# The Lion of St. Mark's

# **Consecration Sunday**

Consecration Sunday is October 15 this year. We are wrestling with the concept that, from a biblical perspective, financial stewardship is not money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, we're trying to understand that financial contributions are a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Since this goes against our natural tendencies to want to regard everything as our own possessions, we must continue to think about this and make it a part of our life a bit at a time. *Consecration Sunday* is a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis. This is our fourth year of approaching faithful living in this way.

The basic lesson we are learning is the need of the giver to give for his or her, own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. Instead of treating people like members of a social club who should pay dues, we will treat our members like followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. We must look into our hearts and ask ourselves: "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During morning worship on Consecration Sunday, we are asking our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, educational, service, and worship ministries in this community and around the world. Every attendee and member who completes an *Estimate of Giving Card* does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday, October 15. We urge everyone to attend, even those who are hesitant to complete a card, because the procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will do <u>no</u> home solicitation to ask people to complete cards. During morning worship, our leaders will conduct a brief period of instruction and inspi-

ration, climaxed by members making their commitments as a confidential act of worship. Congregation Council members will be urging folks to be in attendance for this important service and event.

Since we will make <u>no</u> follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend worship on Consecration Sunday, October 15. In the coming weeks, please think prayerfully about the blessings God has given to you, and about how you are called to share those blessings.

The other part of the event is the celebration meal that follows each worship service on October 15. At services on the next two Sundays we'll be asking for your reservation for the breakfast following the 8:30 service or the lunch following the 10:30 service on Consecration Sunday. It is important that every member take part.

The Rev. Gregory A. Kramer will be our guest preacher for consecration Sunday this year. He has a number of years of service in the parish and is currently the representative for Lutheran Planned Giving of Central and Northeastern Pennsylvania. He will also be meeting with the Council and leadership of the congregation on October 9th in preparation for Consecration Sunday.

Since Pastor Kramer will be with us, we will be making use of his expertise in a second way on October 15th. Following the luncheon, Pastor Kramer will make available a planned giving workshop for persons who might be interested. There are many things to consider when planning wills and other estate documents, and Pastor Kramer has ideas and resources to assist in this process. This is yet another step in our Stewardship of life. Pastor Kramer asks the question, "What will your legacy be?" He suggests ways in which each of us can answer that question appropriately. Reservations are not required but are welcomed, so that sufficient packets of material can be available. The time for this workshop is 1 PM, when we conclude our luncheon and will be approximately 1 hour in length.

# COUNCIL UPDATE

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Gary Weber Susan Bennett Pastor Flkin Lou DeSeau Richard Lakey Sharon Comini Susan M-Smith General mailbox

gweber@stmarkswilliamsport.org sbennett@stmarkswilliamsport.org pastor@stmarkswilliamsport.org ldeseau@stmarkswilliamsport.org rlakey@stmarkswilliamsport.org Bernadette Jones bjones@stmarkswilliamsport.org scomini@stmarkswilliamsport.org smsmith@stmarkswilliamsport.org stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org

#### **Council Notes**

The Congregation Council met in regular session on September 18 in the Crossways Room. The Council:

-received regular reports of activities from the pastor, staff, and committees.

-moved to receive Ruth Sherlinski by letter of transfer on October 1.

-moved to grant letter of transfer to Joyce Jones to unite with Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Kingston, PA

-moved to receive Kathryn Eshelman by profession of faith on October 1.

-moved to purchase mugs bearing the St. Mark's name for the purpose of home use as well as for giving as a gift to visitors. This was one of the Transformation handle projects approved by the Council last year. Brenda Bittner is in charge of the project.

-rejoiced that Donna Clark is in charge of the shirt project, for adults and students. Order forms will be available shortly, due by October 15, so that we can receive the shirts in time for Christmas giftgiving. This is another of the Transformation handle projects, designed to get the congregation's name in front of the public in personal ways, and to foster conversation.

--heard that the Parenting with Purpose group has concluded its session, with very good reactions from the participants. The group plans follow-up sessions over the coming months. This too was one of the Transformation handle projects, and under the direction of Sharon and Eric Comini.

--noted that the Mission at the Crossroads meeting was held on this past Wednesday and we continue to make progress with small steps. It was a good conversation.

## **Directory Changes:**

Mr. & Mrs. Steven Bieber III, 105 Colonial Dr., Apt. D, Shillington, PA 19607-2887

Ms. Stephanie Bieber & family, 63 Riverside Ter., Lock Haven, PA 17701

Mr. Scott Dietterick, 15 Spring St., Danville, PA 17821-1623

Mr. Richard Hafer, Jr., 636 Tinkers Dr., Surfside Beach, SC 29575-8630

Ms. Roxanna Larson, 823 Main St., S. Williamsport, PA 17702

Mr. David Elkin, 6236 Fifth Ave., Apt. 106-C, Pittsburgh, PA 15232

Ms. Marian Rubendahl, Wmspt. Home, Rm. #213, 1900 Ravine Rd., Wmspt, PA 17701

# From the Parish Register

Received Ruth Sherlinski by letter of transfer on October 1.

Transfer of membership of Joyce Jones to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Kingston, PA

Received Kathryn Eshelman by profession of faith on October 1.



# THE WAY IS ON THE WAY!

A new group of candidates and sponsors have begun the process of preparing adults for active membership in the life of the church. You can still become part of this process and join this years group. But don't delay! Call Bob Schultz at 326-3929 or Pastor Elkin at 323-4619 today!



Yes, we really do meet at 6:31 AM on Thursdays. The current investigation is in the Psalms, and we hear comments from both the western church and an eastern orthodox writer. Those old Psalms continue to speak to everyday problems and situations yet today!

Stop in and join the conversation before your other activities of the day.

# Mission at the Crossroads Update

We've taken the next step in the Mission at the Crossroads process. Twenty five members of the parish gathered on September 13 for a potluck supper followed by conversation under the leadership of Beth Yenchko, area missions director for the ELCA. We reviewed the information that was gathered over the summer from the three survey instruments that were provided to us, as well as other impressions and reflections. We have not yet arrived at definitive directions; this was another step in that direction. The comments and conversation were thoughtful, and every person's comment was noted down for later investigation. Ms. Yenchko proved to be a skilled facilitator, and we are pleased to have her expertise close at hand. (Her office is in State College.)

Over the next two months we will be posing several questions to as many small groups as we can around the parish, and again writing down every response. The next general gathering will be on December 6 when we will hear the summary of all of these comments and move toward the choice of directions for our next work as a congregation.

Yes, it is slow going, but the result will be better than if we rushed the process. We're looking to listen to and think about every variety of response in the light of the Gospel imperatives. If you have been involved in some aspects of the work to date, Thank you; if not, any member of the parish is welcome to jump in at any time. We will all benefit. Most of all, the mission of the Lord Jesus at St. Mark's will move forward.

Several persons are marking **Milestones** in their life and faith in these weeks:



- 2. Kathryn Eshelman is received as a member of the congregation on October 1.
- 3. Five students began catechetical studies on September 17 and were publicly recognized and the prayers of the congregation were asked on their behalf on September 24:
  - •Christina Comini

daughter of Eric and Sharon Comini, with Karen Boone as mentor

- Brandon Fortin,
  - son of Matt and Wanda Fortin, with Lou DeSeau as mentor
- Paige Fortin,

daughter of Matt and Wanda Fortin, with Stephanie Fortin as mentor

Sara Jones,

daughter of Bob and Bernadette Jones, with Jane Kline as mentor

Hannah Ramsauer.

daughter of Bob and Michelle Ramsauer, with Deb Maggs as mentor

4. Starting to attend Sunday Church School this September are Sean Jensen & Amalie Robertson.

The next milestone will be First Communion which will be marked by several young persons on October 8.



# BLANKET SUNDAY

# **Quilts on Display**

Many thanks to all those people who handed in completed kits and bars of soap. Lutheran World Relief will distribute them, along with the quilts, to people in disastrous situations. On Blanket Sunday, October 1st, look for the display of quilts our ladies have made.

If you were unable to help with kits or quilts, you can contribute funds to buy discounted blankets. An envelope for blanket donations is attached, or you can just designate your donation to "Blankets". Through God's grace we can share our

# **Wanted: Record Player**

One of St. Mark's senior members would like an old stackable record player.

If anyone has one that they would be willing to part with please call Barb Thomas at 322-6460.

# M&KING QUILTS

#### CAN YOU HELP?

Our grandmothers enjoyed quilting bees as a form of recreation and fellowship. Come any Wednesday morning and give it a try. If you think you can't sew, knotting might be your choice of jobs.

We start with Morning Prayer at 9:00 a.m., but you can come whenever you wish. Some of our quilters help by working at home.

Each quilt is one of a kind, with a beauty all its own, made as a gift of hope by caring people.

#### Volunteer Drivers Needed

The Road to Recover Program of the Cancer Care Center is desperately in need of volunteer drivers to take newly diagnosed patients to treatment at area cancer centers. Persons interested in volunteering should contact Pam Schaur at 570-326-4149 or 888-227-5445.





# Taking Care of Our Life-Raft in Space....

An Evangelical Declaration on the Care of the Creation was developed this past summer

and signed by representatives of a number of Christian groups. The declaration pro-

vides

reasons why we should be concerned about environmental degradations, what the Christian witness on behalf of God's earth calls for, how we have fallen short in our stewardship, and how we might better respond.

Setting out principles of Biblical faith that can be affirmed in one's personal life, in church life and in society, the declaration urges "individual Christians and churches to be centers of creation's care and renewal." We are reminded that "our lives do not consist in the abundance of possessions," and that our lifestyle choices can "express humility, forbearance, self-restraint and frugality."

Christians are "to work for godly, just and sustainable economies...responsible public policies which embody the principles of biblical stewardship of creation...(and become) a covenant people in an ever-widening circle of biblical care for creation." Interested persons can contact Michael Ochs (326-2513) for more information

# 17th Annual Benefit Concert for Dialysis



The 17th Annual Benefit Concert for Dialysis will be held on Sunday, November 12th at 4PM in our sanctuary. Nancy Ackerman will be arriving from California and she and Dick will be playing several organ pieces for 4 hands and 4 feet. One of the pieces, "Waltzing"

Matilda is written for feet only. Featured in this years concert will be the bluegrass group "The Stained Grass Window." Ken Shafranko is a member of this group, and as you may remember The Stained Grass Window has played during our worship service.

There are several levels of support available for your donation toward this benefit concert ranging from \$15 for a family ticket, \$25, \$50, \$100 and upwards. The contributions help to benefit the patients of North Central Pennsylvania Dialysis Clinics. Dick was a dialysis patient for seven years and would still be on dialysis except for the kidney transplant he underwent over 10 years ago.

We hope that you will plan to be present at this benefit concert. It looks to be an exciting musical event, and we look forward to your support.



# Stewardship Corner

For the last couple of weeks we have heard inspirational and challenging announcements at the beginning of our services about the importance of giving to a God who has given us everything He had including His son Jesus. All are invited to attend one of our Consecration Sunday meals on October 15. After the 8:00 AM service there will be a breakfast and after the 10:30 service a lunch will be served. All we ask is that you please fill out the RSVP cards, which will be passed out at the beginning of both the October 1st & 8th services.

In addition, our guest leader, Rev. Greg Kramer will be preaching at both services on Consecration Sunday about Christian will planning and giving. During the morning, he will be in the Crossways Room to answer questions.

On October 15th you will be asked to fill out a pledge card for this up coming year of giving to help God's Kingdom. Our prayer is that you ask God for guidance, faith and a decision about giving until it feels good.

Thank you, God's blessing from The Stewardship Committee

Please read Hebrews 13

# Can you dig it?

Pastor Elkin has been planning an adventure for some time, to take part in an archaeological expedition in Israel. Most such events take place during the summer months when college students are available as workers, but one is scheduled for spring and fall sessions at Tiberias on the western coast of the Sea of Galilee. Pastor Elkin will be leaving on October 17, and stop off in Barcelona to visit Katy for several days before continuing on to TelAviv. He has a day to get acclimated with a visit to friends in



Haifa, and then arrives in Tiberias. There is a modern city near the ancient site, but fortunately, not on top of the site. The group will be housed in a motel a few miles away, near where the Jordan River exits the Sea of Galilee. The workday begins quite early, so that workers can be in the shade by the hottest part of the day.

Pastor Elkin is hoping to find internet access so that he can send regular reports to us. If possible, some of them may be posted on the congregation's website. Watch for announcements about this in the Sunday bulletin. Persons curious about the enterprise can read about the dig and see photos of past seasons on the website for the dig at www.tiberiasexcayation.com.

Last season the expedition discovered a fourth-century church that had been unknown. That is part of the allure; no one knows what might be beneath the next inch of soil. Tiberias was a bustling place at the time of Jesus, even though scripture does not record him visiting the city. It became the headquarters of the Jewish religious leaders after they were banished from Jerusalem following the zealots' revolts. It continued to be an active place until it was finally destroyed at the



time of the Crusades. It was abandoned at that point until excavations began in recent years. The Israeli government has recently committed \$5 million toward the promotion and protection of this site as an archaeological park when the excavations are concluded.

Questions about the adventure are welcomed by the pastor before his departure, as well as when he re turns in mid November.



Make-A-Wish Foundation® of Greater Pennsylvania & Southern West Virginia

Become a Make-A-Wish Volunteer! Training starts in October! Call 1-800-480-9474 now!

Bringing wishes to area children is possible because of the efforts of our dedicated volunteers. Whether providing administrative support, organizing wish kid events, helping at fund raisers and special events or making magic as wish granters, our volunteers make wishes come true every day.

When we meet a wish child, we ask them to consider these four possibilities:

If I could go anywhere . . . If I could meet anyone . . . . If I could have anything . . . If I could be anything . . .

We open up a world of possibilities for the children and ask them to dream the unimaginable. And then we make the impossible come true. Wishes are as different as the children who dream them. Sure, a trip to Disney World is very popular, as are computers and shopping sprees. But how about a happy meal with Ronald McDonald? Or a chance to appear in your own "Spiderman" movie? Or a visit to the MTV Music Awards? Or your very own batting cage? Wishes help a sick child forget the illness, hospitals, treatments and shots and just be a kid again. We give them a chance to dream, plan, anticipate, experience and remember.

Referring a child is easy and is the first step in making a child's wish come true. If you know of a child between the ages of 2 1/2 and 18 with a life-threatening medical condition, your referral could lead to a magical and empowering wish experience and help a child get through a painful and frightening time. Children and their families are energized by a wish - imagining it, describing it, planning it, anticipating it and, finally, experiencing it. Let the power of a wish begin with your referral.

We are actively seeking volunteers in Lycoming County. For more information please call 570-714-9474 or email Kristen Gaydos, Wish Assistant at kgaydos@wishworld.org

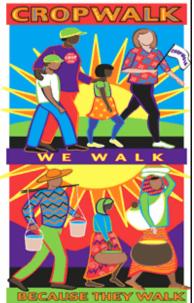
# **Social Ministry News**

# Harvest Home Sunday, October 8th



Our congregation will be celebrating a "Day of Thanksgiving" by bringing non-perishable items for the local United Churches Food Pantry. These items should be brought to the church in the provided bag or a plastic bag, on Sunday, October 1 or Sunday, October 8. They will be displayed on Sunday, October 8th at both Worship Services. People in need are given a three day supply of food. Volunteers at the food pantry are very grateful for our church families generous response every year. We hope you and your family will be part of this annual celebration as we thank God for what He has given us.

- Worship & Music Committee



# THE CROP WALK IS COMING SOON!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8TH REGISTRATION: 1 PM WALK BEGINS: 1:30 PM

THE GREATER WILLIAMSPORT WALK WILL BEGIN FROM PAVILION 2 AT INDIAN PARK AND MOVE ON THE BIKE PATH AND THROUGH MONTOURSVILLE. BRENDA GAIR WILL HAVE REGISTRATION MATERIALS AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX AFTER EACH SERVICE.

# 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



Answer to Quotefall puzzle on page 16:

Professing themselves to be wise they became fools (Romans 1:22) KJV

# **Social Ministry**

#### **Nurses Notes**

#### October 2006

#### October 1

Here is a unique exercise to strengthen your forearm, wrist and ability to grip. Stretch out your arm. Hold a corner of a single newspaper page. Now crumble it up into a ball ... as fast as you can ... using only that hand. Repeat a few times, several times a week.

#### October 8

Remove drawstrings from hoods and necks of children's clothing. Draw-strings can get caught on playground equipment, fence, bus doors and pose a serious safety hazard!

#### October 15

Don't take any over-the-counter pain reliever for more than the number of days listed on the bottle, unless advised by your doctor. Aspirin, Ibuprofen (Motrin, Advil), and naproxen (Aleve) can cause bleeding in the stomach and intestines, and ulcers. High doses of acetaminophen (Tylenol) can damage the liver. Risks are even higher in those who drink alcohol or who have kidney disease.

#### October 22

It seems like more foods are being "topped with bacon and cheese"! This can add at least 250 extra calories –plus more saturated fat and cholesterol.

#### October 29

As the weather gets chillier, we turn more toward hot drinks, but beware the extra calories. A 16 oz. "mocha grande" can contain nearly 400 calories and 25 grams of fat! Even the mere "tall cafe latte" (12 oz) with whole milk has 180 calories and 10 grams of fat!

### **Wednesday Ecumenical Luncheons**

United Churches of Lycoming County invite you to join them for their Wednesday Noon Ecumenical Luncheon. You're always assured of a tasty \$4 lunch, warm, ecumenical fellowship and a thoughtful program designed to enrich your life mentally, physically, spiritually and socially. The parking is free in the Pine Street lot north of the church from 11 AM to 1:30 PM No reservations are necessary.

#### **October Luncheon speakers:**

4th—**Ms. Valerie Wyman**, Executive Director of the Williamsport Symphony, and **Dr. Gary Boerckel**, Lycoming College Faculty and Member of the Williamsport Symphony "Celebrating The Symphony's 40th Anniversary."

11th—**Mr. Jim Rose**, member of the assessment team and **Mrs. Marie Scott**, RN and Unit Educator for the Susquehanna Health System's Behavioral Health Center "*Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD)*"

18th—**Rev. Aden Wertz**, Pastor, Pine Street United Methodist Church, "*The Power of Music Throughout Scripture*."

25th—**Rev. Gwen Bernstine**, Executive Director, United Churches, "*Celebrating Sixty Years of Ministry*."

Make plans to join them and bring a friend!



Food Pantry Vpdate

Powdered Drink Mix

Our United Churches/Center City Food Pantry provides a 3 day supply of food to those in need. Shelves have been somewhat bare this center and as the cold weather approaches and fuel bills escalate more people will turn to the pantry for assistance. Your generosity makes this ministry possible. The following items are needed:

Spaghetti Sauce Spaghetti Noodles
Canned Fruits Canned Vegetables
Oodles of Noodles Tuna Helper
Chunky Soups Hamburger Helper
Coffee & Tea Bags Jelly

Cake Mixes & Frosting Macaroni & Cheese

Please bring donations to the Sojourner Truth Building on the corner of High & Center Streets.

# **West Branch Conference News**

#### **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.

KAucker1@suscom.net

#### **Finishing Well**

Trinity Lutheran Church in Hughesville offers a workshop on end of life issues Saturday, October 28, 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM.

You know you are going to die someday, but you don't know when. How would you like to offer your family a tremendous gift---the gift of having your affairs in order now? By making some plans and preparations now, you can save your family from the burden of worry that goes with getting your affairs in order even as they grieve your death.

There will be presentations and discussions on advance medical directives, wills, planned giving, hospice, and funeral arrangements.

Please register by September 29 at 584-3490.

#### November 4

This seems to be a busy Saturday. Please commit to at least one of the below events:

- 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM: Loading of another container for Liberia will take place at the storage barn in Mazeppa.
- All Day Saturday: Upper Susquehanna Men's Retreat at Camp Mount Luther 9:00 AM to noon at St. Matthew's Williamsport: A Child in Our Hand Workshop with focus on the challenges face to balance faith and the demands of every day life.

#### **Leadership Lab**

The Leadership Lab has shrunk to a one-day event on October 7. It was certainly not lack of advertising that led to poor registration. The event is open to all 6-12 grade youth. Call the synod at 524-9778.

#### Quiggleville

St. Michael's Angels are the Relay for Life team of St. Michael's Lutheran in Cogan Station. A yard sale Saturday October 7, 8:00 to 2:00 PM in the Quiggleville Community Hall will benefit the American Cancer Society.

#### **United Campus Ministry**

Our campus ministry to Penn College offers weekly worship services and dinners every Wednesday at 5:30 PM. On Monday, October 16, 7:00 PM The Rev. Constante Claro from the Philippines will speak at Penn's Inn, Bush Campus Center.

#### Taizé Service

Every fourth Sunday of the month a Taizé Prayer Service is held in the Williamsport area. Come and enjoy a quiet community prayer time with songs and chants from the ecumenical community in Taizé, October 23, 7:00 PM at Welch Honors Hall, Lycoming College, Basin and Fourth Streets.

Lifting Up The Ministry of all the congregations in the West Branch Conference. Through the ministry of our 34 congregations, Lutherans serve the area of Clinton, Lycoming and Tioga Counties. If you have followed this "bottom section" of our West Branch Conference newsletter you have seen the diversity that each of our churches brings to the table. We are the Church as the West Branch Conference when we gather for worship. This year we will again celebrate St. Nicholas Day together. Please mark your calendar (December 6).

#### **Contact**

The West Branch Conference newsletter is a means to share information about the ministry we do together as Lutherans. Please let me know about your congregation's events. Pastor Detlef Huckfeldt, editor sml@gmx.de.

# **Parenting on Purpose 101**



The Parenting on Purpose Class just finished their 8 week session. This course looked into handling behavior issues with our children to help them become responsible believers in Christ. Participants discussed always having a plan when it comes to disciplining your children and we learned how to implement the ICE Plan; for Instruction, Consequence, and Exercise. Approximately 10-12 parents participated in meaningful discussion and Bible study to help our kids get closer to God. We would like to see this discussion continue.

The next Parenting forum will take place on Saturday October 21, at 6:00 PM. We will meet at the Comini's home. Bring your kids with you. We will have activities for them. Even if you were not able to attend the parenting classes, all are welcome to come and discuss our highest calling to discipleship; the role of being a parent. Please call Sharon at the church office if you have any questions. We hope to see you on the 21<sup>st</sup>.



# Check out the website:

#### www.revolvetour.com

See all the artists and events that will take place then talk to your moms and friends about it and call Sharon or Bernadette (323-4619) if you are interested.

Monies are available to help defer the cost of the trip so don't let the cost keep you home!



# Children's Church will resume Sunday, October 8th.

This will be a special time as it coincides with First Communion.

Please join us in worship with the whole family.

FIGHTING THE FIRES OF HATE: America and the Nazi Book Burnings Sunday, October 22, 2006 1-4 PM

TABER MUSEUM, 858 West Fourth Street, Williamsport, PA

Special Program: Brotherhood of Murder 2PM

The riveting story of Tom Martinez,

his former life as a hate-group member and his later role as an FBI informant.



## Passing on Faith:

First Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, October 8. There will be three classes for First Communion beginning September 17th.

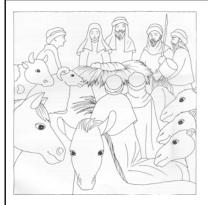
Any parents who feel their child(ren) is ready for this important step in their lives or who has any questions regarding this is encouraged to call Pastor Elkin.

## Adult Instructors Still Needed!

The Middle Lounge adult class needs instructors for this year! If you would like to lead this discussion group for a month this year, there are a variety of topics from which you can choose.



Please contact Sharon Comini or Bernadette Jones at the church office 323-4619 for more information.



# SIMPLE GIFTS OF CHRISTMAS

This lovely musical, based on the carol "The Friendly Beasts," will be presented during the Sunday School hour on Christmas Eve and again at the 7:00 service that night.

We need children, youth and adults to stage this retelling of Christ's birth. Adults and youth will carry most of the singing as well as the speaking parts as the youngsters act out the story. Adult and youth assistance is also re-

quired for assembling and organizing costumes and props for our young actors.

The music is very familiar, putting new words to old carols and hymns. We realize how busy everyone is at that time of year and have put together a rehearsal schedule keeping that in mind. Rehearsals will take place from 1:00 to 2:30 on October 22, November 5 & 19, and December 3. We will provide a light lunch for those involved in Contemporary Choir or Kantorei, who won't have a chance to return home between service and rehearsal. The final two rehearsals will take place on Saturdays, December 16 & 23, from 10:00 to 11:30, so cast members still have time to run last-minute errands.

SIMPLE GIFTS OF CHRISTMAS will be under the direction of Bernadette Jones, with Richard Lakey as Musical Director. Please join us in presenting this fun and meaningful rendering of the Christmas story. We can't do it without you.



We've BEEN MEETING EVERY SUNDAY THIS MONTH. IT'S GREAT TO SEE EVERY-ONE TOGETHER. We're still working the kinks out of the agenda so we can get everyone to class in a timely manner, but not have it be the same old, same old, every week. If there are any hymns or songs that anyone would like to hear sung—from the hymnal, from your youth, or from the last VBS--jot them down on the list on Bernadette's door.

It means so much to the children to share this time with the adults. Those who haven't yet participated, we hope you can find it in your hearts to join us and set an example for the young people of our congregation.

Bring a friend! There's room for all!



## The best-laid plans of mice and men oft-times go awry...

...and at no time more than when we can't plan!

This is where you can help us with little effort or inconvenience on your part. When you get a communiqué from us inviting you to a class, a meeting, a meal—you get the idea—please give us a ring or drop us an e-mail letting us know your intent. Even it's a "sorry, can't make it," that's okay. It keeps us from ordering materials or preparing places or food for those who might join us, but of

whom we're not sure.

It's easy! Even if you lose the invitation! Just cut this out and put it on your fridge or computer desk and just call us at 323-4619 or go to www.stmarkswilliamsport.org and click on "contact us," then just pick the staff member whom you feel would benefit most from knowing your intentions. **Thanks in advance for your consideration!** 





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

## Otterbein United Methodist Church Boiling Springs, 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.

If you've thought about teaching Sunday School but felt unprepared, let this convention help put your mind at ease. Please consider joining Sharon and Bernadette for this informative and enriching event. Call the office or e-mail them for more information.

## FT. MARK'S LIONS NEED YOU!!!

# The John Bower Basketball League starting soon!

We'd like to have a team in the 12-and-under, along with our younger teams—so we need more players!! Friends from other churches are welcome—as long as they attend Sunday School at their home church and don't have a team there.

Practices will begin on Tuesday, November 7, at 6:00 pm—but you need to sign up before that!! Sign-up sheets are in the narthex and the office hallway--or pick up a registration form from Bernadette.

Adults, feel free to help out Coach Rick, Coach Kirk and Coach Jeff by volunteering to train our future "ballers". Contact the church office at 323-4619 or e-mail us through the website.



C'mon!! Let's have some fun!!

## CONFIRMATION CLASS

Our new Confirmation Class has officially begun. The five young people beginning their two years of study were presented at the 10:30 service on Sunday, September 24. Their first monthly meeting took place the week before. They, their parents and their mentors met and got to learn some new things about each other and what the coming years hold for them, as far as their catechetical program is concerned.



Please keep the confirmands and their mentors in your prayers. They are:

Christina Comini	with	Karen Boone
Brandon Fortin	with	Lou DeSeau
Paige Fortin	with	Stephanie Fortin
Sara Jones	with	Jane Kline
Hannah Ramsauer	with	Deb Maggs



# See You at the Pole $^{\text{TM}}$ 2006

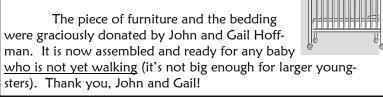
In a world full of chaos and endless activity, God calls for us to slow down and listen to Him. Intent on making their lives count, millions of teenagers paused to do just that at **See You at the Pole** Wednesday, September 27, 2006.

"Be STILL and KNOW that I am GOD" was the theme for See You at the Pole this year. All of our area high schools participated. East Lycoming, Jersey Shore, Loyalsock, Montgomery, Montoursville, Muncy, South Williamsport and Williamsport Area High Schools joined in prayer around their schools' flag poles at 7:00 a.m. that Wednesday in the company of other teenagers nationwide. Last year, there were reports of young people taking part in numerous countries on six other continents.

This event was organized and led by students. At each of the area schools contacted, 30–50 teens gathered, with only one school reporting less than that. Some of St. Mark's youth were among those assembled that morning.

Do teens care? Yes, evidently they do.

#### THE NURSERY NOW HAS A CRIB!



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!

## Thank You Pastor Elkin!

#### Hebrews 13:7 (MSG)

Appreciate your pastoral leaders who gave you the Word of God. Take a good look at the way they live, and let their faithfulness instruct you, as well as their truthfulness.

You work vigorously, often neglecting personal needs to give us comfort and direction. You do so much, yet you receive so little in return. This National Clergy Appreciation Day, we take time out to acknowledge and celebrate the efforts of your leadership. Although we may not often say it we are thankful for a Godly leader and a Pastor who has a heart for God. Thank you for your patience with us when we are not easy with which to be patient. Thank for giving us spiritual guidance, for rejoicing with us during life celebrations and mourning with us when our hearts are breaking. Thank you for striving to love us as God loves us. Thank you.

### **Your Flock**

## ST. MARK'S LOGO POLO SHIRTS FOR SALE

You may place your order with Susan 323-4619 9 AM-1 PM M-F or Donna Clark 998-2290 after 6 PM M-F or anytime over the weekend.



Youth Sizes

2XL-3XL \$23

Adult Sizes

\$20

\$10

S – XL

XS - XL

Adults - JERZEE Jersey Polo with SportShield, Welt

Knit Collar, Placket with pearlized buttons with

church logo embroidered on

Money must be paid when order is placed.

All orders for Christmas must be in by October 15th!

### Bible Wordsearch 🖔

backward, up, down, diagonally, always in a straight line.

Fit the words in the list into the diagram below reading forward,

Elijah & The whirlwind

Puzzle #133

2 KINGS CHAPTER 2 ERF T FTYINF SMAST GDKAOLCDPKE LEARS IHINLCSEET SSHORSESLUPATLH GSOTHHAAEDOUBLE STNAVRESRRLAR DERAEPPAT YGFO OMPANY FOITENT KDRPHAJILEOCADI EWHIRLWINDENN DTTDTEHARARRHON EAERIDTATODEIRC KKINUVHSJERICHO SETLUCIFFIDEWOB ANZIODKDTIRIPSN

ASKED BACK BOWED CHARIOT CLOAK COMPANY CRIED DIVIDED DOUBLE DRY ELIJAH ELISHA FALLEN FATHER FIFTY FIRE

APPEARED GOD GROUND HEAVEN HORSES INHERIT ISRAEL **JERICHO** JORDAN CROSSED MASTER DIFFICULT PICKED DISTANCE PORTION **PROPHETS** SEPARATED SERVANTS SPIRIT STRUCK TAKEN TORE VALLEY WHIRLWIND

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

Psalm 9

MORE PUZZLES AT: http://biblewordgames.com

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PEACEFULL PUBLICATIONS

pocket. Colors: White, Birch, Gold, Black, Sports Grey, Burnt Orange, Deep Purple, California Blue, Forest Green, Granite Blue, Jade, Kelly, Light Blue, Maize, Maroon, Red, Putty, True Navy & True

Childrens - GILDAN Youth Ultra Cotton - Preshrunk 100% cotton jersey with church logo silk-screened on front.

Royal

Colors: Irish Green, Vegas Gold, Sport Grey, Azalea, Black, Gold, Cardinal, Daisy, Forest Green, Leaf, Jade, Lime, Heliconia, Indigo Blue, Iris, Kelly Green, Light Blue, Light Pink, Maroon, Navy, Orange, Sand, Prairie Dust, Purple, Red, Royal, Sapphire, Violet, Tangerine, & Yellow Haze

# HEALTH, HEALING & WHOLENESS

#### October 2006

"... Moses cried out to the Lord, 'O God, please heal her!'" (Numbers 12:13 - NIV)

Though the circumstances are different, our reactions to the news of breast cancer affecting someone we love, often echoes that of Moses for his sister Miriam. Though there have been tremendous advances in the early detection and treatment of breast cancer, the diagnosis often continues to strike fear in the minds and hearts of the loved ones of the survivor. Our natural reaction is to hit our knees, and beg for God's help.

The reality is that four of five lumps are not cancerous. Those that do contain cancer cells, typically fall under two types: In Situ (ductal carcinoma or DCIS and lobular carcinoma in situ or LCIS) in which the cells have not yet invaded surrounding tissue, and Invasive/Infiltrating (invasive ductal carcinoma or IDC, and invasive lobular or ILC), which can break free of their original site, and travel to other parts of the body (such as the lymph nodes).

Two less common types include inflammatory breast cancer (IBC), and Paget's disease. In IBC, cancer cells block lymph glands around the collar bone or under-arm. This causes redness, swelling or bruising, making the affected area warm to touch. In addition, the skin becomes thickened or pitted and resembles the peel of an orange. Often a tumor cannot be felt. Unlike a breast infection (mastitis), fever is rare, and the tissue does not respond to antibiotics. IBC tends to be an aggressive form of the disease, with changes occurring in a matter of weeks. If you develop these symptoms, see your doctor as soon as possible. With IBC, women are typically diagnosed at a younger age than with other forms of breast cancer.

Paget's disease of the breast causes itchy, flaking skin, similar to eczema on the dark area of the breast. Approximately half will have a lump associated with the skin change. Unlike other skin conditions, the rash always affects the nipple first, and then spreads to the dark surrounding area. Some bleeding or seepage may come from the affected cells. In both Paget's disease, and IBC, the nipple may turn inward.

Early detection is the key to survival! All women, beginning in late teen years, need to learn and use monthly self-examinations. If you don't know how to perform a self-exam, contact your local cancer society, your healthcare provider or your parish nurse, and learn now! Get in touch with your doctor if you locate a lump, or experience spontaneous clear or bloody discharge from the nipple; retraction or indentation of the nipple; a change in shape, size, or contour of the breast; a flattening or indentation of skin over the breast; or the pitting (similar to an orange peel) of the skin. Men need to learn breast self exam as well, for though it is rare, breast cancer can and does occur in men also!

If someone you love has breast cancer, here are a few ways you can be supportive: listen to her fear and feelings – don't be put off if she seems to put herself first, or if she begins to distance herself – it's a matter of survival; with her help, coordinate social support – involve friends, family and church in care; give one another privacy; maintain direct and open communication with family and friends; help her discuss feelings regarding surgery and/or side affects of treatment; understand that her fears may linger – that she may experience a resurgence around the 'anniversary date'; and that she may need to reach out to other women who have also been through the experience; learn all you can about her type of cancer and its treatment. Helpful websites include: the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation – www.komen.org; the American Cancer Society – www.cancer.org; National Library of Medicine – www.nlm.nih; and Y-Me National Breast Cancer Organization – www.Y-me.org. Most importantly, pray with and for her. "...pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective." (James 5:116 – NIV)

Autumn Blessings!

Debbie Best, Program Coordinator Congregational Health Ministries & Family Life Services ~ Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries

## BIRTHDAYS

4		
	Glenn Lunger	10/01
	Travis Rechel	10/02
	Jeanne Fargus	10/03
	Anne Miller	10/03
	Stephanie Bieber	10/05
	Mary Lou Hartsock	10/05
	Caitlin Butters	10/06
	Jane Zimmerer	10/09
	Amy Burkholder	10/11
	Heather Fenderson	10/11
	Robert Curry Jr.	10/12
	Christine Sauers	10/12
	Shirley Vognet	10/13
	Wilson Doebler	10/16
	Sean Fenderson	10/17
	Charles Homan 10/17	

William Confer	10/18
Marian Larson	10/18
Ashley Campbell	10/20



Megan Greevy	10/20
Paige Fortin	10/21
Barbara Herbst	10/21
Carolyn Wacker	10/21

Jeremiah Bittner	10/22
Ryan Lynn	10/23
Richard Miller	10/24
Mark Welker	10/24
Charles Kuntz	10/24
Jane Strous	10/26
Hannah Haussmann	10/26
Andrew Haussmann	10/28
Tait Thorne	10/28
John Hoffman	10/29
Barbara Thomas	10/29
Kathryn Calvert	10/30
Deborah Maggs	10/30
Lois Winters-Goldy	10/30
Donna Maule	10/31

# **ANNIVERSARIES**

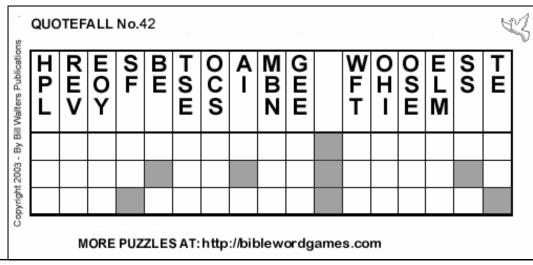
Kirk & Michelle Owen	10/01
Robert & Barbara McCullough	10/02
John & Kim Hufnagel	10/07
Frank & Mary Lou Doebler	10/09
Jeffrey & Catherine Kneedler	10/09



10/16
10/26
10/28
10/30

## **Try Solving QUOTEFALL!**

To solve these puzzles, insert the letters in each column into the boxes <u>below</u> them to form the words of a <u>Bible quotation</u>. The letters are not necessarily in order-it's up to you to determine which letter goes in which box below it. Each letter will be used **once** and **only <u>once</u>**. Black squares usually indicate the end of a word but are also used as spacers at the beginning and/or ending of a quotation . Solution on page 7.



# SPECIAL THANK YOU'S

Thank You From Lutheran World Relief

This is a note of thanks from all our neighbors in need who have received quilts, kits, and soap from the good people of St. Mark's. Special thanks go to Eileen Georg and Larue Dieter for knitting baby sweaters, to Louise Kneedler, Pat Thayer, and Jane Kline for sewing bags for school kits, and to Lillian Skeeby, Lucille Weaver, Louise Kneedler, and Dorothy Berndt for making quilt tops. Not to be forgotten are our dedicated group of women who meet weekly to assemble the quilts-Ernestine Doane, Gail Hoffman, Edith Anderson, Alona Hopler, Betty Metzger, Dorothy Bingaman, Louise Kneedler, and Shirley Hill. They have helped people turn despair into hope and hope into reality. Well done!!

Dear St. Mark's family,

Thank you so much for the wonderful soup & bread. Your thoughtfulness was a pleasant surprise. God bless, Marlene Vollmer

Dear Congregation,

I just want to say you have, and are making it fun. I thank you for some fond memories and other times.

See you at church! - Declan Jones P.S. Mr. Hershberger I promise to be at the next Council Meeting.

Greetings from Camp Mount Luther! We thank you for your recent gift of \$75 to the 40 By Faith Capital Campaign through Synod Benevolence. We are indeed grateful for your generosity in helping us make Christ known through outdoor ministries. Your support enables us to continue the tradition of providing a place set apart by God for worship, study, environmental education and Christian fellowship.

May God continue to bless you! Chad W. Hershberger, Executive Director Thank you very much for your generous gift of \$474.50 towards the Mossy Foot Project in Ethiopia.

We are excited that we have added pastor Zewdie to our staff. He will strengthen our evangelical outreach as well as hold Bible studies in the villages among the site workers. We also have added the services of Dr. Fekadu, a surgeon with expertise in the filed of Mossy Foot treatment. We also have been able to purchase more children's shoes to protect their little feet from the volcanic soil.

Thank you for sharing in our ministry. In God's Service, The Mossy Foot Project

Thank you for your recent gift to the ELCA World Hunger & Disaster Appeal, which provides both immediate & long term assistance to children, families & whole communities around the world & close to home.

With your gift, you welcome to the feast those who struggle amidst hunger & disaster. You welcome children with healthy, fresh produce grown in a community garden. You welcome survivors of disaster with a volunteer crew to repair a flood-damaged home or deliver water and supplies after an earthquake. You welcome people experiencing extreme poverty to a rural health clinic, a literacy class, a new fish pond teeming with tilapia, or a pair of goats to help start a small business.

Like a ripening harvest, God's love is given in abundance. Thank you for sharing God's abundant love through your generous gift.

In Christ's Service, Kathryn Sime, Director

To all who helped at the church women's rummage/bazaar event on Saturday, September 16th please accept my sincere thanks for all the hard work both before and the day of the event. A tremendous amount of effort on your part will enable the church women to continue their support of the organizations to which we contribute. Thanks too for the baked items that were donated—yummm!

Thankfully, L. Jane Kline

# 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

# October 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Pentecost XVII Blanket Sunday 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM HC 9:15 AM Sunday Church School 11:40 AM Kantorei 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM Life Chain 3:00 PM First Commu- nion Class 4:00 PM The Way 5:00 PM Fam. Handbell 5:00 PM Fam. Handbell	9:00 AM Morning Prayer 6:45 PM Handbells 7:00 PM Civic Chorus	9:00 AM Morning Prayer	9:00 AM Morning Prayer 9:15 AM Staff Meet- ing & Sewing 12:00 PM Bible Study 7:00 PM LSM School of Religion	6:31 AM Men's Ministry 9:00 AM Morning Prayer 7:30 PM Senior Choir	Council Agenda Deadline 9:00 AM Morning Prayer	
8  Harvest Home Sunday Pentecost XVIII  8:00 AM & 10:30 AM HC 9:15 AM Sunday Church School 10:30 AM Children's Church 10:30 AM First Communion 11:40 AM Cont. Choir 1:30 PM Crop Walk 4:00 PM The Way 5:00 PM Fam. Handbell 5:00 PM Fam. Handbell	9 9:00 AM Morning Prayer 6:45 PM Handbells 7:00 PM Civic Chorus	9:00 AM Morning Prayer 7:00 PM Property Comm. Mtg. 7:00 PM Worship & Music	9:00 AM Morning Prayer 9:15 AM Staff Meeting & Sewing 12:00 PM Bible Study 4:30 PM Exec. Comm. Mtg. 7:00 PM LSM School of Religion	6:31 AM Men's Ministry 9:00 AM Morning Prayer 7:30 PM Senior Choir	13 State Sunday School Teachers Conference 9:00 AM Morning Prayer	14 State Sunday School Teachers Conference
Consecration Sunday Pentecost XIX 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM HC 9:15 AM Sunday Church School 11:40 AM Kantorei 4:00 PM The Way 5:00 PM Fam: Handbell 5:00 PM Family Handbells 6:00 PM Mtg./meal of Confirmands	9:00 AM Morning Prayer 6:30 PM Council Mtg. 6:45 PM Handbells 7:00 PM Civic Chorus	Pastor Leaves 9:00 AM Morning Prayer 6:30 PM Fin. Comm. Mtg.	9:00 AM Morning Prayer 12:00 PM Lunch 'N' Fellowship 7:00 PM LSM School of Religion	6:31 AM Men's Ministry 9:00 AM Morning Prayer 7:30 PM Senior Choir	20 Newsletter Deadline 9:00 AM Morning Prayer	21
Pentecost XX 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM HC 9:15 AM Sunday Church School 11:40 AM Cont. Choir 5:00 PM Fam. Handbell 5:00 PM Family Handbells	9:00 AM Morning Prayer 6:45 PM Handbells 7:00 PM Civic Chorus	24 9:00 AM Morning Prayer	9:00 AM Morning Prayer 7:00 PM LSM School of Religion	26 6:31 AM Men's Ministry 9:00 AM Morning Prayer 7:30 PM Senior Choir	9:00 AM Morning Prayer 9:15 AM Newslet- ter Crew	28
Reformation Sunday 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM HC 9:15 AM Sunday Church School 11:40 AM Kantorei 5:00 PM Fam. Handbell 5:00 PM Family Handbells	9:00 AM Morning Prayer 6:45 PM Handbells 7:00 PM Civic Chorus	31 9:00 AM Morning Prayer	S M T 3 4 5 10 11 12 17 18 19		Novem S M T W 1 5 6 7 8 12 13 14 15 19 20 21 22 26 27 28 29	T F S 2 3 4 9 10 11 16 17 18 23 24 25

### 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



Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization U.S. POSTAGE PAID Permit No. 257 Williamsport, PA 17701



Blanket Sunday, October 1

Harvest Home Sunday,





LIFE CHAIN

SUNDAY, October 1 2:30 PM CROP WALK

"We walk because they walk."

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8
1:00 PM
PAVILION 2 INDIAN PARK,
MONTOURSVILLE