

Welcome one another, therefore,  
just as Christ has welcomed you,  
for the glory of God.

Romans 15:7



May 19, 2019  
Annual Report of  
St Mark's Lutheran Church  
142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA



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### REPORT OF THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

“To Know Christ and to make Christ known...”

This is our mission statement that we, as members of St. Mark’s, strive to move forward throughout every day. Our goals are to help achieve these tenets. Some days we may fall short but it is our Christian faith that encourages us to continue to move ahead toward the goal of our mission.

Over the past year we have seen multiple changes at St. Mark’s and we persist in striving to make St. Mark’s a stronger congregation and source of faith within Williamsport and beyond.

The multiple committees serving St. Mark’s strive to continue our ministries and support the goals of our parish. For instance, the Personnel committee led by Becky Miller-Pryor has continued to meet and review and update the various job descriptions enabling a more supportive and efficient staff. There have been several job eliminations saving money and consolidating jobs along with encouraging more volunteerism among the congregation. Likewise, they also have been

meeting to update and revise the Staff Handbook clarifying any ambiguous or inconsistent wording.

As you will read in the report, our Worship and Music committee led by Ray Huff works diligently to enhance our services with music and liturgy consistent with our Lutheran teachings.

While perusing the report, the Outreach committee led by Becky Miller-Pryor has a full slate of goals and accomplishments as well and they continue to provide many activities and opportunities to provide a wide array of benefits to many folks both at St. Mark’s and outside the walls of St. Mark’s.

Our Safety committee co-chaired by Sally Bjornstad and Dr. Carl Albright has spent many hours planning and preparing our church for the safety of all. Their preparation and concern is unmatched with their dedication to keeping everyone safe under any circumstance and preparing for any contingency.

The Property committee co-chaired by Ed Gair and Lou DeSeau also strives to constantly move forward to maintain and improve the physical plant here at St. Mark’s. We look forward to a newly paved parking lot, have enjoyed a recently repaired organ and observe many improvements to our building and grounds.

The Finance committee chaired by Jackie Kinney has been reviewing our financial procedures and making every attempt to bring our practices and policies in line with Synod suggestions. An audit will soon be conducted to ensure our financial status.

Our Music Director Christian Humcke continues to provide a solid music program for our services and continually striving to include more musicians enhancing our liturgy and participation in our many services throughout the year.

The Stewardship Committee report is quite clear in our strides this past year helping St. Mark’s move forward and encouraging folks to contribute as best they can and move our giving forward to the benefit of many. Benevolence is the key to a solid church foundation and this includes time, talents, and finances. (After ten years, Ray and Cindy Huff are relinquishing their leadership roles on the Stewardship committee. Consequently, we are in need of someone to fill this role. Please look into your heart and pray about serving St. Mark’s in this important position.)

The Faith & Fellowship committee led by Vicki Haussmann has taken a strong role in developing

stronger youth programs and encouraging participation as well as helping improve the Church Library and several other areas utilized by the youth for their various activities.

The Publicity committee co-chaired by Pam Jensen and Gary Weber continues to move St. Mark's forward sharing our web site, e-mail and Facebook with both church members and the general public showing how our church strives to fulfill our mission and showcasing our many varied activities throughout the year.

Finally, what we all are very interested in...the Call committee ably led by Joyce Hershberger reports that unfortunately, the candidate we were proposing decided to not accept our offer to finalize a call to St. Mark's. Consequently, the committee, along with the synod, is continuing to search for a suitable candidate to call to St. Mark's. We need to continue to be patient and keep in mind that all things happen according to God's will and in God's time. The right pastor will be called in when the time is right.

So, we have had a very busy and productive year here at St. Mark's and we continue to achieve the goals of our mission statement of:

To Know Christ and to make Christ known...

Blessings to all as we continue to look forward to another productive year at St. Mark's with your help, support and guidance, along with God who is always present by our side.

In Christ's name and loving care,  
~ Mel Wentzel, Council President

#### FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

*Nikki Young* received by Affirmation of Faith

*Brian Jackson* received by Letter of Transfer

*Michael Wayne Bradley* received by Baptism Marriages:

*Addison Hanford and Paige nee Fortin*

*Daniel Tebbs and Taigen nee Thorne*

*Brian Jackson and Nikki nee Young*

Burials of Members:

*Frank Doebler*

*Charles Weaver*

*Kay Plankenhorn*

*Ruth Burkholder*

*Raymond Stiller*

*Kenneth Goldy*

Burials of Non-Members:

*Allan Malick*

*Kenneth Cooley*

*Martha Pryor*

#### SYNOPSIS OF ASSEMBLY MINUTES

The annual congregational meeting was held in two sessions, one following each service. A quorum was declared. There were no questions or additions at the first service.

The report of the Nominating Committee was accepted. At the second service a question was posed about the two empty seats on Council. They will remain open for Council's consideration. There were no additions.

Carl Albright was elected to a first term on Council; Becky Pryor will serve a second term; Pam Jensen will complete Harold Hershberger's vacated term; Walt, Ben, and Hannah Hausmann will represent us at the Synod Assembly

The acceptance of the booklet of annual reports was moved, seconded and carried.

~ Karen Boone, Secretary 2017-2018

#### REPORT OF THE PASTOR

Grace to you and peace.

"In by inch it's a cinch." "It's not a sprint, it's a bunch of marathons." "That which does not kill us only postpones the inevitable." I saw it on an officer's desk, branch of service withheld. I heard the first quip from my number one fan at the previous call. The second quote came from a Sailor during our second back to back deployment. The truth I want to share with you is that only today matters. When we let go of the past we are not abandoning it, it will be there in future recollections. In letting go of the past we make room for the future. The future comes to us at the usual rate of one day per day. That is all. It's really basic. Maintaining this point of view, however, takes practice.

James Kittelson (1941+2003) called himself a militant layman. In the '80s, he motivated me in less than three lectures to come up with these gems that have guided me well. "In the beginning, God said, 'Let there be light.' There was a Big Bang and it hasn't been the same since." "Spirituality is our life before God in Christ for others." It's fun to be able to quote myself.

Dr. Kittelson reminded us at that continuing education event at St. Olaf College of Luther's breakthrough that led to the Reformation. It had to do with the realization that the Enemy sits on our heads and makes them his thrones. He takes a whip and beats us up with pride followed by despair followed by pride and so on. Luther figured that out

on a different throne when he realized that the righteous live by faith. And to think that we think that we're the ones who beat ourselves up with pride and despair. Clever that one. Seriously, do we really want to take up residence in *Woulda Coulda Shouldaville*?

If we learned anything from this interim year of 2018/19, may it be that we can be of good cheer, our sins are forgiven us. Trust this. All is well. As you read these reports, see them as signs of God's work among us, bringing us and the world one day closer to his will being done here as it is done already in the age to come.

Pray for me, as I pray for you,  
always in Christ Jesus.  
~ Pastor James West

### REPORT REGARDING THE ARCHIVES AND WEBSITE

Much as has been the case for several years, the collection of archival material of the Church continues to grow, most particularly by way of the preservation of the memory of events through photographs and articles on our Website, [www.stmarkswilliamsport.org](http://www.stmarkswilliamsport.org). Each year adds to the preserved history.

*The Lion* newsletter, is likewise preserved online for all years beginning with 2005. Older newsletters have been preserved for many past years in paper form, they are not as accessible. Last year, the Publicity Committee began issuing an email newsletter, which works hand-in-hand with the website and *Lion*. If you are not getting the emails, contact the office to add your name to the email list

The website still contains historical material: construction history, pastor biographies, annual reports, pictorial directories and much more.

We are always willing to post articles or photographs on the Website, concerning St. Mark's member activities or Church events. Give or email items to Gary Weber,

Anyone interested in working with the History Committee, please contact me. The physical collection of archival material is located in the Archives Room, but it is not well organized. Work meetings of the History Committee could organize this material, **if sufficient** interest in working on our paper archives is expressed.

~ Gary Weber, Archivist

### REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE CALL COMMITTEE

The call committee was formed two and one half years ago and has been working diligently since that time.

We have interviewed all the candidates we received from the synod office and have had several of them visit – one in particular visited twice, met the council and was favorably received by both the council and the call committee.

Sadly, he decided that he needed to stay near his elderly Mother and declined our invitation.

We are disappointed, but not daunted. Pastor Miller has promised to visit with council and the call committee to assess where we are. We remember the quotation that “God's delays are not God's denials – patience is called for.

We are trying our best and continue to pray that the Holy Spirit will lead us to the best person to take St. Mark's into the next years – but it is difficult.

I am grateful to a very committed committee for their perseverance and dedication- they are always responsive and there when they needed to be – Gary Weber, Mel Wentzel, Karen Mariano, Walt Haussmann and Matt Fortin. Special thanks to Lorraine Barone who has stood in the wings and been available when we needed her.

~ Joyce S. Hershberger, chair

### REPORT OF THE FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

The Christian Education Committee navigated some changes last year, namely the restructuring of our staff positions associated with Youth and Family Ministry. In an effort to more clearly delineate what our committee role is, it was decided to change this committee's name to the Faith and Fellowship Committee. *This name encompasses our purpose of proclaiming Jesus Christ to each other and to the world through Christian Education as well through Christian Fellowship.*

[gweber@s](mailto:gweber@s)

#### Christian Education

1. Sunday School classes are held weekly September-May.
  - One Adult Sunday School class, The “Master's Gardeners”, meets in Middle Lounge for study and discussion on a variety of topics.
  - Youth Sunday School includes classes for:
    - a. High School students (curriculum varies ~ discussion based)
    - b. Students in Grades 4-6 (liturgical based

Whirl curriculum is used)

- c. Elementary students join in with activities and lessons based on materials and stories from the Bible.
2. We have incorporated music into our weekly Sunday School schedule and appreciate Christian opening our class each week with Bible songs.
3. Together with the Outreach Committee we have incorporated service projects into our Sunday School Curriculum ~ Pumpkin painting for our special concerns folks, OCC boxes, Reverse Advent Calendar Boxes, Valentine craft.
4. Kids are encouraged to take books/videos from the library each week.
5. Vacation Bible School ~ partnered with St. Luke's and Trinity to present Wizards and Wonders (Harry Potter theme).
6. October School of Religion ~ Lutheran/Catholic Dialog using the book The Name of God Is Mercy by Pope Francis. Joint Service of Worship and Prayer concluded the series.
7. Devotional Materials were provided for congregational use during both the Advent and Lenten Seasons.

#### Christian Fellowship and Outreach

Church Picnic	Fishing Derby
Knoebel's Day	Rally Day
Pumpkin Carving	OCC Shoebox Packing
Advent Wreath Making	
Reverse Advent Calendar Boxes	
Adult Cookie Bake	Kids' Night Out
Youth Lock-In	Souper Bowl Sunday

#### Milestone Events Celebrated

Progressions Milestone ~ sending our High School graduates out into the world  
Blessing of the Keys Milestone ~ celebrating our new drivers  
Faith Chest Milestone ~ celebrating Baptism  
All the Languages of the Good News Milestone ~ celebrating our kindergarteners  
We continue to navigate and explore how this committee works as we strive to reinvigorate education and participation for the entire congregation. Please join in any of our classes and activities. All are welcome!  
~ Vicki Haussmann, Chair

#### REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

*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. Reviewed and evaluated the monthly financial reports.
  2. Met with our portfolio managers from M & T Bank in February to review our Investments.
  3. Prepared the 2019 Budget for action by Council and the Congregation.
  4. Handled many small regular management matters beyond those budgeted then made recommendations to the Council for final action.
- Thanks to Harold and Joyce Hershberger, Gary Weber, Barb Thomas, Herb Poff, Diane Bardsley, Wanda Fortin, RonArner and Pastor West for all their help with financial matters.

~ Jackie Kinney

*(the FINANCIAL STATEMENT is attached)*

#### REPORT OF THE FINE ARTS COMMITTEE

The Fine Arts committee works under the direction of Church Council to assure that renovations to the church are done with good planning and attention to the whole church and to insure that fine arts items in the church are preserved and protected.

This past year we were requested to look at the front lounge and try to make it a little more appealing. We were able to purchase quality leather furniture at a good price so we worked from that point. We selected new floor covering, paint, carpet and accessories to blend with the furniture. We cleaned the windows and purchased new window coverings. The final effect is very pleasing. We await direction to work on some other areas of the church that are certainly in need of renovations.

Thanks to Jane Larson who was instrumental in helping with this effort.

~ Joyce S. Hershberger, chair

#### REPORT OF THE LIAISON COMMITTEE

*The liaison committee is composed of St. Mark's staff persons, a council representative and representatives of Little Lambs Preschool. We are tasked with coordinating dates of school activities, necessary repairs, use of rooms in the building and consideration of rent increases when necessary.*

Our partnership with Little Lambs has been beneficial to both parties and we have enjoyed an excellent reputation with them. They are happy

with the facility and with the cooperation they receive especially from Lou DeSeau.

Thanks to the committee: Pastor West, Bernadette Jones, Holly Tillman, Lou DeSeau and Deb Neubold for another satisfying year!

~ Joyce S. Hershberger

#### REPORT OF THE MEMORIALS COMMITTEE

*The purpose of the Memorials Committee is to proclaim Jesus Christ to each other and to the whole world through the thoughtful use of Special gifts given to the congregation in memory of members and friends of the parish.*

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

JONATHAN PHILLIPS      CARL WEAVER  
RUTH BURKHOLDER      LARUE DIETER  
FRANK DOEBLER

~ Carl and Beverly Hieber, Co-Chairs

#### REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee met on Sunday, March 24 after the late service. The members present were Sally Bjornstad, Joyce Hershberger, Vicki Haussmann, and Mel Wentzel.

The following Congregational members were nominated for the 2019, three-year term:

*Vicki Haussmann*

*Ralph Ziegler*

*Bob Campbell*

They were contacted and all three agreed to serve on Council.

Wanda Fortin has agreed to continue for another term.

Linda Rossini is pending as a returning Council member. Upon her return from Ireland, that will be confirmed one way or the other.

Respectfully submitted,

~ Sally Bjornstad, Co-Chair

~ Joyce Hershberger, Co-Chair

#### REPORT OF THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE

*The purpose of the Outreach 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.*

Our outreach to the congregation included:

1. Sending greeting cards to our Special Concern Folks and others with assistance of congregation members. Cards were sent at Christmas, Valentine's Day and Easter.
2. Delivering a cheery craft and card to our Special Concern Folks and others in the fall and spring with assistance of congregation members. A box of chocolates was also delivered for Valentine's Day.
3. Strengthening our card ministry throughout the year. We have at least five members of the congregation who send cards weekly to our Special Concern Folks and others.
4. Organizing the annual Christmas Caroling and Visit to Special Concern Folks and others. Much help was given by Bernadette Jones and friends in baking dozens of cookies for our visit.
5. Partnering with the Christian Education Committee to collect items and pack Operation Christmas Child boxes in November 2018.

Our outreach to the community included:

1. Hosting our third community meal packaging event at St. Mark's. The 20,380 meals were distributed free of charge to local food pantries and the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank for distribution to individuals experiencing food insecurity.
2. Assisting with the hosting of homeless children and their families four times per year.
3. Hosting our annual July Fourth Celebration on the front lawn with considerable help from Christian Humcke and the congregation.
4. Collecting non-perishable food items for the United Churches Food Pantry and hygiene items for the Shepherd of the Streets' office.
5. Entertaining the ladies of CM-6 at the Selinsgrove Center with songs, stories, and gifts for the ladies and their caregivers during Advent.
6. Hosting two blood drives with the American Red Cross in Fellowship Hall.
7. Providing general gifts of socks, watches and other items to be used as Christmas gifts for the residents of the Danville State Hospital.
8. Assisting the Parish Life Committee with the monthly community lunch.
9. Providing monthly support with clothing, food and our presence at Daniel's Closet and Redeemer Lutheran's free community dinner.

~ Becky Miller Pryor, Chair

## REPORT OF THE 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 meals were marked
3. Helped with Milestone Celebration luncheons
4. Organized breakfast hospitality for the Sunday School kick off
5. Prepared and served Advent Luncheon
6. Prepared and served Lenten Lunches
7. Prepared and served monthly lunch and fellowship meals to the public
8. Prepared and served meals for VBS
9. Participated with the cookie bake during Christmas
10. Prepared and served snacks and lunch for Healthy Congregation
11. Prepared and served snacks and hot dogs to meal packers
12. Prepared and served the monthly lunch to the Pastors of Williamsport

Our goal for this year is to continue to work with all committees and persons who would need our assistance with any food service for the church. We would also like to encourage the youth of our church who have an interest in cooking or serving to join our committee or volunteer to help with any of our events.

We thank all committees and persons that have helped us achieve our goals throughout the year. We welcome anyone who would like to “Serve God by Serving Others.” If you would like to join us you can always find us in the kitchen!

*~ Janet Jones, Chairperson*

## REPORT OF THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Personnel Committee met regularly to discuss job descriptions and the performance of the staff. Several meetings were devoted to discussing the church’s staffing needs in relation to our declining membership.

In response to those discussions the Christian Education position was eliminated. The Church Secretary and Youth and Family Ministry positions were each reduced to twenty hours per week. Within a few months of these changes the Church Secretary resigned her position. The committee advertised online for a replacement. Several candidates were interviewed with Bernadette Jones being offered the secretarial position at twenty-five hours per week to include a few Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator responsibilities. At the present

time the Youth and Family Ministry Coordinator position has been eliminated except for Milestone Celebrations that will be covered as needed by the Church Secretary. Our current bookkeeper has resigned effective no later than June 1, 2019. The committee has reviewed this job description and will be advertising online for a replacement.

The Personnel Committee continues to review and update job descriptions and the Employee Handbook. This has been a challenging year for this committee. We are grateful for the prayers and support of the congregation and the addition of a new committee member during this year of transition. Current committee members are Candy Dewar, Pam Jensen, Becky Pryor, Gary Weber and Mel Wentzel with guidance from Pastor West.

*~ Becky Miller Pryor, Chair*

## REPORT OF THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE

*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.*

### Completed projects:

1. Repaired exterior door by the Chapel (west)—Smith Glass
2. Reinstalled vertical tiles in Little Lambs basement room—Lou
3. Front Lounge update project completed—Loudenslager Carpeting
4. Replaced timer for sign lights—Lou
5. Purchased scaffolding for light replacement—Committee
6. Kitchen freezer repaired: new fan, new refrigeration valve—Refrigeration Service
7. Replaced burner control for steam boiler—L&L Boiler
8. Church and Parish House boilers inspected—Arise Boiler and Insurance
9. Installed new light for southeast stairwell—Drew/Lou
10. Installed new water heater for working Sacristy—Lou
11. Replaced all fluorescent lights with LEDs for Little Lambs—Committee
12. Blower for organ repaired, realigned bearings—Billtown Mechanical
13. Refrigeration motor fan installed—Refrigeration Service
14. Bearings replaced in organ blower fan—Billtown Boiler

15. Continued purchase and replacement LED lighting for Nave and Fellowship Hall—Committee
16. Continued service contracts for boilers—L&L Boiler and Billtown Mechanical  
~ Lou DeSeau and Ed Gair, Co-chairs

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### REPORT OF THE PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

*The purpose of the Publicity Committee is to proclaim Jesus Christ to each other and to our community by using every available and prudent means of communication to invite, encourage and inform persons both inside and outside the congregation, and to promote the congregation's activities.*

The St. Mark's Publicity Committee continues to work on publicity efforts as part of our mission to know Christ and to make Christ known. Our primary activity is writing and sending our e-mail newsletter at regular intervals to those who have shared an e-mail address. The newsletter has received a very positive response.

Bernadette Jones has helped us to expand our Facebook presence by regularly posting items of interest regarding religious and motivational experiences in general, and St. Mark's activities in particular.

We have also regularized St. Mark's advertising schedule, in response to concerns that we have not been represented in the holiday service listings in the Williamsport Sun-Gazette. We have placed ads in the Easter and Christmas editions, the Business Card Directory edition, and may expand this advertising as circumstances require.

Going forward, the committee will continue the email outreach, and our efforts to have our activities advertised in local print, radio, and electronic media. We are also exploring the possibility of purchasing banners to advertise events regularly held at St. Mark's, such as the Fourth of July celebration. As I mentioned in last year's report, we hope to be able to have a feature article in the religious section of the Progress edition of the Sun-Gazette in March of next year, highlighting the arrival of our new Pastor (keep your fingers crossed!). We encourage all St. Mark's members to get involved with publicity efforts by attending events and by alerting committee members to public outreach opportunities.

~ Pam Jensen, Chair

### REPORT OF THE SAFETY TEAM

*The goal of this committee is to provide safety and security to the Congregation, and guidance in the event of an emergency.*

This committee was formed in June, 2018. The Team members are: Carl Albright, Sally Bjornstad, Herb Poff, Dave Williams, Bud Doebler, Lou DeSeau, Pastor West

To achieve that goal, we met with the Williamsport Police Captain to learn what steps St. Mark's can take to make it safer for everyone. Several members also attended a Church Security Seminar put on by Homeland Security, the Williamsport Police Department, and the Emergency Medical Team. On the advice from the Police Dept. we made a copy of the floorplan of the Church numbering all the doors on the first floor for the use of the Police in case of an emergency. The floorplan is now in their system. It was also advised that St. Mark's lock the doors 5 mins. after the Services begin leaving the Narthex door as the only entrance. The safety of various committee meetings that meet on separate mornings or evenings are the responsibility of the Chairman of those committees.

As we look forward, we hope to see St. Mark's invest in doorbells that have intercoms and cameras. Monitors would be in place in the Secretary's office as well as in the Narthex. Numbering of the inside and outside doors is ongoing. An in-service for all Ushers and Safety Team members is being planned to review safety responsibilities generally and in an emergency. St. Mark's Safety Plan will be given to the Congregation and explained by the Chairman in mid-June.

Respectively submitted,  
~ Carl Albright- Chairman  
~ Sally Bjornstad- Co-Chairman

### REPORT OF THE 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 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 Stephen Ministers also meet on a monthly basis for guidance, support and continuing education.

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

We are exploring the possibility of beginning another training class. Please prayerfully consider Stephen Ministry.

~ Kathy Eshelman, Coordinator

## 7 REPORT OF THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

*Our mission statement contains many elements that are crucial to our ministry.*

*To Know Christ, and to make Christ known.*

*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 stewardship attitudes in the members of the congregation concerning our time, talents, spiritual gifts, money, and other resources.*

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 21, 2018. Prior to that Mel Wentzel, Ray Huff and Gary Weber gave Temple Talks. Lou Kolb once again delivered an excellent 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 two members signed up for the breakfast and fifty nine 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 over \$139,000.00. 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.

We have served on this committee for 10 years and thank you for the opportunity to serve St. Mark's.

Respectfully submitted,

~ Cindy and Ray Huff, Chairs

## REPORT OF THE WOMEN OF THE ELCA

*The Women of St. Mark's is a unit that partners in the total ministry of our church. We live our faith in action as we strive to make Christ known worldwide.*

The Bazaar/Rummage Sale was again highly successful. Several new features were initiated by Chairman Becky Miller Pryor. Additional hours were open to the public on Friday night. A profit of \$1668.71 provided donations to both local and global charities. Those organizations were Shepherd of the Streets, United Churches of Lycoming County, Camp Mt. Luther, 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. Due to the closing of St. Anthony's Center, we added Sojourner Truth Center to the list. After the sale, all unsold items were separated and given to various other local charities with sale outlets. Most went to American Rescue Workers.

Our quilting group, while growing smaller, remains committed to spreading God's love over the world. The work is done at church on Wednesday mornings and at homes on sewing machines. We are very grateful to Ruth Sherlinski, Ruth Rees, Shirley Hill, Ernestine Doane, Bunny Ditchfield, Elsie Sechler, and Diane Bardsley for their dedication.

School Kits, Personal Care Kits, Baby Care Kits, and Fabric Kits were completed by individuals in the congregation. These were sent, along with the quilts, to Lutheran World Relief. In addition, a monetary collection of \$270.00 was sent to our Synod to purchase blankets for the same organization.

We are very grateful to the people of St. Mark's for your very generous support of our projects. You have answered our requests for rummage sale items,

kit and quilt materials, and donations of money. God's love is at work through you.

~ Shirley Hill, Chairman

CHECKING ACCOUNT/

PREVIOUS BALANCE 4/15/2018 \$1640.67

INCOME/DEPOSITS

Women's Dinner	.00
Bazaar profit (2018)	1604.71
Misc	.00
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	<u>\$1604.71</u>
	\$3245.38

EXPENSES

Entertainment-	
Women's Dinner	.00
Women of the ELCA	
4 quarters	200.00
Women of the ELCA	
SWO Convention	100.00
Charities (12)	1800.00
Misc	86.00
<u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u>	<u>\$2186.00</u>

TOTAL BALANCE 4/16/2019 \$1059.38

~ Barbara R. Thomas, Treasurer

REPORT OF THE WORSHIP AND MUSIC

COMMITTEE

*Our mission statement contains many elements that are crucial to our ministry.*

*To Know Christ, and to make Christ known.*

*The purpose of the Worship and Music Committee by Word and Sacrament in and beyond the congregation. To this end the Committee shall see that the worship of God is conducted in good order in accordance with the Bible and the Lutheran tradition.*

The Worship and Music Committee, in an oversight capacity, continued to be very busy again this year within the congregation, as well as in the community. We have two beautiful spaces for worship. The nave was sight for Sunday liturgies, weddings, funerals, concerts and other events. The chapel was utilized in many ways as was intended when it was renovated. The chapel provided a warm atmosphere for Morning Prayer, Advent and Lenten services, funeral visitations, Children's Church and more.

First and foremost, God has blessed us and we have an outstanding director, composer, pianist, organist and youth aficionado in Christian Humcke. He has energized the Chancel Choir and worked extremely well with our youth. We are so fortunate

to have Christian as our Director of Music.

The committee is pleased to recognize the musical groups serving in the church's worship: the senior choir, the adult hand bell choir, and the many groups and soloists both vocal and instrumental. Under the direction of Christian Humcke, various youth have participated during the past year as instrumentalists as well as being in the senior choir. We are truly blessed to have some talented and giving members who share their talents and will hopefully continue for many years.

The Altar Guild was extremely active again this year with the many scheduled and unscheduled activities to keep the church supplies and articles in proper order.

Acknowledgment must be made for the diligent service of our committee members, musicians, the behind-the-scene helpers and those who share in the worship leadership roles. Without the assistance, leadership and contributions of all of them, our services to the Lord would not be as fulfilling. We express our appreciation to our Intentional Interim, Pastor James West, for his continuing roles and leadership in our worship and music experience.

Additional communion assistants, assisting ministers, and acolytes were introduced this year. The service opportunities are always expanding and the need for volunteers to fill these roles is always present

Thanks are due for those who so graciously help in the many duties to keep things flowing throughout the entire year, especially the committee members: Bev Hieber, Cindy Huff, Linda Rosini, Michele Owen, Karen Boone, Lou Kolb, Walt Haussmann, Diane and Dan Ziegler and, of course, Christian Humcke.

Challenges continue each year, mainly in the areas of volunteerism, meeting parishioners' needs, and increasing our active membership. It may not be obvious to some, but it truly takes a host of people to keep the church, music and worship services ministering properly. This is most evident during the seasons of Advent and Holy Week, but the need continues every day during the year. There exist many opportunities for volunteer ministry at St. Mark's. Please feel free to contact any member of the Worship and Music committee or Pastor West if you are able to share in any of the various volunteering capacities. Together we all will continue to praise and proclaim Jesus Christ through His Word and Sacrament.

~ Ray Huff, Chairman

### Report of the Director of Music

Over the past year I have done much for St. Mark's in playing at regular church services, composing new music, and coordinating, directing, and performing in many notable concerts at St. Mark's. These concerts include the 4th of July celebration, where I brought in the Commonwealth Brass Quintet along with Tenor Nathan Fulkerson and pianist/organist Theodore Lentz; the Williamsport Camerata concert in November, where I conducted the Camerata (a group which I formed) and played organ; and the Christmas Eve service, where I arranged a special Christmas medley for the youth, which seemed to be enjoyed by all in attendance. I also did much composing for the church. I wrote a new hymn tune based around Martin Luther's "To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord" for the Baptism of our Lord Sunday in Epiphany; I also composed and introduced the congregation to a new setting of the holy communion liturgy, which I wrote especially for St. Mark's.

~ *Christian Humcke, Director of Music*

### REPORT OF YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY

*The purpose of this ministry 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, this Coordinator supervises 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.*

With the change of duties as a staff member, I am now focusing on our Milestone Ministry and special/holiday events such as youth lock-ins, annual cookie baking, Seder meals, and maintaining contact with our college students via semiannual "survival kits" and communication via Facebook. The Faith and Fellowship Committee is instrumental in assisting with most of these events.

~ *Bernadette Haas Jones, Coordinator.*

### WHY GOD HAS PLACED US HERE

*"To know Christ and to make Christ known"*  
Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

*Romans 15:7*

# CONGREGATIONAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT

## 2018 YEAR END FINANCIAL REPORT

	<u>YTD Actual</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
<b>INCOME</b>		
Parking Lot Rent	\$ 15,295.00	\$ 14,400.00
Little Lamb Room Rental	\$ 12,690.00	\$ 12,690.00
Room & Hall Rental	\$ 1,382.50	\$ 600.00
Welker/Capital General	\$ 28,286.60	\$ 28,800.00
Religious Income	\$ 225,462.18	\$ 237,550.00
Fund Transfers	\$ 72,500.00	\$ 63,793.00
Benevolence & Charity	\$ 78.41	\$ 500.00
<b>Income Totals</b>	<b>\$ 355,694.69</b>	<b>\$ 358,333.00</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>		
Salaries	\$ 193,906.07	\$ 192,173.00
Administrative Benefits	\$ 31,406.36	\$ 44,600.00
General Administrative	\$ 10,448.55	\$ 11,810.00
Worship & Music	\$ 7,106.13	\$ 8,925.00
Christian ED, Youth & Family Min	\$ 4,421.51	\$ 7,850.00
Outreach Ministries	\$ -	\$ 500.00
Property	\$ 74,643.55	\$ 69,350.00
Benevolence & Charity	\$ 22,202.71	\$ 23,125.00
Synod Donations	\$ (10.00)	\$ -
Expense Totals	\$ 344,124.88	\$ 358,333.00
<b>Difference</b>	<b>\$ 11,569.81</b>	<b>\$ -</b>



