



The Lion of St. Mark's

DECEMBER 2008

Advent without excess



Whether you are a young person just trying to break into the job market, a senior who is worrying about stretching your retirement money to cover yet more medical expenses, or anyone in between, this fall has been an anxious time. And so now the Advent and Christmas seasons are approaching, and we may become sad and overwhelmed that the usual pattern of excess will not be possible this year.

Rather than lamenting this, let's use the opportunity to go about things in a different way. This may be the push that we need to simplify our approach to things.

(1) Each day our mailboxes hold yet more glossy catalogues, filled with things that none of us need and few can afford. Let's start emailing these companies and ask to be removed from the mailing lists. It will cut down on clutter at home, printing and mailing costs for the companies, and remove one level of temptation to spend money foolishly.

(2) Advent calendars have often been used as part of the preparation for Christmas. This is not just for families with small children. Rather than a commercial calendar that focuses on Santa, use the one that has been included with this newsletter. It focuses on Christ Jesus and on caring for one another.

(3) Why do we engage in gift-giving at Christmas-time anyway? It started out as an expression of joy at the wonder of the gifts God first gave us, beginning with creation and extending to the gift of Jesus born in humility in Bethlehem. St. Nicolas gave gifts, anonymously, to those who needed them, without any thought of repayment or a gift in return. The "Operation Christmas Child" boxes that we have just prepared seem to be closer to the original intent than do many of our other practices. Might you help with the mitten tree, the Selinsgrove Center party, the bear tree, and other such projects?

(4) It is a wonderful time to communicate with family and friends, the ones that we don't see often or who are at a distance. Use some time to write a note to these persons. Hand-addressed things are not very frequent in our mailboxes these days.

(5) Pick a project that helps you to look beyond your own family. Give a gift through Heifer International that will give animals to start a herd for persons around the world in difficult circumstances: from \$20 "flocks of hope" (chickens, ducks or geese) through various other animals to a heifer for \$500. These are gifts that can change lives of families and villages. See the catalogue at the office or on-line at heifer.org/worldark.

(6) Excess is always a great temptation. Gregory Nazianzus, bishop of a town in Asia Minor (the place is in Turkey today) urged his flock in 380AD to "Not strive to outdo each other in excess" especially "while others are hungry or in need." To Gregory, people were missing the joy that comes from remembering whose birthday was being celebrated: "Run with the star, bear your gifts with the Magi. With shepherds, glorify Him; with angels join in the chorus!"

(7) Let nothing get in the way of joining with your fellow believers in regular worship, where we focus on the most important gifts of all. Holy Communion continues each Sunday at 8:00 and 10:30. Morning Prayer is sung at 9:00 on weekdays. Evening Prayer is sung at 6:30 on December 4, 11, and 18.

Let's have a thoughtful, outward-looking, joy-filled Advent, leaving aside the things we don't need.

COUNCIL UPDATE

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COUNCIL MEETING NOTES

The Congregation Council met in regular session on November 16 in the Crossways Room.

The Council:

- received the regular reports of the officers, pastor, committees.
- received a letter of thanks from The Rev. Brett Jenkins for the privilege of preaching for a prospective call committee at the All Saints Day services on November 2 in St. Mark's.
- commended James Gilbert to South Williamsport United Methodist Church.
- nominated Gary Weber to serve as the Lay president of Lutheran Shared Ministry for 2009.
- reviewed a favorable report from Consecration Sunday (see page 11).
- approved the 2009 budget as amended for submission to the congregation.
- called a Special Assembly of the Congregation on December 14 to consider the budget.
- prayed Prayer at the Close of the Day together in the chapel, led by Donna Clark.

Statement schedule

The Financial Secretary will be sending financial statements out in early December for members to compare against their own records. If there are questions or problems, please bring them to the attention of the Financial Secretary before the end of the year when final statements will be mailed. The sooner we catch a mistake or handle a problem, the easier they are to correct!

Staff & Officers Contact Information

Church Office	323-4619	stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org	Church fax number	323-2452
The Reverend Kenneth Elkin, Pastor		pastor@stmarkswilliamsport.org	Pastor's Home Phone	323-7367
Dick Lakey, Director of Music		rlakey@stmarkswilliamsport.org		
Sharon Comini, Christian Education		scomini@stmarkswilliamsport.org	Harold Hershberger, President	322-0410
Bernadette Jones, Christian Education		bjones@stmarkswilliamsport.org	Gary Weber, Vice-President	322-7149
Susan M-Smith, Parish Secretary		smsmith@stmarkswilliamsport.org	Donna Clark, Council Secretary	998-2290
Richard Wagner, Financial Secretary		rwagner@stmarkswilliamsport.org	Jackie Kinney, Treasurer	323-5980
Lou DeSeau, Environmental Services		ldeseau@stmarkswilliamsport.org	Jane Larson, Stephen Ministry	323-2845
Gary Weber, Website Administrator		gweber@stmarkswilliamsport.org	Bob Schultz, Adult Catechumenate	326-3929

Social Ministry News

Calling Saint Mark's Elves

Please join the Social Ministry Committee on Tuesday, December 9, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in hosting a Christmas party for eighteen women at the Selinsgrove Center.

Saint Mark's has been visiting the Selinsgrove Center for many years but only began entertaining this group two years ago. These ladies, many in wheel-chairs, require constant care from the staff. It is evident their caregivers are dedicated to the ladies and their care.

The committee needs your assistance with this event. Please consider doing one or more of the following.

- Join us that evening. There will be singing, storytelling and giving. We will meet at the church parking lot at 5:30 p.m. and carpool to Selinsgrove.
- Donate Dove Body Wash or its generic equivalent. Their skin needs the moisturizing qualities in this type of body wash.
- Donate individual servings of pudding (no refrigeration needed) in all flavors. It is their favorite treat. They only receive vanilla, so other flavors are an extra-special treat.
- Donate colored tissue paper to package the body wash and pudding.
- We want to take holiday cookie trays, apples and snack-size boxes of raisins to their dedicated staff. Donate cookies and raisins to be given to their caregivers on three shifts.
- Donate money to offset the cost of gifting and purchasing fruit. Checks may be made payable to Saint Mark's.

Requested items for gifting can be left in the box in the Narthex. Please speak with Becky Miller Pryor to assist with this heartwarming event.



Needlework Guild America News

St John's-Newberry United Methodist Church in Newberry will be the site on December 1, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. for the annual In-Gathering of clothing items for the Newberry Branch of NGA. Coats, clothing, shoe vouchers, hygiene items, and linens will be on display for more than 400 individually named people. Young children are the primary recipients of these items. The eighteen Head Start classes in the Williamsport Area are one of our largest responsibilities with 270 children receiving a sweat suit, shoes, or a winter coat.

On behalf of NGA, Debra Buckman and Becky Miller Pryor wish to thank the Women of St. Mark's for their monetary donation. Without this assistance, we could not continue the work our grandmothers and mothers began believing "New Clothes for New Tomorrows" was possible.

Hunger Awareness

The Social Ministry Committee wishes to thank the congregation for their donations of non-perishable food items and money. Three tubs filled with food were given to the Shepherd of the Streets for use in Thanksgiving Baskets for 350 families in our community. A special thank you is due Carl Hieber for delivering the canned goods to The Center for inclusion in the baskets.

Christian Community Service Opportunities

Christmas Baskets for American Rescue Workers

This year St. Mark's is collecting **cans of corn** for the American Rescue Workers to assist in filling more than 400 Christmas baskets they prepare for needy people in our community. The American Rescue Workers provide a Christmas basket filled with enough food to stretch leftovers for three or more days. As you are doing your holiday shopping, please pick up an extra can or two of corn to add to the barrel in the Narthex. Donations will be accepted through December 14, 2007.



The Blizzard Blitz



Friday, December 19th
7:30 pm—10:30 pm

Church of the Savior
522 North Grier St.
Williamsport, PA

**Tickets are \$4 each or only \$2 if you bring
a toy for Toys for Tots!**

Food will be available for purchase.
Casual Dress

Music will be provided by DJ Mike Yoder

ST. MARK'S LOGO POLO SHIRTS FOR SALE

**MAKES A
GREAT
CHRISTMAS
GIFT!**



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

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

Adults - JERZEE Jersey Polo with SportShield, Welt Knit Collar, Placket with pearlized buttons with church logo embroidered on 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 Royal

There will be a shirt on display in the Narthex.

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

Youth Sizes:
XS ~ XL \$10



Adult Sizes:
S~XL
\$20
2XL~3XL
\$23

Women of St. Mark's

Official Notice of Special Congregation Assembly Sunday, December 14

Please read carefully!

The Congregation Council at its regular November meeting has called a Special Assembly of the St. Mark's congregation to be held on Sunday, December 14. Note carefully the change in procedure. The meeting will be opened following the 8:00 service, and all voting members present will have opportunity to comment, amend and vote on the proposed budget. This meeting will be **continued** until after the 10:30 service, when all voting members present then will have a like opportunity to comment, amend, and vote on the proposed budget. If there have been no amendments made at the 10:30 meeting, the business of the day is closed. If, however, there have been any amendments made at the meeting following the 10:30 service, the meeting will be **continued** until the following Sunday, December 21, when those attending the 8:00 service will have an opportunity to vote on the amendments.

Christmas at Danville State Hospital



Kay Poliska has recently become a volunteer at Danville State Hospital. She is overwhelmed by the positive attention she receives from the residents each time she walks in.

At Christmastime, DSH gives each patient three gifts from a specified list, and they solicit donations from the community to match these requests. This year is especially difficult for DSH in securing presents for the patients because of the economy. As you will see from the list below, no one is asking for anything extravagant. In fact, there are many requests for basic clothing.

Can you help to make this a more pleasant Christmas for these folks in need? On a tree in the narthex there will be tags, each bearing the wish of one of the residents. Congregation members are invited to take a tag, purchase the desired item, return the tag and item (unwrapped!) to the container beside the tree by December 7th, after which Kay will take them down to Danville and assist in wrapping them there. They are simple gifts, but to the residents, they will be wonderful things.

Here is a sampling of some of the desired items: sweatshirt – 3X, sweatpants – 2X, phone card - any amount, pj's – 2X, nightgown – 1X, underwear – medium, watch – inexpensive, 4 packs of AA batteries. In addition, tissue paper, and medium gift bags are welcome. For the complete list, see the tags on the giving tree in the narthex.

Kay wishes a Merry Christmas to all who can celebrate with our own families, and asks that we please remember those who can't. You can get more details from Kay at 368-2693.



News from the Pews

Webb Weekly featured an article about **Bill Hibschrman** and his brushes with sports greats. Among those sports legends Bill has come into contact with are Lou Gehrig and Babe Ruth. Both were in Reading and played in a game there. Later he was in the ring with Jack Dempsey during a boxing match also in Reading. One of Bill's friends invited Bill to carry the card announcing rounds around the ring and present them to Jack Dempsey, who was refereeing the fight. Bill has quite a sports history of his own- an accomplished bowler he was admitted to the West Branch Bowling Hall of Fame. We didn't know we had such a celebrity in our congregation!

Some of our young people are also celebrities. **Lauren Campbell**, daughter of Greg and Kathy Dancho, was a princess in Montoursville's Homecoming Festivities.

Taigen Hayes Thorne, daughter of Ralph and Holly Thorne was a candidate for Flaming Foliage Queen and was named Miss Congeniality at the event.

Congratulations to **Melinda Wentzel**! Melinda, who writes a Planet Mom column for Webb Weekly, had an article accepted for Chicken Soup for the Soul and was part of the meet the authors at Otto's Book Store.

Caught a glimpse of **Owen Gair**, son of Brenda and Ed Gair at the Halloween Party at Lycoming Nursery School – Owen was pictured drawing a face on a gourd.

Our own **Pastor Elkin** and **Becky Miller-Pryor** were featured in an extensive article about the work of Family Promise and the progress they are making.

Blessed Thanksgiving to all at St. Mark's. ~ *Joyce Hershberger*

Please submit news items to Joyce Hershberger via her email deermountain2@comcast.net or by phoning her at 322-0410.

Prayer in Advent



It is difficult for Christians to celebrate or pray through the Advent season. The history of Christmas insistently wants to intrude. Many are apathetic about going through the motions of Advent, often understood as pretending to be waiting for that which never again needs to be the burden of human prayers. While there is appreciation for the faithful impatient waiting of Abraham and Sarah and their long line of descendants, which allowed God to set in motion the advent of his savior Son, why take a whole month to hope for what we now have?

The problem with such faith is its assumption of a reality that we still don't have -- the future promised to Abraham and Sarah. Our now having the Son of their prayers still leaves for us to pray as faithfully and impatiently as they for the future that was fundamental to their longing -- our prayers for salvation are not yet obsolete.

Advent is a season to pray for the not-yet future only set in motion by the Christmas event. It's a time to think about and pray more broadly about our present struggle to be faithful, and dare to hope in the eternal future under God. We can assuredly pray Advent prayers in hope because all that God has ever said and done, including Christmas, makes no sense without the underlying promise of his future. With Advent, we mean to hold God to bring to us the specific future over which Abraham and Sarah stretched their faith.

The Rev. Eugene Lehrke, STS

United Churches of Lycoming County

WEDNESDAY ECUMENICAL LUNCH

Join us from 12 to 1 p.m. for the Wednesday Noon Ecumenical Lunch Program. 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 to 1:30 p.m.

No reservations are necessary.

December Dates to remember:

- 3— Revs. Jim & Kathy Behrens,**
Area United Methodist Pastors,
"The Advent Season."
- 10—Sr. Celine Smith,**
Activities Director at Presbyterian Home,
"Holiday & Seasonal Crafts"
- 17—Rev. Aden Wertz,** Pastor, Pine Street UMC,
and **Rev. Gwen Bernstine,** United Churches,
"Here We Go a Caroling"
- 24 — No Lunch Scheduled**

Food Pantry Needs

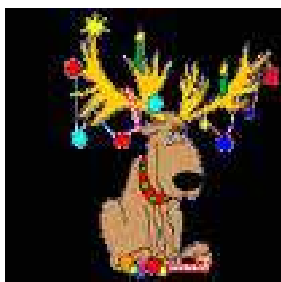
These are the items that are currently needed:

spaghetti sauce,	canned vegetables
chunky soups,	cakes mixes & icing
oodles-of-noodles,	Jell-o and pudding mixes
canned fruits	saltine crackers
hot chocolate	spaghetti pasta & sauce
hamburger & tuna helper	egg noodles
peanut butter	powdered drink mix
instant flavored oatmeal packets	coffee
Granola bars	microwave popcorn
stuffing mix	regular tea bags
Powdered milk	clean plastic bags

Your donations are best brought Monday mornings from 9:30 - Noon. Persons needing food should call and leave their name and number on the answering machine. Appointments may be made to receive food on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 am-3 pm and when necessary at other times as well.

Gail Burkhart is the UCLC Food Pantry Coordinator and may be reached at 322-1657

Friday Fun Night
December 19
6:30 pm



Come join us
for
Reindeer
games!

Lunch N' Fellowship
December 17th
Noon

Join us for delicious
Christmas Ham



ELCA, Synod & West Branch News

Volunteers Still Needed for 2009 Liberia Work-Team

Dates for the 2009 U.S.S. work team to travel to the Lutheran Church in Liberia are Jan. 13 to Feb. 26 (6 weeks), although a 4-week term of service is also possible (Jan. 13 to Feb. 13). The participation fee of \$2950 covers virtually all costs. A U.S. passport valid at least through mid-July 2009 and a Liberian visitor's visa are required. Volunteers are most needed in the areas of construction; nurse, midwife, and medical technician instruction; teacher training; adult literacy instruction; and home economics and crafts instruction. Want to know more? Please contact Dr. Robert (Bob) Bradford at bradford@evenlink.com or (570) 473-9505 as soon as possible.

CML Staff Hiring Starts in January

It's not too early to think about being part of next summer's Ministry Team at Mount Luther. Application packets are available on the camp's website at www.campmountluther.org. Interviews will be scheduled following the first of the year. If you have questions, please contact Chad Hershberger, Executive Director, at chad@campmountluther.org

Want Some Skis?

Due to the low usage of our cross country skis, we are interested in them having new homes. If you are interested in purchasing skis, please contact us at chad@campmountluther.org or (570) 922-1587. The easiest thing is to come see them. We have several sizes of skis as well as some poles.

News from the ELCA's Mission Investment Fund

With the global financial crisis, ELCA ministries and individual church members can take comfort in knowing that the Mission Investment Fund is stable and strong.

- The fund has built up capital of more than \$160 million, reflecting a net worth of nearly 30 percent of assets. That percentage is almost triple the amount required by regulation and much higher than what most banks maintain.
- The fund maintains strong underwriting standards, and did not engage in subprime lending or other risky loan practices. It focuses all its efforts and resources on helping to build the church and advance God's mission by providing ministry loans, investment opportunities, and supporting services for ELCA members, congregations and related institutions.
- The fund invests cash not currently required to underwrite loans in a diversified portfolio of highly rated, liquid, fixed-income securities and deposit instruments, and continuously monitors credit quality and market conditions.
- The fund maintains a highly efficient cost structure. With low operating expenses, it operates conservatively -- and still provides exceptional rates and services to investors and borrowers. In addition, in the 90-plus-year history of the Mission Investment Fund and its predecessors, the fund has always paid investors their principal and interest in accordance with the terms of the investment. So no one has ever lost money on an investment.

ELCA, Synod & West Branch News

Christmas Dinner Theatre

Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol will be presented by The LSM Players on Friday, December 5, and Saturday, December 6, in St. Mark's Fellowship Hall. After a spaghetti dinner at 6:00 P.M., the performance will begin at 7:00. Proceeds will benefit United Campus Ministry at Penn College. For tickets call St. Mark's at 323-4619 between 9:00 A.M. and 1:00 P.M. Donations will also be accepted at the door.

Suicide Survivors Support Group

St. John Lutheran Church, 229 South Broad Street, downtown Jersey Shore, will be hosting a support group for families who have lost a family member from suicide. The group will meet the first Thursday of each month from 6:30-8:30 p.m. For information, contact Cozette at 753-3821.

Thrivent Builds in Lycoming County

The Lycoming-Sullivan Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has been approved for a Thrivent Builds with the Greater Lycoming Habitat for Humanity. In 2009 Lutherans of all congregations in the area will build a house for a low-income family. Volunteers will work in partnership with the homeowners to build a decent, simple and affordable home. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will provide 65% of the funding. The goal is that Lutheran congregations will raise about \$14,700.00, and that 50% of the volunteer work will be done by Lutherans, 25% of them Thrivent members. At this point every congregation is asked to have a contact person, also named "champion." Our person will be Todd Smith.

Prayer Requests

Sandy Grier's husband Ed had a kidney removed in November. Following an emergency appendectomy in October, the doctors found something suspicious on Ed's kidney. Tests revealed it was cancer. Sandy is an AIM in our synod, runs the Along the Way bookstore and manages the USS resource library at the Church of the Savior.

Pastor Charles Heaps is currently recovering from back surgery.

Ecumenical Service Award Presented to Pr. Showers

The Board of Directors of United Churches of Lycoming County honored Pr. Harlan Frank Showers of Church of the Savior and St. Matthew, Williamsport, with their Ecumenical Service Award. The Board said that it presented the award "in deep appreciation for the many ways you have extended the mission of our Churches through your leadership and support, making a more abundant life possible for everyone," and then listed his contributions as a leader in the community.

His work in community building, his musical gifts, his ecumenical witness, his opening deeper channels of spirituality, as well as his example of a wholesome Christian life were among the reasons stated for the honor. Congratulations to Pr. Showers for this well-deserved recognition.

Family Promise

We're Up to Ten!

Family Promise of Lycoming County is continuing to add Host Congregations. Recently, Balls Mills United Methodist Church and St. Paul-Calvary United Methodist Church became the latest to sign on for this exciting task. We're in the search for at least three more congregations willing to serve the Lord Jesus by caring for homeless families in our community.



Family Promise seeks to provide temporary shelter and assistance for these families, so that as quickly as possible they may move to permanent, affordable housing. We want to have at least 13 host congregations, so that each parish can have a turn one per quarter-year. During that week of hosting, evening and morning meals are provided, as well as companionship and overnight accommodations. Each morning, a lunch is packed and the guests will go to school, work, or to the Day Center to make progress on their housing and other problems.

We're not ready to operate yet, even though the need is pressing on the community. The Family Promise steering committee meets monthly, on the fourth Tuesday (except December), and there is need for several representatives from each of the host congregations to help on one of the four working committees as we search for more host congregations, search for a day center site, search for the most effective transportation, and raise funds for the whole program. It is ironic that in these difficult economic times when it will be most difficult for us to start this work is when the need for our services will be the greatest!

What can each of us do at this point?

- (1) Pray for those families in need, for those who are already serving on the steering committees, for the board and officers, for the signed-up host congregations, for those congregations who are still considering becoming hosts.
- (2) Offer to be one of your congregation's servants on one of the working committees.
- (3) Begin to set aside money personally and in your congregation, so that soon we can begin to build up the treasury for the many expenses to come.
- (4) Begin to plan how you can be a servant during a week when your congregation will be a host.
- (5) Call one of the officers to hear what specific tasks you might undertake right now:

President, Kristi Hammaker, khammake@pct.edu; (Messiah Lutheran)

Vice-president, Pastor Kenneth Elkin, pastor@stmarkswilliamsport.org (St. Mark's Lutheran)

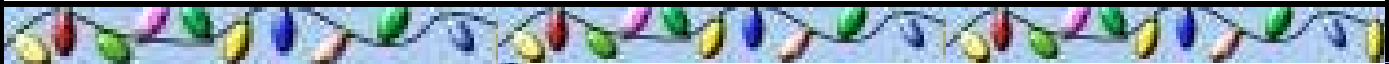
Secretary, Donna Maxwell, djpm3@hotmail.com (First United Methodist)

Treasurer, Colleen Klinger, klingerfam@peoplepc.com (Lycoming Centre Presbyterian)

Christian Community

Consecration Sunday report

The Treasurer is pleased to report that the Consecration Sunday totals exceeded last year in significant ways. 103 cards were returned this year, compared with 93 last year. There were 31 increases in estimates compared with 21 last year. The dollar figures for estimates of giving total \$217,112 this year and \$182,042 last year. The more cards returned, the better, so that the Treasurer does not need to do as much guesswork concerning those who do not fill out the estimate cards. It is never too late to give an estimate card, and if the figure needs to be adjusted during the year, a phone call to the Financial Secretary can make the needed change.



Pastor Elkin welcomes invitations to visit members of the parish in their homes, at church, or other suitable meeting places.

lease call the office at 323-4619 or email:
pastor@stmarkswilliamsport.org to schedule a time.



In the Kitchen with Katy!
Friday, January 2
11:00 A.M.

**She's back with some new recipes for fun!
And a few for food too!**

**Call the office today to reserve your counter space
and start the New Year out right!**

Christian Community



You have collected
all my tears and
preserved them in
your bottle!
You have recorded
every one in your
book.

Psalm 56:8

Remembrance Service

For a number of persons, the Advent/Christmas seasons are times of increased stress and sadness as they grieve the loss of beloved family members. In order to recognize this and to offer the comfort of the gospel in these circumstances, those who grieve and those who can be companions for those who grieve are all welcome at the Remembrance Service, to be held on Sunday afternoon, December 21 at 4:00 P.M. in the nave.

Anyone may nominate persons to be named and remembered in the course of the service, and among this number will be all those members of the parish who have died in the current year. Please call the church office (323-4619) or drop a note to the office in the mail or the offering plate with the name or names of those you wish to be named.

A small handcrafted gift is given to each person lighting a candle on the remembrance tree that afternoon.

From Advent to Christmas

We let each season of the church year have its turn. The four Sundays of Advent season are kept with all appropriate thoughtfulness, and then at noon on the Fourth Sunday, December 21, we begin to transform the nave from its Advent blue to the white of Christmas celebration. It takes lots of hands to care for the many tasks. Plan to stay after the service, share in soup and sandwich, and then move to the tasks of tree decorating and candle-preparing, etc. Everything will be cleaned, readied, and quiet so that the Remembrance Service will be held at 4:00 that afternoon. Please join in this wonderful busyness.

Caroling, caroling

Calling all those who can spend an hour on December 14 greeting some of our special needs folks at home and singing a Christmas carol with them. We'd really like to get to everyone on the list, but that is possible only if we have more singers to divide up the task into several groups. We will leave from the church promptly at 2:00 P.M. Song sheets will be provided; you need to bring a smile and willingness to greet your fellow members.

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING US FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS!



KIDS' MORNING OUT

SATURDAY

DECEMBER 13

9:00 A.M. – 12 NOON

Look for sign-up list

In the staff hallway

Soon!!



ADULT COOKIE BAKE

SATURDAY

DECEMBER 13

12 NOON – ???

Look for sign-up list

In the staff hallway

Soon!!



**CHRISTMAS CAROLING TO OUR SHUT-INS,
DECEMBER 14TH at 2:00 P.M.**



What are all the events about, you ask?

**They are about spreading the good news of Christ's birth
through fellowship and service to others.**

KIDS' MORNING OUT is a morning of fun activities for your children. They help bake cookies for our shut-ins—and sample a few as well; create a craft project as a gift for a special someone—Mom, Dad, grandparents; listen to a story and play a game or two! Meanwhile, Mom and Dad—you can relax with a cup of coffee or be Santa's helper without interruption.

ADULT COOKIE BAKE begins where the kids leave off. Gather with fellow bakers to make your favorite recipe and assist with theirs. We use a couple from each recipe to supplement the children's offering for our shut-ins, share with each other, and take what's left from your recipe home with you (triple batches are not unheard of). We will have flour, sugar, butter and margarine or butter here. If you want to contribute any supplies, please call Bernadette.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING is held the following day. We always hope to have four groups to send out to the compass points caroling, delivering cookies and visiting with those unable to join in the festivities here. Please consider joining in one or all of these events! Don't miss out on this action-packed weekend!!

(sign-up sheets in narthex and any hallway or call 323-4619)

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

TICKETS ARE NOW AVAILABLE

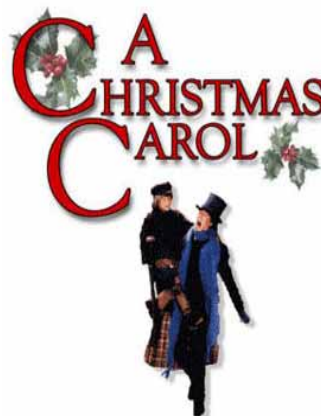
for LSM's presentation of A Christmas Carol, dinner theatre style, in Fellowship Hall at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 142 Market Street, on Friday and Saturday, December 5 & 6, 2008.

All donations received will be given to United Campus Ministry at Pennsylvania College of Technology.

A Christmas Carol is adapted and directed by Bernadette Haas Jones. The cast includes members of St. Mark's, St. Luke, Church of the Savior, Christ Lutheran (Lewisburg), Messiah Lutheran and Mater Dolorosa.

Volunteers from each congregation are expected to assist with the meal and each of the technical areas (props, costumes, sets, lights, etc.). Area youth are providing the wait staff, serving you spaghetti, salad, bread, beverage and dessert.

There is no set admission price, but you must have a ticket to attend. Call St. Mark's at 323-4619 to reserve your tickets now. Donations will be accepted at the door.



HELP WANTED: KITCHEN & CLEAN-UP STAFF NEEDED!



Kitchen crew is needed to show up at St. Mark's between 4:30 and 5:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, December 5 & 6. They are responsible for making coffee, heating sauce and meatballs, cooking pasta, etc., and plating the meal to give to the waitstaff for serving. They will not be working during the performance and do not need a ticket to watch the show (family members, however, would).

Clean-up crew is needed to stay after the show to dry and put away dishes; and clear and reset tables. If you can assist, please call Bernadette at 323-4619 or e-mail to bjones@stmarkswilliamsport.org. Thank you!!!

ADVENT WREATH MAKING

You...yes, you...and your family are invited to attend the annual Advent Wreath Making on Sunday, November 30, at noon in Fellowship Hall. The children will again decorate their tree in the Hall with the hand-made ornaments donated to the children of St. Mark's. Please join us for a time of food, fun and fellowship and make an advent wreath for your home!



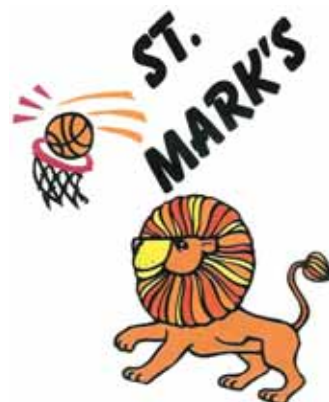
Children's Church is on Sunday, December 14, at 10:30. We look forward to seeing everyone there—bring a friend!!! The children's special collection that day is cans of corn to send to the American Rescue Workers. They will pack these in baskets of food which go out to families in need. See you in the chapel December 14!!!

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

The John Bower Basketball League season has begun!! We have eleven children on the Beginner Pee-Wee team, a Pee-Wee team with seven players, and (a first this year) a Junior team of at least seven players!!!!

We practice at the YMCA this year. When you see our coaches or players, please be sure to give them your encouragement—or, better yet, try to attend a game or two and cheer them on!!!

Games will begin the first or second weekend in December! Look for dates and times in the bulletins!



C'mon, Lions—LET'S ROAR!!



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

On Monday, November 17, 46 gift boxes were delivered to Pine Street United Methodist church. 37 were the results of our group pack 'n' wrap on Sunday, November 9. a huge thank you goes out to all those who assisted wrapping and packing, those who contributed items and boxes and those who sponsored the shipping costs, as well as those who assembled their own boxes to be sent.

The monetary gifts we received to cover the cost of mailing was the exact dollar amount required! God is so faithful to provide for His children! Thank you for opening your hearts and your wallets for this worthy ministry to children.

Deck the trees with hats and mittens...fa-la-la-la-la

It's that time again!

Time to decorate our trees for the needy children in the area.

One tree will be for hats, gloves, scarves & mittens.

The other tree will be for teddy bears and other stuffed toys.



The Teddy Bears will be given to the Williamsport Police and the mittens, gloves, and hats will be given to

The Kids Clothes Closet.

Please stop in Fellowship Hall and add your gift to the trees.



YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

MILESTONE MINISTRY

I Passing on Faith: Holy Baptism

L Makensi Doeblor and Kameera Smith received the sacrament of Holy Baptism on Sunday, November 23. The girls were very excited and a little nervous to be receiving this first of the church's sacraments. We welcome them as children of God.



T Passing on Faith: First Communion

O Makensi Doeblor, Ben Haussmann, Devin Owen, Kameera Smith and Stefan Weber began instruction for this very important milestone on Sunday, November 2. The children continued their instruction on November 9 and 16. They received the sacrament on Sunday of Christ the King, November 23.

N Passing on Faith: Third Grade Milestone

E Our third graders will receive Bibles at the 10:30 service on November 30. They and their families are invited to join in the luncheon immediately following the service. At that time, Pastor Elkin will sit down with the children to explore their Bibles and see what messages relatives and friends have written or favorite passages they have highlighted in the Books.



A delicious light lunch on November 30
celebrates the 3rd Grade Milestone &
opens our Advent Wreath making activities!!

We need to prepare for lunch and gather supplies for the wreaths, so...
If you plan to attend, and haven't already notified us,

CALL AND LEAVE A MESSAGE IMMEDIATELY!!!!

Turn Your Heart Toward Worship Advent Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
11/30 Read Jeremiah 33:14-16. A new year; a fresh start. In prayers, listen for what new thing God wants to do in your life. Begin a thank-offering collection of money.	12/1 Meditate on the titles given to Jesus: Prince of Peace, Lord, Messiah, Root of Jesse, Emmanuel, and more. Set aside a thanksgiving offering for each one.	12/2 Read an on-line essay or share memories of a person who lived for others in Jesus' name: Mother Teresa, Sister Henry, Ruth Hague, etc. Make a thank-offering for each.	12/3 Think of a shut-in. Give a telephone call, a visit, a plate of cookies, etc. and ask for their favorite memory of sharing the Christmas Gospel. Add to your offering for each.	12/4 Begin to plan which charity should receive your offering. Ideas: use it to buy mittens for the mitten tree; a flock of chicks for Heifer Project; Bibles for the Streets...	12/5 Advent has been a time of reflection: what area of my life needs especially to be cleaned up this year? In our prayers, thank Jesus for his work in us.	12/6 St. Nicholas Day. He gave gifts, anonymously, to those in severe need. Where might we give such a gift today?
12/7 Pearl Harbor. Remember those like Betty McCraddall in Liberia who work to put things back together after a war. Might today's offering be for the Missionary fund?	12/8 Remember those in residence at the Pregnancy care Center. Do you have unneeded baby clothes in a closet that a young mother could use? Pray for the well-being of all.	12/9 Greet someone while in a store check-out line. It just might turn out to be the best thing that happened to that person today.	12/10 Do something unexpected for a member of your family. Give a thank-offering for all of the ways in which God binds us together in family and the body of Christ.	12/11 Put a coin in someone else's parking meter, and set aside an offering for our missionary in Liberia.	12/12 Read Philipians 1:3-11. Make a list of the people in your life for whom you are especially thankful. Add an offering for each name to your collection.	12/13 St. Lucy's Day. She carried food to Christians hiding from persecutors. Bring a food item to worship tomorrow for the food pantry and Christmas baskets.
12/14 Whom do you know that is having a hard time? What word of encouragement can you give to that person?	12/15 Today is a holiday in Mexico. Give thanks for the places and countries from which your family came, and pray that the Gospel continue to be heard there.	12/16 Bethlehem means "house of bread." Buy or bake a loaf and give it to a teacher, a bus driver, a neighbor, a postman; or any other person who helps to build community.	12/17 Write a note to someone you have not seen for a long time. Give a thank-offering for the gift of memory that helps us stay connected.	12/18 Read Philipians 4:4-7. What things are making you anxious today? How so they measure against the promises that our Lord Jesus makes to us?	12/19 You are not going to get all of those things done before 12.25. Check your list and lay aside the things that are not so very important. Give thanks for the gift of time.	12/20 Reuse, recycle when you can. Do you really need another plastic bag for that last item? Remember that we are stewards of all God's good gifts. Give thanks!

Turn Your Heart Toward Worship Advent Calendar

12/21	Are you welcoming visitors at home and at church this season? Give a thank-offering for those you know and those who are not yet your friends.	12/22	Look through old pictures or diaries and tell someone about a meaningful Christmas event from past years, whether the memory is poignant or hilarious.	12/23	Remember the folk stories about people so busy that they miss the Christ child who comes to them in people in need. Have you made an offering each day?	12/24	Adam and Eve's Day. Read Genesis 2-3. They messed things up, but Jesus announces that he will make things right. Make time for worship tonight.	12/25	The Nativity of Our Lord. Give gifts with joy and receive them in thankfulness, in honor of the Lord Jesus who has given us everything that we have and are.	12/26	St. Stephen's Day The first adult martyr, because of his bold proclaiming of the truth. Whom might you invite to worship this Sunday? Be bold.	12/27	St. John's Day. The Evangelist saw the whole picture, and announced what is central: "...the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." Read John 1.
12/28	Holy Innocents Day The martyred children of Bethlehem. What innocent children are being killed yet today? Who will speak for them? What can you do?	12/29	5 th Day of Christmas. Others may have forgotten, but we will remember why we are celebrating; Christ is coming now and will yet come again in power.	12/30	6 th Day of Christmas. Whom have you taken for granted in all of the season's noise and excitement? Who needs a call, letter, card, visit, email, hug, or smile?	12/31	7 th Day of Christmas "Rejoice, rejoice! With thanks embrace another year of grace." What new thing might God do with you next year?	1/1	New Year's Day Give time to someone. Teach a child to play one of your childhood games. Reminisce with a shut-in. Kiss your beloved.	1/2	9 th Day of Christmas. Draw names with family members or friends and agree to do something secretly helpful in the remaining days of Christmas.	1/3	10 th Day of Christmas. Count the shoes in your closet, and think of all the places that they have taken you. Give an offering for travel for our missionary Betty McCrandall.
1/4	11 th Day of Christmas. Bring along to worship today the sums that you have been gathering during Advent and Christmas, and be sure to label where they are to be used.	1/5	12 th Day of Christmas. Read Matthew 2. Who and what is guiding us to Christ today? Give thanks for them. Pray for the churches in persecution in "the East." (Iran, etc.)	1/6	Festival of the Epiphany, the making known of Christ to the world. What gifts has God entrusted to us to use in all the world? Pray for each member of the congregation that they may understand that their missionary field may be right next door.								

Special Thank You's

Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7

Dear Congregation of St. Mark's Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for such a generous donation of food items to help us fill our pantry shelves,

It is very encouraging to so many who just can't seem to make ends meet in these hard times. Your reaching out and sharing some of your abundance is so appreciated.

May God bless you for your faithfulness and may you continue to share with others your love in Christ.

Blessings, Gail Burkhart, Food Pantry Coordinator

Dear Pastor Elkin, Sharon & Bernie,

Words cannot express our appreciation & gratitude to you for making sure that Madeline Jane continues her generational Lutheran lineage with her receiving blanket! We adore it and so does she! Thank you for being our first faith community.

Love,

Matt, Alice, Kline, Micah & Madeline

P.S. I wore a RED shirt to be sure that Lutherans were represented & present a Madeline's baptism!

Dear friends at St. Mark's Lutheran ,

Thank you for your generosity.

We were very much in need of the large donation of assorted personal hygiene products that you donated. Thank you very much for assisting the Shepherd of the Streets ministry. May the Lord's peace and blessings be upon all of you.

Karen Nelson, Volunteer

Thank you from United Campus Ministry,

Thank you so much for partnering with United Campus Ministry this semester. Your words were inspiring and your dinners were delicious. Please know that our ministry would not happen without your support.

Thanks again, and may the Lord continue to bless your ministry,

Sharon Comini, Michael, Michelle, Kasey, CJ, Kelly,

Joseph, Jamillia, Kevin, Eugene & Monica

Directory Changes

Stephanie Bieber & family	508 Sylvan Drive, South Williamsport, PA 17702
Daniel Boone	30 Slate Ct., Gibsonville, NC 27249
Randy & Sandy Edler	29 Old Edler Road, Williamsport, PA 17701
Nathan Edler	29 Old Edler Road, Williamsport, PA 17701
Matthew & Cassandra Wellen	2005 Heshbon St., Williamsport, PA 17701
Alan Zimmerer	5924 Founders Hill Dr., Apt #303, Alexandria, VA 22204-3759.

Happy Birthday!

Phyllis Holmes	12/01	Megan Catino	12/13	Michael Jensen	12/18
Sara Jones	12/01	Richard Hafer	12/15	William Waldeisen	12/18
David McMorris	12/03	James Sheaffer	12/15	Kurtis Caster	12/19
Edgar Miller Jr.	12/03	Lyndsi Stugart	12/15	Martha Hopler	12/19
Robert Miller	12/03			Gladys Knauss	12/19
Maria Elkin	12/04			Fred Thayer	12/19
David Elkin	12/04			Zachery Zimmerman	12/19
Madalyn Fortin	12/06			Clint Eppleman	12/20
David Gilbert	12/06			Edith Anderson	12/23
Lawrence Lundy	12/06			Judith Fortin	12/23
Brittany Toy	12/07			Patti Drake	12/24
Catherine Goertz	12/08			Holly Thorne	12/24
Emma Elkin	12/09	Betty Kaufman	12/16	William Hill	12/26
Fred Dieffenbach	12/10	Lucille Weaver	12/16	Hannah Ramsauer	12/26
Scott Bittner	12/11	Derek Gilbert	12/17	Helen Schramm	12/28
Orion Snyder	12/11	Marlene Vollmer	12/17	Amalie Robertson	12/30
Ernest Larson	12/12	Ryan Clokey	12/18	Cynthia Huff	12/31



Happy Anniversary!

Matthew & Cassandra Wellen	12/08		Thomas & Becky Miller Pryor	12/21
Robert & Aletha Swartz	12/20		Joseph & Rachel Reiter	12/29
			Cecil & Kathryn Calvert	12/31



Parish Register

- The funeral service for **Merritt Hunt** was held on November 5.
- Michael, Tracie, Ian, Owen & Grace Elliott** and **Christopher & Kaitlyn Lauer** were received as members on November 16 by letter of transfer from the Memorial Lutheran Church in Shippensburg, PA.
- Cassandra Wellen** was received as a member by letter of transfer on November 16 from the Living Lord Lutheran Church, in Warren, Ohio.
- Bianca & Madisyne Wellen** were received as members by letter of transfer on November 16 from St. Peter Lutheran Church in Newville, PA
- Makensie Doeblor**, daughter of Barbara and the late Wilson Doeblor, Jr., received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on November 23.
- Kameera Ty-Jah Smith**, daughter of Amanda Weaver and Kareem Smith, received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on November 23.

HEALTH, HEALING & WHOLENESS

*"If as Herod, we fill our lives with things, and again with things,
if we consider ourselves so unimportant that we must fill every moment of our lives with action,
when will we have time to make the long slow journey across the desert as did the magi?
Or sit and watch the stars as did the shepherds?
Or brood over the coming of the child as did Mary?
For each one of us there is a desert to travel ... a star to discover ...
and a being within ourselves to bring to life." Michael Podesta*

The above quote is found on a piece of artwork that my husband purchased for me several years ago. Currently it hangs in my office, but because it is trapped behind a pile of prayer shawls, I have to take it down periodically to read it, and ponder its message.

We are in that time of year when it becomes so easy to be distracted by activities, family, shopping, gift-giving, travel, **things**, etc., that we lose sight of the most important event that happened so many centuries ago. As I re-read the text recently, I find myself thinking of the popular story called "Footprints". If we stop to think about the journey of Joseph and Mary – from Nazareth to Bethlehem and from Bethlehem to Egypt – surely they would have left the imprint of their passage in the sandy soil. But how many footprints were there ... sometimes 6 ... sometimes 8 ... sometimes none? Could Herod's men have tracked them if they tried? Did God himself, lift up and transport the young family from the stable to Egypt – a way to throw a jealous and spiteful king off the trail? Herod was furious upon his discovery that the magi had tricked him, so he let his rage boil up and spill out on innocent children of a certain age in and around Bethlehem! So many questions to challenge me spiritually

I invite you to make some time during advent to read and re-read the text of Jesus birth as found in the first two chapters of Matthew's gospel. Try to envision what that time must have like for Joseph ... Mary ... the baby ... the shepherds ... the magi ... yes, even Herod. Joseph and Mary were in a distinctly difficult point in their relationship. By rights, Joseph could have left her ... she was going to bear a child, and he knew it wasn't his! Yet he stayed, and more importantly he **trusted** what he believed God was asking of him in his dreams!

What are the desert places in your life? Where are the places to which you go when you want no one to "find" you? Is your life so full of 'stuff' that you cannot get a focus on what is **really** important? Have you at some point, become so angry with the way that your life has turned out that you bellow and manipulate and make threats – in an attempt to have things your way? Or has your path been slow and steady – sometimes alone – sometimes carried?

We are entering the season of advent. There is a light that has the power to move us forward as we travel our separate journeys, but first we have to slow down ... even stop ... so we can better envision what God is calling us toward in our lives. I pray that we won't be distracted by the 'stuff' surrounding this sacred time of year, and that we ask ourselves, "How do I discover/rediscover the light of God inside me?", or "How do I give birth to a renewed desire for Jesus presence in my life?" No one has promised that this journey will be an easy one, but someone – Christ himself - *has* promised to be yoked to us! During this holy season set aside some to wonder as you wander toward that light which is beckons you, and may you experience a rebirth of the Christ child within!

*Debbie Best, Program Coordinator, Congregational & Community Services
Family Life Services, Diakon Lutheran Social Ministries*

SPECIAL CONCERNS LIST

Patricia Alexander
505 Center St., Apt. #61
Williamsport, PA 17701

Edith Anderson
Williamsport Home, Suite 4
1900 Ravine Road
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

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
Valley View, Room 308
Montoursville, PA 17754

Doris Fortin
Rose View Center
1201 Rural Ave., Room 223B
Williamsport, PA 17701

Lois Graybill
Williamsport Home, Nursing Unit
1900 Ravine Rd., Rm. #306
Williamsport, PA 17701

Jean Gulliver
Rose View Center
1201 Rural Ave.
Williamsport, PA 17701

Gail Hoffman
153 Hampton Way
Montoursville, PA 17754



Charles Homan
2215 Warrensville Rd.
Montoursville, PA 17754

Phyllis Holmes
582 East Mountain Ave.
So. Williamsport, PA 17702

Charlotte Hughes
140 Blueberry Lane
Williamsport, PA 17701

Anne Miller
947 Hepburn St.
Williamsport, PA 17701

Jane Oakes
Presbyterian Home
810 Louisa St., Apt. 204
Williamsport, PA 17701

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

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

James Sheaffer
Rose View Center, Room 306B
1201 Rural Ave.
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Eleanor Sobers
425 W Highland Ave.
S. Williamsport, PA 17702

Anna Stiadle
1900 A. Ravine Rd., Apt. 112
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Ira Tuxford
210 Louise Ave.
Montgomery, PA 17752-9533

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, PA 17701

St. Mark's Calendar of Events

1 Monday

Pastor at STS Retreat until noon 12/02
9:00 AM Morning Prayer
6:45 PM Handbells

2 Tuesday

8:00 AM City Pastors
9:00 AM Morning Prayer
6:30 PM Play Dress Rehearsal

3 Wednesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
9:15 AM Quiltmaking
9:30 AM Staff Mtg.
12:00 PM Bible Study
6:30 PM Play Dress Rehearsal

4 Thursday

6:31 AM Men's Ministry
8:00 AM Stephen Ministry I
9:00 AM Divine Drama @ Messiah
9:00 AM Morning Prayer
5:30 PM Stephen Ministry II
6:30 PM CC Dress Rehearsal
7:30 PM Choir

5 Friday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
6:00 PM *A Christmas Carol*

6 Saturday

6:00 PM *A Christmas Carol*

7 Sunday

8:00 AM Holy Communion
9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Liturgy of Welcome to The Way
10:30 AM Holy Communion
11:45 AM Kantorei
12:15 PM The Way
5:00 PM Family Handbells

8 Monday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
6:30 PM Property Committee
6:45 PM Handbells

9 Tuesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
6:00 PM Brownies
6:00 PM Selinsgrove Ctr. Christmas Party

10 Wednesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
9:15 AM Quiltmaking

9:30 AM Staff Mtg.
10:15 AM Little Lambs Liaison Mtg.

11 Thursday

6:31 AM Men's Ministry
9:00 AM Divine Drama @ Messiah
9:00 AM Morning Prayer
12:00 PM Staff Luncheon
6:30 PM Evening Prayer
7:00 PM Divine Drama @ St. Mark's
7:30 PM Choir

12 Friday

Newsletter Deadline
9:00 AM Morning Prayer

13 Saturday

9:00 AM Kid's Morning Out
12:30 PM Adult Cookie Bake

14 Sunday

8:00 AM Holy Communion
9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Children's Church
10:30 AM Holy Communion
11:45 AM Contemporary Choir
12:00 PM Ross Club Council Brunch
2:00 PM Christmas Caroling
5:00 PM Family Handbells

15 Monday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
6:45 PM Handbells

16 Tuesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

17 Wednesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
9:15 AM Quiltmaking
9:30 AM Staff Mtg.
12:00 PM lunch N' Fellowship

18 Thursday

6:31 AM Men's Ministry
9:00 AM Divine Drama @ Messiah
9:00 AM Morning Prayer
10:00 AM Little lambs Christmas Tea
6:30 PM Evening Prayer
7:00 PM Divine Drama @ St. Mark's
7:30 PM Choir

19 Friday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
9:15 AM Lion Crew

10:00 AM Little lambs Christmas Tea
6:30 PM Friday Fun Night
7:30 PM The Blizzard Blitz Dance Ch. of the Savior

20 Saturday

21 Sunday

8:00 AM Holy Communion
9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Holy Communion
11:45 AM Kantorei
12:00 PM Decorating the Nave
4:00 PM Remembrance Service
5:00 PM Family Handbells
6:00 PM Mtg./Meal @ Conflrmands, Parents & Mentors

22 Monday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
6:45 PM Handbells

23 Tuesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
6:00 PM Brownies

24 Wednesday *Christmas Eve*

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
9:30 AM Staff Mtg.
7:00 PM Family Serv. of Holy Communion
10:00 PM Festive Serv. Of Holy Communion

25 Thursday *Christmas Day*

Office Closed

26 Friday

Office Closed

27 Saturday

28 Sunday

8:00 AM Holy Communion
9:15 AM Carols, Cookies 8: Gift packing
10:30 AM Holy Communion
11:45 AM Contemporary Choir
5:00 PM Family Handbells

29 Monday

30 Tuesday

31 Wednesday *New Year's Eve*

Jan.1 Thursday *New Year's Day*
Office Closed

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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Lutheran Shared Ministry Players
present

**St. Mark's Fellowship
Hall ~ East Entrance
142 Market St.
Williamsport**

**Friday, Dec. 5th
&
Saturday, Dec. 6th**

**Spaghetti Dinner at 6 pm
Performance at 7 pm**



For tickets call

**St. Mark's Lutheran
323-4619**

**Monday ~ Friday
9 am ~ 1 pm**

**Donations will be
accepted at the door**

**Proceeds benefit United Campus Ministry
at Pennsylvania College of Technology**