St. Mark's Lutheran Church † 142 Market St. † Williamsport, PA 17701 † 323-4619

The Lion of St. Mark's

OCTOBER 2007

NEW WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

One of the requests that emerged from the *Mission at the Crossroads* process over the past year has been the desire to explore additional types of music in the context of worship. The council has set up a New Music Task Force and asked those persons to develop such opportunities for the parish. The task force has met and after considerable conversation is proposing two new venues.

On the first Sunday of each month, beginning with November 4, 2007, we will gather for a service of Word and Prayer at 8:00 P.M. in the Chapel. This will be a quiet, reflective time, that makes use of the style of music from the Taize community. This music features short refrains that are quickly learned and repeated, so that our emphasis can be on prayer and not on the learning. This will be an especially auspicious day on which to begin this series of prayer services. That is All Saints Day in the church year, the day when we remember with thanksgiving those of our congregation have moved to the Church Triumphant in heaven in the past year.

On the third Sunday of the month, beginning on November 18, we will gather for a service of Word and Praise at 8:00 P.M. in the Chapel. The character of this service will be very different from that of the service described above. It will make use of some of the lively music we began to explore last spring in our Wednesday evening gatherings as well as other resources.



There are several reasons for the choice of time for these half-hour services. It will allow us to have a committee meeting or catechetical gathering prior to the service. It may make it attractive for college students to participate. It will help us all bring our busy day to a close with worship.

There are lots of things to explore, and God can be honored in a multitude of ways. It will take some time for us to discern which tools will be most effective in helping us express our praise and our prayers.

OCTOBER 2007

COUNCIL UPDATE

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COUNCIL MEETING

The Congregation Council met in regular session on September 17 in the Crossways Room. The Council:

- received the regular reports of the pastor, officers, and committees.
- noted the illness of our missionary Bette McCrandall.
- approved the replacement of the heating and cooling unit on the Parish house roof by Billtown
- Mechanical in the amount of \$6,200, to be paid from the Trognitz memorial.
- approved a replacement computer for our parish musician.
- approved carpeting for the North Lounge.
- approved adding a narrow closet in Fellowship Hall for the storage of table linens.
- noted the calendar of events for Consecration Sunday is now in process.
- rejoiced that a third congregation has agreed to become a host parish for Family Promise.
- concluded the meeting with Prayer at the Close of Day in the chapel.

From the Parish Register

Wedding:

Scott Ulmer and Lori Lorson., on September 8, 2007, in the Nave, with reception following in Fellowship Hall.

Funerals:

- Lavina Schaefer, on August 28, 2007 graveside at Wildwood Cemetery.
- Col. Robert Stuempfle, on September 4, 2007 at Manevals, with interment of ashes in the Jersey Shore Cemetery on September 7.

Website & E- Mail Addresses

Http://stmarkswilliamsport.org

Pastor Elkin General mailbox Richard Lakey Gary Weber Susan M-Smith Bernadette Jones Lou DeSeau Sharon Comini Richard Wagner

pastor@stmarkswilliamsport.org stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org rlakey@stmarkswilliamsport.org gweber@stmarkswilliamsport.org smsmith@stmarkswilliamsport.org bjones@stmarkswilliamsport.org ldeseau@stmarkswilliamsport.org scomini@stmarkswilliamsport.org rwagner@stmarkswilliamsport.org

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY NEWS

For where your treasure is,



there your heart will be also.

Luke 12:34

CONSECRATION SUNDAY

We know the name, we know the process, and Consecration Sunday continues to be very important in the life of the congregation. It is our annual opportunity to reflect on the generous gifts God has granted to us and to plan how we can best use them in the ministries of the congregation and in our daily lives. Each member is receiving an invitation to be present for worship on October 21 and there to present our estimates of financial giving for the coming year, and then to join in the celebration meals that are planned in Fellowship Hall after each of the services. Please reserve the date, think about your personal response, and make your reservation for the meal when the opportunity is presented next week. Our response is truly a spiritual matter.

The Rev. Gordon Smith will be preaching at both services on October 21. He is Pastor of St. John Lutheran Church in Bloomsburg and is well-acquainted with the Consecration Sunday process. He will also be meeting with our Council and other leaders on Sunday evening October 14 in preparation for the event.

STEPHEN MINISTRY COMMISSIONING!

The Stephen Ministry training course has been continuing since mid-June, and will conclude in late October. Our five candidates will have completed 50 hours of training with Pastor Elkin and Jane Larson, Stephen Leaders. They will be commissioned for service in the parish on Sunday, November 4 at the 10:30 worship service.

The topics that they have explored are as varied as are the crisis situations that each of us face at different points in life. The new Stephen Ministers will join our outstanding group of persons who are ready to provide a listening ear. They will be asking for your prayers and encouragement as they prepare to move from training to service. Other details will be published in the next *Lion*.

Family Promise

The steering committee for Family Promise met this past week and rejoiced that a third congregation has agreed to become a host site. Covenant Central Presbyterian joins St. Mark's and Lycoming Center Presbyterian as the initial leaders in this effort.

As work continues toward securing the needed 13 host congregations, it was reported that several of the area's larger congregations are in the process of approving the proposal.

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY NEWS

CURRENT BIBLE STUDIES



It is a very exclusive group that meets now and again on Wednesday at 11:30 AM for study, but you, too, can be a part of this gathering. The next topic that we will be tackling will be "Affectionately yours, Screwtape: The Devil and C.C. Lewis" which will be an exploration of the Christian literary classic *Screwtape Letters*" by the English writer C.S. Lewis. Join us on October 24 for an enjoyable and stimulating hour.

On Sunday mornings, there are currently two studies

running. In the Middle Lounge, the group is studying the book of Ephesians and its impact on daily life. In the Crossways room, the book *Lord I Believe, Help My Unbelief* is providing the starting place for wide-ranging conversations. There is room at the table for you.

Also, remember the Wednesday evening School of Religion, sponsored by the Lutheran Shared Ministry congregations, and held right here at St. Mark's on four



Lunch N' Fellowship

October 17th at noon

Pot Roast

with all the trimmings! Bring a dish to share and a friend!

Volunteer with Samaritan's Purse

Many of the Upper Susquehanna Synod congregations have participated in the Operation Christmas Child effort giving shoeboxes of Christmas gifts to children around the world. You can volunteer to assist at local collection points (where you take your boxes) & at processing centers. If you are interested in volunteering, go to http://www.samaritanspurse.org/ OCC_Volunteer_Index.asp & check out the possibilities.

"The Don" on YouTube.com

For those who attended the Bishop's Celebration banquet, you were able to view the premier of "The Don." It is now posted on youtube.com. Click on this link to enjoy the work of Pastor Andy Weaver & a few of his friends. This is a funny, fitting tribute to Bishop Main's "reputatio" in the ELCA! http://www.youtube.com/v/woiHfII2-gg

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY NEWS



The Twins Are Here!

The unborn twins for whom we have been praying have arrived. Nolan and Hudson were born at Williamsport Hospital on September 9, 2007. Each boy weighed a little more than four pounds. Despite some complications the boys are improving and are home!

The twins are still in need of disposable diapers, baby wipes, onesies, bottles, blankets, sweaters and other warmer clothing. Donations can be placed in

Journey House Update

Journey House, a project of New Covenant United Church of Christ, is set to open one of four apartments on Church Street in November. The goal of Journey House is to provide housing that allows homeless families to remain together while dedicating themselves to the difficult task of regaining independent living in the community.

Our help is needed in providing new household items used to equip each apartment. Items requested include frying pans, sauce pans, cutting board, paring knives, mixing bowls, kitchen utensils, plastic storage containers, bucket, mop, laundry basket, bath towels, hand towels, washcloths, bath mat, toilet supplies, full size sheet sets, blankets, comforter, pillows, ceiling fans, floor lamp, paper can, a bedroom lamp, and monetary donations to offset the cost of larger items of furniture. Checks may be made payable to Saint Mark's earmarked for Journey House.

Please speak to Becky Miller Pryor for additional information.

Newberry Branch of NGA Yard Sale

If you love a good yard sale with everything from clothes to house wares to toys, you'll love the Fall Yard Sale of the Newberry Branch of NGA. (We're the group of ladies who provide new clothes, shoes, and linens to more than 400 people in Williamsport on a yearly basis.) This is our largest fundraiser,

Shop with us on Saturday, October 20, 2007 at St. John's / Newberry United Methodist Church from 8:00 – 1:00. The church is located at 2101 Newberry Street in Newberry. Please support us with your attendance.

Missed a service? Don't fret!

Call Shirley Vognet or the church office for a tape of any service! Tape Committee, Jim Buckman, John Burkholder, Frank Vognet



Nurse's Notes

- October 7 October is Clergy Appreciation Month. Take some time to thank your Pastor for the work he/she does in the name of Christ. Gifts that promote the health and wellness of our leaders might include: membership to a gym, an extra vacation day during the remainder of the year, gift certificate for walking shoes, free babysitting, etc. - all are welcome, however cards are also greatly appreciated ... cards keep on giving because they can be re-read throughout the months ahead!
- October 14 Never assume that because a medication is over-the-counter it is completely safe to use. For instance, taken heavily or incorrectly, several common medications containing ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin), naproxen (Naprosyn, Aleve) or acetaminophen (Tylenol) may increase or worsen high blood pressure. If you use these medications on a regular basis, share that information with your doctor, and have your blood pressure checked on a regular basis.
- How loud is too loud? According to Harvard Medical School's HEALTHbeat, your ears should be October 21 protected from sounds that are louder than 80 decibles. Listed are a few sounds for comparison:
 - 20 Watch ticking
 - 40 Leaves rustling, refrigerator humming
 - 60 Dishwasher; normal conversation
 - 80 vacuum; garbage disposal
 - 100 diesel truck, subway, chain saw

- 30 Whispering
- 50 neighborhood street noise
- 70 car, alarm clock
- 90 power lawn mower
- 130 air raid siren; jet
- 120 rock concert, plane propeller, portable stereo at full volume
- 140 shotgun blast; explosion
- Did you know that your shoe size changes as you get older? As we age, our feet typically lose October 28 some of the padding along the sole of the foot, causing the foot to become slightly longer and wider, so you may want to consider having them measured ever year or two.



ARCHAEOLOGY!

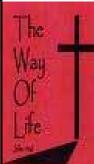
Pastor Elkin left on September 28 for another of those adventures. This time he travels to the island of Menorca, off the coast of Spain in the Mediterranean Sea, where he will spend two weeks

engaged in a dig at the site of a First Century BC Roman town and military camp. The dig is sponsored by a local university, and a wellestablished museum is close at hand. Such digs depend upon persons who are willing to give time to do the heavy hand work needed. The dig season is rather short, only several months, and the rest of the year is needed to analyze what has been found and relate it to previously known things. The Pastor will have a full report for us when he returns. At this point he does not know the size or makeup of the group that will be working.

Pastor flies this weekend to Barcelona and visits briefly with his daughter Katy. Then on Monday he flies to Menorca. After the two week participation in the dig is concluded, he returns to Barcelona and then he and Katy will fly to Granada, a city in southern Spain that Katy has not yet visited. There they plan to visit the Alhambra, the great Moorish palace. Pastor Elkin returns to Williamsport on October 19.

THE WAY UNDERWAY

Five candidates and their sponsors are now engaged in The Way, our disciplementoring process. There is still time to join in and catch up as they begin the period of reflection, prayer, study, conversation, and action leading to the Affirmation of Faith at the Easter Vigil next March.



Please call the Pastor or Bob Schultz for more information.

The group frequently meets at 4:00 on Sundays.

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ELCA WOMEN NEWS

Rummage Sale & Bazaar

Saturday, October 13th 9 am—2 pm

Please donate:

Household Items Small Appliances

Attic Treasures



Lamps Kitchen items Crystal

Dried Flowers China flatware

DVD's & VHS

Blanket Sunday October 7th



Look for the colorful quilts on the pews. Our ladies will display their handiwork from the past year. They are beginning a new year and are inviting newcomers. Join the group any Wednesday morning at 9:00 a.m. for Morning Prayer (or later if the time is more convenient for you). Try your hand at knotting quilts or assembling and basting them. Some ladies work at home, and others come Wednesday mornings for a pleasant "morning out". This is today's version of our grandmothers' quilting bees. It's a friendly group, and coffee is available in the kitchen.

Come & Quilt!

If you have been unable to help with making quilts or donating kits or soap you may contribute by making a monetary donation in the attached envelope. Be sure to include your envelope number so that you can receive credit for your contribution. (Checks can be made out to St. Mark's and designated for "Blankets"). This money will be used to purchase blankets in bulk for victims of natural and man-made disasters and to pay for shipping the quilts.

FOR EVERY QUILT THAT IS MADE, AND FOR EVERY DOLLAR THAT IS GIVEN,

USS ARK, SYNOD & WEST BRANCH NEWS

UPDATE ON BETTE MCCRANDALL

Dear Friends,

Many of you will recognize the name of Bette Ann McCrandall as one of our long-time ELCA missionaries in Liberia. A total of 16 congregations in our Upper Susquehanna Synod help to support her as Superintendent of Schools in the Lutheran Church in Liberia. She has served in numerous other roles during her 24 years in Liberia, and is now at her home in Flint, Michigan, on one of her biennial furloughs.

It saddens me to have to report that a recent biopsy showed that Bette has developed cancer which appears to be localized. She faces surgery on October 1st, followed by five weeks of treatment which will most certainly spoil her plans to fly back to Liberia on October 16.

Our Lord Jesus Christ healed the lame, the blind, the crippled and those with leprosy—even those who never asked for healing, and even those who never gave thanks. So I would ask for your fervent prayers for Bette's comfort, strength, and healing in these difficult days ahead. In case you wish to send messages or cards, here are her various addresses:

Ms. Bette A. McCrandall 4336 E. Carpenter Road Flint, MI 48506 Email: mccrandallbettea@yahoo.com

I'll make a special effort to keep you informed about her progress in the weeks ahead. Meanwhile, paraphrasing Evening Vespers, let our prayers rise before the Lord as incense, as we lift up our hands on behalf of both Bette's need for healing and her mother's recovering from a recent broken hip.

Robert L. Bradford, Chairman USS/LCL Companion Synods Committee

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS to pack boxes for our next shipping container to Liberia

The month of October promises to be a hectic one as we prepare to send our 22nd cargo container to the Lutheran Church in Liberia on Saturday, November 17th. We have thousands of T-shirts, hundreds of theology books, sheets, pillow cases, towels, and school supplies to pack. These items are currently stored at three locations (see below). If you are able and willing to help, please select from the following dates and locations:

I prefer the following date(s):

Thurs., Oct. 4	Sat., Oct. 6	Mon., Oct. 8	Tues., Oct. 9
Thurs., Oct 18	Sat., Oct. 13	Mon., Oct. 15	Tues., Oct 23
Thurs., Oct. 25	Sat., Nov. 10	Mon., Oct: 22	Tues., Oct. 30
Thurs., Nov. 1	Fri., Oct. 19	Mon., Oct. 29	Wed., Oct. 31
Thurs., Nov. 8	Fri., Nov. 9	Mon., Nov. 12	Wed., Nov. 7



My preferred work site is:

_Zion Lutheran Church, <u>Sunbury</u> (5th & Market Sts.) __Sharon Lutheran Church, <u>Selinsgrove</u> (S. Market & Bough Sts.) _Susquehanna University storage facility on the edge of campus at 240 West Sassafras St. in Selinsgrove _No particular preference: will work where necessary Other:

Please mail your response to Bob or Carol Bradford (2 Ridgway, Northumberland, P A 17857) or telephone them (570) 473-9505 or send an email tobradford@evenlink.com.

USS ARK, SYNOD & WEST BRANCH NEWS 2007 APPLE CORPS Women's Retreat CAMP MOUNT LUTHER All women of the Upper Susquehanna Synod are invited to come to Mount Luther in rural Mifflinburg for a day-long retreat this fall co-sponsored by the Upper Susguehanna Women of the ELCA and the camp. Come spend some quiet time with God and your sisters in Christ in the tranquil setting of God's creation. SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2007 The day will begin with coffee and doughnuts at 9:30 a.m. We'll have sessions during the morning and afternoon led by Marianne Brock, Associate Executive Director of the Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central PA. There will be singing, prayer, and devotions. The day will end with closing worship at 2:45 p.m. The theme for the retreat is MY CUP OVERFLOWS: AN INVENTORY OF BLESSINGS. Cost for the retreat is \$12.00 which includes coffee and tea, snacks, lunch and the program. Registration deadline is Friday, October 5, 2007 at 3:00 p.m. To register, please fill out the form below and return to Mount Luther, 355 Mt. Luther Lane, Mifflinburg, PA 17844. If you have questions, call the camp at (570) 922-1587 or e-mail cml@campmountluther.org Mount | uther Adult Ministries 2007 APPLE CORPS FOR WOMEN REGISTRATION Registration Deadline: October 5, 2007 Name _____ E-Mail_____ Address _____ Phone State Zip City Cost: \$12.00 Permission to take part in program: I am interested in the policies, goals, and programs of Camp Mount Luther and hereby give permission to participate in the programs and activities of the camp. Any photos or video recordings taken in which I appear may be used for promotion of the camp free of any claims Signed, Date

USS ARK, SYNOD & WEST BRANCH NEWS



CAMP MOUNT LUTHER CHICKEN BARBECUE

Saturday, November 10, 2007 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Come to Mount Luther to spend an afternoon enjoying the fall. You can enjoy our famous chicken (take outs are available) and even take a walk on our grounds. The fundraiser benefits the camp's general operating fund.

Price:	\$7.25 for Adults \$3.75 for Children under 12
	voo ioi omnaich anaci ie

Menu: Barbeque Chicken, Side Dishes, Roll, Dessert and Beverage

Tickets are available by contacting the camp office. Deadline for ordering tickets is Friday, November 2. A limited number of walk-ins will be available.



You and your friends are cordially invited to the installations of

The Rev. Robert L. Driesen as Bishop of the Upper Susquehanna Synod, **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

The Revs. Beth Ann and Karl John Stone as Assistants to the Bishop

Mrs. Virginia Frantz as Administrative Assistant to the Bishop

> The Rev. Mark S. Hanson, Presiding Bishop The Rev. A. Donald Main, Preacher

Aid for the Luscombe Family

What happened: On June 16th Diana Luscombe was in a terrible car accident in south central Pennsylvania. The car hit the middle concrete divider, bounced back and forth on the road, and then flipped and rolled, finally stopping upside down. Riding with her in the car were her husband Mark, and their two kids: Cole, age 4 weeks, and Hannah, age 2 years. Miraculously Diana' husband and children were unscathed.

Diana, however, sustained injuries to her left hand, head, and C5 through C6 vertebrae. It is unclear if she will ever walk again, though there is hope that through extensive therapy she may regain enough motion in her upper body to hold her children. What is clear is that the road to recovery for Diana and her family will be long and expensive.

Diana is on her way to be set apart as a Diaconal Minister, and her husband Mark is a pastor in the ELCA. Diana has also been serving as interim director of Theological Education with Youth, a program that encourages youth to recognize and use their God-given talents in the Church and world. They are deeply caring people who are committed to serving God through the Church.

How you can help: A CD of Christian folk music entitled "For Diana" is being sold to raise funds for this family. This is a Lutheran music ministry based out of Woodstock, NY. Samples of their music can be heard on their website (http:// www.faithfulfolk.org). 100% of the money collected from "For Diana" will go to Diana and her family. And if \$15,000 is raised (suggested donation of \$15 or more per CD), Thrivent has agreed to add \$5,000 more. So please, be generous, think ahead to birthdays, Christmas, and of all the people you know who might be moved by this story and appreciate receiving the CD from you.



Weber Chapel, Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania

Sunday, the twenty-first of October, Two thousand seven at three o'clock in the afternoon.

Dessert Reception, 1:30-2:30 pm, Outdoors, weather permitting, or inside Weber Chapel, if necessary.

Pre-Service Music, 2:30 pm

Rostered leaders invited to vest. Color of the day is red.





A View from the Pew



Lots of our members have appeared in the local newspapers in the past weeks - there was quite a nice article describing Frank Vognet's service in the Civil Air Patrol and another featuring the volunteer service of Ted and Aric Larson at the Community Arts Center.

This summer a photograph of Hannah Ramsauer appeared in a group of students attending Lycoming College for Kids - Emily and James Newcomer also attended this summer event. Riley Weber and his fellow members of the Odyssey of the Mind group were pictured preparing for their competition - we all knew we had especially intelligent children at St. Mark's.

At the groundbreaking for the new children's wing at the Brown Library, **Elizabeth Haussman** was one of the featured very young children who took their large spoons and dug into the site of the new building. The dirt was really flying - I think they are anxious for the completion of this addition to our library.

Some of us are traveling - **Barb and Phil Thomas** and Phil's mother traveled to Maine and the **Webers** had an eventful cruise. Their planned itinerary to the Yucatan peninsula was changed due to Hurricane Dean and they sailed instead to the Bahamas and Key West.

An article in The Lycoming Magazine announced that an anonymous donor had endowed a scholarship to honor former Lycoming professor (and former St. Mark's member) **Otto Sonder**. Doctor Sonder is a graduate of Lycoming and was associate professor and Chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at the college from 1956-1968. He is now a resident of Oneonta, New York.

~ contributed by Joyce Hershberger

Harvest home sunday

OCTOBER 14, 2007

Our congregation will be celebrating a "Day of T hanksgiving" by bringing nonperishable items for the local U nited C hurches Food Pantry. T hese items should be brought to the church in the provided bag or plastic bag, on S unday, O ctober 7 or 14. T hey will be dis-

played on S unday, O ctober 14 at both Worship S ervices. 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 G od for what He has given us. ~ Music & Worship C ommittee

Please note the following Directory changes:

Mr. & Mrs. Aeric (Powley) Bates 8 Dulles Dr. E, Camp Hill, PA 17011-1105

Scott Dietterick 2 Ashwood Court, Pooler, GA 31322-9405

Frank I. Bardo, III. 1271 N. Newell Rd., Vincennes, IN 47591-8944

Nancy Sanders 410 Alexis Drive, Williamsport, PA 17701-9733

Ira Tuxford, 210 Louise Avenue, Montgomery, PA 17752-9533

Zelma Vitolins Sycamore Manor, Room 325 Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Schuster (Seminary Seniors) 61 Seminary Ridge, Gettysburg, PA 17325-1742

Zayne Dietterick 15 Spring Street, Danville, PA 17821-1623

FN Doebler, Jeremiah J NNPTC, 15 Beach St., Saratoga Springs, NY 12866-8757

April Hartzel 42 Huffman St., Williamsport, PA 17701-2158

Eileen Georg 348 Sydney St., Montoursville, PA 17756 570-546-6838

Rachel Clausen 6171 Riverside Drive, Apt. #6, Danville, VA 24541

Lycoming County United Churches News

Adopt a Student Sunday ~ October 7th



Our Campus Ministry is very busy once again this year and one of our goals is to make connections between students and congregations. To this end we are planning an Adopt a Student Sunday for October 7.

Questions should be directed to The LCUC Campus Ministry Coordinator: Heather Wagner at hastywagoner@aol.com or to our Campus Ministry board presidents:

- Detlef Huckfeldt at huckfeldt@micro-link.net
- Ollie Wagner at montourpres@aol.com.

Many Blessings, Gwen Bernstine



Food Pantry Update

Items Needed:

Macaroni & Cheese Spaghetti & Sauce Jell-O & Pudding Condiments Chicken Helper Hamburger Helper Tea/Coffee/Cocoa Cake Mixes & Frostings Oodles of Noodles Canned Vegetables Pancake Mix & Syrup Cookies Pizza Mix Beef Stew Desert Mixes Tuna Helper Sugar Soups Juice Flour Noodles Canned Fruit

Will Our Youth Still Be Christian?

This is the theme of the 2007 Ecumenical Forum that will be held Monday, October 15, 2007 at the Cardinal Keeler Center in Harrisburg. **Tony Campolo** and **Bob McCarty** will be the guest speakers. According to the groundbreaking National Study of Youth and Religion, many of our assumptions about our youth and their faith are well off the mark. American teens say that religion is important to them, but in fact it is very poorly understood by them and is not a priority for them. A major change is occurring away from the substance of Christian tradition and toward a new and quite different faith, a "Moralistic Therapeutic Deism." This shift echoes their parents' religiosity to an astonishing degree. The cost of this forum, which will run from 9:30-2:30 is \$20. Copies of the brochure are available at the United Churches office.

Lycoming County 2007 Life Chain

Please mark your church calendars for this year's Life Chain. As in the prior 15 years it will be held on the first Sunday of October at 2:30 p.m. on East Third Street (the "Golden Strip") Williamsport, PA. The goal of the organization committee is to have 90 churches participate with 2000 individuals praying for the lives of unborn children. The date is October 7, 2007.

The answer to a crisis pregnancy is to eliminate the crisis, *not the child.*

Careers in Healthcare

Susquehanna Health is offering 11 free *Health Careers 4U* programs for 8th — 12th grade students and their parents this school year.



Register online at: www.susquehannahealth.org/volunteer or call 321-2433



GATHER. UNITE. PRAY.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmation 2007-2008 has officially begun! The ten Confirmands attended their first monthly meeting on Sunday, September 16. 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 in their catechetical program.

The five students returning to be confirmed in 2008 and their mentors are:

Christina Comini, daughter of Eric & Sharon Comini with Karen Boone Brandon Fortin, son of Matthew & Wanda Fortin with Lou DeSeau Paige Fortin, daughter of Matthew & Wanda Fortin with Stephanie Fortin Sara Jones, daughter of Robert & Bernadette Jones with Jane Kline Hannah Ramsauer, daughter of Robert & Michele Ramsauer with Deb Maggs

The five young people beginning their two years of study and their mentors are:

Stephen Boone, son of Karen Boone with Bob Jones Corey Hospes, son of Richard & Vicki Hospes with Declan Jones Emily Newcomer, daughter of James & Susan Newcomer with Jane Larson Devin Owen, son of Kirk & Michelle Owen with Nick Buckman Riley Weber, son of Gary & Shelby Weber with Bud Doebler

Please keep the Confirmands, their mentors and their parents in your prayers.

See You at the $Pole^{TM}$ 2007

Come together. See You at the PoleTM isn't about groups, grades, clothes, or churches. It's about praying. It's about high school John 17:20-23 students coming together and laying aside all the labels

for one day, simply to call out to God, just as Jesus did in we be one in you--whether jocks, preps, geeks, Pentecostals, Baptists,

John 17 and say, "Lord, may we be one in you--whether jocks, preps, geeks, Pentecostals, Baptists, Catholics, freshmen, or seniors--may the world believe that You are real and have sent us to touch other through you, regardless of the dividing lines drawn by a broken world!"

"Come together" 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. on Wednesday, September 26, 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.

145th Pennsylvania State Sunday School Annual Convention October 19 & 20, 2007

Convention Theme: "The Word of God is Not Restricted" (II Tim. 2:9b)

Mark your calendar! The 144th Annual Pennsylvania State Sunday School Convention will be held on Friday and Saturday, October 19 & 20. The host church for the will be the Newville First Church of God, 475 Shippensburg Road (Route 533 West), Newville, PA (Cumberland County). The church is located about 12 miles west of Carlisle.

The 2007 Convention will feature over 25 different workshops, special music, displays, free literature, a lunch served at the host church and much, much more. Please consider coming along for this informative and enriching event. Call the office or e-mail for more information.





FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES BEGIN SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28 AT 3:00 PM.

The children's instruction continues on November 4 and 11 (also at 3 PM). The sacrament will be given on No-vember 18. Letters have been sent to those of the age at which instruction begins for this important step in their

life in the church. If you, as a parent, feel your child/ren is/are ready for this important step in his or her life and you have not received this letter or you have any questions regarding this please call Pastor Elkin.

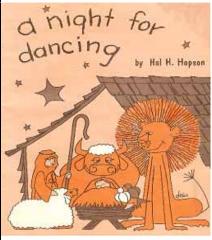
Attention girls: 6th-12th grade and your moms:

YOU CAN STILL JOIN US FOR THE REVOLVE TOUR!! Philadelphia, PA, November 2-3, 2007, Wachovia Spectrum



How would you like to go to Philly 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.

Check out the website: www.revolvetour.com, and see all the artists and events that will take place. Talk to your moms and friends about it and call Sharon if you are interested. Monies are available to help defer the cost.



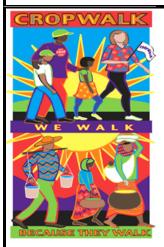
a night for dancing

Hal H. Hopson This lovely Christmas Cantata by Hal H. Hopson will be presented during the Sunday School hour on December 23 and again on Christmas Eve at the 7:00 pm service.

> We need children, youth and adults to stage this retelling of Christ's birth. Adults and youth will carry most of the singing parts as the youngsters act out the story. Adult and youth assistance is also required for assembling and organizing costumes and props for our young actors.

We realize how busy everyone is at that time of year and are putting together a rehearsal schedule keeping that in mind. Keep an eye on the bulletin for rehearsal announcements. Sign-up sheets are in the narthex and the staff and choir hallways. If you have never participated before—please consider it now. We look forward to you joining us!!

a night for dancing will be under the direction of Bernadette Jones, with Richard Lakey as Musical Director. Please play a part with us in presenting this fun and meaningful rendering of the Christmas story. We can't do it without you.



Williamsport Crop Walk Sunday, October 14 1:30 PM

Registration starts at 1:00 pm The walk begins in Indian Park, and the 3, 6 and 10 mile routes run along the bike path.

www.cropwalk.org

Goal this year: \$25,000 & 500 Walkers

25% of the funds raised support our local agencies: United Churches Food Pantry Salvation Army Food Pantry American Rescue Workers Food Pantry St Anthony's Kitchen



players!!

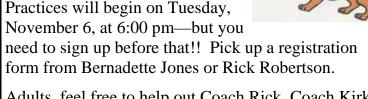
team there.

Children's



Church

resumes October 14 at 10:30. We look forward to welcoming everyone back. The children's special collection that



ST. MARK'S LIONS NEED

YOU!!

The John Bower Basketball League will be starting soon!

We'd like to have an older team, along with our

younger teams-so we need more

<u>Friends from other churches</u> are welcome—as long as they

attend Sunday School at their home church and don't have a

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 email us through the website.

Friday Fun Night

October 26th

6:30 p.m.

IF YOU HAVEN'T JOINED US YET,

THERE'S NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT!!!

Trout Pond Park Family Fun Center

1935 Rte. 405 HWY, Muncy , PA

www.troutpondpark.com

Christian Skate Night 3rd Wednesday of every month 6:30-9:30 PM Skate rental \$2 or \$3 for Speed Skates or In-lines (groups of 10 or more free skate rental!)

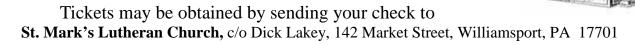
All Christian Music and Fun Games

MUSIC MINISTRY

18th Annual Organ Concert for the benefit of North Central Pennsylvania Dialysis Clinics

November 11, 2007 4:00 pm St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Featuring Nancy Ackerman & Richard Lakey as they perform compositions written for two organists, that's right, four hands and four feet attempting to play all the correct notes while not getting into one another's way!



Non-Sponsorship Tickets

Individual \$8 Family \$15

> Please note:Contributions to this concert are NOT tax deductible.



Special Sponsorship Opportunities

Friend	\$ 25-\$ 49
Giver	\$ 50-\$ 74
Contributor	\$ 75—\$ 99
Supporter	\$100—\$249
Donor	\$250—\$499
Benefactor	\$500+

Sponsorship benefits:

Your name listed in the concert program A complimentary ticket for you & your guests

Tickets may be purchased at the door on the afternoon of the concert. We hope that you will be generous in your donations. The money raised will be used in many ways: cookbooks for dialysis patients, supplemental drink "Nepro" to help maintain their health, taxi rides to and from dialysis are but a few.



Upcoming Musical Events

Sunday, October 28 at Morning Worship Kantorei will present a cantata. Sunday, October 28 at 3:00 PM Civic Chorus Concert Sunday, November 11 at 10:30 Worship Lycoming Chamber Choir Sunday, November 11 at 4 PM 18th Annual Dialysis Benefit Concert Sunday, November 18 at 10:30 Worship Lycoming College Choir ~ 125 voices

MILESTONE MINISTRY



The Milestone Celebration of 75+, Single and still Praising God

A joyous celebration was held for the first time on Sunday, August 26, 2007. Those honored are valued members of our congregation who have attained 75 or more years of age, are single and still praising God!

Those attending, and others who were unable to be there, sent us the titles of two hymns which were of great significance in their lives. Some of these were incorporated into the service at 10:30 that day, others were sung with fervor after the luncheon, and all were listed on their keepsake program of the event.

All of the members of our congregation included in this category were remembered during the service and recognized for their years of service and faith. Commemorative cards were sent to those unable to attend.

Afterwards, the honorees were treated to a luncheon of Summer Savory Fruit Soup, Salade de Poulet with Toasted Rye Wedges, and Lemon Sorbet. An assortment of cookies was available for their dessert. An old-fashioned "hymn sing" followed. The meal was served by youth from our congregation.

The VIPs of that day include:

Jeannette Aderhold Edith Anderson
Jane Angle
Calvin Bennett
Dorothy Berndt
Dorothy Bingaman
Doris Brownlee
Doris Buzzerd
Ethel Chambers
Elizabeth Chrisman
Katherine Crane
Bonita Crossley
Harold Davis
Betty Diehl
Larue Dieter
Beatrice Doebler

Luther Doebler Jeanne Fargus Doris Fortin Farl Foulkrod Catherine Goertz **Doris** Griggs John Hollenback **Phyllis Holmes** Alona Hopler Ardath Houser Charlotte Hughes Merritt Hunt Betty Kaufman Shirley Kinney Ardath Houser Charlotte Hughes

Merritt Hunt Betty Kaufman Shirley Kinney **Gladys Knauss** Ruth Lamade Marian Larson Roxanna Larson Catherine Lemme Irma Logan Glenn Lunger Shirley MacGill John MacMinn Lucille Markel Mary Martin Arlene McCoy Lillian Miller



Helen Ochs Ruth U. Pile Betty Rechel Anne Rhodes Elizabeth Ruesskamp James Sheaffer Lillian Skeeby Carl Smollinger Betty Stroup Jane Strous Erma Super Henrietta Tyson Zelma Vitolins Beulah Wrede

Jane Oakes

HEALTH, HEALING & WHOLENESS

(W)holy, (W)holy, (W)holy

"... You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children, and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise."(Deuteronomy 6:4-7) - thus is written the Shema – God's instructions to the Hebrews on how to pass on the faith to their children, and their children's children. God doesn't leave us off the hook easily for we are to **do it when we are at home and away, when we go to sleep and when we wake up**. It seems like a daunting task. To accomplish this, means that as adults, it becomes necessary for us to control and sometimes buffer the outside influences which impact the way our children receive and process information. This would naturally include media – TV, DVD and video.

Earlier this year, a scientific journal article titled "Television and DVD/Video Viewing in Children Younger than Two Years" (Zimmerman, F., D. Christakis & A. Meltzoff. (May 2007). *Archives of Pediatric & Adolescent Medicine*. Vol. 161, No. 5, pgs. 473-479) was published, which garnered media attention. Some troubling statistics were presented – 90% of US children under age 2 and as many as 40% of infants, under 3 months, are regular watchers of TV and DVD/Videos. This is occurring in spite of recommendations by the American Academy of Pediatrics that children under the age of 2 should not watch *any* TV, and older children be exposed to no more than two hours of "quality programming" each day. The study's authors make no judgments as to whether or not this much exposure is good or bad, however consider the following:

- S During the first two years, the human brain develops connections between its many nerve cells it also undergoes some pruning, as the brain determines which connections will stay and which will go the child's environment plays an enormous role in what the child will retain!
- § From the time of birth, infants need a steady interaction with warm, caring adults to be able to form bonds that will enable them to become competent adults. In fact babies deprived of human touch frequently do not survive.
- § Play is a child's work and toys are their tools. Through play a child learns how things work, they build muscle control and strength, use their imagination, learn to problem solve, and cooperate.
- § According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, a child in the US will see 40,000 commercials per year; most children less than 8 are incapable of understanding that ads are designed to sell a product – but consider that there is an intentional trend to market media toward kids under age 3.
- S Children aged 2 7 may be frightened by violent images, simply telling them the images are not real does not help – they cannot yet distinguish between reality and fantasy.
- Several studies associate TV watching with poor sleep patterns, poor school performance, and there are currently studies underway examining the correlation between rapidly changing video images and Attention Deficit Disorder in kids.
- § According to the cited study's lead researcher, Dr. Zimmerman, "Parents are getting the message loud and clear from marketers of TV and videos that this stuff [educational videos and programming – including BabyFirst cable, available 24/7] is good for their kids, that it will help brain development...none of this stuff has been proven."
- § 68% of children ages 8 18 have a TV in their bedroom; some even younger
- § The amount of TV watched has a direct correlation to childhood obesity

It is unrealistic to think that your child can be raised without exposure to media. However, there are some things you *can* do to buffer its effects. Make human contact the primary source of communication with infants, and limit TV/video exposure for all children. Use programming as teaching tools – watch *with* your kids; discuss what is fantasy and reality; introduce books that correlate to the program. Turn off the tube, and talk to your child/grandchild about his/her faith. Keep games such as Faith Talk on hand for discussions that encourage spiritual growth.- who knows, you may learn something as well! Pray with your child *throughout* the day. Take advantage of time in the car – use it as an opportunity to discuss what it means to be a valued child of God!

Autumn Blessings! Debbie Best, Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries

OCTOBER 2007

THE LION OF ST. MARK'S

					PAGE 20
<u>.</u>		BIRTHDA	AYS		
Glenn Lunger Travis Rechel Jeanne Fargus Anne Miller Stephanie Bieber Mary Lou Hartsock Caitlin Butters Amy Burkholder Heather Fenderson Christine Sauers Shirley Vognet Wilson Doebler Sean Fenderson Charles Homan William Confer	10/01 10/02 10/03 10/05 10/05 10/05 10/06 10/11 10/11 10/12 10/13 10/16 10/17 10/17 10/18	Marian Larson Ashley Campbell Megan Greevy Happy Birth Paige Fortin Carolyn Wacker Jeremiah Bittner	10/18 10/20 10/20	Ryan Lynn Richard Miller Mark Welker Charles Kuntz Jane Strous Hannah Haussmann Andrew Haussmann Tait Thorne John Hoffman Barbara Thomas Kathryn Calvert Deborah Maggs Lois Winters-Goldy Donna Maule Natalie Miller	10/23 10/24 10/24 10/26 10/26 10/28 10/28 10/29 10/29 10/29 10/30 10/30 10/30 10/31 10/31
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A new postcard is now on sale at you author of <i>Around Hug</i> church secretary! Con signing at Otto's Boo 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM.	d history b ur local bo <i>hesville</i> is me and s okstore or Also at the smith, who	CAL HISTORY ook by Arcadia Publish ookstore or gift shop. Joan Blank , your for ay hello to her at a b n Friday, October 5 f e signing will be Lock o will be signing his be	ning The On you to ook ductior rom Lakey the boo we	WE'RE SORRY DIC WE GOOFED! page 15 of the September Lie everyone who participated i n of "In the Beginning" Ii under ' <i>support</i> ,' when in fac ok, music and lyrics of the mu apologize to Dick for this ffer him our heartfelt gratitu	on a thank n the pro- isted Dick t he wrote isical. oversight

PAGE 21

SPECIAL THANK YOU'S

Dear friends at St. Marks,

Thank you so much for the prayers, cards, e-mails and phone calls to me and my daughter during my unexpected hospitalization. I'm back at my apartment after losing the month of August ~ seems I had a heart attack and didn't know it...it sort of sneaked up on me...it's good to be back but I'm told it will take a good 6-8 weeks to get "back to normal". Each day I seem to get a little bit more energy but it is slow. I just need patience. I am taking the month of September to REST UP...hope to return to normal in October I miss seeing you all at Church. Hope to see you soon. ~ Dot Berndt

Dear friends at St. Mark's Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your generosity of the bedding. Your contribution is truly a blessing to this ministry as well as those in need. May God richly bless you for your acts of compassion you extend to those less fortunate.

~ Karen Nelson, Volunteer

Dear Pastor & Milestone Committee,

I would like to thank everyone involved in our Milestone Celebration. What a special way to honor us. Special thanks to Bob and the young people for their excellent service. I was proud to see my grandson as one of them. I thank God that I am a part of St. Mark's family. ~ Shirley Kinney

Dear friends at St. Mark's,

I would like to thank everyone for the love and support our family has received for our twin grandsons, Nolan and Hudson. We are thankful for the many gifts of necessities the twins have received, but we are even more grateful for the prayers that have been offered up to God on their behalf. Thank you! Please continue to hold them in your prayers. ~ George & Kay Poliska & family

Dear Friends,

I would like to thank everyone for the overwhelming love and support I have received during my recent hospitalization. Thank you for the many cards, notes, visits, prayers and words of encouragement. In His Love, Lou DeSeau

Dear friends at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Thank you for your generosity of the sheets and personal care items. This ministry, as well as those in need, are truly blessed because of friends like you. May God's richest blessings be upon you for the compassion you share with others. Karen Nelson, Volunteer

Dear friends,

Heartfelt thanks to The Milestone Committee for hosting the 75, Single, and Still Praising God event. It was a most enjoyable occasion. The meal was delicious and the young servers did an impeccable job. Conversation among this special group of members was rewarding. Singing our favorite hymns was heartwarming. My sister and I had a wonderful time, as I'm sure did everyone present. Thank You! ~ Henrietta Tyson

Dear friends,

I would like to thank everyone who is involved in the cassette tape ministry. As a person with a disability who cannot always make it out to church it is so wonderful to be able to hear the worship service on tape. It enables me to continue to feel close in spirit to my church family at St. Mark's. Thank you for this caring ministry! ~ Kay Poliska

Dear Pastor Elkin,

I am so very appreciative of the emergency help I received Sunday, August 26. Thank you. It was comforting to realize I was not alone and able to communicate with such caring nurses. You and St. Mark's members truly are special and a blessing. Thank you for the prayers and blessings I received. Your emergency plans are the best. (The voice of experience!) Sincerely, Catherine Goertz

Dear Becky, Pastor & all "helpers,"

Thank you so much for the wonderful celebration of "75+ years of Praising God" on August 26th. The luncheon, talented artwork of Sharon Comini, sharing of wonderful times over the years & the hymn sing were just the greatest! God bless all of you! Love, Jeanne Fargus

Dear friends at St. Mark's Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your generosity. Your donation of \$75 has been deposited into the Shepherd's Discretionary Fund, and will help serve those in need in a variety of areas. May God richly bless you for the compassion you extend to those less fortunate. Karen Nelson, Volunteer

To all the staff at St. Mark's and helpers,

It was so very thoughtful of you to suggest the 75+ milestone and then tackle all the work that made it so special, despite all the other efforts that came up for that day! The lunch was so tasty and unusual, decorations lovely, and the cooks, decorators, maitre 'd' and servers, pianist—all did a great job to make it a lovely afternoon, My thanks to all! ~ Larue

SPECIAL CONCERNS LIST

Jeannette Aderhold 2809 Four Mile Drive Montoursville, PA 17754

Patricia Alexander 1745 Chestnut St. Williamsport, PA 17701

Nancy Bohartz 624 Sixth Ave. Williamsport, PA 17701

Doris Brownlee Fulmer's Personal Care Home 201 Woodward Ave. Lock Haven, PA 17745

Ethel Chambers 1129 East Third Street Williamsport, PA 17701

Bonita Crossley R.R. #1, Box 1001 Hillsgrove, PA 18619-9300

June Decker 338 Sherwood Ave. South Williamsport, PA 17702

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

Charles Ditchfield 327 Louisa St. Williamsport, PA 177701

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

Jeanne Fargus 2001 Memorial Avenue, Apt 50 Williamsport, PA 17701

Harriet Fornwalt 729 Wilson Street Williamsport, PA 17701

Doris Fortin Rose View Center 1201 Rural Ave., Room 223 Williamsport, PA 17701 Earl Foulkrod Sycamore Manor 1445 Sycamore Rd., Rm. 403 Montoursville, PA 17754

Lois Graybill Williamsport Home, Rm. #305 1900 Ravine Rd. Williamsport, PA 17701

Jean Gulliver 3039 Elimsport Road Montgomery, PA 17752

John Hollenback Williamsport Home Spec. Nursing, Rm. #306 1900 Ravine Rd. Williamsport, PA 17701



for in you I take refuge."

Charles Homan 2215 Warrensville Rd. Montoursville, PA 17754

Charlotte Hughes 140 Blueberry Lane Williamsport, PA 17701

Glenn Lunger Messiah Village Room 259W D Special Care Unit 100 Mt. Allen Drive, Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

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

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

James Sheaffer Rose View Center 1201 Rural Ave. Williamsport, PA 17701

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

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

Ira Tuxford 210 Louise Ave. Montgomery, PA 17752-9533

Henrietta Tyson 2190 Grampian Blvd. Williamsport, PA 17701

Zelma Vitolins Sycamore Manor, 1445 Sycamore Rd., Rm. 325 Montoursville, PA 17754

Beulah Wrede Faxon Commons, 1804 Loyalsock Drive, Apt 305 Williamsport, PA 17701

Ralph Zeigler Sr. Rose View Court 1251 Rural Ave., Apt. 209 Williamsport, P A 17701 PAGE 22

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	Sunday		2	Blanket Sunday Pentecost XIX 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM HC 9:15 AM Sunday School 11:40 AM Cont. Choir 2:30 PM Life Chain 4:00 PM The Way 5:00 PM Fam. Handbell	14	Harvest Home Pencos XX Pencos XX Pencos XX 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Children's Church 11:30 AM Kantorei 11:30 AM Kantorei 11:30 PM Crop Walk 5:00 PM Fam. Handbell 5:30 PM Council at Hoss'	21	Consecration Sunday Pentecost XXI 80 MA & 1020 9.15 AM Sunday School 11:40 AM Cont. Choir 300 PM Bishop Driesen Installation 5:00 PM Fam. Handbell 6:00 PM Catechetics	28	Reformation Sunday 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM HC 9:15 AM Sunday School 11:40 AM Kantorei 3:00 PM 1st Communion Class 3:00 PM Clivic Chorus Concert 4:00 PM The Way 5:00 PM Fam. Handbell

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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



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