



# The Lion of St. Mark's

SEPTEMBER 2006

## SUNDAY SCHOOL 2006-07

**THIS YEAR, SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL BEGIN AT 9:10, IN FELLOWSHIP HALL, WITH A BRIEF PERIOD OF PRAYER, SONG AND FRIENDSHIP FOR CHILDREN, TEENS & ADULTS.**

### P r e - k & E l e m e n t a r y

Those aged three through fifth grade will use the curriculum *Life Together*. *Life Together* is the entire community, from children to adults, experiencing worship, learning settings of the church and encountering the same Bible stories and theme each week.

Meeting places are:

- ✠ Pre-school youth – Room 307
- ✠ Kindergarten and first grade – Room 311
- ✠ Grades 2 and 3 – Room 312
- ✠ Grades 4 & 5 – Room 309

### H i g h s c h o o l

For our youth in grades 9 through 12: a fun, happening place where we will talk about the amazing things Jesus can do in our lives. Breakfast snacks will be served. Bob Jones and Lou DeSeau will start off this year of discussion and fellowship. The High School Class can be found in the Crossways Hallway just inside the north entrance.

### T h e w a y

Detailed information on this adult course of study can be found on page 3.

### M i d d l e s c h o o l

All those in sixth through eighth grade will be working with the *Living in Grace* course of study. This contains a series of various topics such as The Old Testament, The Ten Commandments, Communion, Baptism, The Lord's Prayer, The Apostle's Creed, and Living in Community, to name several. All learning is geared toward preparing these young people for confirmation.

Their meeting place is Room 308.

### A d u l t s

After joining our youth in Fellowship Hall, the adults will split into two groups:

- ✠ One will proceed to the Crossways Room, where the program under the instruction of Pastor Elkin will continue.
- ✠ The second group will again meet in the Middle Lounge, where discussion will take place under a monthly rotation of leadership.
- ✠ *Parenting on Purpose* continues into September, meeting in the Library. 10-12 parents have been contributing to these discussions in very constructive ways. A very positive class.

# COUNCIL UPDATE

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## Council Update

The Congregation Council met in regular session on August 21. The Council:

1. examined the report from the ministry review team and engaged in a lively conversation about its observations.
2. received the regular reports from the committees, officers and pastor.
3. reviewed upcoming events, including the stewardship calendar.
4. rejoiced that there were such interesting events happening this summer at St. Mark's.
5. noted that the major event for *Mission at the Cross roads* will take place on Wednesday, September 13 at 6:30, beginning with a pot-luck meal.
6. moved to approve the guidelines for making available historic records of St. Mark's. Baptismal records more than 100 years old will be scanned and become accessible through a link on our website. In this way, the fragile books will not need to be physically handled.

## Directory Changes:

- John & Gail Hoffman, 153 Hampton Way, Montoursville, PA 17754  
 April Hartzell, 433 Park Ave., Williamsport, PA 17701 326-3770  
 Matthew & Wanda Fortin, 403 Henry Ave., Hughesville, PA 17737  
 584-6403  
 Kirk & Ashley Hallabuk, 1601 Sheridan St., Wmspt., PA 17701  
 Donna Hutchinson, 518 Stevens St., Wmspt., PA 17701

## It's a boy!

Jacob Thomas Hufnagle, son of Jon & Kim Hufnagle, was born Friday, August 11 at 6:40 PM, in the Elmira Hospital. Mother and baby are doing well.

## Website & E-Mail Addresses

**stmarkswilliamsport.org**

Gary Weber	gweber@stmarkswilliamsport.org
Susan Bennett	sbennett@stmarkswilliamsport.org
Pastor Elkin	pastor@stmarkswilliamsport.org
Lou DeSeau	ldeseau@stmarkswilliamsport.org
Richard Lakey	rlakey@stmarkswilliamsport.org
Bernadette Jones	bjones@stmarkswilliamsport.org
Sharon Comini	scomini@stmarkswilliamsport.org
Susan M-Smith	smsmith@stmarkswilliamsport.org

## From the Parish Register

- August 5th ~ Timothy Frazier & Renee Grinnell were united in marriage.
- August 13th ~ Declan Jones celebrated the Affirmation of Baptism—Confirmation.

## CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY NEWS



*Who is God? Who is Jesus? What is so important about the Bible?  
How could reading and studying God's word regularly change my life?  
Is something missing in my life? Does God really care about me?  
Why should I go to a worship service every week?  
How strong is my faith? What do I really believe?*

Do you find yourself asking questions like these?

How and where can we find answers to these questions?

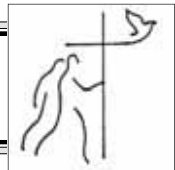
Is there a place where questions can be asked and discussed in a non-threatening and friendly setting?

**YES! . . . THE WAY!**

**THE WAY** begins its seventh season Sunday, September 17th at 4:00 PM. This will be an informational meeting for anyone interested in knowing more about this process of Faith Forming for adults in which the basic disciplines of Christian Faith, worship, prayer, scripture study, and ministry in daily life are studied, understood and used regularly.

**THE WAY** is for people who have little or no experience of faith, people who are questioning their faith, as well as those members in the congregation who think they could benefit from opportunities for conversation, fellowship, and mutual growth in their faith and life.

## Mission at the Crossroads Update



**Wednesday, September 13**

**6:15 PM**

**Fellowship Hall**

**Pot Luck Supper**

The next step in *Mission at the Crossroads* takes place on Wednesday September 13 when members of the congregation are invited to gather in Fellowship Hall at 6:15 P.M.

After sharing a pot-luck meal, we will look at the pile of information that we have been gathering over the past several months, and begin to ask the question, "What does all this mean?" Things have been collated and organized for us to conveniently examine the information. Beth Yenchko, deployed staff member of the ELCA residing in State College, will be returning to coordinate our conversations that evening. She will not be telling us, but guiding us to evaluate for ourselves the information we have gathered.

We hope you will join us for this exciting step of our Missions at the Crossroads journey!

# CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY NEWS

## A Dog-Gone Good Time Planned!

Call right now to register you and your canine companion for a series of six sessions that are sure to improve your mutual happiness. Donna Zierdt Elkin is offering to share with members of the parish and their dogs some of the wonderful information and techniques that she has been studying over the past several years. She proposes to meet in the courtyard at church on Wednesday evenings beginning on August 30 at 6:00 PM for 1 hour sessions with those who pre-register. Some of the basics of dog-training will be covered, and the emphasis will be on the specific problems or questions of the participants. Donna is a member of the Williamsport Dog Training Club, and she recently served as the chair of the Agility trials that were held at the fairgrounds in Hughesville, an AKC-registered event that drew participants from across the state. A donation of \$10 per person/canine duo per session will be gratefully received, for the benefit of our local SPCA. Call with your questions, and soon, with your reservation to either Donna Zierdt Elkin the instructor at 323-7367 or chief recruiter Trish Hershey at 321-9180.



### Lunch N' Fellowship

September 20th  
Noon



### Spaghetti & Meatballs



" Roger is a legend among ushers here at St. Mark's!"

## CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY NEWS

### Meet the Vicars!

September marks the beginning of another school year and a new round of learning that takes place not only in public schools, colleges, and universities, but also in the seminaries of the church. One of our crucial jobs is supporting theological education so that pastors can be prepared to lead the next generations of the church.

There are several components of theological education: classroom work, observation in congregations, and a time of internship in the third of the four years of seminary preparation. The Social Ministry Committee will host an informative session on the work of two third-year Gettysburg seminarians in our area. Join us Sunday, September 24, 2006 at 5:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall for light refreshments and a lively discussion, as we greet Matthew and Lisa Schuster and learn of their journey as seminarians preparing for ordained ministry. The Schuster's are presently serving internships in the Rauchtown area.

We can assist in several ways. We can remember them and other seminarians in our prayers. We can meet them and give verbal encouragement. They also need our financial support. Seminarians these days often have a crushing load of debt, sometimes as much as \$40-60,000!

To show our support of their work in Christ's name, we will accept monetary contributions on behalf of Matt and Lisa and others like them. Checks may be made payable to St. Mark's, with a note-line: Theological Education Fund

### California Greetings!

Dear Pastor Elkin,

Greetings to you from California. A quick note to say how very much I appreciated finding the St Mark's website. The photo of your magnificent stained glass window was a balm for me. Finding the church newsletter and annual report there was a delight. I can picture so many dear friends as I read their names. The website is quite easy to navigate and a wonderful representation of the congregation. I hope you get many "hits". I read every word. I commend you on your outreach ministry through the Internet.

The Annual Dialysis Concert approaches so I will once again be able to find comfort in the St. Mark's familiar space. My association with St. Mark's must vie for position as the longest-running of any non-member. My father provided a particular new penny for your cornerstone time capsule in the 60's, launching our family's interest in the congregation, in the 70's I began studying organ with Fred Snell and then in the late 70's I met Dick Lakey -- hard to believe it's been nearly 30 years since I met Dick. Even harder to believe since I only admit to being 39 years old!

Again, thanks for your wonderful website and the long distance ministry it provides to me. I'm eager to hear the mighty Moeller and see everyone at St. Mark's in November.

In Christ,  
Nancy Ackerman

*Editor's Note: Our website is:  
[www.stmarkswilliamsport.org](http://www.stmarkswilliamsport.org)*

## CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY NEWS

### STEWARDSHIP CORNER

In this month of September, we will start the "*Consecration Sunday*" process. We will be mailing letters, making announcements at both worship services all—getting us ready for this important Sunday, October 15, 2006 "*Consecration Sunday*."

What does "*Consecration Sunday*" mean? The word "Consecration" according to The Random House College Dictionary means "*the act of consecrating; to make or declare sacred; dedication to the service and worship of God.*"

This sounds good - to make sacred the worship of God. You can say that about every Sunday here at St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

Does that help? We need additional help. How does Herb Miller the author of "New Consecration Sunday," describe "Consecration" in the perspective of Christian stewardship?

*"the goal of Christian Stewardship is to dedicate one Sunday a year for the faithful management of all that God gives so that God can use our gifts to transform us spiritually and to extend Christ's transforming love to others."*

We have declared one Sunday "*Sacred*" for us to say thank you. Asking how can I help to our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace for His indescribable gift, Jesus Christ.

*God's blessings from,  
The Stewardship Committee  
Please read Proverbs 3:9-10*



### The Best Treatment is Pet Therapy

Every Tuesday afternoon you can find a small group of volunteers brightening the lives of our seniors who are confined to nursing homes.

For a number of years, Doreen Free, Betty Burris and **Elsie Sechler** have taken shelter animals to local nursing homes as part of the SPCA pet therapy program.

Murmur, the program's "spokesdog" and loveable pet of Executive Director, Vickie Stryker, along with SPCA animals, visit with the residents who are strongly encouraged to pet, interact, and play with the animals.

According to the Humane Society of the United States, "*These interactions often result in the improved physical health and mental well-being of the patient.*"

The group visits local nursing homes during the months of May through October. To learn more about the pet therapy program and how you can volunteer with the group, please contact Missy, the Volunteer Manager, at 322-4646.

## Social Ministry News



### Rummage Sale & Bazaar

Saturday, September 16, 2006

9 AM—2 PM

Notice the earlier date this year!

Items being accepted for this event include:

household items, small appliances, seasonal decorations, books,  
linens, bedding, toys, treasures from your attic or basement.

No clothing at this event, please.

Items may be brought to the church bazaar room located in the basement of the Fellowship Hall. We will need people to help with pricing, setup, tear down, and on the day of the event people to be stationed at the stands to help with sales.

Can we count on you?

Lots of work, but tons of fun!!

Please contact Jane Kline (326-9672)

with any questions or to volunteer your time.

Thanks for your consideration.



### Lycoming County Life Chain 2006

Sunday, October 1st

2:30 PM



This is the 15th year for the Life Chain!

The goal is to have 2000 participants lining the Golden Strip.

Please consider taking a stand 'for the least of these.'

For more information you may call 546-3104



## Social Ministry News



### Thank You!

The Social Ministry committee wishes to thank the congregation for their many donations

of non-perishable food items and hygiene products. During the summer months several boxes of food were delivered to the United Churches Food Pantry. An equal number of boxes of hygiene products were delivered to the Shepherd of the Street's office. A special thank you goes to Lou DeSeau for delivering our contributions. Be assured your donations helped ease the suffering of people experiencing difficult times in our community.



### Lutheran Build

It was a proud day for the members of Saint Mark's. On August 8, 2006 several members of our congregation participated in the Lutheran Build for Habitat for Humanity. Four homes known as Ivy Way are being constructed in the East End of Williamsport. Our duties that day included electrical work and installation of insulation. Members participating that day included Pastor Elkin, Gary Weber, Carl Hieber, Matt and Wanda Fortin, Derek Gilbert, Kathy Dancho, Lauren Campbell, Becky Miller Pryor, and Declan Jones. Elsie Sechler will return to the site to assist with interior painting. Photos highlighting our day can be viewed on our web site.

## St. Mark's to provide Habitat Luncheon

Saturday, September 30, 2006



Donations of food items and volunteers to prepare them are needed for a luncheon being provided by Saint Mark's to the volunteers at Ivy Way on Saturday, September 30, 2006. As we continue our support of Habitat for Humanity please consider assisting with this project.

Food items needed are sweet pickle chips, potato chips, ice tea, lemonade, individual bottles of water, cookies or brownies, pasta salad, fresh fruit, sturdy paper plates, cold cups, napkins, forks, wet wipes and money to purchase meat and cheese for sandwiches.

Food items may be left in the kitchen in the box marked Habitat Luncheon. Checks may be made payable to St. Mark's.



## West Branch Conference News

### WELCA - Cluster Meeting

The Women of the ELCA of our conference will gather for their annual cluster meeting, to reconnect with women of our area and to coordinate service projects and women's ministry. They will meet at United Lutheran Church in Lock Haven Sunday, September 17. Registration opens at 2:00 PM.

### Leadership Lab in the East

The Leadership Lab of our synod is designed to assist youth to acquire skills that will be useful in congregational, synodical and national Youth Ministry settings. The event will be held at Camp Mount Luther October 6-8. Please identify youth (grades 9-12) of your congregation and register them with Rev. Kerry Aucker at St. Johns Lutheran Church Jersey Shore.

### United Campus Ministry

The fall semester started with ice-cream, pizza and music at the Bush Campus Center. New students to Penn College were greeted at the student group fair, called Fall Fiesta. All received a pen with Heather Wagner's (our campus ministry coordinator) phone number and our website that may guide them to the United Campus Ministry Worship and Dinner every Wednesday, at 5:30 PM, at Trinity Episcopal. A retreat at Camp Krislund (Lamar, PA) and a mission trip to Washington, DC are coming up soon. Grandparents, please direct your student to this Christian ministry.

### Camp Mount Luther

Camp Mount Luther has reached its fund raising goal of \$ 2 million to build the new dining hall. The remaining debt is anticipated to be paid off within the next five years. A challenge to honor Rev. Shaheen (formerly at Messiah, South Williamsport) brought in donations of \$154,108 and \$51,369 in matching funds.



Saturday, September 2 at 9:00 AM is the start of the 5k and 10K Dandelion Run at Camp Mount Luther. Pre-registered participants will receive a T-shirt. Register for \$12/\$15 with Joel Heasley at 837-1222.

### Quiggleville

St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Cogan Station offers their legendary soup supper and soup sale Saturday September 9 starting at 4:30 PM. Soup is cooked in open kettles and served with a variety of food or sold by the quart.

### Contact

The West Branch Conference news-page is a means to connect the congregations of our conference and share information about the ministry we do together as Lutherans in our congregations, in our conference and in the area we serve. Please let me know about your congregation's events. Pastor Detlef Huckfeldt, editor [sml@gmx.de](mailto:sml@gmx.de).

# YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY



## *The Seeds That Grew To Be a Hundred*

The cast of 28 performers, ranging in age from 2 to ??? (we'll never tell), entertained an audience on Saturday evening, July 29, after a delicious pot-luck supper (with Dick's meatloaf), and again on Sunday morning at 10:30 with the musical telling of this familiar parable. A huge thank you goes out to everyone involved with this great event: cooks, parents, grandparents, children and well-wishers—without any of whom we would not have been able to accomplish this presentation. You are all a wonderful gift from God!

Bob Jones  
 Morgan Comini  
 Anna Zeigler  
 Stefan Weber  
 Madalyn Fortin  
 Amalie Robertson  
 Lynna Robertson  
 Annika Waffenschmidt  
 Makensi Doeblner  
 Stephen Boone  
 Riley Weber  
 Christina Comini  
 Sara Jones  
 Diana Zeigler

Andrea Doeblner  
 Jenn Robertson  
 Stephanie Fortin  
 Ruth Burkholder  
 Shelby Weber  
 Karen Boone  
 Sharon Comini  
 Bernadette Jones  
 Eric Comini  
 Lou DeSeau  
 Jane Kline  
 Jeanne Fargus  
 Richard Lakey  
 Ruth Rees

Lois Smith  
 Jackie Kinney  
 Shirley Kinney  
 Shirley Vognet  
 Audrey Albright  
 Carl Albright  
 Catherine Lundy  
 Linda Rosini  
 Mary Schultz  
 Bob Schultz  
 Becky Prior  
 Pastor Elkin  
 Susan Mahserjian-Smith

## CALLING ALL YOUTH! DO YOU HAVE A WAY WITH WORDS??

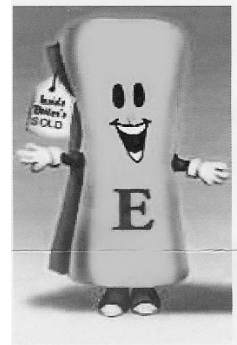
BEITER'S ECHO FLOORING GALLERY is having an essay contest to name their *carpet mascot* (pictured here).

They are opening this contest up to anyone under the age of 18. The essay must be a maximum of 100 words including the name and why we chose it.

The PRIZE is, get this, \$1000.00 for use with our youth--that's you!!!

We have to do this by September 12, so start brainstorming!

Call us if you want to see a color picture or if you have any ideas!



Children's Church will resume Sunday, October 8.  
 This will be a special time as it coincides with First Communion.  
 Please join us in worship with the whole family.

## YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY



In a world full of chaos and endless activity, God is calling for us to slow down and listen to Him. Intent on making their lives count, millions of teenagers will pause to do that at **See You at the Pole™** (SYATP) this September.

**“Be STILL and KNOW that I am GOD”** is the theme for See You at the Pole this year, with the event scheduled for Wednesday, September 27.

The **“Be STILL”** theme is taken from Psalm 46:10, where God says, **“Be still and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations.”** Many are familiar with this Old Testament verse. But fewer would be aware that in context, the admonition was God’s recommended response to the chaos of natural disaster and wartime conflict, two conditions that are as familiar to modern man as to the ancients.

Americans were reeling from the impact of Hurricane Katrina at the time of last year’s SYATP. And in Quezon City in the Philippines, more than 1,200 gathered solemnly at Jubilee Christian Academy, praying for the world in spite of typhoon-driven weather.

See You at the Pole is a student-initiated and student-led movement that started in the Ft. Worth suburb of Burleson, Texas, in 1990. It originated with just one youth group, who met at night at several schools around Burleson during a weekend retreat. SYATP brings students to their school flagpoles to intercede for their leaders, schools, and families, asking God to bring moral and spiritual awakening to their campuses and countries.

In 2005, more than 2 million teenagers met for See You at the Pole in all 50 states. Internationally, reports came in from countries on six continents, including the Canada, Australia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Germany, Ghana, Guam, Hong Kong, Japan, Kenya, South Korea, Malaysia, Nigeria, Norway, Peru, Portugal, Scotland, and South Africa.

Participants don’t have to pay anything to participate in See You at the Pole. “And we want to make sure that anyone running a program in the summer has something to hand out, if they need it,” noted Billy Beacham, president of Student Discipleship Ministries in Burleson, Texas, which creates all the promotional material for SYATP. “The resources are available for those who want them.”

The San Diego-based National Network of Youth Ministries coordinates SYATP promotion. Paul Fleischmann, president of the Network, observed: “Every year, we have seen this day serve as a springboard for unity among teenagers on their campuses. See You at the Pole unites students in prayer at the beginning of the semester. Young people have taken unprecedented leadership through this to have a positive impact at their schools.”

Church congregations nationwide will show support for See You at the Pole by sponsoring special “Campus Challenge Sunday” commissioning services September 23-24, the weekend before See You at the Pole. Participants will recognize and pray for Christian students and educators in their congregations. Campus Challenge Sunday resources have been created by the National Network of Youth Ministries to help church leaders plan for this event. A special Campus Video can be ordered by calling (858) 451-1111, and a local church “Planning Guide” can be downloaded free from [www.everyschool.com](http://www.everyschool.com).



See You at the Pole is now held each year on the *fourth* Wednesday of September. This change from its earlier years was in response to the needs of students to have more time to organize See You at the Pole after the school year begins. *There is also more information on the See You at the Pole web site, [www.syatp.com](http://www.syatp.com).*

# YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

## 'K i t c h e n ' s ' s h o w e r

A good time was had by all who attended the long awaited Shower on Sunday afternoon, August 20. About twenty folks attended. We ate a lot of good food, played Gift Bingo, unwrapped gifts, and at times got quite silly. One of the most memorable moments was during the playing of "This is a Fork (or Spoon)," when one guest was heard to say, "Alright, here's four forks and two spoons!"

Kit received many wonderful gifts. For those who were unable to attend, but would still like to contribute, she still has some needs:

- Cookie cooling racks
- Funnel set
- Ice cube tray stacker
- Knife block for a drawer (Henckel's, \$30 @ Now We're Cooking on River Ave.)
- Stainless steel measuring spoons (Cuispro, \$13 @ Now We're Cooking)
- Microplane zester (\$10 @ Now We're Cooking)
- Vegetable peeler (Zliss horizontal or Kitchen Aid regular)
- Tongs—large serving (\$10-13 @ Now We're Cooking)
- Roaster—large restaurant-style, stainless steel (\$75 @ The Wholesale Chef, 900 block, Louisa St.)
- Poultry shears (Henckel's, \$20 @ Now We're Cooking)



Once again, please call the office before you purchase to make sure we're not duplicating items.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS STILL NEEDED!!

Our most pressing need at this time:  
A TEACHER FOR SEPTEMBER FOR GRADES 4-5!

Other teachers needed:

- Pre-K: June
- Grades K-1: December, January, April, May, June
- Grades 2-3: April, May, June
- Grades 4-5: September, November, June
- Grades 6-8: October, November, January, March, May, June
- Grades 9-12: December—June

Please search your hearts, check your calendars and pray for guidance to see if you can help provide assistance in this vital ministry for our youth.

## St. Paul's Lutheran Church

301 North Main St., Doylestown, PA 18901

August 2, 2006

Dear Pastor Elkin,

Words cannot express our gratitude for the use of your kitchen and choir room. Although this was a busy week for your members, Lois Smith, Shirley Kinney and Dick Lakey could not have been more helpful. I hope that we left everything in good shape. I especially enjoyed the tour you gave some of our members.

In our church we honor family and friends by making a donation for the Sunday worship flowers. Please use the enclosed check to honor our new friends at St. Mark's!

Fondly,  
Nancy Hamill

P.S. Hope the theater dinner presentation was a success!

## YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

Convention Theme...



# 144th Annual State Sunday School Convention October 13 & 14

Mark your calendar! The 144th Annual Pennsylvania State Sunday School Convention will be held on Friday and Saturday, October 13 & 14, at Otterbein United Methodist Church, Boiling Springs (near Carlisle; Cumberland County), PA.

The 2006 Convention will feature two outstanding speakers, over 30 different workshops, special music, displays, free literature, a lunch served at the host church and much, much more.

The Friday evening speaker will be Dr. Israel Galindo, Professor of Christian Education at the Baptist Theological Seminary, Richmond, VA. The Saturday afternoon speaker will be Rev. James Moss, Sr., who recently retired as the Associate of Church Planting and Renewal with the Eastern Regional Conference of the Churches of God.

Workshops during the conference include, but are not limited to:

- **"Bible Basics (Helping Students Find Their Way through the Bible)"**
- **"Meaningful Art Projects for Sunday School"**
- **"Using Modern Methods to Teach Adults in Sunday School"**
- **"Bible Storytelling for Children"**
- **"How to Biblically Mobilize a Youth Ministry"**
- **"Teaching as Jesus, the Master Teacher, Taught"**
- **"It's Always Something (Facing & Dealing with the Hurts of Life)"**
- **"Helping Babies and Toddlers Learn"**
- **"Leading Effective Bible Discussion for Adults"**
- **"Teaching for Effectual Faith"**
- **"How to Biblically Equip a Youth Ministry"**
- **"Revive the Sunday School"**
- **"What Is Enough? Applying Christ-Centered Standards in Business & Personal Finances"**
- **"Handling Discussion Problems in Adult Bible Studies"**

Please consider joining Sharon and Bernadette for this informative and enriching event. Call the office or e-mail them for more information.

# YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

## Attention girls: 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade and your moms:

### JOIN US FOR THE REVOLVE TOUR!

How would you like to go to Philadelphia for a weekend? Join us for a great Mother/daughter getaway to renew your faith, have a wonderful time and reconnect with the world around you.

### What is the Revolve Tour?

It's a weekend of awesome music, amazing stories, faith and fun! It's an event designed specifically for teen girls (6th – 12th grades) with stuff they need (and want) to know. According to the girls who've been there . . . it's a life-changing, faith-building, totally sweet, beautiful, real, honest, intense experience specifically for teen girls (6th – 12th grades) with stuff they need (and want) to know.

#### HOT TOPICS



Friends are sooo important! If only they came with guarantees. Hear how to make the most of your friendships, and how to handle it if one goes bad.

What do guys really think? Why do they say what they say? We hear 'em, but what do they mean? We've got the honest truth from a guy about the view from "the other side."



Our speakers are real - and they've got real-life experience to share with you. Stuff you can pack in your spiritual survival kit in order to successfully navigate your own life journey.

We've all got it in us to be confident and act confident. But where does self-esteem come from? From 'how to think' to 'who to believe', we'll help you find and appreciate the real, wonderful you.



**Philadelphia, PA**  
**November 3-4, 2006**  
**Wachovia Spectrum**

**Check out the website: [www.revolutour.com](http://www.revolutour.com), and see all the artists and events that will take place. Talk to your moms and friends about it and call Sharon or Bernadette if you are interested. Monies will be available to help defer the cost.**

**EARLY BIRD DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 8, 2006**

*Faith Life Weekly*, a take-home resource, is available in the Narthex every Sunday. This resource offers an at-home plan for nurturing faith and faith practices based on Sunday's worship service.

Also, *Kid's Celebrate* is available for youth to use during the worship service or to take home to add to family devotional time throughout the week. Stop and pick up a copy!

### Passing on Faith: FIRST COMMUNION WILL BE CELEBRATED ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8.

There will be three classes for First Communion beginning September 17. Any parents who feel their child is ready for this important step in their Spiritual life, or who may have questions regarding First Confirmation are encouraged to call Pastor Elkin at the church office.



## Ecumenical Christian Outreach



### Ecumenical Luncheons Resume

The United Churches Wednesday Noon Ecumenical Luncheons resume in September. They will be held each Wednesday from 12 to 1 PM at the Pine Street United Methodist Church. You are assured a delicious lunch, costing \$4, warm ecumenical fellowship and a thoughtful program designed to enrich your life both mentally and spiritually. No reservations are necessary!

Sept. 13 - **The Rev. Dr. John Piper**, Academic Dean, Lycoming College member of the Bicentennial Committee for the City of Williamsport, *"Reflections on the Bicentennial"*

Sept. 20 - **Ms. Jean Marie Sullivan**, Long Term Care Director, Lycoming Clinton By-County Office of the Aging, *"Services and Assistance for People Sixty and Over"*

Sept. 27 - **Dr. J. Morris Smith**, Shepherd of the Street, *"What Would Jesus Do?"*

### Ecumenical Taize Prayer Services



These quiet, community prayer services will be held the fourth Monday at various churches in the area. The next service will be September 25 at 7 PM at St. Luke Lutheran Church, 1400 North Market St.

What is Taize prayer? Taize prayer uses the beautiful chant-like music of the Taize community in France that is dedicated to the renewal of our Spiritual lives.

Taize Prayer offers a beautiful, deeply moving, and quieting opportunity to pray together in community. You have the opportunity to come early to the September service and experience the ages-old Spiritual discipline of Labyrinth Walking. The Labyrinth will be open from 5-7 PM in Bell Hall at St. Luke Lutheran



## THE CROP WALK IS COMING SOON!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8TH

REGISTRATION: 1 PM

WALK BEGINS: 1:30 PM

WALKS WILL BE HELD IN WILLIAMSPORT,  
MONTGOMERY, MUNCY & TROUT RUN AREAS



## HEALTH, HEALING & WHOLENESS

Genesis 47:28-31 contains a poignant story of the last days of Jacob (Israel) *“Jacob lived in Egypt seventeen years, and the years of his life were a hundred and forty-seven. When the time drew near for Israel to die, he called for his son Joseph and said to him, “If I have found favor in your eyes, put your hand under my thigh and promise that you will show me kindness and faithfulness. Do not bury me in Egypt, but when I rest with my fathers, carry me out of Egypt and bury me where they are buried.” “I will do as you say”, he [Joseph] said. “Swear to me,” he [Israel] said. Then Joseph swore to him, and Israel worshiped as he leaned on the top of his staff (NIV).* This must have been a difficult conversation for father and son. No one likes to discuss the “what-ifs” in life when they involve declining health and/or the impending death of a loved one, but these kinds of difficult conversations can and should be possible in our homes as well as in our congregations.

Every state has its own laws and guidelines regarding Advance Directives – our wishes regarding medical care when we are no longer capable of making decisions on our own (available at <http://www.uslivingwillregistry.com/forms.shtm>).

There are several types of Advance Directives. A ‘Durable’ or ‘Medical Power-of-Attorney (POA)’ allows you to appoint someone (sometimes called a health care agent or proxy) to make medical decisions for you, should you be unable to do so. It is typically activated if you become unconscious or incapacitated. It is important to understand that a Medical POA is **not the same** as a regular POA (the kind that allows someone to make your financial decisions). This individual need not be a family member, but should be someone in whom you have a great deal of trust, and with whom you’ve discussed the types of choices you would want made for you in a variety of medical situations. Avoid choosing someone out of guilt or a sense of obligation.

A second type of Advance Directive, known as a Living Will is a legal document which describes the kinds of medical or life-sustaining treatments you would want if seriously ill or in the end-stages of life. It does not allow you to appoint someone to make decisions for you. A good Advance Directive will allow you to describe the kinds of treatment you would want (Examples: CPR, mechanical breathing, tube-feedings, etc.) – depending upon how sick you are: whether you could recover (Examples: heart attack, accident, stroke), whether you are unlikely to recover, or whether your physicians have determined you could be permanently unconscious.

In addition, there is the Do-Not-Resuscitate Order (DNR) which states that you have requested to **not** receive CPR if your heart stops beating or if you stop breathing. This must be placed in your medical records by your physician. Be aware that in some states, such as Pennsylvania, ambulance personnel are **required** to provide CPR unless given a separate order, known as an Out-of-Hospital Do-Not-Resuscitate Order, which may be obtained from and signed by your physician.

Though in most states, you may create your own Advance Directives, your doctor, the Area Agency on Aging, hospice, an attorney, or AARP, can give forms and/or assistance in doing so. You must follow state guidelines, and be at least 18 years of age. When completed, a copy of your wishes should be given to your family, your physician, your POA and/or your lawyer. Avoid storing it in a safe-deposit box, where retrieval might be difficult. Keep in mind that you **may cancel or change** your AD at any time.

Advance Directives involve deeply personal decisions, so it is important that you have these difficult conversations with your loved ones, your pastor, your parish nurse, or with your doctor. Please use this article as a spring-board for discussing end-of-life issues, and the mystery of life and death in God. May *“the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:7)* as you do so.

Debbie Best – Congregational Health Ministries & Family Life Services  
Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries

## Men's Ministries

### Thursday Morning Men's Bible Study Begins Again!

We would like to extend an open invitation to all men to attend our Thursday morning Bible study held in the Middle Lounge between 6:30-7:05 am. Park on the east side of the church and enter the side door. Fresh coffee will be brewing. By the time you receive this newsletter, we will have reached the one-year milestone of this ministry. Thanks be to God! This is not our doing but God's will being done through this ministry.

We ended our study on the ninth reason from; *"The Passion of Jesus Christ, Fifty Reasons Why He Came to Die"* by John Piper. We started a new book entitled; *"Christ in the Psalms"* by Patrick Henry Reardon. We read what he has written, then we read the Psalm, and then we discuss what it means to us.

Recognizing we are all busy we stick to a tight time schedule and study God's Word. We would like you to prayerfully consider attending any Thursday morning. We continue to encourage the men of St. Mark's, young and old, to make every effort to study God's word and to learn as much as they can about Jesus Christ.

Activities for present planning

1. Habitat for Humanity (Williamsport/Lycoming chapter) is building 4 homes in the next 4-months, they need people any day except Sunday. To volunteer, fill out a volunteer form posted on our office hallway bulletin board.
2. Pray for the Men's Ministry that it will keep the good news of Jesus as its main priority.

## School of Religion

### 3 Courses Offered This Year!

#### Peer Ministry for Adults—Pastor Kerry Aucker

Do you find it sometimes hard to talk to others? Perhaps others are not very open to you or they intimidate you. Perhaps you sense your co-workers are struggling in life and you want to say "I care" but don't know how to approach them. Then join us in some frank conversations and dialogues as we learn how to ask questions, how to affirm others, and a how to be in dialogue one with another.

#### God's Will and Our Will—Pastor Robert Driesen

This course will explore the Lutheran understanding regarding the will of God and the will of Human beings. Martin Luther's concept of God's will being both hidden and revealed will be discussed, as well as Luther's debates with Erasmus regarding the human notion of "Free will."

#### A Strong Affirmation for Challenging Times—I Corinthians—Pastor Jeffrey Zetto

The participants will explore Paul's ministry and correspondence, a vital resource for the challenges of these times and the lives of our congregations.

School of Religion will be held each Wednesday evening in October from 7—9 PM at St. Mark's Lutheran Church. Choose a course, then call St. Mark's to sign up. Courses are free of charge but pre-registration must be received no later than Monday, October 2.

## BIRTHDAYS

Jeannette Lukens 09/04  
 Brett Campbell 09/05  
 Lauren Campbell 09/05  
 Valerie Doebler 09/05  
 Sean Elkin 09/05  
 Kirk Owen 09/05  
 Laura McCullough 09/06  
 Betty Rechel 09/06  
 Derek Lewis 09/06  
 Debra Buckman 09/09  
 Mary Clouser 09/10  
 Jane Oakes 09/10  
 Carol Harvey 09/11  
 Theodore Larson 09/12

Beth Shafranko 09/12  
 Marion Waldeisen 09/12  
 Mary Ann Stiller 09/12



Alice Helm 09/13  
 Timothy Maggs 09/13  
 Stefan Weber 09/13  
 Shirley MacGill 09/15

Andrea Welker 09/15  
 Louella Bair 09/16  
 Tammy Fitzpatrick 09/17  
 Deborah Holmes 09/19  
 Ronald Arner 09/22  
 Brittany Dewar 09/22  
 Jeffery Maggs 09/24  
 Richard Kneedler 09/25  
 Blanche Doebler 09/26  
 Lawrence Satifka 09/28  
 Bailey Sims 09/28  
 Ralph Zeigler 09/28  
 Harold Davis 09/29  
 Pamela Fink 09/30

## ANNIVERSARIES

Ronald & Grace Arner 09/03  
 Steven & Nancy Bieber 09/03  
 Eric & Sharon Comini 09/03  
 William & Marion Waldeisen 09/10  
 Johnny & Renee Hinds 09/19



Michael & Jackie Kinney 09/25  
 Arthur & Jane Kline 09/27  
 James & Donna Maule 09/27  
 Robert & Michele Ramsauer 09/28



## New Windsor Bus Trip

*"I had heard about the New Windsor Service Center, but really did not comprehend all of the things happening there until I saw it with my own eyes. It was such a good feeling to take part with my own hands in such a worthwhile activity!"*

That was the reaction of Lou DeSeau to his participation in the New Windsor, Maryland bus trip to SERRV and the Church World Service clothing sorting warehouse on Monday, August 28. Lois Smith, Shirley Hill, and Pastor Elkin also participated in the bus trip. They were able to work in the clothing sorting area and the pricing area and enjoyed a lunch in the cafeteria.

There will be an opportunity for another trip next spring so you, too, can share in Lou's enthusiasm. The date likely will be in late April so look for details in the March issue of the Lion!

## SPECIAL THANK YOU'S

To my Good Friends of St. Mark's,

Thank you one and all for my delightful shower. You can rest assured that all the lovely gifts will be put to good use! For those of you who were unable to attend, I received:

- 4 tea towels
- 2 rolling pins
- 2 oven mitts
- Kitchen Aid chef's chopper
- 5-qt. crock pot
- Presto griddle
- 3 cookie sheets
- Mr. Coffee ice tea maker
- kitchen timer
- 8 dish cloths
- silverware
- 4 Tupperware pitchers
- 4 ladles
- 5 cupcake tins
- baking cups
- set of S & P shakers
- 2 8-qt. bowls
- 2 grill tool sets
- grill brush
- 1-qt. measuring cup
- 2 stainless steel measuring cups
- Mr. Coffee 12 cup coffee maker
- 5 ½ qt. Farberware pan
- digital cooking thermometer
- Kitchen Aid stand mixer

Thank you all, once again, for your generosity. I am truly blessed to have such good friends. God's blessings on all of you,

***Kit***

Dear Friends,

We acknowledge with thanks the receipt of \$25 for the Annual Fund.

The Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg community thanks you for your continuing support of our ministry. Your partnership is important in providing quality education for the leadership of Christ's Church.

Sincerely,  
Eric D. Cole, Jr.  
Vice President of Seminary Advancement

Dear Pastor Elkin,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff at Williamsport/Lycoming Habitat for Humanity, we wish to thank you for your participation in the Lutheran Build week, August 7 to August 11, 2006. We were delighted with the response from the Lutheran churches in the area.

Please thank all the members of your congregation who participated either by working at the site of preparing food for the workers. Everyone did a great job and the combined efforts of all the volunteers greatly assisted us in our goal of getting our Habitat families into their homes by the end of the year. What a great Christmas present for them!

We look forward to another Lutheran Build in 2007.

Sincerely,  
Doris Rider, Director of Volunteer Services  
Williamsport/Lycoming Habitat for Humanity

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your donation. We appreciate your kindness to us here at St. Anthony's. God bless you for your generosity.

May He give you peace—let His face shine upon you and bring you happiness each day of your life.

Lovingly,  
Sister Henry

Dear Ken,

Thank you most sincerely for the time you spent at the Shepherd of the Streets office while I was on retreat. Your help as an Assistant Shepherd meant that the daily activities of the ministry could continue as usual and emergency situations and problems could be handled with ministerial expertise and compassion.

May God be with you,  
J. Morris Smith, Th. D.

# SPECIAL CONCERNS LIST

Patricia Alexander  
1745 Chestnut St.  
Williamsport, PA 17701

Nancy Bohartz  
624 Sixth Ave.  
Williamsport, PA 17701

Bonita Crossly  
Rose View Center, Room 108A  
1251 Rural Avenue  
Williamsport, PA 17701

June Decker  
338 Sherwood Ave.  
South Williamsport, PA 17702

Larue Dieter  
2150 Warrensville Road, Apt. 2  
Montoursville, PA 17754

Jane & Luther Doebler  
Wmspt. Home, Apt. #115A  
Williamsport, PA 17701

Harriet Fornwalt  
729 Wilson Street  
Williamsport, PA 17701

Doris Fortin  
Rose View Center  
1251 Rural Ave., Room 223  
Williamsport, PA 17701

Earl Foulkrod  
Sycamore Manor  
1445 Sycamore Rd., Rm. 403  
Montoursville, PA 17754

Jean Gulliver  
3039 Elimsport Road  
Montgomery, PA 17752

Charles Homan  
2215 Warrensville Rd.  
Montoursville, PA 17754

Charlotte Hughes  
140 Blueberry Lane  
Williamsport, PA 17701

Joanne Lamade  
Sycamore Manor  
1445 Sycamore Rd., Rm. # 210  
Montoursville, PA 17754



Lucille Markel  
Rose View Court, Apt. 307  
1251 Rural Ave.  
Williamsport, PA 17701

Anne Miller  
947 Hepburn St.  
Williamsport, PA 17701

Jane Oakes  
833 Funston Avenue  
Williamsport, PA 17701

Frank Pile  
Manor Care S., Rm. 52  
Williamsport, PA 17701

Anne Rhodes  
c/o Carole Finn  
20308 Cabana Drive  
Germantown, MD 20876

Dorothy Rivetti  
Manor Care North Room 108A  
Williamsport, PA 17701

Marian Rubendahl  
1900 Ravine Road Bldg. C  
Williamsport Home Apt. 1010  
Williamsport, PA 17701

James Sheaffer  
Rose View Court Rm. 321  
1251 Rural Ave.  
Williamsport, PA 17701

Mary Helen Scinicarello  
Danville St. Hospital  
Ward #311  
Danville, PA 17821

Geraldine Shipman  
1900 Ravine Rd.  
Apt. #222A  
Williamsport, PA 17701

Kester & Eleanor Sobers  
425 W Highland Ave.  
S. Williamsport, PA 17702

Ira Tuxford  
1838-Blanchard Ave.  
Williamsport, PA 17701

Ralph Zeigler Sr.  
Rose View Court  
1251 Rural Ave., Apt. 209  
Williamsport, P A 17701

# SAINT MARK'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## September 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																										
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<p><b>Pentecost XIII</b></p> <p>8:00 AM &amp; 10:30 AM HC</p> <p>9:15 AM Breakfast in the Courtyard</p>	<p>**Office Closed**</p>	<p>8:30 AM Counters</p> <p>9:00 AM Morning Prayer</p>	<p>9:00 AM Morning Prayer</p> <p>9:15 AM Staff Meeting &amp; Sewing</p> <p>12:00 PM Bible Study</p> <p>6:00 PM Dog-Gone Good Time</p>	<p>6:31 AM Men's Ministry</p> <p>8:00 AM - 10:30 AM Stephen Ministry</p> <p>9:00 AM Morning Prayer</p> <p>7:30 PM Senior Choir</p>	<p><b>Council Agenda Deadline</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Morning Prayer</p>																																																																																																											
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<p><b>Pentecost XVI</b></p> <p>8:00 AM &amp; 10:30 AM HC</p> <p>9:15 AM Sunday Church School</p> <p>10:30 AM Milestone: Enrollment of Catechetical Students</p> <p>11:40 AM Cont. Choir</p> <p>3:00 PM First Communion Class</p> <p>4:00 PM The Way</p> <p>5:30 PM Supper With Seminarians</p>	<p>9:00 AM Morning Prayer</p> <p>6:45 PM Handbells</p> <p>7:00 PM Civic Chorus</p>	<p>9:00 AM Morning Prayer</p>	<p>9:00 AM Morning Prayer</p> <p>9:15 AM Staff Meeting &amp; Sewing</p> <p>6:00 PM Dog-Gone Good Time</p>	<p>6:31 AM Men's Ministry</p> <p>9:00 AM Morning Prayer</p> <p>7:30 PM Senior Choir</p>	<p>9:00 AM Morning Prayer</p> <p>9:15 AM Newsletter Crew</p>	<p>12:00 PM Lunch for Habitat Workers</p>																																																																																																										

Pastor at Society of the Holy Trinity in Chicago September 25th through September 29th.

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
142 MARKET ST.  
WILLIAMSPORT, PA 17701

Phone: 570-323-4619  
Fax: 570-323-2452

Website: <http://www.stmarkswilliamsport.org>  
Email: [stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org)



*Return Service Requested*

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Williamsport, PA 17701

*Please join us for*  
***B*** *reakfast in the Courtyard*

*S unday, S eptember 3rd at 9:15 AM*



*B*reakfast Pizza  
*F*ruit *S*alad  
*C*offee Cakes  
*S*ticky *B*uns  
*O*range *J*uice  
*C*offee, *T*ea & *O*ther *B*everages