the following mission statement:

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church
is a congregational family
united in Christ,
teaching, preaching,
celebrating the Sacraments
and sharing the Word of God
as it sends its members forth
in a life of service and love
in our community and the world.**

2. The Council has listed the various goals in its monthly reports as a reminder, and noted when activities and projects have been done in response to these goals.
3. The Council has covenanted to meet in special session on May 31, 2008 to review the actions over the past year and determine what should happen next.



A special thank you is extended to Shirley Dieffenbach who conceived and designed the illustration for our report booklet. Thank you Shirley for our beautiful artwork and willing heart.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Beth Shafranko, 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. We have two marvelous spaces for public worship: the nave where we sang 108 Sunday liturgies, weddings, funerals, concerts, and other events; and the chapel where we sang 225 services of Morning Prayer, 13 Lenten services, funeral visitations, and 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, the recorder players as well as the many soloists both vocal and instrumental.

We have been fortunate indeed to have the Lycoming College Chamber Choir as well as their full choir sing during several of our morning services as well as one evening presentation. We are very appreciative of those talented young adults directed by our congregational member Fred Thayer and accompanied by Mr. Lakey.

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. New members to this group are always welcome.

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 as well as the delivery of flowers to those in the hospitals and nursing homes.

The installation of the tower bell controller system was completed this year and once again music is heard downtown from St. Mark's bell tower, a beautiful sound indeed!.

We also look to expand the number of persons, especially young persons, who are engaged in musical leadership in the church's worship. A new ad hoc committee (The New Worship Committee) has been formed as a result of Mission at the Crossroads. It's purpose is to discuss and then propose new ways to institute some additional forms of worship and music in a new setting or in addition to our current settings. This was tried to a small extent in November. There are other considerations underway with input from Mr. Lakey and Pastor Elkin.

Children's Church continues to occur one Sunday morning each month during the 10:30 service. Attendance has grown in the kids service with grandparents and other interested adults attending also. The children do a terrific job and invite each of you to join them sometime in the Chapel. The service is completed in time for the attendance of all to join us for Communion in the Nave.

We all have gifts that were bestowed upon us by God that need to be used in ways that benefit the whole assembly, and carry out our mandate – to

proclaim Jesus Christ to all through his Word and Sacraments. Join in!

~ Beth Shafranko

NEW WORSHIP TASK FORCE REPORT

It is the task of the New Worship Task Force to proclaim Jesus Christ to each other and to all the world by considering appropriate new additions to our worship service.

The task force met and agreed to a schedule of a Service of Word and Prayer on the first Sunday of the month and a Service of Word and Praise on the third Sunday of the month both at 8 p.m.

The first was held on November 4 and the second planned for November was canceled because of weather.

At a subsequent meeting we decided to postpone the new worship service until at least April when we would have more daylight.

The pre-service music on the third Sunday of the month might be devoted to a hymn sing or other songs of various sorts.

We also encouraged the expansion of Children's Church, blessing of nursery children during communion, expanding youth leadership in worship and using parts of children's church music in the service.

The task force will meet in May to discuss progress and suggest activities. We welcome thoughts, ideas and suggestions from the congregation in the area.

Thanks to Eric Comini, Beth Shafranko, Brenda Bittner, Pastor and Donna Elkin and Bud Hershberger.

~ Joyce Hershberger



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, Nick Buckman, Deb Buckman, Ray Huff, Donna Elkin, Pat Thayer, Jessica Lewis, Caitlin Oakley and Stephanie Fortin,

We express our thankfulness to all those who participate in the Contemporary Choir, 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 annual Dialysis Concert and guest organist, Nancy Ackerman;
- ❖ The Lycoming College Chamber Choir under the direction of Dr. Fred Thayer;
- ❖ The Lycoming College Tour Choir under the direction of Dr. Fred Thayer ;
- ❖ The Lycoming College Choir under the direction of Dr. Fred Thayer;
- ❖ The Williamsport Civic Chorus;
- ❖ Various students of the Susuki Violin Program under the direction of Pat Thayer;
- ❖ The Williamsport Music Club in two evening concerts;
- ❖ Organ Concert for Dr. Schweikle's Memorial Service;
- ❖ Summer Choir Camp Musical and all the folks involved in it's production

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 services;
- 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:

- We continue to use *Growing in Christ*, published by Concordia, as the main curriculum for our Sunday School program.
- 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.
- Our middle school class of 6-8 graders is working in the *Living in Grace* series. This

will be replaced next year by the *To Know, to Live, to Grow* program by Augsburg Fortress.

- The confirmation class increased in size to ten members who 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 continue 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 3-4 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, *Great Bible Reef*, was held in June, 2007. A total of roughly 40 youth attended.
- Confirmation Camp was held July 16-18, 2007, led by Pr. Elkin, supported by Bernadette and Sharon.
- We hosted Lutheran Shared Ministry's School of Religion.
- We organized the Tenth 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. Six candidates affirmed their baptism and renewed their membership in St. Mark's on the Great Easter Vigil, March 22, 2008.
- Children's Church continued on a once a month schedule. A Children's Summer Chapel was tried during June, July and August.
- 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; The Blessing of the Keys was offered to those youth who became new drivers; and the Wedding Anniversary (54 to 58 years) celebration. A new milestone was added: 75+, Single and Still Praising God—for our single seniors.

- We hosted *Captive Free*, with several families providing accommodations. In return, they performed here at a pot luck supper.
- Annual Church Picnic was held at Montoursville's Indian Park.
- Family Programs instituted last summer: St. Mark's Summer Playgroup met at various parks in and around the Williamsport/Montoursville every other week. St. Mark's Goes to the Movies invited families to go once a week through July to see family-rated (G, PG) films at the Community Arts Center.
- St. Mark's Church Choir Camp was held for one week last summer. The cast of 36 rehearsed "In the Beginning..." for performance Sunday evening, August 5. 14 additional members and guests assisted.
- Revolve Tour: This two-day, faith-building, event in Philadelphia was attended by two of our girls, a guest and their mothers.
- Operation Christmas Child began in November. Families packed 37 shoe boxes filled with small gifts for needy children around the world.
- Family Advent Wreath Making/Luncheon/Bishop Driesen's visit was attended by over 60 people on the first Sunday of Advent.
- Kids' Morning Out was attended by over a dozen children, including middle school assistants.
- The five adults attending the Christmas Cookie-Baking event produced the cookies sent for our shut-ins.
- Christmas Caroling was snowed out, but Pr. Elkin and Beth Shafranko visited our shut-ins and delivered their cookies.
- Christmas Pageant: "A Night for Dancing," a celebration 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 Williamsport Police Station, the Pregnancy Care Center and the Wise Options for Women shelter.
- Katy Elkin returned for a day of bread baking with the ladies (and some of our youth!) of St. Mark's.
- The John Bower Sunday Church School Basketball League for our youth began in December and continued on through February of 2008. 22 youth created two teams. Coach Rick Robertson headed the teams with Jeff Hershey and Kirk Owen assisting him.
- 146 cans of soup and over to \$31 were collected for "Souper Bowl Sunday", held in February.
- We took three of our youth to the middle school retreat at Camp Mt. Luther.
- Fun Night continues as a monthly event.
- The confirmation class went to Gettysburg.
- Bernadette held an egg-dying session for adults and older youth.
- The Annual Easter Egg Hunt and breakfast with Pastor Elkin was held on Saturday, March 22, 2008.
- The St. Mark's Old Fashion Church Family picnic is scheduled for Sunday, June 1, 2008.
- Summer Choir Camp will be held this summer. The program is being decided by Bernadette and Dick Lakey.
- Nursery and acolyte schedules continue to be created and followed.
- A meeting of nursery volunteers was held to review and update the nursery policies. A report of this meeting is forthcoming.
- 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. They conducted a workshop on

developing this ministry. Sara Jones attended as a page.

- Bernadette and Sharon attended Little Lambs Open House with flyers about St. Mark's and Sunday School.
- Several of our youth attended the *See You at the Pole* events at their various schools.
- Sharon and Karen Boone attended the State Sunday School Convention in October.
- We continued involvement 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 the mission trip to NYC with the Penn College UCM group.
 - Penn College students made a presentation about their mission trip during Children's Church.
- 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 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 to our community in additional ways.

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.
- Welcoming Dr. Morris Smith (Shepherd of the Streets) and Sister Henry (St. Anthony's Center) as they explained their work in our community.
- Providing food and monetary donations to St. Anthony's Center.
- Entertaining the residents of the Selinsgrove Center during the Christmas season with songs, a story, and gifts for the residents and their caregivers.
- Supporting the work of the American Rescue Workers by collecting canned goods for their Christmas baskets to the needy.
- Collecting hygiene items, linens, 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.
- Collecting clothing and other needed items for twin boys in our congregation born prematurely.
- Collecting a variety of non-perishable food for the United Churches Food Pantry. This is an ongoing activity for our congregation.
- Assisting the Women of St. Mark's in their collection of school kits, hygiene and sewing kits, and infant layettes.
- Hosting three luncheons at various Habitat for Humanity building sites.
- Assisting our Family and Youth Coordinators with outreach to United Campus Ministries at Penn College.
- Representing our congregation as a member of Family Promise of Lycoming County.

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, and a mission trip to Africa.

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*
~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.

Stephen Ministry I continues to meet monthly on Thursday, 8 am – 10:30 am. Care-receivers are being served and concerned persons are being visited. Stephen Ministry I ministers are: Larry Bair, LaRue Dieter, Catherine Lundy, Carol McMorris, Dr. Dave McMorris, Connie Shaible, Gene Jacobs, Elsie Sechler, Lou DeSeau, Carl Weaver, Jane Angle, Henrietta Tyson, Pastor Elkin and Jane Larson.

Stephen Ministry II began the 50 hour training in June 2007 and commissioning occurred November 4. Five new Stephen Ministers are meeting every other Thursday at 5 pm and are now serving care-receivers. Stephen Ministry II ministers are: Kathy Eshelman, Gladys Knauss, Shirley Kinney, Larry Lehman and Mary Schultz.

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

~ 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 Photo Directory project was begun, and will be completed shortly.
2. Some of the *Mission at the Crossroads* goals have been listed under this area, but without specific persons assigned to them.
3. The Lenten meals proceeded smoothly.

4. Funeral meals, post-service fellowship, milestone brunches, and other fellowship events were marked throughout the year. We are indeed blessed to have excellent facilities to use in these ways.
5. We need to share the responsibilities more widely. Please assist in this hard but satisfying work.

~ 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.

1. The sidewalks at the west front of the property were paved, after considerable negotiation with PennDOT as to details, and additional easements granted. Bushes had to be moved, existing areas graded, tremendous amount of stones and cement waste had to be removed from the area, a thick layer of mushroom soil was applied, and in the fall, part of the area was seeded. Several members put in many hours of work to accomplish this, in addition to a seeding contract that was let.
2. Our long-anticipated sealing of the brick on the Parish House was done, and at the same time, a void left by the removal of an old air conditioner was filled.

3. The sign that we had in the west front lawn had to be removed, and was refurbished and attached to a sled-type base and placed on the roof of the chapel so that it can continue to beckon passersby.
4. Wheels were added to our display panels in Fellowship Hall, making them more flexible, and much more easily movable.
5. New storage cabinets were installed in the choir room and a linen closet in the Fellowship Hall.
6. Many light bulbs in the nave have been replaced with new technology fluorescents at a great reduction in wattage.
7. A new Japanese maple was planted in the west lawn in honor of the 53-57th Anniversary Milestone. This was a replacement for the tree that was lost in the sidewalk rebuilding.
8. A new air-conditioner was purchased for the second floor.
9. The new landscaping, stone sidewalk, and bench in our northwest bed was done by Tebbs Bros as a gift from Lamar Advertising. We added the bubbling fountain as a memorial.
10. Little Lambs completed several painting projects in the stairwells and other areas that they use.
11. Carpeting for the North Lounge was purchased and installed, and painting was done.
12. The rooftop HVAC unit was replaced.
13. Nick Buckman served as temporary sexton due to Lou DeSeau's recovery from surgery.
14. The wooden cross on the west end of the Parish House was removed for the sake of sealing the brick, and was refurbished and reinstalled.
15. Many small repairs are required around the buildings. Lou DeSeau does many of them.
16. A light was installed on the sidewalk canopy facing north to cover the approach to the building through St. Marks Place.
17. The office hallway water cooler was replaced from long-standing small memorial funds.
18. Surface bubbles on the Parish house roof were repaired.
19. The yard sign indicating office entrance was refurbished and greatly improved.
20. The office copier/printer was replaced and made available on our computer network.
21. The west front doors and windows were replaced with insulated, tinted glass, and with panic hardware. This is a major safety improvement to the nave.

22. New door was also installed on the west chapel entrance, with panic hardware.
23. Speaker hangers have been installed in Fellowship Hall.
24. Negotiations continue with the city concerning the small parcel of land between the Parish House and Via Bella.
25. Thirty cubic yards of mulch were applied to our beds this spring by a crew of 26 persons.

Our continuing thanks to those who have helped with so many of these projects, especially Lou DeSeau, Bob Miller, all the committee members, and other volunteers from the parish. Our aim is to develop the property as the most flexible, usable, and beautiful tool for ministry it can be.

~ Frank Doebler



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.

After many frantic years of work by the members of this committee, we have had a quieter year. With the exception of deciding carpeting for the Sunday School room of upper grade children, selecting icons and banners for the sanctuary, we have been relatively inactive.

However, as we draw to the end of the seemingly endless construction on the south side of the parish house, we will be looking at plans for the beautification of that portion of our property.

With input from Little Lambs, Sunday School directors, property and others we will be giving our best to discern the best way to create a beautiful space there.

Thanks to my committee: Jane Larson, Lucille Weaver, John Hoffman, Bob Miller and Pastor Elkin.

~ 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.

We meet on a quarterly basis to discuss dates of mutual interest, consider requests for additional space and attach costs to those space issues.

This year we have discussed having parenting classes for those families in the program who need them and have scheduled times for Pastor Elkin to interact with the children. We deal with a variety of other requests as they arise.

Our primary concern this year has been the need for outdoor play for the pre-school children. Holly is working on grants for playground equipment and construction. We have felt the need to determine the exact location of our property and its boundaries and have included members of council in discussions with city officials.

It is our hope those concerns can be cared for soon so that work on the playground can go forward soon.

We enjoy a wonderful relationship with Little Lambs and feel having them at St. Mark's is mutually beneficial.

Pastor Elkin, Nancy Larson, Lou DeSeau, Sharon Comini and I meet with Holly Tillman, school director, and consult other committees as needed.

~ Joyce Hershberger



STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Bob Jones

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.

1. Last summer, the schedule was developed for Consecration Sunday, responsibilities divided, materials printed and distributed, the guest preacher The Rev. Gordon Smith from Bloomsburg was engaged, Heritage Catering was engaged, reservations were solicited, the process culminating in the services and meals on Sunday, October 21. Thanks are due to many persons including Eric Comini who assist in this process with the leadership of the Council.
2. The Finance Committee and Council then developed the budget and presented it to the congregation on December 9 for action.
3. In addition to the regular giving envelopes that are made available to any who wish to use them each year, there were a number of special giving opportunities. The Heat envelope was aimed at ourselves, but others were for extended causes such as the Shepherd of the Streets, our missionary, Providence House, St. Anthony's Center, World Hunger, disaster relief, seminarian support, and others.
4. Youth have been reminding us of causes throughout the community and world when they bring their offering in procession at the end of Children's Church on the 2nd Sunday of each month. They not only bring money but also items that are needed for good work around the community.

5. Special thanks to Becky Miller Pryor who makes posters and does other promotions to bring the congregation's attention to so many other appropriate causes.
6. A promotion is now getting underway to encourage financial giving by way of bank transfer.

~ Bob Jones



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.

History of St. Marks is being made every day by members, young and old. It is the job of an archivist or historian to see that history of the church is secured in an organized and safe manner for the years to come.

Much work has been done in the past several years. More than 30 special boxes have been filled with information of the church with everything marked and filed according to subject. There is still a lot of material to be sorted and filed.

Most importantly St. Marks now has an established and updated web site due to the great work of Gary Weber. We hope you have taken or will take the opportunity to check it out from time to time. You might find yourself in a picture or an article. There is everything you might want to know on this site.....there is no comparison web sites of other denominations. One new member credits his interest in St. Marks through the web site. Thanks Gary, keep up the good work! This is our site:

<http://www.stmarkswilliamsport.org>

This past year I have been unable to do much due to having a heart attack last August. Our thanks to Ted Larson and Larry Lundy who have been most helpful in getting organized and being available in keeping our files updated. Roxie Larson is a new volunteer helping with our photographic files. It has been recommended that our youth might become involved somewhat while preparing to become an active member of the church.

For you history buffs (and former secretaries) let us know what you would like to do to help keep St. Marks alive for the future!

~ 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:

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Ruth Lunger | Mariah Rubendall |
| Phyllis Maneval | Robert Lamade |
| William Poff | Helen Troxell |
| Geraldine Shipman | Louise Kneedler |
| Anna Belle Smith | Harriet Fornwalt |
| Kester Sobers | Calvin Bennett |
| Doris Buzzerd | Earl Foulkrod |
| Wilbur Hughes | Margaret Dewar |

~ 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. In February, we welcomed Richard "Dick" Wagner as our new Financial Secretary. He has taken over this responsibility with great efficiency. He is a wonderful asset to our office staff.
2. Met with our portfolio managers from M & T Bank in February and August.
3. Continued to use Heat Envelopes to help defray the cost of the heating bills. Thanks again to the congregation.

4. Secured a lower price for our liability insurance for the next three years of approx. \$7,000.00 per year thanks to Creighton MacGill for his diligent work.
5. Approved purchases of Cabinetry for the Choir and Crossway Rooms and shelving for the Music Room.
6. Approved the purchase of a new HV AC system for Fellowship Hall.
7. Purchased a new computer for Dick Lakey.
8. Prepared the annual budget for action by Council and Congregation.
9. Handled many small regular management matters.
10. Approved the addition of a monthly special offering Envelope in 2008 for Synodial Benevolence only.

We sadly accepted the resignation of Creighton MacGill from our committee and thanked him for his many years of service to our committee.

Thanks to Brenda Bittner, Barb Thomas, Bud and Joyce Hershberger, 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, 2007**

GENERAL FUND:

INCOME:	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Envelope: Pledges	\$ 260,100.00	\$ 254,672.00
Other Religious Income	\$ 15,122.00	\$ 14,000.00
Parking Lot/Rentals	\$ 18,121.00	\$ 17,500.00
Transfer From Investment Fund	\$ 6,009.00	\$ 17,000.00
Welker/Capital-General	\$ 27,149.00	\$ 19,000.00
Welker/Benevolence-General *	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00
Heat Envelope Income	\$ 4,490.00	\$ 6,000.00
Total Income	\$ 330,991.00	\$ 330,172.00

EXPENSES:		
Staff	\$ 222,439.00	\$ 217,251.00
Administration	\$ 18,758.00	\$ 17,200.00
Worship & Music	\$ 7,298.00	\$ 5,600.00
Christian Ed/Youth	\$ 6,181.00	\$ 7,350.00
Property	\$ 81,273.00	\$ 69,930.00
Benevolence & Charity	\$ 24,526.00	\$ 18,925.00
Total Expenses	\$ 360,475.00	\$ 336,256.00

INCOME LESS EXPENSE	\$ (29,484.00)	\$ (6,084.00)
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DEDICATED BENEVOLENCE INCOME:	
Hunger, Food, Blankets, G Missions, St. Anthony Shepherd, Thanks-Offering, Mossy Foot, Misc, *	\$ 7,725.00
Capital Income	\$ 2,538.00
Organ Fund	\$ 5,632.00
Theological Fund	\$ 222.00

MEMORIAL FUND:

Balance as of December 31, 2006	\$ 8,822.00
Gifts	\$ 24,425.00
Disbursements	\$ (23,071.00)
Balance as of December 31, 2007	\$ 10,176.00

INVESTMENT FUND:

Balance as of 12/31/06	\$ 518,425.00
Income:	
Gifts, Various Transfers & Reclassifications	\$ 79,310.00
Interest/Dividends	\$ 15,067.00
Total Income	\$ 94,377.00
Expenditures:	
Fees	\$ (7,423.00)
Various Transfers & Reclassifications	\$ (62,841.00)
Total Expenditures	\$ (70,264.00)
Market Value Change	\$ 55,082.00
Balance as of 12/31/07	\$ 597,620.00

*--Note--Transferred @ Year End \$3016.54 to Dedicated 10% Benevolence Income



WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Shirley Hill, 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.

Our group is an active member of the 7000 congregational units of the Women of the ELCA. Our common mission is to act boldly on our faith in Jesus Christ. With teamwork we reach out to those in need in our community, our nation, and the world.

The weekly activity of the Women of St. Mark's continues to be the making of quilts. The tops of the quilts are made in homes. Assembling and knotting is done at church. 81 quilts were completed and sent to Lutheran World Relief in 2007. In the fall we conduct our kit project. School bags are sewn by our members. The whole congregation responds generously by filling the bags with school items and by completing health kits, sewing kits, and layettes. Soap bars and cash donations for purchasing blankets are also collected, which are forwarded to Lutheran World Relief as well. Used clothing that was not sold in our rummage sale is distributed among various local charities.

Under the leadership of Jane Kline and Becky Miller Pryor we held two very successful rummage sales last year. The funds we raised were matched in part by the Care in Congregations program of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. These

resources made it possible for us to send donations 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 Relief Fund, ELCA Domestic Disaster Relief Fund, Liberia Shipping Container, American Rescue Workers, and the Newberry Branch of the New Garment Agency. For our own church we established a contingency fund of \$500 for the purchase of any needed kitchen items.

Our annual social event is our Women and Children's Dinner. It features a catered dinner with entertainment. This year we included boys to Age 12.

Our very small and faithful group continues to carry on our mission but with diminishing energy. New and additional vitality is needed. To this end we are considering a "Service Day" project. However, we would need help from new volunteers in planning and implementing such an event.

God has richly blessed us with a supportive congregation. We are most grateful to the people of St. Mark's for supplying us with materials for quilts and kits and items for our rummage sales.

~ Shirley Hill, Chairman
~ Lucille Weaver, Treasurer
~ Ernestine Doane, Secretary

**Women of the ELCA
St. Mark's Lutheran Church
Williamsport, PA 17701
Treasurer's Report
April 25, 2008**

Checking Account

Balance April 30, 2007		\$67.52
Income:		
Offerings	\$ 46.00	
Transfers Savings	2400.00	
Bazaar	36.25	
Clothing	86.75	
<i>Total Income</i>	\$ 2,569.00	<u>\$ 2,569.00</u>
Total		\$ 2,636.52
Expenses		
Becky Miller Pryor (Ad Clothing Sale)	15.00	
Lucy Henry (Women's dinner)	75.00	
St Mark's (Kitchen items)	76.77	
USSWO (Mission in-gathering)	100.00	
Women ELCA (4 quarters)	225.00	
Jane Kline (Bazaar Ad)	39.61	
New Check Charge	20.08	
NGA (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	100.00	
St. Mark's (copyright hymn)	100.00	
American Rescue Workers	100.00	
<i>Total Expenses</i>	<u>\$2141.46</u>	<u>-\$ 2,141.46</u>
Balance 4-30-07		\$ 475.06

Savings Account

Balance April 30, 2007		\$ 3,037.93
Income:		
2008 Clothing Sale (incl. \$250- withdrawal for change)	\$794.40	
Thrivent (Matching Funds)	450.00	
2007 Bazaar (inc. withdrawal for change)	1,623.28	
Thrivent Financial (matching funds)	750.00	
Clothing	67.00	
Interest	<u>24.42</u>	
Total Deposits	\$3,709.10	<u>\$3,709.10</u>
		\$6,747.03
Withdrawals:		
Donations to & Change for Clothing Sale	\$2,250.00	
Change 10/07 Bazaar	300.00	
Transfers to checking	<u>\$400.00</u>	
Total Withdrawals	\$2,950.00	<u>-\$2,950.00</u>
Balance Savings 4-28-06		<u>\$ 3,797.03</u>