

To know Christ



and to make Christ known

The Annual Report

May 17, 2015

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

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RECEIVED BY AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

RECEIVED BY LETTER OF TRANSFER

Edward Richner from Church of the Savior

REMOVED BY LETTER OF TRANSFER

Bob & Mary Schultz ~ Messiah Lutheran Church
 Patricia Drake ~ Trout Run U.M. Church
 Ken & Beth Shafranko ~ Grace, State College
 Eric, Sharon, Morgan & Christina Comini ~ First
 U.M. Church

WEDDINGS

MEMBER FUNERALS

David McMorris..... (in Arizona)
 Pam Ross..... June 6, 2014
 Carol Confer July 27, 2014
 Eleanor Whiting.....August 8, 2014
 Lillian SkeebebyAugust 27, 2014
 Luella Bair January 13, 2015
 John BurkholderApril 4, 2015

NON-MEMBER FUNERALS

Lois Buzzard..... May 2, 2014
 Jeanette Stuempfle.....August 2, 2014
 Ruth Ann SnyderJanuary 9, 2015
 Justin BurkholderApril 4, 2015

**NEWLY ENROLLED IN
 CATECHETICAL STUDY**

Sean Jensen
 Dylan Ott

BIBLE MILESTONE

Emma Elkin..... November 23, 2014
 Liam Elkin November 23, 2014

RECEIVING BLANKET MILESTONE

Case Robert Pittenger October 19, 2014



FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

BAPTISMS

Case Robert Pittenger October 19, 2014
 Greycen Walter..... October 26, 2014

FIRST COMMUNIONS

Emma Elkin..... November 23, 2014
 Liam Elkin November 23, 2014

AFFIRMATION/CONFIRMATION

Makensie DoeblnerSeptember 7, 2014
 Grace Schreckengast.....September 7, 2014
 Annika Waffenschmidt.....September 7, 2014
 Sadie Wentzel.....September 7, 2014
 Taylor Wentzel.....September 7, 2014

SYNOPSIS OF THE MINUTES OF CONGREGATION ASSEMBLIES

Special Congregational Assembly Dec. 14, 2014

A **Special Assembly** was held on December 14, 2014 following both services for the purpose of acting on the 2015 budget, which was adopted as proposed by the Council without changes.

Annual Congregation Assembly May 19, 2014

The Annual Assembly was held on May 19, 2014, following the 10:30 service. The Assembly accepted the Booklet of Reports; elected Deb Holmes, Walter Haussmann, Ray Huff, and Dan Zeigler to terms on the Congregation Council; and approved re-leathering of another portion of the organ chests.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

To Know Christ and to make Christ known.

Our mission statement is quite straightforward and is crucial to our ministry. If what we are considering does not correlate with our mission statement, we probably need to rethink what we are considering.

We as Christians in this wonderful country are free to worship as we please. At St. Mark's we worship in a way that we hope pleases God. Our church is not centered on what we can get out of it; it is centered on how we can worship, listen, sing, pray and share in all that God has graciously given us. We have inspirational services through which we hear the Word of God. We have excellent programs involving teaching and learning the ways of Christ and

His admonition to preach the Word.

We celebrate the Sacraments in many ways. We are truly blessed to be able to commune each week. We also have home communion visitors who share the Word and Sacrament with those members who are unable to come to the church. The church comes to them.

We have many ways in which we can provide for our brothers and sisters. At St. Mark's, we are continually looking outside of our doors to those in need in our neighborhood. In the past few years, Pastor Elkin has been very actively promoting the Family Promise program, to help homeless families. Donna Elkin and Deborah Maggs ensure that all works smoothly during our hosting weeks. We not only host the homeless, but we provide much-needed financial support through our annual Iron Chef program. Our efforts in the past year extended well beyond supporting Family Promise. We continue to support the Shepherd of the Streets, local ministries, and those who come to the door for a chance at daily bread. These and many other efforts will continue to be the focus of St. Mark's social outreach in our community.

We have opportunities to reach out to others in the community as well. We have many new neighbors in the community. We have welcomed new members of the community through publicity in the nearby hotels, our Fourth of July programs, and in having community presentations in the church. Visitors get a solid recognition during the service and a written communication of welcome is mailed that afternoon. The feeling is that this is our church, and we want it to be your church as well.

I am continually amazed at the generosity of our members. We have the usual tasks of supporting the physical part of the buildings, the grounds, and the staff. We take care of the day-to-day needs in our finances and we are quick to help whatever cause or need occurs. We are not only givers; we are cheerful givers.

In the past year I have enjoyed working with Pastor Elkin, the staff, council and the committees, which support the congregation and its endeavors. Council has worked very hard to ensure that what we do starts with a God-centered focus. Three of our council members (plus a congregational member) are enrolled in the Lay Ministry Institute and will be installed at the June Synod Assembly.

We are a congregational family. Families

face challenges at times. Sometimes it is wise to get an outside look at what we do. The Reconciliation Team process took a lot of time, effort, and patience. The Congregational Council and Pastor Elkin have worked very diligently in following the recommendations of the Reconciliation Team.

St. Mark's is alive and well. Thanks to all for their work this year. Their reports follow. Challenges face us to be sure. We face the future knowing that great things are happening at St. Mark's!

~ *Ray Huff, Council President*



**CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP
elected or appointed**

The Rev. Kenneth R. Elkin, Pastor
Ray Huff, President
Walter Haussmann, Vice President
Wanda Fortin, Treasurer
Shelby Weber, Secretary
Sally Bjornstad
Karen Boone
Gregg Dancho
Deb Holmes
Lou Kolb
Dinah Labenberg
Tim Maggs
Daniel Zeigler
Paul Zimmerer

Additional leaders in the Congregation:

Jungwha Kim, Director of Music
Bernadette Jones, Youth & Family Ministry
Michele Owen, Christian Education
Kathy Eshelman, Stephen Ministry Leader
Mel Wentzel, Director of *The Way*
Gary Weber, archivist



A WORD FROM THE PASTOR

The pastor has a wide range of activities, some of which are central to the task of proclamation of the Word, and others more tangential, but still needed.

The most visible area is leadership of Sunday **worship** and worship at other times such as Lent midweek services, the weekday Morning Prayer, and funerals. We prepare service bulletins to enable straightforward participation by all who are present. We use the Sunday lectionary and the weekday lectionary to guide our scripture choices and to point us toward the hymns and other music that will help us to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. An important part of this is encouraging the involvement of as many persons as we can in leadership of the many aspects of worship, such as staffing the many roles in Sunday worship, encouraging home devotions, encouraging the Council members in Prayer at the Close of the Day, and more.

The second area is **study and education**. The pastor does not have an "office", but rather a "study," filled with books and papers, sermon and service preparation materials, class preparation materials, professional journals, as well as papers related to the various committees and other responsibilities. Yes, some things are computerized, but there continues to be an important place for print media. There are things for Sunday School, for summer Forum, and for Wednesday noon and Thursday morning Bible studies. This year we added a study called "Lutherans at Worship" on a roughly twice-a-month schedule, in which we have explored the how and why of many texts and practices of our worship in the Lutheran tradition.

The third area of work is **service** both inside and outside the congregation's membership. It involves such disparate things as encouraging the Wednesday quilters and supporting the ongoing work of Family Promise of Lycoming County. That can be something so simple as carrying a pile of quilts, to planning and executing our 7th annual Iron Chef Williamsport com-

petition. I meet with folks in financial or other distress and must make decisions on whether, how, and how much assistance I can offer on behalf of the congregation to some of those persons requesting aid.

Some of these activities are only with our congregation, and others are **ecumenical** in scope. Family Promise is a coalition of 13 hosting congregations and many supporting congregations. We host a monthly breakfast for area pastors to meet and plan together, and host the bi-monthly gathering of Lutheran Shared Ministry. Stephen Ministry provides a listening ear to persons in crisis, and we are currently preparing three additional persons to take on this responsibility later in the year.

Being a pastor has many joys, but also many difficulties...and they are increasing as the years go by. It is more complicated than ever to handle all of them. I need the encouragement of others engaged in this work, and so I am a member of an order called the Society of the Holy Trinity, made up of about 300 Lutheran pastors from across the US and Canada. I have a further responsibility of being chosen as the Dean of the Susquehanna Chapter of the Society with programmatic and pastoral care duties.

There are plenty of activities which need to be done each year, and then there are always new ideas to consider. In the coming year we hope to be measuring all of our activities against the mission statement crafted and adopted by our congregation council - *To know Christ and to make Christ known*. How well do the things we do or propose to do conform to that statement?

The Mutual Ministry Committee and the congregation Council will be looking anew at job descriptions for staff, and committee descriptions as well. We'll be discussing some new approaches such as (1) direct mailing to new residents, (2) making a video to help recruit new congregations to aid in Family Promise work, (3) Vacation Bible School done cooperatively with several other congregations and with program staff from Camp Mount Luther, (4) on-line resources aimed at reaching 20-somethings, (5) development of First Friday programming, (6) adding to our Stephen Ministry program, and other things that will appear as we engage in a planning process this summer with Council, Committees and Congregation.

We will never lack for things that could be done to carry out the mission-statement. And the Lord will continue to bless us in many ways as we work together. Thanks be to God for the

resources, opportunities, guidance, and commitment to tackle them.

In the Name of Jesus,
~ *Pastor Kenneth Elkin*



MUTUAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE

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: Nancy Larson, Donna Clark, Bud Hershberger, Kathy Eshelman, Pastor Kenneth Elkin, Brenda Gair, Ray Huff, Council President

The term "mutual ministry" recognizes that the Church's ministry is the mutual concern of both the laity and the pastor. It encourages us to move away from a primary focus on the ministry of ordained clergy alone and includes all the people of God in the mutual work of ministry.

During this past year, the structure of the former Mutual Ministry committee changed based on the recommendations of the Reconciliation Panel. Part of the former Mutual Ministry Committee has now become the Personnel Committee, while others from the former Mutual Ministry Committee continue to be on Mutual Ministry.

In order to find the focus of strictly a Mutual Ministry committee, we have been reading and discussing the Mutual Ministry Handbook of the Upper Susquehanna Synod - ELCA. It is our hope that some of the suggestions found in the handbook may be used in our congregation as we live our new mission statement and goals are developed for St. Mark's.

~ *Kathy Eshelman, Chairperson*



PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

At the recommendation of the Reconciliation team, the Mutual Ministry/Personnel Committee was split into two separate committees. The current members of the Personnel Committee are: Walt Haussmann, Ray Huff, Lorraine Barone, Bud Hershberger, and Pastor Elkin.

The committee began by reviewing the performance evaluations of all staff, making additions and corrections as was appropriate. In some cases, individual meetings were held to help the staff member to better understand their duties and responsibilities. These meetings also allowed the committee to make recommendations for continuing education and improvement.

The committee also began work on a new Personnel Policy Manual. The current manual is outdated. It also needs to include both policies and procedures.

The goals for next year are:

1. complete policy and procedure manual
2. review staff job descriptions, making corrections and changes as needed
3. conduct staff evaluations

I am grateful to all members of this committee.

~ *Walt Haussmann, Chairman*



WORSHIP AND MUSIC

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 committee is responsible for activities related to our weekly worship. Under the heading of worship and music there are the following sub-committees:

Altar guild	Communion Servers
Assisting Ministers	Ushers
Lectors	Greeters
Acolytes	Communion Visitors
Nursery Staff	Altar flowers
Nave Decorating	Lutherans at Worship
Milestone events	Music with Jungwha
Seder	Children's Church
First Communion	Church Services

The committee meets four times a year on Tuesday nights at 7:00 PM. The annual budget is \$7800.00. Some of the committee's activities are:

1. Decorate the nave for special services such as Easter Vigil, Christmas Eve, and Harvest Home
2. Add names to the All Saints' Banners for baptisms and the saints triumph
3. Started the study of Lutheran worship
4. Encouraging the younger members to contribute to the service by using their musical gifts
5. Replace candles used for special services and ornaments for the Remembrance service.

Many members of the congregation assisted the committee to enhance our worship services. Without these volunteers, the committee couldn't achieve its goals.

Our committee members are: Sally Bjornstad, Karen Boone, Walt Haussmann, Connie Shaible, Cindy and Ray Huff, Roxie Larson, Michele Owen, and Jungwha Kim

I wish to thank the committee, the congregation, and council for their help and support.

Respectfully submitted,
~ *Dan Zeigler, Chairperson*



REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Although the number of people in music ministries decreased, we did strive and accomplish our need. This year we have more youth musicians involved in worship with adults as well. I am proud of all our musicians who glorify God through their talents. We bring excellent quality of music throughout the year; solo, bells, ensemble, anthems, hymns, instrumental music, and many kinds of liturgical music.

One devoted musician sets the tone of whole worship. We experienced this recently by a guest singer. (By the way, he is not my brother. Having a Korean director of music, you might want to know there are more than 300 clans for Kim. The chance of two Kims to be the same clan is less than 1 %.) However when a musician who grew up in our church in front of very eyes commits musical sacrifice to worship, joy of the Lord with ours strengthens and doubles. How much does one person influence the whole worship?

Praise must produce power when we praise and rejoice from heart knowing Joshua had put the praise team before everybody when they circled around the fortress of Jericho before it collapsed. *The joy of the Lord is our strength.* (Nehemiah 8:10)

To summarize our musical journey during this year:

- ♪ Working with Children at VBS
- ♪ Volunteer musicians were brought not only to summer worship but entire season.
- ♪ Cooperating with music teachers to supply youth musicians to worship
- ♪ July 4th Community Celebration with our singers, Ken Shafranko and Ray Huff

- ♪ Working with Senior Choir, Adult Bell Choir throughout the year
- ♪ Inviting singers for festive seasonal choir for Christmas and Easter
- ♪ Sanctuary organ is under repair by Parsons Organ company.

Re-leathering of Diapason 16' was done last summer trying to solve dryness in pipe chambers.

Plans for next year are:

- ♪ to thrive existing music groups - senior choir, adult bell choir
- ♪ to recruit and expand our music groups
- ♪ to work with youth coordinator for Joint VBS with Trinity Church,
- ♪ to encourage youth musicians
- ♪ to make successful Christmas Pageant and any possible musical activities
- ♪ to provide opportunities to guest musicians/groups to enhance our worship and music ministry
- ♪ to find potential local musicians to collaborate to enhance our music ministries.
- ♪ to keep possible repair sanctuary organ under budget.

Major refurbishing is on hold due to demand of heating system

Special thanks go to Pastor Elkin and Kathy Eshelman, Chair of Mutual Ministry, to plan the music and liturgy in order to guide me to the right direction. Sometimes we need one person with right heart and readiness. It might be you or someone next to you. I happen to be here to find a diamond in the rough. Inexhaustible power comes from praise and thankfulness toward our Creator. It will not end until we meet Our Father in Heaven.

Grace and peace be multiplied unto you. Alleluia!

~ Jungwha Kim, Director of Music



REPORT OF THE COORDINATORS OF YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

The purpose of the ministry of these Coordinators is to proclaim Jesus Christ to each other and to the entire world by planning and administering the total educational program of the parish, as well as its youth and family ministry program. To this end, the Youth and Family Ministry Coordinators supervise educational opportunities, celebrations and fellowship activities 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. For curriculum, we continue with Augsburg's SPARKS program which is lectionary based. The materials are very "user friendly" and reinforce each Sunday's lesson with the children.
2. Our children were divided into the following configuration based on numbers, age, and/or grade level: preschool 3-4 year olds—grade 2; grades 3—5.
3. Our middle school class of 6-8 graders continues with the *To Know, to Live, to Grow* program by Augsburg Fortress.
4. The confirmation class includes five 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. Bob Jones continues 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 five students.

Youth and Family Ministry Activities:

1. Passing on Faith remains a keystone of our family ministry at St. Mark's. Milestones celebrated this year: Receiving blankets for newborns; First Communion; Baptismal hospitality with faith chests for recently baptized; third graders received Holy Communion and their Bibles; The Blessing of the Keys was offered to those youth who became new drivers; "Progressions," the milestone for those young adults leaving for college, the military or business and their parents was celebrated; 70+, Single, and Still Praising God has become an annual event honoring our

senior parishioners. As this goes to print, we are planning the Wedding Anniversary celebration for four of our couples.

2. Michele planned for the annual Fishing Derby at Doebler's farm.
3. The Annual Church Picnic was held at Montoursville's Indian Park.
4. A dinner/pool party was held for first and second year confirmands, their families and mentors in July.
5. A third annual Helping Hands Day was held, during which several of our members went to another's home to do yard work for them when they could not.
6. Four of our youth were confirmed on the first day of Sunday school, 2014. A reception for the families was held afterward.
7. Teen Movie Night continues for our youth on the fourth Sunday of every month. There is a consistent attendance on these evenings.
8. A group pack 'n' wrap for Operation Christmas Child was held in November. Participants packed 65 shoe boxes with small gifts for needy children around the world. Money was donated toward the \$7/box shipping.
9. The now annual trip to Corning was planned.
10. We held the Along the Way book fair in November.
11. Family Advent Wreath Making & Luncheon was attended by over 30 people on the first Sunday of Advent.
12. Kids' Night Out was a huge success. Over a dozen of our youth assisted.
13. The participants attending the Christmas Cookie-Baking event produced the cookies sent for our shut-ins.
14. Christmas Caroling and cookie delivery was conducted by our volunteer carolers. Visits were made later in the week for those whom we were unable to reach on that day.
15. Donna Elkin and Laura Schreckengast led many of our youth in assisting Pr. Elkin in the Christmas Eve Family service by presenting, both instrumentally and vocally, the Martin Luther hymn "From Heaven Above."
16. Over 99 pieces of winter warmers, hats, scarves and gloves were collected for those in need. Deb Buckman made sure they were all delivered to NGA.
17. Michele planned the Remembrance Service.

18. Bread-baking this year was led by Pr. Elkin and Bernadette: our kitchen was once again filled with laughter and the wonderful smell of baking bread.
19. Ed Gair continues crafting our Faith Chests for the Baptism Milestone. We still have a few ornaments and keepsakes for various milestones from John & Ruth Burkholder. Bernadette wood burns details on some and creates others.
20. We trained three new acolytes in January.
21. We sent four of our youth to the Youth Quake/Zone event in Pittsburgh over the last weekend in January. They wrote comments and expressed thanks which were included in the March *Lion*. Bernadette accompanied them.
22. 57 cans of soup and \$121 were collected for "Souper Bowl Sunday," held in February.
23. A family snow tubing party was held in February at Ski Sawmill. Brenda Gair organized it and it was very well attended.
24. Bernadette planned the biannual Hobby Expo in February.
25. Nursery is once again open for the 10:30 service! Brenda Gair is coordinating the volunteers.
26. This year's Catechetical Trip was to southeastern PA. The students' accounts of some of the sites are in the April & May newsletters.
27. Second Saturday continues in the kitchen. This is when cooks of all ages and experience levels gather in the kitchen for a seasonal cooking project. We made enough filled Easter Eggs this year to sell for the benefit of our quilting ladies.
28. The Annual Easter Egg Hunt and breakfast with Pastor Elkin was held on Saturday, April 4, 2015: about 55 were served. The children bagged jelly beans and included a card with a special prayer to hand out to the congregation on Easter Sunday. The 16 youth who assisted were especially helpful.
29. The St. Mark's Old Fashion Church Family picnic is scheduled for Sunday, June 7, 2015.
30. Bernadette and Michele continue to plan the women's dinner.
31. Declan Jones schedules and trains acolyte volunteers.

Outreach/Continuing Education:

1. Flyers for St. Mark's were distributed by

Bernadette to the downtown hotels and visitors center.

2. Bernadette attended Little Lambs Open House with flyers about St. Mark's and Sunday School.
3. Bernadette again acted as host at St. Mark's for the CROP Walk, providing cookies and beverages for the walkers.
4. Vacation Bible School this year is being planned in conjunction with Trinity and All Saints Episcopal Churches.
5. Our involvement with United Campus Ministry continues.
6. Bernadette and Michele attend weekly Bible study.
7. Bernadette attends the study group, Lutherans at Worship.
8. Bernadette directed and oversaw the bi-annual production of "A Christmas Carol," benefitting United Campus Ministry at Penn College.
9. Bernadette accompanied the annual caroling visit to Selinsgrove Center.
10. Michele and Bernadette attended an ecumenical lunch where the regulations for the new Child Safety codes and procedures were introduced and explained.
11. Iron Chef Williamsport, our fundraiser for Family Promise of Lycoming County, raised almost \$9000 this year. Our youth servers contributed over \$699 from their Tips for a Promise.
12. Bernadette and Michele both continue to be active with FPLC hosting in overnight and evening/dinner hosts, respectively.
13. Bernadette is active with Lutheran Shared Ministry.
14. Michele and Becky Miller Pryor organized a group to volunteer for the Food Packaging event in Jersey Shore.
15. College care packages were sent to our college students for finals in both December and April.
16. Bernadette and Michele try to stay on top of our social media outlets.
17. 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.

Looking Ahead:

1. Michele is moving ahead with renewing and updating clearances and background checks for the staff and volunteers, in

order to be in compliance with the new regulations regarding child safety.

2. Michele and Bernadette plan on making a concerted effort, with Pr. Elkin's assistance, to reach out to those parents who are not bringing their children to church and/or Sunday School.
3. Bernadette is still trying to develop a website for the 20-somethings in the community. Input, ideas, and assistance are needed for this. Maintaining an online presence is a time consuming endeavor.
4. With Council's and Pastor's approval, Bernadette is hoping to do a summer theatre production this year with youth, benefiting Project Heifer.
5. Michele is planning to look into a new curriculum program or writing our own.

~ *Bernadette H. Jones*, Coordinator,
Youth & Family
~ *Michele Owen*, Coordinator,
Christian Education



SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE

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

Since assuming the chairmanship of this committee in June 2004, it has been my goal to continue with many of the 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 active-

ties throughout the year. Our outreach to the community included:

- Our fifth year of hosting homeless children and their families through our association with Family Promise of Lycoming County. Donna Elkin and Debbie Maggs are the coordinators for hosting at St. Mark's. Many members of our congregation have made significant commitments to this ministry which occurs four different weeks per year. This is presently the most significant work of the Social Ministry committee. I am honored to volunteer during hosting weeks.
- Hosting the community on our front lawn for the Fourth of July festivities under the leadership of Declan Jones. We provided refreshments, information about St. Mark's, a patriotic program in the Nave and good cheer to many people. We are the only church in the Center City area to provide outreach to the community on this national holiday. I encourage its continuance.
- Providing food and monetary donations to St. Anthony's Center.
- Collecting non-perishable food items throughout the winter, spring and summer months for the UCLC Food Bank. The Worship and Music Committee collect a large quantity of items during Harvest Sunday.
- Entertaining the 16 residents of the Selinsgrove Center with songs, stories, and gifts for the residents and their caregivers. It is this chairperson's opinion we are better Christians for making this trip each year to visit with the ladies of CM-6.
- Providing more than 40 general gifts of sweatshirts, socks, pajamas, slippers, and the like for Christmas gifts to the residents of the Danville State Hospital.
- Collecting hygiene items throughout the year and making monetary donations to the Shepherd of the Streets Emergency Fund.
- Supporting the work of The Pregnancy Care Center, Family Promise and Daniel's Closet by providing clothing and baby items through our association with the Newberry Branch of NGA (Needlework Guild of America.)

- Being supportive of activities of the UCLC. This year we were the Center City anchor church for the first Heroin Task Force Prayer Walk.
- Being grateful for the assistance of Lou DeSeau and the guidance of Pastor Elkin in any and all ways requested.
- Welcoming the ongoing assistance from Gary Weber in posting this committee's activities on our web site.

Pastor and other members of the congregation provide service to our community and beyond by volunteering locally at St. Anthony's Center, Shepherd of the Streets, Daniel's Closet and UCLC worship services at nursing homes and other institutions.

As I look to the year ahead, there are needs I would like to pursue. They include:

- Reflecting on our church motto for guidance in choosing activities or making decisions for this committee.
- Establishing a working committee that can guide decisions for this committee's activities.
- Responding to individuals within the congregation that need our love and compassion.
- Providing support for our local Habitat for Humanity by hosting more work site lunches.

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.

Respectfully submitted,
~ *Becky Miller Pryor*



STEPHEN MINISTRY

The purpose of Stephen Ministry is to proclaim Jesus Christ to each other and to all the world by providing a process in which Stephen Leaders train, organize and supervise lay persons

known as Stephen Ministers to provide distinctively Christian care to others.

St. Mark's enrolled in the Stephen Series in December of 1997. Stephen Ministers continue to be linked in one-to-one relationships with care receivers. Our dedicated St. Mark's Stephen Ministers meet on a monthly basis on a Thursday. We begin with Morning Prayer and then have our meetings for guidance, support and relevant continuing education. This past year, we explored the Fruits of the Spirit as they relate to our caregiving and read sections of a book about finding the right words to say when offering care and comfort to another person.

We are fortunate to have three St. Mark's members who are currently being trained to be new Stephen Ministers. We have been meeting at least twice a month and have a day-long retreat scheduled in May.

With the assistance of the congregation, Stephen Ministry will continue to identify potential care receivers and will provide support to those in need.

~ *Kathy Eshelman, Chairperson*



PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

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. Small additions to the kitchen and dining inventories were made by way of gifts or purchases.
2. Funeral lunches were marked.
3. We had many Milestone Celebration luncheons

4. Prepared & served breakfast for the Sunday School Kick-Off.
5. Prepared & served meal for Consecration.
6. Prepared & served a meal for the Iron Chef Competition to benefit Family Promise.
7. Prepared & served Lenten Meals.
8. Prepared & served monthly Lunch and Fellowship meals.
9. Prepared & served Seder Meal
10. Prepared & served Woman's Dinner
11. Helped with meals for VBS and other fund-raisers throughout the year.
12. Participated with the cookie bake during Christmas.
13. Second Saturday Cooking Fellowship (Cooking with Janet) which is open to anyone in the congregation to come in and learn some cooking techniques as well as a time for fellowship.

We thank all committees and persons that have helped us achieve our goals throughout the year. We welcome anyone who would like serve God by serving others. You can always find us in the kitchen!

~ *Michele Fredericks, Chairperson*



PROPERTY COMMITTEE

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.

Property Committee Annual Report

1. Spring cleanup day and mulching

2. Exterior light installed above east entrance.
3. Ground level light replaced in east parking lot.
4. Shrubbery pruning and trees.
5. Two altar vases buffed and re-lacquered.
6. Nave boiler circulating pumps couplings replaced.
7. Cement sidewalk repaired and expansion in courtyard.
8. Snow removal as contracted.
9. Repaired plastered walls in basement prior to Little Lambs state inspection.
10. Pavers for courtyard fountain installed.
11. Cement sidewalks repaired on north-east side of building.
12. Handicapped ramp installed northeast side of church.
13. Basement Sink repaired for Little Lambs.
14. Chapel portico poles repainted.
15. Chapel east portico ceiling repainted.
16. Landscape cloths and stone installed east parking lot.
17. Landscape cloth installed on front beds to reduce weeds.
18. Landscaping done for entrance to church and courtyard.
19. Weed control, grass cutting and general outside landscaping upkeep.
20. Contract in place for boiler water chemical control.

Goals for next year:

1. Repair remaining ground lights in east parking lot.
2. Furnace/boiler upgrades.
3. Continue maintenance and repairs.

Again this past year, members of the property committee have completed a large quantity of the above projects, numerous additional small repairs, and volunteered numerous hours of their time and energy.

My heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers who make these things possible.

~ *Louis DeSeau, Chairperson*



FINE ARTS COMMITTEE

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.

No activity this year.

~ Joyce Hershberger, Chairperson



LIAISON COMMITTEE

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 quarterly to discuss dates of mutual interest, consider rental costs for the rooms used by the school and deal with concerns where they may arise in the sharing arrangement.

Needed repairs and improvements are considered and a timely schedule is created.

Special events that are held at the church are cleared with Sunday School personnel and others.

We have a very good working relationship with Little Lambs and feel having them at St. Mark's is mutually beneficial. Many of our families have utilized the pre-school for their children and we communicate with the children in the program concerning special events at St. Mark's.

Pastor Elkin, Holly Tillman (Director of the school), Debbie Neubold (interim director) Bernadette Jones, Lou DeSeau and I meet with consultations as needed with Property and Finance Committees.

~ Joyce S. Hershberger, Chairperson



STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

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

Our mission statement contains many elements that are crucial to our ministry:
To know Christ and to make Christ known.

Through Stewardship we share what God has first given us so that our service and love may be shared with the community and the world. Our sharing of the Word of God with our time, talent and possessions give us an opportunity to serve God.

Consecration Sunday was on October 19, 2014. Prior to that Joyce Hershberger, Brenda Gair and Deb Buckman gave Temple Talks. Pastor Shipman gave the sermon on Consecration Sunday.

Our congregation's finance committee continued with the *New Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program* as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

Fifty-one members signed up for the breakfast and 58 signed up for the lunch. More showed up for breakfast and lunch. A huge "Thank You" to the Parish Life folks and their crew for doing such a great job in not only preparation, but also in making the difficult look easy and elegant.

Pledges totaled under \$137,000.00. It has been noted that members are giving all that they can. A major hurdle is that fewer people are attending church and the other members who have in the past generously contributed have either left the church or have gone to their eternal reward. We recognize that stewardship is much more than meeting a budget. We each have gifts of talent and time that we can give to the church, its members, and the members of the greater community.

What we need to do is to focus on what our needs are in order to serve Christ, and to work toward meeting those needs to make Him known to others. God has given us great abundance; let us give accordingly to each other.

Respectfully submitted,
 ~ *Cindy and Ray Huff*
 Chairs, Stewardship Committee



ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

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

The focus of the Archivist over the past several years has been the preservation of records of current activities and the ongoing history of St. Mark's, primarily through photographs, articles and the Church Website. Of course, the digital archive continues to grow.

The stmarkswilliamsport.org website provides current news and photographs about St. Mark's events and the activities of church members.

Likewise, the sermon archive provides access to sermons given by Pastor Elkin and lay and visiting pastors, back to 2007. There is no other archival record of pastor's sermons for years past.

The Lion newsletter, is preserved online for all years beginning with 2005. While newsletters have been preserved for many past years in paper form, they are not as accessible and are bulky to store.

We are always willing to post articles or photographs concerning members or Church events on the Website. Give or email items to Gary Weber, gweber@stmarkswilliamsport.org.

The Archives Room, across from the Choir Room, contains the traditional records, photographs and other memorabilia. Efforts at organizing the records slowed several years ago, and the index is out-of-date. Your Archivist would like to schedule meetings of the History Committee, but interest has not been express-

ed by volunteers willing to work on archives related projects. There are many projects that ought to be implemented, particularly with the organizing and indexing of existing records.

~ *Gary Weber, Archivist*



MEMORIALS COMMITTEE

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 of the church family in the past year:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Jane Strous | Jane Oakes |
| David McMorris | Luella Bair |
| Katherine Crane | John Burkholder |
| Carol Confer | |

~ *Carl & Beverly Hieber, Chairpersons*



FINANCE ANNUAL REPORT

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.

Please see financial report on pages 17 & 18

~ *Wanda Fortin, Treasurer*



WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

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

The Women of St. Mark's join other Women of the ELCA groups in Christian unity. Together we are a community of women dedicated to put action into words through service to others.

Our source of funds is derived from our annual rummage sale, chaired by Becky Miller Pryor. Last year's profit of \$1661.64 resulted in monetary donations to twelve local and global charities. These charities were 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), ELCA International Disaster Response, ELCA Domestic Disaster Response, American Rescue Workers, NGA-Newberry Branch, and Family Promise. Our leftover items were then recycled to other charity groups, thus reaching even more needy outlets.

The making of mission quilts is our greatest joy. One quilter said, "Putting my hands on this quilt gives me a physical connection to the person who will use it." In 2014 we sent 101 quilts to Lutheran World Relief. Much appreciation goes to our faithful group of quilters, consisting of Lucille Weaver, Grace Arner, Ruth Sherlinski, Shirley Hill, Ernestine Doane, Elsie Sechler, Roxie Larson, Bunny Ditchfield, Audrey Comerford, and Becky Miller Pryor.

Thanks also to the entire congregation for helping us to assemble kits and collect soap for Lutheran World Relief. In addition, \$333 was donated to purchase blankets.

Our long-time traditional Women and Children's dinner was held and enjoyed by all. The meal was organized and coordinated by Bernadette and Michele, prepared by Bob Jones and his crew of St. Mark's men, and served by the young men of our church.

We will continue to know Christ and to make Christ known by providing tangible gifts of God's love to people in need. This is made possible because of the generous support from the whole congregation with donations of quilt and kit materials, soap, rummage sale items, and money. Thank you, St. Mark's, for expressing the grace of God.

*Shirley Hill, Chairman
Barbara Thomas, Treasurer*

WOMEN OF THE ELCA/ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH/APRIL 21, 2015

CHECKING ACCOUNT/PREVIOUS BALANCE 4/5/14 \$ 81.26

INCOME

Transfer from savings/Charity Contributions	\$1500.00	
Transfer from Savings	290.00	
Total Deposits	<u>\$1790.00</u>	
TOTAL INCOME		\$1871.26

EXPENSES

Entertainment Women's Dinner (Scrivener)	50.00	
Women of the ELCA/3 qtrs, 2014/1qtr, 2015	200.00	
Women of the ELCA SWO Convention	100.00	
Shepherd of the Streets	250.00	
United Churches of Lycoming County	150.00	
Camp Mt. Luther	200.00	
St. Anthony Center	150.00	
Greater Lycoming Habitat for Humanity	100.00	
Church Women United	100.00	
Lutheran World Relief-Quilt & Kit shipping	100.00	
ELCA International Disaster Response	50.00	
ELCA Domestic disaster Response	50.00	
American Rescue Workers	100.00	
New Garment Agency (Newberry Branch)	100.00	
Family Promise (ST. Mark's Hosting)	<u>150.00</u>	
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$1850.00

BALANCE CHECKING ACCOUNT 4/21/15 **\$ 21.26**

SAVINGS ACCOUNT/PREVIOUS BALANCE 4/5/14 \$2684.65

INCOME/DEPOSITS

Interest April2014-April 2015	\$ 1.69	
Bazaar Kitchen	61.73	
Bazaar Main Floor	1274.91	
Bazaar starting cash (Reimb)	210.00	
Thrivent Matching Funds	<u>325.00</u>	
Total Deposits	\$1873.33	
TOTAL INCOME		\$4557.98

WITHDRAWALS

Bazaar starting cash	210.00	
Transfer to cking acct (cover contributions)	1500.00	
Transfer to checking (Cover expenses)	<u>290.00</u>	
Total Withdrawals	\$2000.00	

BALANCE SAVINGS ACCOUNT 4/21/15 **\$2557.98**

Prepared by Barbara R. Thomas, Treasurer

**St Marks Lutheran Church / Financial Report
Year Ending Dec 31, 2014**

GENERAL FUND

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>
Envelope pledges	\$ 236,101.00	\$ 245,000.00
Other Religious Income	\$ 12,187.85	\$ 11,550.00
Parking Lot/Rentals	\$ 28,139.45	\$ 24,300.00
Transfer from Investment Fund	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 45,644.00
Welker/Capital-General	\$ 31,546.12	\$ 27,000.00
Welker/Benevolence-General	<u>\$ 0.00</u>	<u>\$ 1,800.00</u>
Total Income	<u>\$ 327,974.42</u>	<u>\$ 355,294.00</u>

<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Staff	\$ 216,704.40	\$ 223,267.00
Administration	\$ 13,254.46	\$ 13,650.00
Worship & Music	\$ 6,385.44	\$ 8,000.00
Christian Ed/Youth	\$ 3,833.81	\$ 5,050.00
Property	\$ 80,543.57	\$ 82,202.00
Benevolence & Charity	<u>\$ 20,492.77</u>	<u>\$ 23,125.00</u>
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 341,214.45</u>	<u>\$ 355,294.00</u>

<u>INCOME LESS EXPENSES</u>	<u>\$ (13,240.03)</u>	<u>\$ --</u>
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Dedicated Benevolence Income

World Hunger, Harvest Home, Food Pantry, Habitat for Humanity, St Anthony, Shepherd Of the Streets, etc....	\$ 3,436.82
Capital Income	\$ 2,513.00
Organ Fund	\$ 535.00
Thrivent Choice Program	\$ 198.00
Theological Fund	\$ 60.00

MEMORIAL FUND

Balance as of 1/1/2014	\$ 38,014.34
Gifts	\$ 21,602.13
Disbursements	<u>\$ (31,410.40)</u>
Balance as of 12/31/2014	<u>\$ 28,206.07</u>

INVESTMENT FUND

Balance as of 1/1/14		\$1,302,213.65
<u>Income</u>		
Gifts, Various Transfers & Reclassifications	\$	31,042.12
Interest/Dividends	\$	<u>28,480.36</u>
Total Income	\$	59,522.48
<u>Expenditures:</u>		
Fees	\$	(14,528.96)
Various Transfers & Reclassifications	\$	<u>(45,235.14)</u>
Total Expenditures	\$	(59,764.10)
<u>Market Value Change</u>	\$	<u>(43,755.91)</u>
Balance as of 12/31/14		<u>\$1,258,216.12</u>