



The Lion of St. Mark's

SEPTEMBER 2009



Consecration Sunday is October 4 this year. We understand the concept that, from a biblical perspective, financial stewardship is not money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, we know that financial contributions are a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Since this goes against our natural tendencies to want to regard everything as our own possessions, we must continue to think about this and make it a part of our life a bit at a time. Consecration Sunday is a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving. We are not members of a social club who should pay dues, we are followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. We must look into our hearts and ask ourselves: "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

Every attendee and member who completes an Estimate of Giving Card, does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday, October 4. We urge everyone to attend, even those who are hesitant to complete a card, because the procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend worship on Consecration Sunday, October 4. In the coming weeks, please think prayerfully about the blessings God has given to you, and about how you are called to share those blessings.

The other part of the event is the celebration meal that follows each worship service on October 4. At services on September 20 and 27 we'll be asking for your reservation for the breakfast following the 8:30 service or the lunch following the 10:30 service on Consecration Sunday. It is important that every member take part.

Our guest speaker is **our own** Lou Kolb. We know him as a skilled speaker, regular lector here at St. Mark's, popular radio announcer, and husband of Kathy who runs Kolb Networks from their home/office. We also know him as a committed, caring Christian leader who has important things to say to us, his brothers and sisters in the faith at St. Mark's.

INDEX & UPDATES

Inside This Issue:

Consecration Sunday	1
Parish Register	2
Officer & Staff Contact Information	2
Council Meeting Notes.....	2
From the Pastor	3
Food Pantry	4
United Campus Ministry	4
Autumn Fest 2009	4
School of Religion.....	5
Lunch N' Fellowship with Bette McCrandall....	5
ELCA, Synod & West Branch News	6
Organ Anniversary	7
Daniel's Closet.....	7
UCLC Food Pantry Benefit Concert	7
Women's Schedule.....	8
Help Wanted.....	8
18th Annual Life-Chain.....	9
Confirmation	9
100% Chance of Rain.....	10
Grand-Slam Parade	11
Friday Fun Night	11
See You at the Pole	12
New Catechetical Class Forming	13
Sunday School Teachers Needed	13
<i>The Way Begins Anew!</i>	14
Family Promise Update	14
Special Thank You's	15
News from the Pews.....	15
Social Ministry	16
Nurses Notes	17
Celebrations.....	18
Health, Healing and Wholeness	19
Special Concerns	20
September Calendar	21
Women's Bazaar	cover

Council Notes

The Council met in regular session on August 17 in the Crossways Room.

The Council:

- Received the voluminous reports of the pastor, committees and officers for the past two months.
- Moved to receive Michele Fredericks into membership by Affirmation of Faith.
- Noted the wonderful staging of *100% Chance of Rain* that was done by Bernadette Jones as an intergenerational event earlier in August.
- Moved to establish a Publicity Committee, and to charge the Mutual Ministry Committee and interested persons to consult together and draft a job description for the committee for Council consideration.
- Moved to replace the failed solenoid on one of the tower bells, and plan to do more when the next one fails.
- Moved to dispose of the unused piano in an upstairs classroom.
- Moved to adopt the proposed calendar for financial stewardship activities and Consecration Sunday this fall.
- Noted that we were commended by Elizabeth Yenchko to the Synod staff for our diligence in following through with the Mission at the Crossroads process over the past several years.
- Concluded the meeting with Prayer at the Close of Day, prayed in the chapel.

Parish Register

A funeral service for Jean Sims was held on August 28, 2009 in the Nave.

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	Website: stmarkswilliamsport.org	
Michele Owen, Christian Education		mowen@stmarkswilliamsport.org	Gary Weber, President	322-7149
Bernadette Jones, Christian Education		bjones@stmarkswilliamsport.org	Todd Smith, Vice-President	220-1350
Susan M-Smith, Parish Secretary		smsmith@stmarkswilliamsport.org	Jane Zimmerer, Secretary	433-3324
Richard Wagner, Financial Secretary		rwagner@stmarkswilliamsport.org	Jackie Kinney, Treasurer	323-5980
Lou DeSeau, Environmental Services		ldeseau@stmarkswilliamsport.org	Jane Larson, Stephen Ministry	433-3380
Gary Weber, Website Administrator		gweber@stmarkswilliamsport.org	Mel Wentzel, Adult Catechumenate	327-8286

From the Pastor

Dear members of St. Mark's:

This is a very sad time for our denomination. At the recently concluded biennial assembly held in Minneapolis, the delegates voted to approve a social statement that condones and approves same sex blessings, and laid out procedures for the ordination of persons living in same sex so-called "committed relationships."

We all live with problems, some publicly known, others not. The question of sexual orientation is not at issue, but the question of sexual behavior is. We have friends, neighbors, or family and congregation members from among the 2% or 3% of the population that are likely homosexual in orientation. They are persons that we know, love, worship, and work with regularly.

On the other hand, homosexual behavior is a problem, like so many other problems that we have; and I do not believe that it represents the fullness of God's intention for us as humans. The way that the ELCA has chosen to solve this problem is to declare that it is not a problem and demand that God bless it. I am firmly convinced that this approach cannot be sustained by scripture. The standard that flows from the Bible is "chaste if one is single; faithful if one is married." This is exactly the same standard for everyone of whatever age and either gender. The Sixth Commandment has not suddenly become unclear. It is a high standard, one which our society wants to flaunt. There are disastrous consequences in all directions when that happens.

One scholar has described it this way:

"...in the ELCA's case, the top-heavy national leadership has become too big (not in size but in terms of control of too many key decisions) NOT to fail. Too big—as in too far from the membership; too far from long-time devoted participants and sacrificial stewards who are tired of one train wreck after another; too deaf to hear counsel or criticism or even the ideas of others; too proud to be guided by the Bible, the Creeds and Confessions, and the faithful ethical and practical reflection of 2,000 years of Christian history; too confident that their opinions will prevail if they can just get past the majority of the membership; and too cynical not to go ahead with a major program of Bible Study in the ELCA at the same time as they press for ignoring the Bible altogether in matters of sexuality." [Marc Kolden]

The battle is not about sex; it is about the nature and authority of scripture. The revisionists have declared that personal experience and individual reason are more important than 2,000 years of reflection by the church and the scriptures themselves. This is a disaster.

What will the assembly's action mean for us as individual Christians and as a congregation? I don't know yet. We have lots of talking to do. But in the months to come, it will not remain "business as usual." There will be consequences locally, nationally, and internationally.

Your servant in Christ,

Pastor Elkin

United Churches of Lycoming County

A 24 hour Devotion Line



is a way for everyone in our community to have "A Closer Walk With God". Devotions are three minutes or less and change daily and at least once on the weekend. Devotionalists change weekly. The phone number is **570-322-5762**.

Food Pantry Needs

These are the items that are currently needed:

sugar
canned fruits
tuna helper
coffee

spaghetti sauce
oodles-of-noodles
Instant oatmeal
macaroni & cheese
cake mix

saltine crackers
hamburger helper
clean plastic bags
chunky soups

Your donations are best brought Monday mornings from 9:30 - Noon. Persons needing food should call and leave their name & number on the answering machine. Gail Burkhart is the UCLC Food Pantry Coordinator & may be reached at 322-1657

The United Churches **Wednesday Noon Ecumenical Lunches** resume this September. They will be held each week from 12 to 1 at Pine Street United Methodist Church. You are assured of a delicious \$4 lunch, warm ecumenical fellowship and a thoughtful program designed to enrich your life both mentally and spiritually. No reservations are necessary. Laity are urged to come and enjoy as many of these programs as possible and you are invited too!

- September 9 - Mrs. Lucy Henry, Area Musician, "I'; My Heart There Rings a Melody"
- September 16 - Rev. Aden Wertz, Pastor, Pine Street United Methodist Church, and Rev. Ken Elkin, Pastor, St. Mark Lutheran Church, "Can You Dig It?"
- September 23 - Rev. Larry Waltz, Retired American Baptist Pastor, "The Baptist Family's 400th Anniversary"
- September 30 - Rev. Clara Benson, Pastor, New Covenant United Church of Christ, "Journey House: Four Families at a Time Moving from Homelessness to Self-Sufficiency"

Campus Ministry - Summer has flown by again, and Sharon Comini our UCM Coordinator, our faculty advisors, and our UCM board are excited as the students are back to Penn College this week. We are all looking forward to the Monday night Faith Talks and Bible Studies. They will be led by area clergy two weeks a month, students meet the third Monday for discussion, and on the 4th Monday students will put their faith into action as they gather for an activity. We'll continue to have a Wednesday Noon Lunch Discussions in the cafeteria and our Signature Wednesday evening Worship and Suppers will begin at 6:30 at Trinity Episcopal, hosted each week by a local pastor and congregation. Plans for fall and spring break and special activities also underway. To become involved in this wonderful ministry contact Sharon ucm@uclc.org or 419-1376. We thank you for -your prayers and your support!



Autumn Fest 2009 will be held **Sunday, September 20, 7:30 A.M.-7 P.M.** at the Divine Providence Hospital grounds & cafeteria.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend a day of fun for the whole family! Indulge in international and American food, beginning with a sausage and pancake breakfast from 7:30-11 A.M. in the hospital cafeteria. Visit the Food Court for sweet treats such as baked goods, ice cream, funnel cakes and sticky buns. Children's games, bingo, Chinese and silent auctions, craft vendors, clowns, entertainment and more will be available throughout the day. Take a ride to the Pumpkin Patch and select a pumpkin. Stop by the Healthcare Booth and get a free blood pressure screening and a bone densitometry test (\$5). Proceeds benefit the Cancer Treatment Center at Divine Providence Hospital. Sponsored by Divine Providence Hospital Auxiliary and HealthAmerica.



School of Religion

School of Religion will again be offered by Lutheran Shared Ministries, a cooperative ministry of congregations of Greater Williamsport. You are invited to attend these classes which will be held at St. Mark's on Wednesdays October 7, 14, 21 & 28 from 7-9 p. m.

Reservations are needed by October 5 (call Sandy at 322-2533 or e-mail her at walkalongtheway@comcast.net). Arrangements can also be made for childcare at registration. Classes include:

- **Sixty-Six Books in Four Weeks:** "The Book of Faith", as the ELCA calls Holy Scripture, is a library of 66 volumes, written over sixteen centuries with a central theme, "God's love for the world through Jesus Christ." Too often our studies concentrate on a particular volume (or part of a volume) and we lose the majesty and mystery of the total library. This study will explore the totality and discover many interrelationships between the volumes as well as their continuing relevance to our time and their empowering grace in our living. Presented by Pastor Zetto.
- **Ministry to Young Adults:** This forum will involve focused discussion on the topic of relating to and educating young adults. Presented by Pastor Huckfeldt.
- **Can You Dig That?:** Archaeology in the Holy Land is a fascinating activity that can help us to better understand the life and times of people long ago, and also understand ourselves better in the process. They'll use several DVDs featuring experts, and add to it personal photos, video clips, and first-person experiences. It will help the stories of the Bible come alive in fresh ways. Presented by Pastor Elkin.

Lunch N' Fellowship with Bette

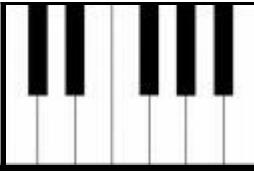
Bette McCrandall will be our guest at LUNCH N' FELLOWSHIP on September 23rd at noon in Fellowship Hall. Come and enjoy Dick's chicken and smashed potatoes. Bring a covered dish, your friends, and your questions for Bette. We have invited other Synod churches to join us so we are requesting the kindness of a R.S.V.P so we may plan accordingly.



Who is Bette McCrandall? She is our missionary to the Lutheran Church in Liberia, which is the companion synod to our own Upper Susquehanna Synod. Bette lived through the devastating and bloody civil war years that plagued the country. Now that Liberia is slowly getting back to normal, she can describe the struggle firsthand.

She will have great stories to tell about this fascinating country, which was founded in part by freed American slaves, and where the life expectancy is 42 years.

Free to good home



There is an upright piano in the preschool room upstairs that is available free of charge to anyone who would like to own it. The piano is in decent condition. You must pick it up and move it. Contact the office if you are interested.

ELCA, Synod & West Branch News



Mount Luther Dandelion Trail Run: September 5, 2009

Camp Mount Luther in Mifflinburg will be holding a 5 and 10 Kilometer trail run race at the camp Labor Day Weekend. This is the eighth year for the event at the camp and will be an entry-level trail race on Mount Luther grounds. It is being organized by Joel and Shelley Heasley of Middleburg. The Dandelion Run was named in honor and memory of Rev. Glenn Heasley, former Assistant to the Bishop of the Upper Susquehanna Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Glenn's favorite "flower" was the dandelion. The date of the race is Saturday, September 5, 2009. The start time for the race is 9:00 a.m. Runners decide on race day if they want to do a 5k or 10K (a double loop of the 5K) run. Age group awards will be presented and pre-registered participants will receive a drawstring sports pack. (A limited number will also be available on race day.) Price for entry is \$12 if you pre-register before August 21st. Race day registration is \$15. Registration opens at 7:30 a.m. on race day. Spectators are welcome as well. A kid's fun run (registration for that is one dollar) and a one-mile fun walk will also be held. The same registration fees and amenities apply for the fun walk that will take place on a dirt road. Awards will be given for overall male and female race time, three awards for each age group and an overall master's for male and female in both the 5K and the 10K. The awards ceremony will be immediately following the race. All miles for the course will be marked and there is one water stop on the course. Timing will be electronically done. Registration forms are posted on the camp's website at www.campmountluther.org or you can contact Joel Heasley at (570) 837-1222. Shower facilities are available after the race. All proceeds from this event will benefit the camp's general operating fund.

Congregational Heritage Workshops: September 19, 2009

The Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic, an ELCA Region 8-based historical organization dedicated to the preservation and promotion of Lutheran heritage and historical resources in the Mid-Atlantic region, will once again host a series of Congregational Heritage Workshops on the campus of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg on September 19, 2009, from 9 to 4 PM. Registration will be held from 8:30-9:00 AM with a continental breakfast in the Coffee Shop area of Valentine Hall, followed by welcoming remarks and opening devotions. Three general lecture tracks will be offered this year that focus on Organizing Church Archives, Writing Congregational Histories, and Planning and Celebrating Congregational Anniversaries. A tour of the Region 8 Archives will also be offered. Workshop leaders include professional historians, archivists, and ordained clergy. The cost of the workshop registration is \$40 for Historical Society members, or \$45 for non-members. Congregations sending multiple attendees may register the initial person at the full rate, then all subsequent attendees at a reduced rate (\$35 for each non-member, or \$30 for each Society member). Registration forms and payment are due by September 1, 2009, with checks made payable to the Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid-Atlantic. Further information, including workshop brochures and registration forms, may be obtained by contacting workshop co-chair John Deeben at (410) 257-9373 or jdeeben@aol.com.

2010 Liberia Work Project Volunteers Needed

For many years now, the Upper Susquehanna Synod has coordinated the ministry of groups of volunteers traveling to Liberia to work on various educational and/or building projects with our companion synod, the Lutheran Church in Liberia. Volunteers work during the "dry season", between early January and early April, usually for three weeks or more. The expense for those volunteering in 2009 was just under \$3,000—primarily to cover airfare, but also for a visa, lodging and food, local transportation in Liberia, and medical insurance. Volunteers of all stripes and abilities are needed again in 2010, especially for the planned renovation of Day Memorial Church in Millsburg, Liberia. For details about volunteering in Liberia, click on this PDF file: [2010 Liberia Work Team](#). Or contact Dr. Robert Bradford for more information: bradford@evenlink.com.

Community Service Opportunities



It's an anniversary!



It is time to celebrate the faithful work of part of the St. Mark's family that makes the widest variety of sound. It is the 70th anniversary of our organ that was built by the Möller Organ Company in 1939. It was installed in our previous church building and served there for 20 years. When the present building was constructed in 1959, the organ was returned to the maker where it was improved and enlarged, and then re-installed at St. Mark's.

We're going to have a month-long celebration of this musical treasure in the heart of Williamsport. On each of the four Sundays, Mr. Lakey will be playing one or more of the longer compositions by J.S. Bach, some of the premier works for organ. Plan to come a little early each week to hear: the *Toccata and Fugue in d minor* on September 6, the *g minor Fugue* on September 13, the *Toccata, Adagio and Fugue* on September 20, and the *Prelude and Fugue in D major* on September 27. In addition, the service on September 13 will conclude with the *Westminster Carillon* of Louis Vierne, a grand work.

On September 27 everyone is invited to remain following the 10:30 service for a brief program that will feature a video of the interior of the organ, the parts that no one gets to see because they are behind the east wall of the chancel. The organ is a large and marvelous instrument, one of the most complex things ever made by man before recent times. Mr. Lakey will assist with demonstration of how the instrument is operated. We will close with hospitality in the courtyard (weather permitting).

"Daniel's Closet"



mer Lutheran
Washington F
Williamsport, F
322-2333

**Free Clothing
For Children, Men and Women!**

Christ Centered Concert benefitting

United Churches Food Pantry
Sunday, September 20 at 4:00 p.m.
Twin Hills Church of the Nazarene,
578 Cemetery Rd (off Lycoming Mall Dr.).

Guest musicians include:
Jared Snyder and Krissy Cline,
Dr. Tom and The Spectacles,
Tom Wetzel, Ron Guinter & Winnie Schweikart
and the **Twin Hills Nazarene Praise Team.**

The concert will be outdoors if weather permits (bring a lawn chair). Please also bring along a non-perishable food item for the pantry. A love offering will also be taken. Refreshments will be served following the concert. All are invited!

Calling all Women of St. Mark's!



**This September will be a busy month
for the Women of St. Mark's.
Much help will be needed during the
following events.**

**Your assistance during any of these hours
would be greatly appreciated.**

Contact Shirley Hill or Jane Kline.

9/02- Quilting begins

9/09- Set-up for Bazaar/Rummage Sale (9 a.m. to 12 noon)

9/10- Set-up for Bazaar/Rummage Sale (9 a.m. to 12 noon)

9/11 - Set-up for Bazaar/Rummage Sale (9 a.m. to 12 noon)

**9/12 - Bazaar/Rummage Sale (8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.)
(help needed during sale and with cleanup after)**



9/23- Lunch N' Fellowship (chicken and potatoes)

**Speaker - Bette McCrandall, Missionary in Liberia
Short business meeting - Women of St. Mark's**

9/30- Decorate Nave with quilts for Blanket Sunday (9 a.m. to 10 a.m.)



We need volunteers to provide hospitality after morning worship services and to deliver the altar flowers to our shut-ins and those who are ill or in distress.

Please sign the scheduling books in the narthex.

PASTORAL VISITS

If you would like Pastor to visit with you in your home, at church, or another suitable meeting place, please call the office at 323-4619 or email the Pastor at pastor@stmarkswilliamsport.org to schedule a time.



YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY



18th annual Life-Chain Sunday, October 4 from 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm on the sidewalks along the Golden Strip

Each year, more than 1,500 people engage in an hour of silent prayer, rain or shine, on behalf of the unborn children in our nation who are at risk of abortion.

Members of many denominations and faith communities take part, each person holding a preprinted sign of his/her own choice bearing a message such as
 "Adoption—The Loving Option", "Jesus Forgives and Heals",
 "Lord, Forgive Us and our Nation".

Persons interested in participating may speak with Pr. Elkin and join him at the sign-table that will be located near the Harley-Davidson store on the south side of Third Street, shortly before 2:30.

This is a time of prayer to the Lord God our Father, not conversation with each other; and it is a peace-filled challenge to our community and nation. Do you have an hour for prayer for the most vulnerable persons of all, those in danger of being rejected by their very own mothers?



St. Mark's will celebrate another Milestone on September 13 when our catechetical class will be confirmed. Bishop Robert Driesen will be with us to preside at that special event and will share the luncheon that will follow with the confirmands and their families. The upcoming catechetical class and their parents and siblings and members of the Congregation Council and their spouses are also included.

Bob Jones and his crew will be serving a gourmet luncheon and, in order to prepare adequately for the attendees needs to have the anticipated number by September 3.

Reservations can be made in three ways : by calling Ruth Rees, 326-0232, Joyce Hershberger, 322-0410 or the church office 323-4619.

This will be a very special event for our confirmands and their families and also an opportunity for the upcoming class and their parents and the council members to visit with Bishop Driesen.

Please get your reservations in as soon as possible.

THEY'RE BACK!



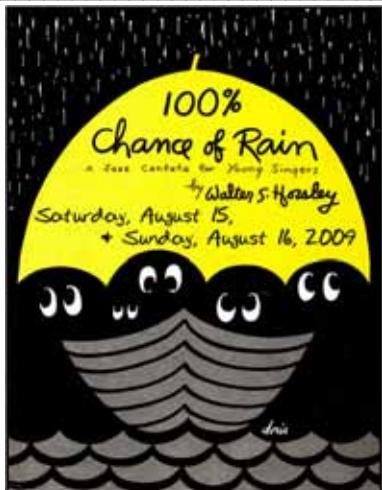
Our quilters are resuming work on Wednesday, September 2nd. They begin at 9:15 a.m., following Morning Prayer in the Chapel.

Jobs are available in knotting, basting, or machine sewing at home, if you prefer.

If you have any spare time on Wednesday mornings, join the group for a relaxed and enjoyable time of fellowship. Bring scissors for clipping knots.

Quilts can have other uses than warmth on a cold night or shelter from the sun. They can carry babies or personal effects, or they can create personal space in a refugee camp. People who receive them know that there are caring women who create them with compassion and love and do not expect anything back. They are the Women of the ELCA.

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY



SUMMER CHOIR CAMP A SUCCESS!!!

The multigenerational cast of 31 performers entertained an audience on Saturday evening, August 15, with their musical version of the story of Noah and the Ark. They presented musical after a delicious pot-luck supper. They offered the story as the prelude the next day at the 10:30 service.

A huge “**thank you**” goes out to everyone involved with this great event: cooks, parents, grandparents, children and well-wishers—without any of whom we would not have been able to accomplish what we did. You are all a wonderful gift from God!

“100% CHANCE OF RAIN”

Cast

Hannah Haussmann	Ben Haussmann
Grace Elliott	Gabriella Gregory
Owen Elliott	Elizabeth Haussmann
Makensi Doebler	Lucy Walz
Sean Jensen	Anna Ziegler
Ian Elliott	Laura Ziegler
Madison Walz	Annika Waffenschmidt
Stephen Boone	

Chorus

Karen Boone	Vicki Haussmann
Deb Buckman	Pam Jensen
Ruth Burkholder	Bob Jones
Gregg Dancho	Jane Kline
Lou DeSeau	Lois Smith
Bud Doebler	Shirley Vognet
Tracie Elliott	Diana Ziegler
Michele Fredericks	

Crew & Benefactors

Andrea Gregory
Bonnie Eyer
Steve Eyer
Shirley Kinney
Jackie Kinney
Becky Miller Pryor
Lois Smith
David Walz
Bob Jones
Lou DeSeau
Anna Ziegler
Laura Ziegler
Diana Ziegler
Vicki Haussmann
Tracie Elliott
Diane White Sennett
Bud Doebler
St. Mark's Church Council
Richard Lakey
Bernadette Jones

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY



Join us for
FRIDAY FUN NIGHT
September 25

Won't you please drop in at 6:30 p.m.,
in Fellowship Hall?

We have lots of games and beverages—

Grand Slam Parade

We did it! We entered a float in this year's parade on Thursday, August 20. A trailer and towing truck were graciously loaned to us by Michele Fredericks and her fiancé.

On Sunday, August 16, we painted signs and things for the float. On Thursday, the 20th, we attached everything to the float and off we went to the staging area around 6:00 to get in line. An hour and a half later, we finally stepped off to begin the parade! It was a weary but happy crew that finally pulled into our parking lot at 9:00 pm to dismantle the float.

A HUGE thank you goes out...

- to Michele and Jake for the loan of the truck and trailer and for driving in the parade,
- to Bonnie, Steve and Jarrett Eyer; Michele, Devin, Dawson and Kirk Owen; Lois Smith; Sara and Bernadette Jones; Deb Buckman and Michele Fredericks for painting,
- to Jarrett, Devin, Lynna and Rick Robertson for riding on the float,
- to Pastor Elkin, Michele O. and Bernadette for walking the route,
- and to Lou DeSeau, Declan Jones and many of the above who stayed to take things apart.



You can still make a difference!

We still need you. We need four volunteers on both Tuesday, Sept 1st and Thursday, Sept. 3rd to potentially hang doors and trim. We also need five volunteers per day for Sept. 8th-10th. What a great fellowship experience. If you can help, please call Kristine at Habitat to volunteer. 322-2515.

Thanks to all of you who have volunteered to date on our Thrivent Builds Home, as well as all those who have helped us raise funds and/or made donations. Without all of you, we wouldn't have a house.



YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

SEE YOU AT THE POLE!

A young man named Josiah began one of the greatest revivals and awakenings in the Old Testament. Josiah had become king of Israel at the age of 8. Scripture tells us that at the age of 16, he began to pursue God passionately. Like his forefather, David, he began to show signs of godliness early on and gained the respect of the people. 2 Kings 22:2 states, "He did what was right in the eyes of the Lord and walked in all the ways of his father, David, not turning aside to the right or to the left."



This resulted in radical obedience — getting rid of everything that did not honor God and challenging everyone around him to do likewise. These actions resulted in a mighty move of God in his day — actually, one of the greatest ever!

The theme verse for *See you at the Pole* comes from the heart of this story. Right after the newly discovered scriptures were read to Josiah, the Bible says, "When the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, he tore his robes." In other words, his heart was pierced with conviction. King Josiah heard the words of God and proclaimed:

"Go and pray to God for me and for the people..." —2 KINGS 22:13a

How about you? Do you desire to see a mighty move of God on your campus? Are you pursuing God passionately? Are you serious about radical obedience? Are you determined to get rid of anything and everything that dishonors God and ready to challenge your friends to do the same?

This year's See You at the Pole™ theme is very simple— **ENGAGE: Go and Pray . . .**

GO to your school flagpole on **Wednesday, September 23, at 7 a.m.**, and **PRAY** for your friends, family, school, community and the world.

This year's *See You at the Pole* challenge is simple:

ENGAGE your school

ENGAGE your community

ENGAGE your world . . . for His glory!

See You at the Pole is a great place to

ENGAGE God,

ENGAGE with other believers, and

ENGAGE His heart for your campus . . . in the name of Christ.

See You at the Pole connects believers together at the beginning of the school year, so you can stand strong together throughout the year.

See You at the Pole is all about prayer. It's about you coming together and laying aside all of the labels and groups for one day, to simply engage with God in prayer and connect with fellow Christians in unity around the flag pole.

**GO AND
PRAY . . .**

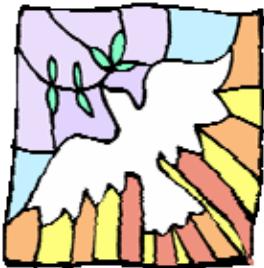
2KINGS22:13a

There is also more information on the See You at the Pole web site, www.syatp.com.

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

NEW CATECHETICAL CLASS FORMING!

Letters inviting students to become a part of the confirmation process have gone out. If you have a student in sixth or seventh grade and did not receive one of these letters, PLEASE LET US KNOW. Sometimes we miss things in the computer system.



We have not received responses from most of the letters that have gone out. Pastor and Bernadette need to be notified of your child's mentor choices so they can begin informing candidates and receive answers from them.

**OUR FIRST MEETING IS SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20!!!
PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE TODAY!**

If you have an older child who has not been confirmed, please contact us. We can include anyone who wishes to become a part of the process. If a youth is a lot older than the other students, he or she is also welcome to participate in *The Way*. Please call Pastor Elkin or Bernadette at 323-4619 or e-mail (addresses on page 2).

CONFIRMATION



You've supported them in their studies for two years: now, please join them at the 10:30 service on Sunday, September 13, when Corey, Stephen, Emily, Devin and Riley are confirmed.

As we begin this year of study in Sunday School, they begin their lives as adults in the practice of their faith. Please pray for them and encourage them as they take this important step in their lives.

Let them know you rejoice with them by joining them at lunch after the 10:30 service.

Teachers are still needed for several months this year in the younger grades and preschool!

**Please call
Michele today!!
323-4619**



YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

The Way to go....

The Way is what we call the process of growing adult Christians at St. Mark's. It is for everyone; for persons who are new to the faith and also for those who desire to increase their knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of the faith. All are most welcome to participate.

Mr. Robert Schultz is stepping down as the coordinator of **The Way** after 10 years of very dedicated service.

Mr. Mel Wentzel, who just recently retired as a principal at Williamsport Area High School, will be moving into the leadership role for

The Way. We are blessed to have such talented and faithful leaders as both of these men.

Would you, or someone you know appreciate the opportunity to be involved in **The Way** as either a candidate or a sponsor for a candidate? Now is the time to let Mr. Wentzel or the Pastor know of your interest and availability. Our first session will be on September 20 at 12:15 PM. During the fall we meet several times each month, and then in Lent and Easter season we meet weekly, about 22 gatherings in all. It sounds like a lot, but it goes past so quickly. As we near the end of our time each year, many persons will say that it seems like we just started!

More than 80 persons in St. Mark's have been involved over the years as candidates and/or sponsors! This is a remarkable record, one of which we can indeed be proud. Many of the leadership and most active persons in the parish have taken part. We hope you will join their number and find out



Family Promise of Lycoming County, Inc. is pleased to announce that we are one step closer to the beginning of operations. The 12th congregation has signed on as a host for the network, St. Joseph the Worker (formerly known as the Annunciation parish) Roman Catholic Church. Four faith traditions are represented within the membership in the network: Lutheran, Presbyterian, United Methodist, and Roman Catholic, and we're looking for more.

Pastor Elkin and Becky Miller Pryor, who have been spearheading the recruitment phase, would be delighted to hear of any leads in additional congregations that could be contacted to move us to the 13th congregation and beyond.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH



will resume
Sunday, October 11.
Please join us
in worship with the
whole family.

Special Thank You's!

Dear Bob & Committee,

"Thank you" does not begin to cover our heartfelt appreciation for the TLC you Provided for Dot Berndt's 90th birthday celebration!

Your attention to detail was appreciated by all! We were able to participate in the festivities and not worry about anything. Mom was totally amazed and grateful for all the efforts that were put into her party.

Again, heartfelt thanks to all of you at St. Mark's for making this such a special day!

Sincerely,
The Berndt Family
(Barb Horn)

I'm Moving! Come visit soon!

Dear St. Mark's family,

It's official. I'm a homeowner. On Wed., Aug, 19th I closed on the house. The moving of boxes, cleaning, painting, etc. has begun!

The process of home ownership has been a long one but a happy one. I'm looking forward to taking up residence in Montoursville & coming to services from a different direction.

My moving date is September 3rd and my new contact information will be:

Dinah Labenberg
820 Pearl Boulevard
Montoursville, PA 17754
570-971-5867

Dear St. Mark's congregation,

Thank you for your donations to Family Promise. We have received checks for \$5,000; \$379.36; and \$169.19 from your Lenten Offering. Your gifts are critical to our success and we thank you very much.

Sincerely, Colleen Klinger, Treasurer

News from the Pews

This has been the summer of great theatrical performances by talented thespians from St. Mark's. Beginning in June with the Community Theater's presentation of "Cinderella" both **Bernadette** and **Declan Jones** were members of the cast. Picture Bernadette as a wicked stepmother with a hint of humor and Declan as a member of the Ensemble – the show was great fun.

In July **Bernadette** directed a presentation of "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" in multiple performances in Fellowship Hall. **Brett Campbell** was an outstanding Linus and **Declan** was the piano playing Schroeder. A large number of attendees were treated to an excellent show.

Two of our upcoming stars were part of the Community Theater League's summer programs.

Emily Newcomer tried her skills in Improv and **Kara Hershey** was a member of the cast of "A Foggy Day in Lindentown". Congratulations ladies.

Katy Elkin continues to add to her musical credits with a performance at the Styriarte Festival with her Le Tendre Amour ensemble.

Our young sport stars continue to make the news – **Jason Eyer** was part of the Eastern Lycoming YMCA Basketball Tournament and **Stephen Boone** was a member of the major boys champion team – the Ralston Rattlers – love that name!

Put **Helen Schramm** on the church garden planning – she was a second prize winner in curb appeal in the first Loyalsock Garden Contest and Tour.

Last but no means last, both **Brett** and **Lauren Campbell** were recipients of scholarship awards given by the Williamsport – Lycoming Foundation.

Keep your eyes on the newspaper – St. Mark's folks are everywhere!

- Joyce Anne Hershberger

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

Social Ministry

Summer Forums



Summer Sunday Forums concluded August 23, 2009. A small core group of individuals enjoyed presentations running the gamut from mission work in Liberia and the Dominican Republic to services available locally to those in need and seniors seeking healthcare options. In addition to the outside presenters the Social Ministry Committee wishes to thank Pastor Elkin for presenting several programs on his archeological dig in Israel.

A special thank you is extended to Donna Elkin, Bob Jones, and Todd Smith for assisting with refreshments and to Gary Weber for welcoming Lt. Linda Tokay in the absence of Pastor and Becky Miller Pryor.

Daniel's Closet

Daniel's Closet, a free clothing outreach of Redeemer Lutheran Church, is seeking donations of clothing and clothing accessories in all sizes from infant to adult both male and female. Your donations of clean usable items may be taken directly to Redeemer Lutheran Church. Please call the church first at 322-2333 to assure the sexton can assist you. The sexton's hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30-11:30. You may also contact Becky Miller Pryor at 321-9523 to arrange pick up of your donations.

Habitat for Humanity

St. Mark's has assisted our local Habitat for Humanity build on Memorial Avenue in a variety of ways this summer. Todd Smith and Gary Weber assisted with building projects. Wilson and Blanche Doebler provided popsicles for snacks during the Lutheran Build days. And recently our congregation was asked to provide a luncheon for a workday filled with college students. Although the folks at Habitat cancelled the luncheon due to a change in work schedules, the Social Ministry Committee wishes to thank Donna Elkin, Trish Hershey, Todd Smith, and TGI Friday's for offering their assistance with donations of food.



We can do no great things,
only small things with great
love.

Nurses notes

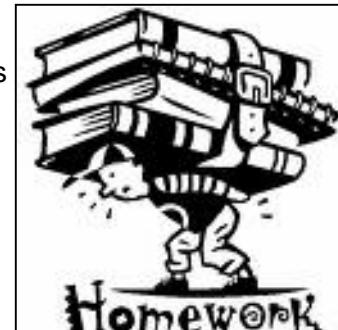
Top Ten Causes of Sickness

What are the top ten causes of sickness – your fingers (and hands)! Now is a good time to review hand washing habits with your child. Using warm water and soap, have your child lather up and lots of friction to wipe out bacteria and viruses that are inevitable with the return of school. Lather for at least 15 seconds – enough time to sing *Jesus Loves Me* or recite the *Lord's Prayer* – rinse and dry with clean paper towel. Have them use the towel to turn off the faucet and open restroom doors.

Teens & Homework

Teens: Okay, so school has started again, and once again you have an opportunity to get a fresh start in tackling homework – most high school students can expect 1-3 hours of study/homework each night. Here are a few tips to keep you “on top” of the work – a homework plan:

- Use a calendar/planner, and make sure you understand your assignment before leaving class.
- Try to get as much done before the end of school as possible – that way you can ask questions and get clarification from teachers.
- Pace yourself. Consider how much time it will take to finish your work at home, then budget your time.
- Find a place to work at home that has few distractions. Watching TV or listening to music may make concentration more difficult for you as homework becomes more challenging.
- Work on the more difficult stuff first – when you have more energy and focus. Save the easier stuff for later.
- Take a 15 minute break every hour to help improve concentration.
- Put the work in your backpack – it saves time and stress (yours and your family's) in the morning!



To Doodle or Not to Doodle?

Doodle up Better Recall. It's okay to doodle while listening to a monotonous phone call. British researchers claim that those who doodled recalled 29% more information than those who took notes. Their theory is that doodling may block daydreaming – keeping the mind focused on the information at hand. (Prevention, July 2009, pg. 74)

What does Your To-Do List Reveal?

Psychologist Sam Goslin, PhD claims that the way you keep your “to-do” list can reveal a lot about you: If yours is:



- scrawled on a paper napkin or tucked into a purse or drawer ... it could mean that you don't want to be ruled by your list or that you are spontaneous or creative.
- on Post-it notes ... your likely flexible and able to ‘go-with-the-flow,’ however, too many all over your desk probably indicate a lack of organization.
- on your computer and synced with your cell phone ... you are highly organized, but if you are too rigid, it could interfere with your creativity. (Prevention, July 2009, pg. 78)

St. Mark's Celebrations!

Happy



Birthday!

Happy
Anniversary!



Grace Arner

Anna Stiadle	09/01	Timothy Maggs	09/13
Todd Smith	09/03	Stefan Weber	09/13
Jeannette Lukens	09/04	Shirley MacGill	09/15
Brett Campbell	09/05	Andrea Welker	09/15
Lauren Campbell	09/05	Louella Bair	09/16
Valerie Doebler	09/05	Tammy Fitzpatrick	09/17
Sean Elkin	09/05	Aubreanna Doane	09/18
Hailey Jarrett	09/05	Deborah Holmes	09/19
Kirk Owen	09/05	Ashley Hallabuk	09/20
Derek Lewis	09/06	Richard Harris	09/20
Laura McCullough	09/06	Ronald Arner	09/22
Betty Rechel	09/06	Brittany Dewar	09/22
Debra Buckman	09/09	Noah Hallabuk	09/22
Nolan Ott	09/09	Jeffery Maggs	09/24
Hudson Ott	09/09	Aeric Powley	09/24
Ava Peluso	09/09	Richard Kneedler	09/25
Mary Clouser	09/10	Blanche Doebler	09/26
Jane Oakes	09/10	Abigail Robertson	09/26
Carol Harvey	09/11	Michael Elliott	09/27
Theodore Larson	09/12	Lawrence Satifka	09/28
Robert Myers	09/12	Bailey Sims	09/28
Beth Shafranko	09/12	Ralph Zeigler Sr.	09/28
Mary Ann Stiller	09/12	Harold Davis	09/29
Marion Waldeisen	09/12	Pamela Fink	09/30
Alice Helm	09/13		

Ronald &

09/03	Steven & Nancy Bieber Jr.	09/03
	Eric & Sharon Comini	09/03
	Tom & Helen Schramm	09/03
	Robert & Shelly Clokey Jr.	09/04
	William & Marion Waldeisen	09/10
	Johnny & Renee Hinds	09/19
	Michael & Jackie Kinney	09/25
	James & Donna Maule	09/27
	George & Kay Poliska	09/28
	Robert & Michele Ramsauer	09/28

This is St. Mark's calling...

It is time to check our records for accuracy. Two persons, and only these two persons, will be telephoning members of the parish in the coming months in order to correct or complete the information in our books.

Helen Schramm and **Kay Poliska** are the two persons authorized to make these calls. They will read the dates and other information that we have and ask for any additions or corrections that need to be made. They will also be requesting email addresses from members and friends of the parish. More and more of our communication is using this format, but it is a difficult and exacting job to collect these addresses and keep them accurate and up to date.

Please cooperate with these volunteers as fully as you can. When the information is entered into our computer, it will make our work of communication, birthday and anniversary remembrance, and other tasks so much easier. Thanks for your help!



HEALTH, HEALING & WHOLESOME

"Anyone who meets a testing head-on and manages to stick it out is mighty fortunate. For such persons loyally in love with God, the reward is life and more life. Don't let anyone under pressure to give in to evil say, 'God is trying to trip me up.' God is impervious to evil, and puts evil in no one's way. The temptation to give in to evil comes from us, and only us." (James 1:12-14, The Message)

Heading off to college for the first time can be an exhilarating experience for some – an opportunity to escape the watchful eyes of parents, and to make independent choices in anything from dorm décor, to which classes to take. There will also be temptations – including those that lead to the dreaded “freshman fifteen.” No longer just an urban legend, researchers have determined that freshmen on college campuses are predisposed to gaining an average of fifteen pounds during their first academic year – often in the first semester! A few will not gain any weight, while others will gain *more* than fifteen pounds. The reasons for this phenomenon are varied, and include:

- making poor choices from foods prepared by the campus food service
- eating on-the-run
- consuming commercial fast-food
- eating late at night
- sedentary life-style
- partying and alcohol consumption
- snacking between meals/while studying
- decrease in metabolism due to physical development – particularly for young women over-estimating portion size, etc.

Here are a few eating and tips that might help you avoid becoming one of the statistics:

- Take time for balanced meals – including breakfast. If you are in a hurry, reach for some yogurt and a piece of fruit to kick-start your metabolism.
- Balance meals with the “plate your portion” method. Fill half your plate with vegetables and fruits, one quarter with grain – preferably whole grain, and one quarter with a lean protein. A cup is roughly equal to the size of a baseball; a lean protein roughly the size of a deck of cards; 1 ounce/2 tablespoons – the size of a golf ball (for a nifty wallet-sized portion guide, see <http://www.webmd.com/diet/printable/wallet-portion-control-size-guide>)
- Don’t forget dairy – your bones continue to need calcium. If you cannot tolerate dairy, try a soy-based alternative. The protein in these products help you feel full longer.
- Drink lots of water. It is not only good for your body, but also contributes to feeling full. Drink water even if you don’t feel thirsty – by the time you develop a thirst, your body may be signaling that you are already partially dehydrated.

Healthy snacks to grab when you are hungry include: animal crackers, fruit, some energy bars (read the label!), nuts, high fiber cereal, popcorn without butter, baby carrots & celery, rehydrated soup mix, string cheese, yogurt or fruit smoothies.

Finally, avoiding weight-gain isn’t rocket science. Calories consumed must equal, or be less than, calories expended. Walk or bike to class; join an intramural sport; go for walks with friends; take a fitness class as an elective – try weight lifting or dancing; check out your campus gym – most have fitness centers offering free or greatly reduced memberships and classes. Try something different, such as yoga, Pilates, spinning, kickboxing or swimming. Strive for at least 30 minutes of physical activity each day.

*Summer blessings!
Debbie Best, Program Coordinator
Diakon Family Life Services & Congregational Health Ministries*

SPECIAL CONCERNS LIST

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

Edith Anderson
The Hillside
2725 Four Mile Drive
Montoursville, PA 17754

Nancy Bohartz
624 Sixth Ave.
Williamsport, PA 17701

William Confer
241 Country Club Lane
R.R. #3, Box 518
Williamsport, PA 17702

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

June Decker
Williamsport Home
1900 Ravine Rd., Room. 413
Williamsport, PA 17701

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, Rm. #306
1900 Ravine Rd.,
Williamsport, PA 17701

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

Gail Hoffman
153 Hampton Way
Montoursville, PA 17754

**Be faithful in small
things because
it is in them
that your strength
lies.**

~ Mother Teresa

Charles Homan
2215 Warrensville Rd.
Montoursville, PA 17754

Charlotte Hughes
140 Blueberry Lane
Williamsport, PA 17701

Anne Miller
947 Hepburn St.
Williamsport, PA 17701

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

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

Anna Stiadle
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Williamsport, PA 17701

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 Loyaltyock Drive
Apt 305
Williamsport, PA 17701

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

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

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

Website: <http://www.stmarkswilliamsport.org>
Email: stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org



Return Service Requested

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

Bazaar & Rummage Sale

Saturday, September 12th

9 am—2 pm



Please donate:

Attic Treasures Household Items China Small Appliances Books Suitcases Dishes Tools
Kitchen items Bric-A-Brac Sports Equipment Toys Games Candles Lamps Crystal
Camping Gear Pots N' Pans Baby items Pictures Bedding Gardening Jewelry Seasonal

Set up will be September 9 —11th from 9 am~12 pm

Contact Shirley Hill (323-7546) or Jane Kline (326-9672) if you can help