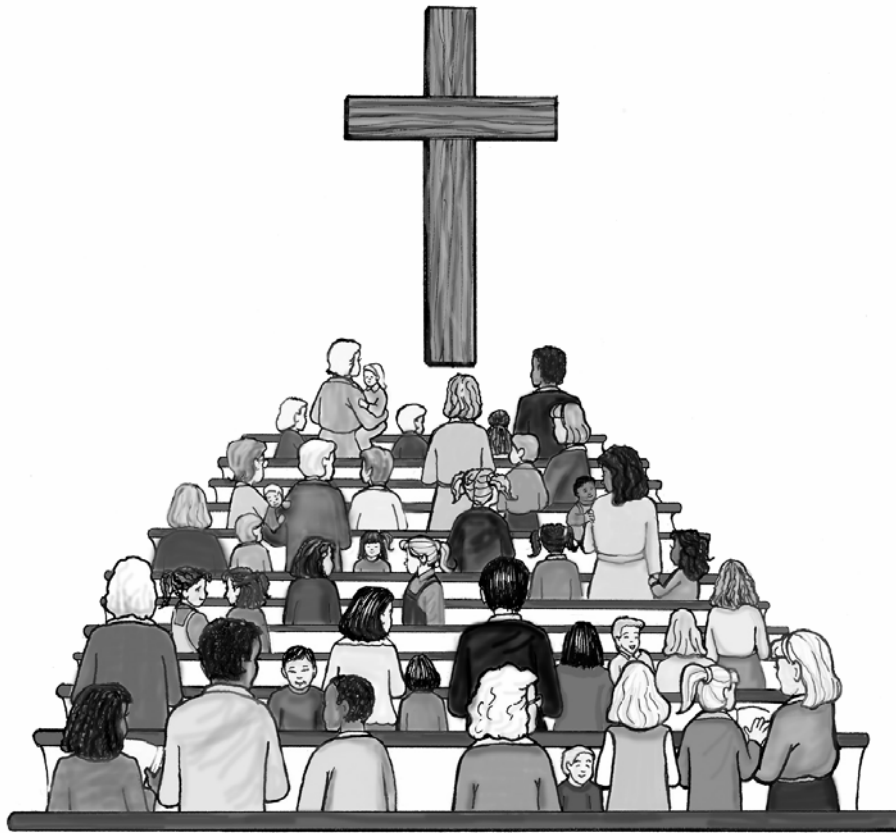


LET US NOT GIVE UP  
MEETING TOGETHER ...



BUT LET US  
ENCOURAGE ONE  
ANOTHER ...

HEBREWS 10:25

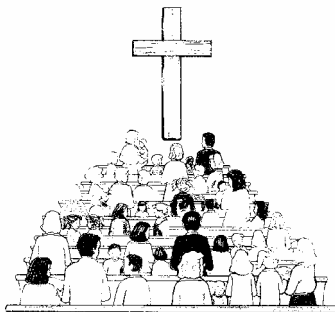
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# The Annual Report

**May 17, 2009**  
**St. Mark's Lutheran Church**  
**142 Market Street**  
**Williamsport, PA 17701**

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**FROM THE PARISH REGISTER IN 2008**

**BAPTISMS**

Mariah Ashley Hallabuk..... February 17  
Liam Andrew Elkin..... July 20  
Mackenzie Ann Fenderson ..... July 26  
Levi Gair ..... August 3  
Adam Douglas Clokey ..... August 10  
Alex Michael Clokey ..... August 10  
Dylan Michael Ott..... August 10  
Ashton Tyler Ott ..... August 10  
Hudson Luther Ott ..... August 10  
Nolan William Ott..... August 10  
Makensie Doebler..... November 23  
Kameera Smith..... November 23

**FIRST COMMUNIONS**

Makensie Doebler..... November 23

Benjamin Haussmann ..... November 23  
Devin Owen ..... November 23  
Kameera Smith..... November 23  
Stefan Weber..... November 23

**AFFIRMATION/CONFIRMATION**

Christina Comini ..... September 7  
Brandon Fortin ..... September 7  
Paige Fortin ..... September 7  
Sara Jones ..... September 7  
Hannah Ramsauer ..... September 7

**RECEIVED BY LETTER OF TRANSFER**

Cassandra Wellen..... November 2  
Bianca Audrey Wellen ..... November 2  
Madisyne Audrey Wellen ..... November 2  
Michael Elliot..... October 20  
Tracy Elliott ..... October 20  
Ian Elliott ..... October 20  
Owen Elliott ..... October 20  
Grace Elliott ..... October 20  
Christopher Lauer ..... October 20  
Katelyn Lauer ..... October 20

**SENT BY LETTER OF TRANSFER**

Mary Lou Hartsock..... August 18  
Matthew Hartsock ..... August 18  
Don Armstrong ..... August 18  
Mary Armstrong ..... August 18

**SENT BY LETTER OF COMMENDATION**

James Gilbert ..... November 18

**WEDDINGS**

Bryan Taylor & Tracie Kinney ..... April 12  
Clint Eppleman & Megan Maiolo..... April 26  
Geoffrey MacGill & Greta Guisewite..... August 9  
Robert Bastian & Ashley Fortin ..... September 27

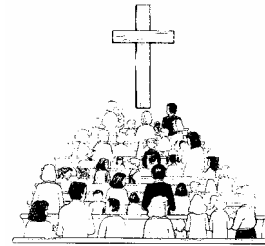
**MEMBER FUNERALS**

Jack Hollenbeck ..... February 23  
Glenn Sanford Lunger..... February 23  
Lucille Overdurf Markel ..... March 16  
Earl Foulkrod ..... March 25  
Jeanne Fargus..... June 9  
Pam Malick ..... August 21  
Ethel Chambers..... September 9  
Merritt Hunt ..... October 31  
Makensie Fenderson ..... July 27  
Fred Dieffenbach ..... December 11

**NON-MEMBER FUNERALS**

Annette Lipousky ..... January 22  
Harold E. Brannaka..... March 31

Joseph Craven .....	April 7
Lois Springman .....	May 16
Clarence Betts, Sr.....	June 17
James Applegate .....	June 29
Roselyn Flock Simmons .....	July 21
Ronald L. Smith .....	December 19



**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

*Bud Hershberger, Council President*

No one can deny that these are tough times. Our world, country, state and city seem to be in constant turmoil. Changes occur so rapidly we scarcely have time to catch our breath between significant events.

More than ever we look to our church as a safe haven of comfort and stability!

At a special seminar last May our church council reviewed lists of goals and objectives that evolved out of many meetings and discussions with members of our congregation. Throughout the past year council has moved toward implementing many of these ideas and suggestions.

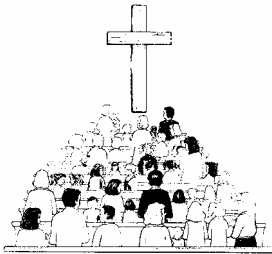
Fall and winter are always busy times at St. Mark's –the activities are detailed in the following reports from church committees.

In December the congregation approved a budget of \$345,220 for the year 2009 for the work of the congregation and its supporting staff.

Earlier this year the church council approved signing a letter of agreement with Family Promise of Lycoming County. This multi-church endeavor has received much attention and was highlighted by the recent "Iron Chef Williamsport" contest.

This will be my last year as president of church council. I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to serve the church and to be associated with a great group of council members. It has been a pleasure to work closely with Pastor Elkin – I think we are a pretty good team!

~ Bud Hershberger



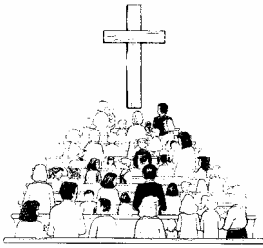
**SYNOPSIS OF THE MINUTES OF CONGREGATION ASSEMBLIES**

The **Annual Assembly** of the congregation was held on Sunday May 18, 2008, following the 10:30 service.

1. Brenda Bittner, Beth Shafranko, Todd Smith and Gary Weber were elected to the Congregation Council.
2. Eric Comini and Nancy Larson were thanked for their years of service on the council.
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. A member raised a question about the cemetery marker for Pastor Rick. This will be investigated by the President and Property Committee.
5. The meeting was adjourned at 11:55 without further business.

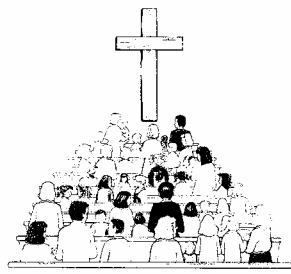
A **Special Assembly** of the Congregation was held on Sunday, July 13, 2008, following the 10:30 service; the bid of Billtown Mechanical for the rebuilding of the heating pipe work in the choir wing for the sum of \$15,200 was adopted.

A **Special Assembly** of the Congregation was held on Sunday, December 14, 2008, during which the proposed budget for 2009 was adopted.



### **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  
Donna Clark, 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  
Mike Jensen  
Jane Zimmerer  
Deborah Maggs  
Beth Shafranko  
Nick Buckman  
Bob Miller  
Scott Bittner  
Todd Smith  
Declan Jones, youth observer



### **A WORD FROM THE PASTOR** *The Reverend Kenneth R. Elkin*

This is a summary of the wide range of activities in which we have engaged together in the past year, spring to spring. They are listed roughly in calendar order, and give the reader a sense that the pastor must be busy with a number of things at the same time. St. Mark's can be a lively and exciting place

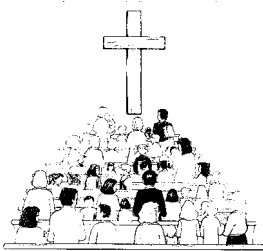
to be serving in the ministry of the Gospel, together with a group of committed and interesting people.

1. Pastor officiated at the wedding of Megan Maiolo and Clint Eppleman on April 26 in the nave.
2. Pastor worked with a number of couples preparing for marriage in the year.
3. Pastor was actually away for two days not related to church work: with Donna at the national poodle gathering in Maryland.
4. Pastor met with potential members on May 3 and another family on May 12. They became candidates for *the Way* in the fall.
5. Pastor led the Wednesday noon Bible study, exploring the classic *Pilgrim's Progress*.
6. The Thursday morning Bible study continues at 6:31 AM, methodically exploring the Psalms.
7. The wedding anniversary milestone event on May 4 was a great success. The honorees were very pleased, families shared in the event, the flowers and decorations were tasteful, the food was excellent, and the service impeccable. In their honor, we planted two pyramidal holly shrubs at the office entrance doorway. The event will not be held next year, but resume in 2 years.
8. *The Way* season came to a close with the Sending Out on Pentecost. The five persons and their sponsors had a very good year together.
9. The staff met together for luncheon festivities on May 20.
10. Pastor presided at the memorial service for Harriet Fornwalt immediately following the 10:30 service on May 25, when relatives returned from Florida and elsewhere.
11. The full staff took part in CPR training here at St. Mark's on May 29. Deb Best of Diakon was the trainer and was very helpful. Costs were paid through the continuing education budget line.
12. The Mission at the Crossroads review was done on May 31 as we promised to do last year. A report was disseminated through the *Lion*.
13. The congregational picnic was a great success. About 83 were in attendance.
14. Pastor met with a baptismal family on June 3 and 16 and another potential candidate on June 2.
15. Pastor presided at the funeral service for Jeanne Fergus on June 9 in the nave. Our hard-working staff served a luncheon in the front lounge and portico for the family.
16. Guest musician on June 1 was Sasha Piastro,

- adjunct faculty at Lycoming College.
17. Pastor met with Family Promise and the County Commissioners on June 17.
  18. We established a Brownie troop at St. Mark's this year. They meet on alternate Tuesday evenings.
  19. Pastor officiated at the funeral service for James Applegate on July 3 at the Spitler Home with burial on July 5, in the Twin Hills Cemetery.
  20. Pastor worked with two men looking toward baptism at the Easter Vigil 2009.
  21. Pastor officiated at the Blessing of Young Drivers Milestone event on August 10 for Brett and Lauren Campbell.
  22. Pastor gave a Bible-lesson to little Lambs on July 25.
  23. Pastor officiated at the graveside service for Mackenzie Fenderson, infant daughter of Sean Fenderson on July 31
  24. Pastor officiated at the graveside service for Roselyn Flock Simmons on August 8, in Montoursville Cemetery.
  25. Pastor officiated at the wedding for Geoff MacGill and Greta Guisewite on August 9, in the nave.
  26. Pastor presided at Holy Baptism for Liam Elkin on July 20, Levi Gair on August 3, Dylan, Ashton, Hudson, and Nolan Ott on August 10, and Adam and Alex Clokey on August 10
  27. Four batches of You-Tube clips went online. Reaction has been favorable. The second group focuses on the Gospel of Mark.
  28. Forums were held on Sunday mornings during the summer hosted by the Pastor and Becky Miller Pryor. Each week has had a different topic and guest. One dozen persons including two Council members were in regular attendance, and sadly, the Forums were otherwise ignored by everyone else in the parish. Very interesting presenters have given informative sessions: Project Breakthrough, Habitat for Humanity, Providence House, Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots, Crossways International, Big Brother/Big Sisters, Daniel's Closet, Family Promise, and Angel Food Ministry.
  29. Pastor hosted the catechetical students, families, and mentors at his home on July 6 for swimming, eating, and conversation. Special thanks to Bernadette for assistance in managing the event.
  30. Pastor officiated at the graveside service for Pam Malick in Wildwood Cemetery on July 21.
  31. Pastor met with Little Lambs students on August 19, talked about God's good gifts to us, and gave each student and staff member a squash grown in our front bed this summer.
  32. Remaining squash were made available to members of the parish on a Sunday morning.
  33. Seventy-five persons enjoyed breakfast in Fellowship Hall on September 7, as the first fall event.
  34. Also on September 7, Pastor officiated at the service for confirmation of five of our youth.
  35. Pastor officiated at the wedding for Ashley Fortin and Rob Bastian on September 27.
  36. Divine Drama began with a dozen persons in attendance.
  37. Catechetics for the year began on September 21 with four new students joining the five returning for their second year.
  38. Pastor visited daughter Katy in Spain. Among the sites visited were the Prado Museum, a fine exhibition of Rembrandt paintings, the royal palace and military museum in Madrid and the cathedral, royal church, and synagogues in Toledo.
  39. The Pastor worked with two youth toward Baptism on Christ the King festival day: Makensi Doeblor, and Kameera Smith.
  40. Pastor and Bernadette worked with 6 youth for first communion on Christ the King Festival.
  41. Pastor and Lou DeSeau met with several contractors and discussed ideas toward sound system improvements, and they prepared bids for consideration by the Property Committee.
  42. Pastor Elkin and Pastor Robert Logan officiated at the funeral service for Merritt Hunt on November 5 at the Maneval Funeral Home. Burial was in Wildwood and the family returned to St. Mark's for a meal afterward.
  43. Evening Prayer is sung on the evenings prior to Divine Drama class. All are welcome.
  44. The Welcome for those of *The Way* this year was on December 7.
  45. We gave Bibles to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students on November 30, a Milestone Event; and at the meal that followed the service, Pastor talked with the students about their Bibles and some of the things that were written in them by their relatives and family.
  46. The same day was also the family wreath-

- making following the service and meal.
47. A service of word and prayer was held on Thanksgiving morning in the nave. Lou DeSeau and Dick Lakey provided the leadership.
  48. The staff met for holiday luncheon in Middle Lounge on December 11. Gifts this year were to be simple and homemade, and offerings were made to other charitable causes in one another's honor.
  49. Pastor Elkin presided at the funeral for Fred Dieffenbach on December 12 in the nave.
  50. Several from The Way group baked cookies on December 13 for the sake of the shut-ins and others.
  51. Pastor Elkin officiated at the funeral for Ronald Smith, father of Todd Smith, in Lock Haven.
  52. Pastor Elkin presided at the Remembrance Service held on Sunday, December 21 in the nave.
  53. Many persons assisted in decorating the nave, so that things were in good order by the time of the Remembrance Service that afternoon.
  54. Thanks to those who assisted in the two caroling groups on December 14.
  55. The Elkin family was able to be together, briefly, during the Christmas season.
  56. Katy Elkin presented a bread seminar on January 5 in the church kitchen. The 10 participants had a great time.
  57. Pastor Elkin presided at the funeral service for Doris Brownlee in the nave on January 8.
  58. As planned in Mission at the Crossroads, we held a brief Taizé-style service of word and prayer on Wednesday, January 7.
  59. Faith-chests were presented on Jan 11, baptism of Jesus. Because of weather and illness, some were not present to receive them.
  60. Pastor met with Stephen Ministry I and II monthly, after a brief rest.
  61. Pastor and Shirley Hill visited Beiter's and selected the washer and dryer for the church on Jan 23.
  62. Pastor officiated at the wedding of Matt Pile and Annika Cipriani in the nave on Saturday, March 14, 2009. The groom is the nephew of Bishop Pile of the Allegheny Synod (who was present). The bride is a Williamsport native.
  63. New members: Kevin DeSeau and Matt Wellen by Sacrament of Holy Baptism at the Easter Vigil.
  64. New members: Doug, Beverly, and Katie Schmitt, Joshua Lynch and David Walz by Affirmation of Baptism at the Easter Vigil.
  65. The Iron Chef Williamsport video was edited and posted, causing great conversation.
  66. Pastor officiated at the memorial service for Henry Fornwalt immediately following the 10:30 service on March 22 in the nave, and burial of ashes in Twin Hills Cemetery on March 23.
  67. Pastor officiated at the inurnment of ashes for Art Kline in our columbarium on March 28.
  68. Pastor and Bernadette meet periodically with Carlos Saldivia for development of our various video and other projects.
  69. Pastor and Donna attended the graduate horn recital for son David at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh on March 29.
  70. In the Pastor's absence, Pr. Susie Burd Hill presided while on vacation here, Lou Kolb preached, and all of our regular assistants continued in their responsibilities.
  71. Pastor served as the piano accompanist for the Salladasburg Elementary School concerts on March 31, likely for the last time, since Donna's position next year will likely be all instrumental, without choirs.
  72. Affirmation of Baptism for the Way was celebrated at the Easter Vigil.
  73. Susan Mahserjian Smith had back surgery on April 6, and is recovering apace. Bernadette and volunteers are covering secretarial responsibilities.
  74. Carlos Saldivia did a very nice interview of three pastors re: Iron Chef and Family Promise on April 7; it appears on our YouTube Channel.
  75. Pastor and Bud have organized the Property Task Force and led its initial meeting.
  76. Pastor and Bernadette were interviewed by Mark Maroney of the Sun-Gazette for a feature story about Iron Chef Williamsport.
  77. Pastor and Mr. Hershberger met with Mayor Campana re: the property matters.
  78. Pastor and Bernadette led the catechetical trip to SE PA on March 21. We visited Augustus Lutheran Church in Trappe, the Daniel Boone homestead, Hopewell Furnace, and the Ephrata Cloister.
  79. Pastors Elkin and Wertz appeared on four radio stations on April 8 re: Iron Chef. We had a great time with the interviews. We were accompanied by Sandra Daugherty, our publicity advisor.
  80. Between April 5-12, Pastor led 4 Sunday

- liturgies, 5 Morning Prayers, Seder, 2 Holy Thursday communions, community 3-hour service, Tenebrae, and Great Vigil; a total of 15 services with 6 different sermons in 8 days.
81. Pastor presided at the funeral service for Larry Lundy on April 14 in the nave with inurnment in our columbarium.
  82. Pastor presided at the memorial service for Anna Rhodes on Friday, April 17 in the nave. Burial took place earlier in Blairsville.
  83. The Iron Chef Williamsport competition took place on April 19 in our kitchen and fellowship hall. St. Mark's was victorious, and even more, Family Promise received lots of favorable publicity.
  84. While Pastor was on an archaeological dig at Wadi Hamam near Tiberias, Israel in late April—early May:
    - a. April 29, Ray Huff preaching, communion from reserve sacrament.
    - b. May 3, Father Andrew France, preaching and presiding
    - c. May 10, Sandy Grier, certified lay worship leader, preaching and presiding.
  85. Pastor officiated at the funeral service for Donald Young in the Maneval Home on April 18.
  86. Pastor officiated at the graveside service for Dorothy Hoffman in Wildwood Cemetery on April 20 in a fierce wind and rainstorm.



### **ITEMS OF ECUMENICAL INTEREST**

1. Because of schedule conflicts we did not attend the Conference Assembly in May 08.
2. Center City Pastors meet on a monthly breakfast and conversation.
3. Family Promise steering committee meets at St. Mark's each month.
4. Bud and Joyce Hershberger attended the Synod Assembly together with the Pastor on June 20-21 at Susquehanna University.
5. Pastor participated in the various retreats of the Society of the Holy Trinity through the year. He served as musician for one of them.

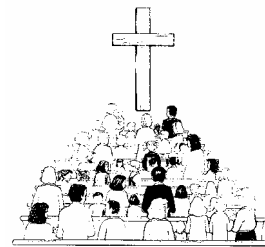
6. Pastor met with the County Commissioners and their guests on May 12 concerning Family Promise.
7. Sharon Comini began service as Coordinator for Campus Ministry at Penn College in May.
8. Pastor served as an interim at the Shepherd of the Streets office on May 22, July 14,
9. The Williamsport Music Club held its dinner-meeting in the Crossways room in June. 10. Mr. Lakey gave an organ recital following.
10. Sharon Comini and the Pastor participated in the Fiesta at Penn College on August 26, giving out water bottles with our own label, offering congregational brochures, and engaging in conversation.
11. 13 workers from the parish took part in the Apostle Build for Habitat on September 6, with an additional 10 persons helping with lunch for the entire crew that day.
12. Pastor, Bud, and Joyce attended the final Conference Cabinet meeting in September. They were suspended pending review at the next annual Assembly.
13. A Treasurers' workshop was held on September 11 by the Synod.
14. Pastor assisted with the Senior Expo at the Mall on behalf of Family Promise on September 9.
15. Pastor assisted Sharon Comini and others in presenting dinner and worship with the college student fellowship held at Trinity Episcopal on September 10
16. We hosted Pr. Karl-John Stone, Assistant to Bishop Driesen, on Sunday, September 14. He preached and also held a Forum in the Crossways room between the services.
17. Pastor Elkin spoke with the students at the Campus Ministry group on September 29 and October 6 at Penn College. The subject was the Psalms and how they are still useful after 3,000 years. Pastor Elkin led the Bible study at the United Campus Ministry group on January 26 and February 2. Pastor Elkin led Taizé-style evening prayers for the United Campus Ministry group at Trinity Episcopal Church on Wednesday February 4.
18. Five center city pastors joined on September 23 to bid farewell to Pr. Judy Stanley of First Presbyterian, who is accepting another call. The Center City Cluster of pastors met on April 7 and welcomed a new pastor to First Presbyterian.

19. Lutheran Shared Ministry meets bi-monthly at Church of the Savior. Gary Weber is serving this year as President. Pastor Elkin served last year as Vice President.
20. An LSM project was the production of A *Christmas Carol*, directed by Bernadette Haas Jones. St. Mark's supplied many of the staff and players; not enough help was garnered from other LSM congregations, but it all came together with some able assistance from high school friends, and it was a very successful production dinner-theater on December 5-6. The proceeds of \$1,500 benefitted the Campus Ministry at Penn College.
21. We participated in a Souper-Bowl challenge.
22. A Thrivent Build for Habitat will happen this summer. Todd Smith will be our captain.
23. Pastor Elkin attended the Installation of Pastor Gregory Davidson as Pastor of Faith Church, Lewisburg on November 23.
24. Pastor Elkin served as piano accompanist for the Salladasburg Elementary School Christmas and spring programs.
25. Pastor Elkin took part in the "Boundary Training" almost mandated by the synod on December 9.
26. Pastor Elkin led the group to the Selinsgrove Center to provide a Christmas party for a ward of severely disabled women, the same ward that we visited last year. Things went well, and we were able to elicit a bit of response from the residents, as much as they were able.
27. Pastor Elkin presided at the funeral Holy Communion service for Francis Kohler at Messiah Church on January 24 on behalf of Pastor Frontz.
28. Pastor Elkin and Doug Schmitt met as representatives of Family Promise with a committee from Faxon-Kenmar Church on February 10. Pastor and Becky Miller Pryor made a presentation at Annunciation Church on March 3 for Family Promise.
29. Pastor Elkin gave a tour of the nave for one of the Little Lambs classes on February 11.
30. Pastor Elkin has happily officiated at several Epiphany season house-blessings.
31. The catechetical retreat was held on February 14 in our building. Pastor Elkin and Bill Hill presented one of the sessions, and Bernadette Jones was registrar and manager of the event.
32. We hosted the Civic Chorus concert on March 1

in the nave.

33. We have heard that the need for the services of Daniel's Closet at Redeemer Church is continuing. More than 200 persons attended the recent event. Several of our members assist on a regular basis there.

~ 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; Charles Greevy; Ruth Rees; Beth Shafranko; Nancy Larson; 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**

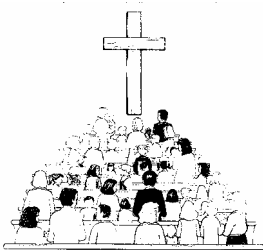
1. Thanked departing Committee member Cindy Huff and welcomed new members Nancy Larson (1st term) and Beth Shafranko (2nd term).
2. Recommended several revisions to the Policy and Procedures for Children and Youth Work and referred to council. A special thank you to Skip Greevy for his efforts on these revisions.
3. Recommended the hiring of Sandra Dougherty as part-time Publicity Director for the parish.
4. Pastor reported on Mission at the Crossroads reviewed by Council. The committee made suggestions as to how to present these findings to the congregation.



5. Salary recommendations for the staff were given to the Finance Committee for consideration.
6. Pastor Elkin gave a report on the staff interviews.
7. Received a report of Ministry Review involving Pastor Elkin, Council President, Bud Hershberger, and committee chairman, Carl Hieber.
8. Wedding and Facility Policies were reviewed comparing them to local congregations. The committee recommended several changes to the present policy based on these facts.
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 at St. Mark's. We thank Pastor 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 thank the many volunteers who assist the staff on a regular basis.

~ Carl Hieber



### **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 this year within our congregation as well as in the community at large. We are fortunate indeed to have two wonderful spaces for public worship: our

beautiful nave where we celebrated many Sunday liturgies with Communion, weddings, funerals, concerts and various other events: and our chapel with it's tasteful and meditative space where the columbarium is and a lovely area for small worship events such as Morning Prayer, Lenten services, funeral visitations, and Children's Church.

The committee is pleased to recognize so many musical groups serving in the church's worship: senior choir, contemporary choir, the Kantorei, adult and family handbells choirs as well as many soloists both vocal and instrumental. We extend an invitation to all of our St. Mark's family to join in any of these groups.

We have been fortunate to have had the Lycoming College Choirs sing during several morning services. We are most appreciative of those talented young adults directed by Fred Thayer and accompanied by Dick Lakey. Our music program is one of the best, if not The Best, here in Williamsport and we are blessed to have such talent and participation in these offerings.

Non-perishable food, flowers, quilts, clothing and financial contributions were gathered and 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 services: we also reach out to them with cards, visits, flowers, phone calls and more.

Acknowledgment must be made for the diligent service of our committee members, musicians, the behind the scene helpers and those who share in leadership roles. It takes all of us together to praise God! The committee would like to express our appreciation and thankfulness to Pastor Elkin and Dick Lakey - their leadership in both areas of worship and music is truly inspirational.

The Altar Guild was very active again this year with their weekly, and mid weekly at times, keeping the church supplies and articles in proper order. We extend an invitation to any of our members, both women and men, to join in this endeavor.

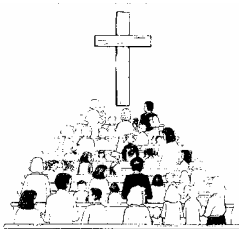
Our service opportunities here are always expanding, be it: communion assistants, lectors, greeters, acolytes, Sunday School teachers and facilitators—as well as nursery assistance on Sunday Mornings and flower deliveries after the 10:30 service. Many behind the scene services are there waiting for YOU to volunteer your time and

talent if you are one who is not comfortable serving in the chancel during services. Please speak to Pastor Elkin if you are so moved.

Children's Church continues to occur one Sunday each month, under the leadership of Bernadette Jones and Sharon Comini, our youth & family ministry coordinators, during a 10:30 service. The kids do a wonderful job during that service and invite you grown-ups and other kids to attend. Service is completed just prior to the Sacrament of Communion in the Nave for all to join is in the Nave.

We each have gifts of time and talents bestowed upon us by God that would benefit the whole assembly, and carry out our mandate - to proclaim Jesus Christ to all through his Word and Sacrament. Join in!

~ Beth Shafranko



### **REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC**

*Richard Lakey*

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 goes out to each and every one who has added to the life of our church through their weekly contributions to rehearsals and worship services.

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, Jan Mianulli and Sasha Piastro.

Other musical offerings during the year were:

- The annual Dialysis Organ Concert;
- The Lycoming College Choir under the direction of Dr. Fred Thayer;
- The Lycoming College Chamber Choir under the direction of Dr. Fred Thayer;
- The Williamsport Civic Chorus;

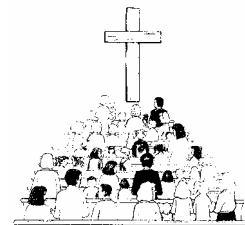
- Various students of the Suzuki Violin Program under the direction of Pat Thayer;
- Summer Choir Camp Musical and all the folks involved in it's production

Continuing goals for the coming years are:

1. To continue to offer and expand musical opportunities for individuals within our congregations worship life;
2. To assist with Christian Education with regards to Sunday School music, Bible School, Confirmation programs;
3. To continue with the annual organ concert for dialysis;
4. To continue monthly meetings and meals of Lunch 'n' Fellowship;
5. To offer opportunities to the college choirs and their participation in our worship services;
6. 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:**

1. We continue to use *Growing in Christ*,

- published by Concordia, as the main curriculum for our Sunday School program.
2. 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.
  3. Our middle school class of 6-8 graders is focused on the *To Know, to Live, to Grow* program by Augsburg Fortress.
  4. The confirmation class includes nine members who meet 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.
  5. 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.
  6. The monthly rotation schedule for teachers continues to be successful.
  7. Pastor Elkin led the Crossways Class for adults. *Crossways* is an in-depth study of the entire Bible.
  8. The Middle Lounge Class for high school students and adults was guided by a rotation of leaders on a variety of subjects.
  9. A youth lock-in was held Friday, May 16, in conjunction with the opening of the new Chronicles of Narnia movie. At that time, the confirmation students painted a mural in the middle school room.
  10. Vacation Bible School, *SonWorld Adventure Park*, was held in June, 2008. A total of roughly 40 youth attended.
  11. We hosted Lutheran Shared Ministry's School of Religion.
  12. We organized the Eleventh Annual Youth Retreat for confirmands in January.
  13. Due to rescheduling because of a snow storm, we hosted the Eleventh Annual Youth Retreat.
  14. The Way, a process of faith formation, under the leadership of Pastor Elkin and C. Robert Schultz continued. There were two adult baptisms and five candidates affirmed their baptism; all seven became members of St. Mark's on the Great Easter Vigil, April 11, 2009.
  15. Children's Church continued on a once a month schedule during the school year.
  16. 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:

1. 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 (with two of the five being baptized on that day); Baptismal Lunch with faith chests for recently baptized; Prayer Pillows were given to children ages 2-4; children in kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> 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; the Wedding Anniversary (58 to 60 years) celebration; and 75+, Single and Still Praising God—for our single seniors.
2. The Annual Church Picnic was held at Montoursville's Indian Park.
3. A dinner/pool party was held for first and second year confirmands, their families and mentors on July 6.
4. 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 Cinema Center.
5. St. Mark's Church Choir Camp was held for one week last summer. The cast of 37 rehearsed *David and the Giants* for performance Sunday evening, August 9, and in church on Aug. 10.
6. Five of our youth were confirmed on September 7, 2009.
7. A group pack'n'wrap for Operation Christmas Child was held in November. Participants packed 37 shoe boxes with small gifts for needy children around the world.
8. Family Advent Wreath Making/Luncheon/ Third Grade Milestone event was attended by over 35 people on the first Sunday of Advent.
9. Kids' Morning Out was attended by over 20 children, including middle school assistants.
10. The five adults attending the Christmas Cookie-Baking event produced the cookies sent for our shut-ins.
11. Christmas Caroling was conducted by 14 carolers visiting as many of our shut-ins as they

- could.
12. Well over 125 pieces of winter warmers, scarves, hats, and gloves were collected for those in need. 143 teddy bears were collected and given to the Williamsport Police Station, the Pregnancy Care Center and the Wise Options for Women shelter.
  13. Katy Elkin returned for a day of bread-baking with the ladies (and some of our youth!) of St. Mark's.
  14. In January, a bowling party was held for the youth; about twenty members & friends came.
  15. The John Bower Sunday Church School Basketball League for our youth began in December and continued on through February of 2009. Over youth created three teams. Coach Rick Robertson headed the teams with Mike Jensen and Kirk Owen assisting him.
  16. 103 cans of soup and \$287.71 were collected for "Souper Bowl Sunday", held in February. We joined with three other churches to have a combined total of over \$750 in order to receive \$250 from Thrivent towards this cause.
  17. We took five of our youth to the middle school retreat at Camp Mt. Luther.
  18. A Big Band Night was held on Friday evening, March 13. The WAHS jazz bands provided the music.
  19. Fun Night continues as a monthly event.
  20. The confirmation class went to SE Pennsylvania.
  21. Bernadette held an egg-dying session for adults and older youth; attendance more than doubled.
  22. The Annual Easter Egg Hunt and breakfast with Pastor Elkin was held on Saturday, April 11, 2009: over 60 were served by 12 youth, led by Declan.
  23. VBS is scheduled for June 7-11. The theme is Gospel Light's *SunRock*.
  24. The St. Mark's Old Fashion Church Family picnic is scheduled for Sunday, June 14, 2009.
  25. Summer Choir Camp will be held this summer. The program is *100% Chance of Rain*.
  26. Nursery and acolyte scheduling was taken over by volunteers Vicki Hospes and Brittany Toy & Megan Eppleman, respectively.
  27. Family hand bell and contemporary choirs continue under the direction of Dick Lakey.

#### Outreach/Continuing Education:

1. Synod Assembly: Sharon and Bernadette set up

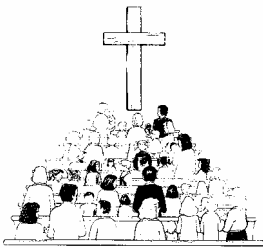
- St. Mark's display of our milestone ministry. Bernadette conducted two workshops on developing this ministry. Sara Jones attended as a page.
2. Sharon and Bernadette attended a Sunday School conference in Lewisburg.
  3. Bernadette attended Little Lambs Open House with flyers about St. Mark's and Sunday School.
  4. Several of our youth attended the *See You at the Pole* events on September 24, 2009, at their various schools. Little Lambs had their own prayer circle at our fountain at the front of the church.
  5. Five of our youth participated in serving the Consecration Sunday meal at St. Luke: Brett & Lauren Campbell, Declan & Sara Jones and Theoron Hershey.
  6. Sharon attended a youth conference in Pittsburgh.
  7. LSM's production of "A Christmas Carol" was presented on two consecutive nights as a dinner-theatre fund raiser for UCM. Several area churches were involved and almost \$1500 was raised for the students' mission trips. The bulk of the work was done by St. Mark's volunteers.
  8. Our continued involvement with campus ministry this year included:
    - a. hosting table for the Fall Fiesta at the beginning of the school year
    - b. providing two dinners and Taizé service on Wednesday nights
    - c. leading two bible studies on the gospel of Mark for Monday Faith Talks
    - d. making over 50 study bags last semester
    - e. donating all of the proceeds from A Christmas Carol to UCM
    - f. providing breakfast items for our mission trip through contributions from the congregation during Children's Church.
 Sharon would like to thank the council and congregation for their support of this ministry
  9. 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.
  10. Habitat for Humanity:
    - a. Bernadette organized 13 volunteers from St. Mark's to help at the Apostle Build project on Saturday, September 6. In spite of the rain, the group roofed, sided and strung fence.

Eight volunteers assisted Becky Pryor with lunch.

- b. The Month of Giving drive for Habitat resulted in over \$200 in donations.
- c. Rehearsals have begun for *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, a youth fund raiser for **Habitat**, to take place Fourth of July weekend.

11. We are planning a float for the Grand Slam Parade on August 20. We feel this would be a good way to extend a welcome to visitors from abroad.

~ 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 including popcorn and hot dogs, trinkets, books, pamphlets, information about St. Mark's, and good cheer. Monetary donations of more than \$100.00 were accepted on behalf of St. Anthony's Center.

- Welcoming various social agencies during the Summer Forums. Refreshments and a small thank you gift for the presenter were provided. Presenters included individuals from Project Breakthrough of the Salvation Army, The Pregnancy Care Center, Habitat for Humanity, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Shepherd of the Streets (Ruth Hague), Daniel's Closet, and Angel Food Ministry,
- Providing food and monetary donations to St. Anthony's Center on various occasions throughout the year.
- Collecting canned goods and monetary donations for Thanksgiving Baskets being given by the Shepherd of the Streets.
- Entertaining the residents of the Selinsgrove Center during the Christmas season with songs, a story, and gifts for the residents and their caregivers.
- Assisting Kay Poliska with collecting Christmas gifts for fifty residents of the Danville State Hospital.
- Supporting the work of various organizations (United Churches Food Pantry, Sojourner's Truth and St. Anthony's Center) by collecting canned goods for their work with the needy during the Christmas holiday.
- Collecting hygiene items, linens, and making monetary donations to the Shepherd of the Streets Emergency Fund.
- Collecting new socks and used clothing for Daniel's Closet.
- Encouraging Megan and Clinton Eppelman in their work at Daniel's Closet.
- Preparing two lunches and a brunch at the Habitat for Humanity/Lutheran Build site in Newberry.
- Providing refreshments when the Bishop's Assistant visited.
- Attending the dedication of the houses at the Lutheran Build (It is a double house.) and presenting gifts to the two new owners.
- Assisting the Women of St. Mark's in their collection of school kits, hygiene and sewing kits, and infant layettes.
- Assisting our Family and Youth Coordinators with outreach to United Campus Ministries at Penn College. This took the form of meals and donating snacks during finals.

- Representing our congregation as a member of Family Promise of Lycoming County. Becky Miller Pryor will be the site coordinator for St. Mark's when hosting begins.
- Encouraging Gary Weber in the development and maintenance of our web site. This is outreach to the world!

Pastor and other members of the congregation provide service to our community and beyond by donating their time to St. Anthony's Center and Shepherd of the Streets.

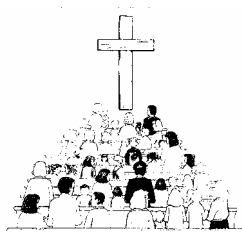
Additionally this committee has teamed with our Family and Youth Coordinators to involve our Sunday School children in Christian service. Hygiene items and food contributed by the children have been dedicated during Children's Church. Social Ministry assists the Women of St. Mark's with their annual 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. I welcome any member who would like a more active role on this committee.

**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 monthly 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.

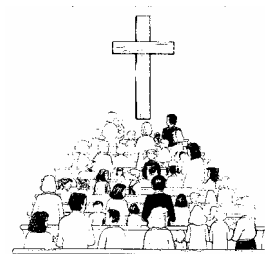
Gene Jacobs retired from Stephen Ministry after ten years. He was presented a framed picture of all Stephen Ministers and signed by the congregation. We are grateful for Gene's loyal service.

A booklet entitled "About Grief, Using Scripture, Hymns, Poems, Feelings, Prayers, Praise and Thanksgiving" was compiled by Henrietta Tyson and Larue Dieter. This spiral-bound booklet will be an additional reference for our ministry.

Stephen Ministry II meets monthly on Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. and are now serving care-receivers. They 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*

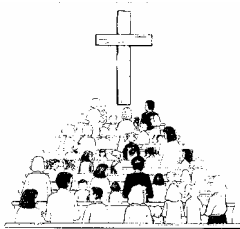
*a Christian image, which will reflect favorably on the work of Christ through this congregation.*

1. The Photo Directory project was completed.
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.
5. We need to share the responsibilities more widely. We look for assistance from our fellow congregational members.

We extend our thankfulness to Lois Smith for her wonderful sharing of her time and skills in helping to make all of the details come together. We thank all of the folks who have given of their time and talent in helping with all of the many, many meals throughout this year.

~ Lois Smith

~ Richard Lakey



### **PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

*Frank Doebler, Chairperson*

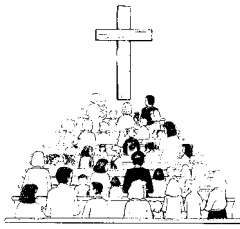
*The purpose of the Property Committee is to proclaim Jesus Christ to each other and all the world by promoting the use of the congregation's physical resources in the support of our Christian Mission. To this end the committee arranged for the promotion, protection, maintenance, repair and expansion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

1. Ceiling tiles were replaced in the finance office and pastor's study; broken or stained tiles were replaced in the basement.
2. Wiring for lights at the west end of the church was installed by Elery Nau; installation and aiming of the lights was done by Lou.

3. Billtown Mechanical installed three new air-conditioning units for the Parish House.
4. Flower boxes were installed on the south side of the Parish House.
5. A receptacle was installed in the basement for a float to remove condensation from new a/c units.
6. Controlled lighting for the stage was installed.
7. A new pressure switch was installed on the steam boiler by L&L Boiler.
8. The control wiring was replaced for the sign on the south side of the Parish House by Abby Signs.
9. Heavy duty shelving was purchased and installed in the Parish House basement.
10. The east parking lot was seal-coated and the line striping was replaced by Appalachian Sealcoat.
11. Lighting was installed for the sign placed on the chapel roof.
12. The corner shrubs were removed from the center island in the east parking lot.
13. A water line for the flower boxes was installed on the south side of the Parish House.
14. Because of leaks, all heating was raised to above ground level in the east hallway and adjoining rooms by Billtown Mechanical.
15. The dossal was replaced in the Nave by John Hoffman, Bob Schultz, Bob Miller, Paul Zimmerer, Pastor Elkin and Lou DeSeau.
16. Many small repairs were done around the buildings by Lou DeSeau.
17. The entry rugs were replaced in front of the sacristy.
18. A wall-mount lavatory was purchased by Little Lambs and installed by Lou.
19. St. Mark's Women of the ELCA purchased a washer and dryer for use by the church.
20. Water supply and drainage for the above was installed by Billtown Mechanical.
21. The new laundry closet was cleaned out and shelves and paneling were installed, as well as a counter top furnished by Bob Miller.
22. Ettingers did heavy pruning of the holly in the courtyard.
23. A volunteer work crew of 24 weeded and spread mulch around the grounds of the church. Thanks to Becky Miller Pryor for the food served to all the workers.

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.



**FINE ARTS COMMITTEE**

*Joyce Hershberger*

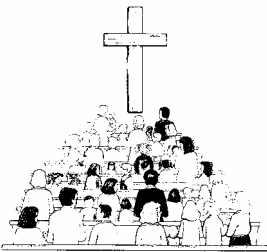
*It is the task of the Fine Arts Committee to proclaim Jesus Christ to each other and to the world by searching out what is good, true and beautiful to serve as aids in the proclamation of the Gospel.*

This year, the Fine Arts Committee saw, as its greatest achievement, the reconstruction of the dossal in the nave. We were so saddened to see how the appearance of the former dossal was altered by construction dust so that the color was not what was originally there.

Our heartfelt thanks go to those intrepid souls willing to risk the heights and challenges of this task to replace the dossal with a new, clean, beautiful piece. If I list the names, I fear I will miss one and that I would never do—you know who you are and I offer all of you our sincere thanks for a job well done.

The committee will probably work on the fine arts policy in the next months—committee members include Jane Larson, Bob Miller, Lucille Weaver, John Hoffman, myself 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.*

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 to discuss dates of events for the various programs of Little Lambs, exchange information about space requirements and where necessary attach costs to those requests.

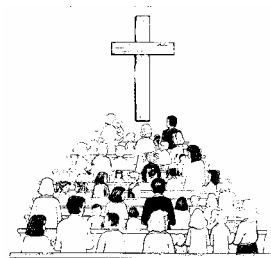
Again this year we are primarily concerned with getting space for outdoor equipment for the school. It has been a long struggle with bridge construction, real estate, politics and a multitude of challenges. The equipment is ready, Little Lambs are more than ready and as yet, we have no solution. It is our hope that this summer we will resolve this issue.

Additionally we take care of repairs, approve painting where necessary and other items of business.

We are grateful to Holly for the gift of a coffeepot for our kitchen, for their good stewardship of our facility and for the good relationship we have maintained over the years.

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

~ Joyce Hershberger



**STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

*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.*

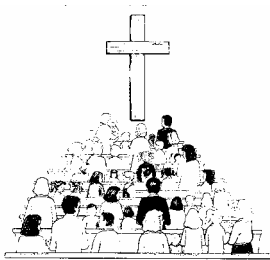
1. This spring, we developed a new format for our Consecration Sunday program. We continued dividing up the responsibilities of materials printing and distributing, securing a guest speaker and soliciting reservations but new this year we exchanged meal preparations and servicing with our sister Lutheran Church, St. Luke's. We



prepared and serviced their congregation a lunch October 12th and in turn they prepared and serviced our congregation a breakfast after the 8:00 a.m. service and a lunch after the 10:30 a.m. service. This process was well received by both congregations. Great relationships were developed for future endeavors and we saved money, too. Many thanks to Bob Jones and his helpers. What an enormous responsibility they took on and handled with ease. Pastor Elisabeth Schuster from New Holland was our guest speaker and delivered a very interesting sermon.

2. The Finance Committee and Council then developed the budget and presented to the congregation on December 10th for action.
3. In addition to the regular giving envelopes that are made available to any who wish to use them each year, we added a special Synod Benevolence giving envelope. The funds received from this envelope are sent directly to our regional ELCA office in Lewisburg. There were other special giving opportunities such as the Shepherd of the Streets, St. Anthony's Center, World Hunger, Family Promise, our missionary, disaster relief and others.
4. Our youth have been supporting our community and world by continuing to collect money and/or items for needed causes.

Thanks to all who support our stewardship throughout the year.



**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.*

Archives have been called the collective memory of an organization. In the past ten years we have been building our archives to include as much history of our church that we could find. There is still much more to include. Over the years St. Marks was unfortunate to have many early records destroyed by several floods long before the

dikes were built along the river...floods from the latter 1800's and those in 1936 and 1960's.

The primary responsibility for congregational archives belongs to the congregation. Specific responsibility for maintaining the records belongs with the pastor and others involved in the creation of such records. Congregational archives stand together with other archives of the whole church as a resource for American Lutheran history and as evidence for the wider history of Christian life and mission in the world. So what we do at St. Marks is **IMPORTANT!**

For almost two years not much has been done with the actual filing of archival material due to my unexpected heart problem. Since the first of the year I have been without a car which has kept me from doing my job. Filing ephemera is most important! Gary Weber and Clint Eppelman have been working on gather information to put on disks....and they get the information from our files. Dr. Ted Larson, Roxanne Larson and the late Larry Lundy have helped keep our files updated A little over a year ago we were given a better work area but lately the room has been inundated with STUFF (not related to archiving) making it almost impossible to do any work.

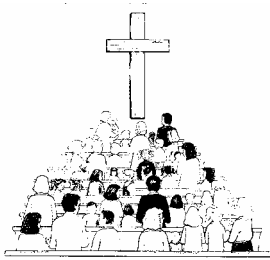
The ELCA is working on a model constitution for congregations to provide for committees to be established as needed.....to administer parish archives for providing continuous care of records from active to archival status. An archivist is not necessarily the historian or interpreter of the congregation's history. The archivist works in close cooperation with those creating records as well as with the pastor, congregation Council and archives committee.

I suggest that Council appoint such a committee immediately to update and continue the work that has already begun.

Not many church members know that if a congregation is the result of a merger or consolidation of congregations, the resulting congregation becomes responsible for maintaining the records of all predecessors. If a congregation disbands, however, the records become the responsibility and property of the Synod and are deposited in the appropriate synodical/regional archives.

I am sure there are one or two members of St. Marks that enjoy history and/or enjoy keeping records. Don't be shy! Give me or Pastor Elkin a call and say you'll 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:

Jeanne Fargus	Wilbur Hughes
Ethel Chambers	Harriet Fornwalt
Merritt Hunt	Henry Fornwalt
Ronald Smith	Arthur Kline

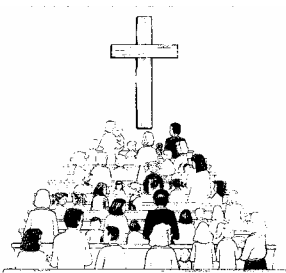
Gifts have been received in honor of:

Patricia Thayer  
Elizabeth Chrisman

Window Flower Box memorials have been received in memory of:

Glenn & Ruth Lunger  
Wilbur Hughes  
Isabel Gerberding  
Geraldine Shipman  
G. William Lamade  
Paul & Anna Blew  
Luther & Alma Schoffstall

~ 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.*

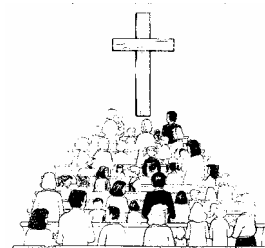
Finance Committee handled the following items in the course of the year:

1. Met with our portfolio managers from M & T Bank in February and August.
2. Continued to use Heat Envelopes to help defray the cost of the heating bills. Thanks again to the congregation.
3. Approved the contract for improvements to the air conditioning system. Funds transferred from the Capital Fund Account.
4. Met with Chris Fallon from our insurance company and review our current policy and liability limits.
5. Prepared the annual budget for action by Council and Congregation.
6. Handled many small regular management matters.
7. At the end of the year, we review the St. Mark's Investment Fund and Welker Trust Fund and noted a loss at 28.75% and 30.37%, respectfully. Though this is bad, these percentages are still not as bad as the national average of 40%.

With regrets, we accepted the resignation of Audrey Albright, due to health reasons, and thanked her for the 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, Ken Shafranko and Pastor Elkin for all your help with the financial matters.

~ Jackie Kinney



**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.*

The function of the Women of the ELCA is to respond to God's call to discipleship. Our local unit strives to grow in faith to accomplish this goal.

This past year we completed a record number of 92 quilts. This was due to our faithful quilting group, both those who work at home and those who meet at the church every Wednesday morning, as well as to the people in the congregation who donate materials.

Other service projects for Lutheran World Relief included the collection of kits, soap bars, and funds to purchase blankets. Clothing left over from our rummage sale was given to local charitable groups, as well as bags of T-shirts to Liberia. A new project was added to our recycling efforts. We teamed up with the Good Deed Foundation and the Women's Funding Network to collect old cell phones. This aids in reducing greenhouse emissions.

Two successful rummage sales, spearheaded by Jane Kline and Becky Miller Pryor, resulted in

generating funds to send contributions to Shepherd of the Streets, United Churches of Lycoming County, Camp Mt. Luther, St. Anthony's Center, Habitat for Humanity, Church Women United, Lutheran World Relief shipping (Project Comfort), ELCA International Disaster Response, ELCA Domestic Disaster Response, Liberia Shipping Container, American Rescue Workers, and the Newberry Branch of the New Garment Agency. Partial matching funds from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans aided in these endeavors. We were also able to purchase a new washer and dryer for St. Mark's.

Our annual intergenerational event this year included young boys at the Women and Children's Dinner. We were entertained by a ventriloquist at a catered dinner.

Our membership continues to decline due to illness and aging. We remain hopeful that, through God's grace, other women of our congregation will become interested in keeping our organization active. We are blessed with a supportive congregation who consistently supplies us with materials for our projects. For this, we praise God!

~ Shirley Hill, Chairman

~ Lucille Weaver, Treasurer

~ Ernestine Doane, Secretary

**FINANCIAL REPORT  
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2008**

**GENERAL FUND:**

<b>INCOME:</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>
Envelope: Pledges	\$ 253,254.00	\$ 262,275.00
Other Religious Income	\$ 13,984.00	\$ 13,700.00
Parking Lot/Rentals	\$ 17,292.00	\$ 16,400.00
Transfer From Investment Fund	\$ 13,000.00	\$ 19,000.00
Welker/Capital-General	\$ 31,061.00	\$ 21,000.00
Welker/Benevolence-General	\$ 2,480.00	\$ 2,000.00
Heat Envelope Income	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 5,000.00
Synod Donations	\$ 1,943.00	\$ -
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 335,214.00</b>	<b>\$ 339,375.00</b>

<b>EXPENSES:</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>
Staff	\$ 220,587.00	\$ 223,431.00
Administration	\$ 15,293.00	\$ 18,900.00
Worship & Music	\$ 5,606.00	\$ 5,600.00
Christian Ed/Youth	\$ 6,315.00	\$ 5,850.00
Property	\$ 59,366.00	\$ 62,420.00
Benevolence & Charity	\$ 23,840.00	\$ 23,575.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 331,007.00</b>	<b>\$ 339,776.00</b>

<b>INCOME LESS EXPENSE</b>	<b>\$ 4,207.00</b>	<b>\$ (401.00)</b>
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<b>DEDICATED BENEVOLENCE INCOME:</b>	
Hunger, Food, Blankets, G Missions, St. Anthony Shepherd, Thanks-Offering, Mossy Foot, Misc,	\$ 5,182.00
Capital Income	\$ 2,835.00
Organ Fund	\$ 685.00
Theological Fund	\$ 235.00

**MEMORIAL FUND:**

Balance as of December 31, 2007	\$ 10,176.00
Gifts	\$ 7,390.00
Disbursements	\$ (7,599.00)
Balance as of December 31, 2008	<b>\$ 9,967.00</b>

**INVESTMENT FUND:**

Balance as of 12/31/07	\$ 597,620.00
<b>Income:</b>	
Gifts, Various Transfers & Reclassifications	\$ 169,742.00
Interest/Dividends	\$ 18,461.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 188,203.00</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>	
Fees	\$ (7,524.00)
Various Transfers & Reclassifications	\$ (74,413.00)
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ (81,937.00)</b>
<b>Market Value Change</b>	<b>\$ (201,449.00)</b>
Balance as of 12/31/08	<b>\$ 502,437.00</b>

**Women of the ELCA  
St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
Williamsport, PA 17701  
Treasurer's Report  
April 16, 2009**

**Checking Account**

Balance April 25, 2008		\$475.06
Income:		
Offerings	\$ 32.00	
Transfers Savings	3301.00	
<i>Total Income</i>	\$ 3333.00	<u>\$ 3333.00</u>
<b>Total</b>		<b><u>\$ 3808.06</u></b>
Expenses		
Kate (Women's dinner)	95.00	
St Mark's (three dinners men)	23.25	
USSWO (Mission in-gathering)	100.00	
Women ELCA (75 x 4 quarters)	300.00	
Shirley Hill (gas Lou quilt delivery)	50.00	
NGA (New Garment Agency)	100.00	
Jane Kline (Bazaar Ad)	28.68	
Women ELCA (container)	100.00	
St. Mark's (washer & dryer)	977.00	
Williams Hill (clothing racks)	132.45	
Shepherd of the Street	300.00	
United Churches	200.00	
Camp Mt. Luther	300.00	
St. Anthony's Center	200.00	
Williamsport/ Lyco Habitat for Humanity	100.00	
Church Women United	100.00	
Lutheran World Relief (shipping project comfort)	100.00	
ELCA International Disaster Response	100.00	
ELCA Domestic Disaster Response	100.00	
American Rescue Workers	100.00	
<i>Total Expenses</i>	<u>\$3506.38</u>	<u>-\$ 3506.38</u>
<b>Balance 4-16-09</b>		<b><u>\$ 301.68</u></b>

**Savings Account**

Balance April 25, 2008 \$ 3797.03

Income:

Thrivent (Clothing Sale Matching Funds)	\$550.00	
Clothing Sale	20.00	
2007 Bazaar (inc. 300.00 change)	1346.17	
Thrivent Financial (Bazaar)	987.00	
Interest	<u>19.34</u>	
Total Deposits	\$2922.51	<u>\$2922.51</u>
		\$6719.54

Withdrawals:

Change 10/08 Bazaar	300.00	
Transfers to checking	<u>3400.00</u>	
Total Withdrawals	\$3700.00	<u>-\$3700.00</u>

**Balance Savings 4-16-09 \$ 3019.54**