



# THE LION OF ST. MARK'S

NOVEMBER 2010

## All Saints Sunday November 7, 2010

We recognize and rejoice in all those who have joined the

### Church militant

by Holy Baptism in the past year:

Kyseem Smith	November 22, 2009
Tanya Sheets	April 03, 2010
Audrey Marie Bower	April 03, 2010

We honor and remember all those who have moved to the

### Church triumphant

in the past year:

Jonathon G Phillips	December 27, 2009
John L. MacMinn	March 10, 2010
Lois G Graybill	May 07, 2010
Carol S. Stackhouse	July 04, 2010
Jane P Oakes	October 04, 2010
Prudence Poff	October 10, 2010
Gail Hoffman	October 17, 2010

Pastor Elkin began a recent meeting with these words:

“Christ is risen! R. He is risen indeed!

Whenever we are working on a troublesome or contentious issue,  
let's keep our focus on the central thing,  
the most important thing in all the world. There is our message;  
all of our activities and decisions should reflect that wonder and truth.  
With that firmly in mind, let's get on with our work tonight.”

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## Council Notes

The congregation Council met in regular session on October 25 in the Crossways Room. The Council:

- ◆ met as a committee of the whole together with Mutual Ministry, Finance, Worship and Music and Search Committees. After considerable conversation, the Council decided to direct the Search Committee to advertize for a musician for a part-time position only.
- ◆ approved fee structure for interim musical leadership.
- ◆ received the regular reports of the officers, pastor, and committees.
- ◆ noted the appointment of Beth Shafranko as nominating committee chair for next year.
- ◆ noted that the Consecration Sunday yesterday netted 64 commitment cards and \$139,000
- ◆ concluded the meeting with Prayer at the Close of the Day in the chapel, with B. Shafranko leading.

The Council next meets on November 15.

## Parish Register

- ◆ Pastor Elkin officiated at the funeral service for Prudence Poff on October 13 in the nave, with interment in Montoursville Cemetery.
- ◆ Pastor Elkin officiated at the funeral service for Stephen Berndt on October 25 in the nave with interment in Wildwood Cemetery
- ◆ Pastor Elkin officiated at the funeral service for Gail Hoffman on October 28 in the nave, with interment in St. Mark's columbarium.

*The Office Staff wishes you a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday. May your heart be filled with gratitude as you remember the many blessings your Heavenly Father has lovingly showered upon you.*

## 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
Director of Music			Website: stmarkswilliamsport.org	
Bernadette Jones, Christian Education		bjones@stmarkswilliamsport.org	Gary Weber, President	322-7149
Michele Owen, Christian Education		mowen@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	Ken Shafranko, Treasurer	322-6005
Lou DeSeau, Environmental Services		ldeseau@stmarkswilliamsport.org	Kathy Eshelman, Stephen Ministry	323-1992

# W hat's in your P astor's day?

Folks are often curious as to what is happening in the Pastor's day. Often I don't know in advance; things come up that may have to get squeezed in between planned activities. Other things are postponed or rearranged. I took the time one day to keep track of all of the activities that transpired. Here is September 24, 2010, or at least as much of it as I could remember to note as the day progressed.

I got up at 5:00, and arrived at church at 6:00 AM.

- ◆ Moving slowly because of aches from outdoor work yesterday.
- ◆ Wrote and sent a personal thank you note.
- ◆ Responded to an email message from a colleague.
- ◆ Concluded the writing of the Sunday sermon that has been in process all week.
- ◆ Printed my copy of the sermon in large type.
- ◆ Printed 3 copies in large print in column format for the large-print bulletin books.
- ◆ Rescaled, printed, and folded sermon to make available for all who wish to have a copy on Sunday.
- ◆ Sent sermon by email to Gary Weber for posting on the website.
- ◆ Wrote the Prayer of the Church for Sunday.
- ◆ Led Morning Prayer at 9AM.
- ◆ Conversation with a member.
- ◆ Picked up a check at the Day-center.
- ◆ Greeted all the Lion crew as they finished their tasks.
- ◆ Assisted one of the crew to her car.
- ◆ Prepared bank deposit paperwork and made the deposit.
- ◆ Opened mail, quickly scanned and delegated.
- ◆ Consulted Lou DeSeau about a problem we needed to handle.
- ◆ Made a nursing home visit.
- ◆ Stopped off for a quick sandwich for lunch.
- ◆ Made a hospital visit and also saw the patient's relatives.
- ◆ Greeted a person in the hospital hallway at whose wedding I officiated several years ago and at whose son's funeral I officiated only a few weeks later.
- ◆ Gave directions to a lost driver.
- ◆ Set tables for the evening's American Guild of Organist dinner at church which Donna is to host, since she was at the hospital for tests.
- ◆ Caught up on the day's emails.
- ◆ Attempted a phone call to a member, not available.
- ◆ Made a birthday telephone call to a member.
- ◆ Caught up on information about the local Albright Care facility.
- ◆ Had an extended conversation with a member.
- ◆ Sometimes after 3 PM, went home.
- ◆ Watered the landscaping we planted yesterday.
- ◆ Two loads of wash.
- ◆ Supper alone since Donna was at AGO.
- ◆ Repaired a recliner chair.
- ◆ Prepared for the arrival of Donna's sister and her husband and family conversation time.
- ◆ Actually had to run the whole-house fan because it was such a warm evening.
- ◆ Got to bed sometime before 11 PM

And the day after that was completely different! If anyone would like to accompany me on one of these days, please call and I will be glad to negotiate a day with you. ~ Pastor Elkin



## Opportunities For Spiritual Growth

### Operation Thanks-Giving: Sending Cards to ELCA Missionaries

In 2009, the "first annual" Operation Thanks-Giving proved to be a blessing for those who made cards, those who distributed the cards to ELCA missionaries, and the missionaries who received them! Here's how to offer your "Thanks-Giving" this upcoming holiday season: Make "thankful for you" greeting cards for ELCA (International) Missionaries. They can be simple or elaborate, sentimental or silly. Send as many as you like. Sending 180 greetings would mean that every missionary household will receive one of your cards. Feel free to include an e-mail address; you may receive a "thanks for the thanks" note.

Mail these "random acts of appreciation" cards to:

ELCA Missionary Sponsorship (OT-G2), 8765 W. Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631

\*\*\*Cards will be mailed on November 10 and December 10 \*\*\*

Mail cards directly to specific missionaries (i.e., those you sponsor) and other service international personnel connected to you (e.g., members of your congregation serving in the military).

Your encouraging support is greatly appreciated! Your sustaining support is also needed.

Consider sending a gift for "ELCA Missionary Sponsorship" along with your cards. Find stories and pictures at <http://blogs.elca.org/handinhand>; see the "Operation Thanks-Giving" category button on the left. Share your OT-G2 stories and pictures with the Global Mission Support team: e-mail [globalmissionsupport@elca.org](mailto:globalmissionsupport@elca.org) or call 800-638-3522, ext. 2969. Learn more about ELCA Missionary Sponsorship at <http://www.elca.org/missionarysponsorship>.

### November 4, 2010: Retirement Workshop

"My Retirement Matters: Preparing for the future you want" is a free, values-based educational workshop. It will be offered at Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, 10275 State Route 44, Watsonstown, PA 17777, on November 4<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. By the end of the workshop, you will clarify your retirement vision, review retirement trends, income and expenses, and identify steps you can take now. The workshop will be presented by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans representatives David Saul and Kyle Natter. To register, Contact Holy Spirit Lutheran Church at (570) 649-5822.



<p><b>KIDS' MORNING OUT</b>  <b>SATURDAY</b>  <b>DECEMBER 11</b>            9:00 A.M. – 12 NOON            Look for sign-up list            In the staff hallway soon!!</p>		<p><b>ADULT COOKIE BAKE</b>  <b>SATURDAY</b>  <b>DECEMBER 11</b>            12:30– ???            Look for sign-up list            In the staff hallway soon!!</p>
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**Advance Notice – Mark Your Calendars Now!**


**Christmas Caroling To Our Shut-Ins, Sunday, December 12**



# St. Mark's Social Ministry

## Family Promise Hosting Week

Beginning Sunday, October 31, 2010 we are hosting children and their families experiencing a housing crisis. Four families totaling five adults, four school-age children and three infants are receiving hospitality at this time. Please pray for their well being as they seek affordable housing and sustainable jobs. Please also include in your prayers the many volunteers from St. Mark's that are providing meals and hospitality to these families. To learn more of this outreach or to volunteer in the future, speak with Jane Zimmerer or Becky Miller Pryor.

**Save the Date for a**   
**Saturday, Nov. 6th**  
**6:30 pm**  
**Benefiting**  
**Family Promise of Lycoming County**

**Mt. Laurel Room,  
 Pennsylvania College of Technology**

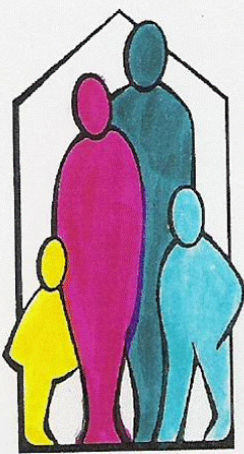
**Light Hors d'oeuvres with a  
 Cash Bar & Silent Auction  
 Cost: \$20.00 per person**

**Tickets are available from  
 Jane Zimmerer or Becky Miller Pryor**



## Passing on Faith: Third Grade Milestone

Our third graders will receive Bibles at the 10:30 service on November 21. 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.



## Family Promise at work!

Family Promise of Lycoming County is a very busy organization this fall. Here are some recent highlights of their activities:

- ◆ currently we are at full capacity, with 12 persons in four families in residence with us.
- ◆ referrals of families to FPLC are coming in all the time. On a recent day there were five!
- ◆ St. Matthew Lutheran will be hosting for the first time on the week of Thanksgiving. They have special activities planned for Thanksgiving Day.
- ◆ one of our guest families is "graduating". Mom has secured a job and she and her children will be moving to an apartment by mid-November.
- ◆ Becky Miller Pryor has concluded her service on the Board. She has been a part of the Family Promise movement from the very first night here in Williamsport. She will be continuing her role as a Co-Coordinator with Jane Zimmerer of our congregational hosting weeks at St. Mark's.

◆ Six new Board members have been elected from the community to increase the size of the Board and to share the work. The following will officially take office in January, even though they will be attending meetings before then to get up to speed: Deb Bechtel and Jeanette Kitchen for 3-year terms, Yvonne Shenuski and Ed Mertes for 2-year terms, Richard Green and Tonya Anderson for 1-year terms. They bring a wealth and variety of skills and experience to the governing Board.

◆ Contributions are very much needed, both for hosting week and for the common work of the network. Please speak with Becky P. or Jane Z. for specific needs.

◆ Please volunteer for one of the tasks for the week of hosting. Tasks are manageably small, but the cumulative effect of all of us working together is impressive. Please consider a task and sign up today!

# United Churches of Lycoming County



## Wednesday Ecumenical Lunches ~ 12 to 1 PM

A tasty \$6 lunch, warm, ecumenical fellowship & a thoughtful program designed to enrich your life mentally, physically, spiritually and socially at Pine Street U. M.  
**No reservations are necessary.**

- 3- **Rev. Velinda Webb**, Sojourner Truth Advisory Board, *"From Our Hands to Yours"*
- 10- **Mrs. Melissa Magargle**, Executive Director, Family Promise of Lycoming County *"A Community Response for Homeless Families"*
- 17- **Rev. Tom Reeder**, Rector, Christ Episcopal Church, Williamsport, *"From Desperation to Hope in Africa: How One Small Pennsylvania Church Is Doing Some-thing Huge for Orphans in Sudan"*
- 24- **To Be Announced**

## Woman's Day-long Retreat:

Pine Street United Methodist Church, 441 Pine St., Wmspt, Saturday, November 6 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**"Shaped, Formed and Molded by God: You are His Masterpiece"**

will be led by Rev. Danesta Whaley and her team. In addition to the retreat messages you will be treated to a light breakfast and a delicious lunch. The cost is \$20 per person and includes special gifts just for you.

Reserve your seat by Oct. 30, 2010.

Make checks payable to Pine Street UMC (memo: Women's Retreat). For details call 570-323-4604.



## 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**.

## Campus Ministry

Things have been busy on campus for the first part of the semester. It's hard to believe that the students are studying for their midterm exams already. We held a canned food drive in September and were pleased to fill an entire bin for the Food Pantry. We were happy to receive so much support from the students. We are looking forward to helping out with other service projects, including the Habitat for Humanity dinner and cleaning the Yokefellow Ministry house later on this month. So far in October, we have had great talks from Pastor Eric Deibler from St. Luke's and from Jim Foran from St. Joseph the Worker. If you are interested in sharing a discussion or bible study with the students at Penn College, please contact me. We are always looking for others to get involved with the ministry. With mid terms upon us, it's not too early to start thinking about the end of the semester. In the beginning of December, we hand out study bags filled with snacks, water bottles, and a few prayers for the students to let them know that people are thinking about them and praying for them while they studying and taking their exams. If your congregation would like to collect items for the study bags, I will be happy to pick them up for you. Also in December, St. Mark's will have a dinner/theater to help raise money for UCM and Family Promise. They will be performing "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens. Thanks for all of your support. Have a wonderful fall and get outside and enjoy God's awesome artwork.

**Sharon Comini, Coordinator**

Contact at: 570-419-5376 or [ucm@uclc.org](mailto:ucm@uclc.org)

## 64th Annual Assembly of the United Churches

Thursday, November 18 St. Michael Lutheran Church

Registration begins at 5:45 P.M. & dinner at 6:30 P.M.

Registration is \$10.00

Menu: apricot glazed chicken breast, parsley potatoes, green beans almondine, salad, rolls, apple & pumpkin pie, coffee & tea

Each person will also receive an annual report book.

**Reservations are needed by Wednesday, November 10th.**

Please call the United Churches office, 322-1110 or email [director@uclc.org](mailto:director@uclc.org) to make your reservation.



## FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

These are the items that are currently needed:

Oodles of Noodles  
 cake mixes  
 Spaghetti sauce  
 hot cocoa mix  
 canned fruits

canned fruit  
 frosting  
 elbow macaroni  
 chunky soups  
 tea bags

canned pasta  
 pasta products  
 powdered drink mixes  
 canned veggies  
 instant oatmeal

cranberry sauce  
 boxed stuffing  
 instant rice  
 sugar  
 microwave popcorn

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 to receive food are 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.



# ELCA ST. MARK'S WOMEN



St. Mark's Did it Again!  
GREAT JOB!!!



It was another banner year for the material goods from our congregation to Lutheran World Relief. A truck picked up all our donations, along with those from the other Lutheran churches in our area, and delivered them to the warehouse in New Windsor, Maryland.

They are now on their way to wherever needed over the world, including our own country.



Gifts from St. Mark's resulted in:

Quilts - 103	Layettes - 7
School Kits - 65	Sewing Kits - 4
Health Kits - 15	Soap - 38 pounds



Cash to purchase blankets in bulk - \$270.00

Thank you for being God's hands and heart to those in need!



## SPRING CLOTHING SALE CANCELLED

The Clothing Sale usually held at St. Mark's in April will not be held next year.

The clothing already in storage at St. Mark's  
was distributed to other local community charities.

In the coming months, when you wish to dispose of clothing that is in good and clean condition, we suggest contacting the following people:



Daniel's Closet - Contact Becky Miller/Pryor (321-9523)  
West End Community Center - Contact Linda DeSeau (323-9178)  
New Garment Agency - Contact Becky/Miller Pryor or Deb Buckman



Many thanks to everyone for your generous contributions in the past.

## Lunch 'N Fellowship

Wednesday, November 17th at Noon  
Baked Ham



Bring a side dish to share, a dessert & a friend!

## YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

### TRIP TO CORNING MUSEUM OF GLASS!!



**Look around you and you'll see glass everywhere!**

"At The Corning Museum of Glass, glass isn't just for looking at or looking through. At our Museum, you can explore, research, touch, work with, and interact with glass. A truly unique Museum experience, The Corning Museum of Glass offers:

- ◆ The world's best collection of art and historical glass. More than 45,000 objects trace 3,500 years of glassmaking history.
- ◆ Hands-on exhibits that tell the story of the science and technology behind innovations in glass.
- ◆ Live, narrated glassblowing demonstrations all day, every day.
- ◆ Make Your Own Glass, the Museum's unique try-it-yourself glassmaking program.
- ◆ A fully equipped glass working Studio offering year-round courses in all levels of glassmaking.
- ◆ The Rakow Research Library, the world's library of record and the finest collection of research materials related to the art, history, craft and technology of glass.
- ◆ An 18,000 square-foot Glass Market, where you can purchase glass treasures from around the world.

The Corning Museum of Glass is where the world—from serious scholars to those simply interested in discovering—turns to learn about the art, history, craft, or technology of this incredible material."

On Saturday, November 13, we will leave St. Mark's at 9:00 a.m. to travel to Corning, NY, for a day of fun and learning (and some fall foliage?)! We will eat at the museum—either in the facility or we can pack a lunch and tailgate. Depending on how late we stay, we will stop for a meal on the way home.

**Admission is free for all children & teens aged 19 and under.  
An adult day pass is \$14, seniors: \$11.90, AAA (with id): \$11.90.  
There is a café available on the premises, also a coffee shop.  
Kids' meals start at \$5-6.**

#### HANDS-ON OPPORTUNITY!

**Activities such as glassblowing, fusing, flame working and sandblasting are available  
BUT MUST BE PAID FOR WHEN WE RESERVE!**

**Please contact Bernadette for more information on these activities.**



### FINALS SURVIVAL KITS FOR OUR KIDS IN COLLEGE!

We would like to send finals survival kits to our kids in college:

Jaime Larson	Sara Larson
Brett Campbell	Lauren Campbell
Declan Jones	Sarah Buono

That's who we have on our lists—if you know of someone we've missed, please send us his or her name and address immediately! Please help us by donating candy bars, individual packs of crackers, hot cocoa packets, instant oatmeal packets, chewing gum, gummy candy packs, energy/granola bars—anything you can think of that isn't too heavy. If you cannot get out shopping, donations for postage would be appreciated. Please get your donations to us no later than Thanksgiving, so we have time to pack and ship the surprises!



# YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY



## FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES

The children's instruction continues at 3 PM on Sunday, November 7 and 14. The sacrament will be given on Sunday of Christ the King, November 21. Letters went out during the first week of October to those of the age at which instruction begins for this important step in their life in the church.

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



## ALL CHURCH FRIDAY FUN NIGHT November 19

This is the same night as the downtown holiday parade. Those who wish will walk over for the parade and return for hot chocolate and games (if there's time). We will be here for games for those who don't want to brave the elements and will wait to hear about it from those who do!!



## Looking ahead to December:

- 12/3 & 4 "A Christmas Carol" dinner theatre
- 12/11 Kids' Morning Out  
Adult Cookie Bake
- 12/12 Children's Church  
Caroling to shut-ins
- 12/15 Lunch 'n' Fellowship
- 12/17 Friday Fun Night
- 12/19 Decorate the Nave
- 12/24 Christmas Eve Services
- 12/26 Teen Movie Night



Attention Pre-Teens & Teens! (grades 6-12)

# LOCK-IN

Friday—Saturday, Nov 19-20, 2010  
Movies! Scavenger Hunt! Food!  
...and very little sleep...



Our middle-high school aged children may join us for the parade and/or games or arrive at 8:30 pm to stay the night.

We will have food, movies, discussion, more food and (maybe) some sleep. On Saturday, their service project will be painting the set for "A Christmas Carol" (to be presented December 3 & 4, benefiting United Campus Ministry) and their classroom mural.

They'll have brunch and be ready to be picked up by 2:00 pm.

## YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY



### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD GROUP PACK'N'WRAP! NOVEMBER 7 AT 11:47 (RIGHT AFTER 2<sup>ND</sup> SERVICE)

*We've been gathering items all year for the shoeboxes  
and received additional gifts & postage from the "admission" for Fall Fun Fest!*

So, on Sunday, Nov. 7, c'mon over to Fellowship Hall after church to join us for a light lunch of finger foods and the always entertaining wrapping of empty shoeboxes for the children to fill up with surprises for needy children around the world.

On Sunday, Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>, the children will process with the boxes for offering after Children's Church. (see next article) On that day, if you have prepared your own gift boxes at home, you are welcome to present your offering to the effort with the children. We will be taking the boxes to the collection center on Tuesday, November 16—so the absolute last chance to bring them here is that Sunday.

The cost of shipping each box is \$7, so if we have 30-40+ boxes as we have had in the past, the cost adds up quickly. If you would care to contribute to this expense, envelopes will be in the narthex on Sunday, Nov. 7 and Nov. 14, or you can send your gift to the office with the designation "Operation Christmas Child." As always thank you all for your generosity.



**CHILDREN'S CHURCH** will meet Sunday, November 14, at 10:30, in the chapel. The children's special offering this month is contributions for shipping costs for Operation Christmas Child! The children will process with the gifts that were wrapped the previous week and then add them to the offering in the front of the Nave. See you November 14!

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

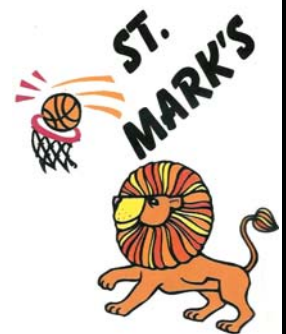
The John Bower Basketball League will be starting soon!

We'd like to have as many interested players come out as possible, so we can get an idea of what teams we can field!! Can we attain an older team this year??!

**Friends from other churches are welcome**—as long as they attend Sunday School at their home church and don't have a team there.

Practices began on Tuesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. If you want to play, please fill out a registration form in Michele's office ASAP. We need to know!!!!

Adults, feel free to help out Coach Rick, Coach Kirk and Coach Mike by volunteering to train our future "ballers". Contact the church office at 323-4619 or e-mail us through the website. C'mon!! Let's have some fun!



**NOVEMBER 28th 6:00 PM**  
**MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL AGE**  
**Bring a snack to share and a friend!**  
**Transportation Available!**

## YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY

**Start your Christmas shopping early...  
...and you don't even have to leave church!**



**Sandy Grier from *Along the Way* will offer a Book Fair for St. Mark's for one day only - NOV. 14<sup>th</sup>**

You'll have a chance to purchase quality Christian gifts/books for the entire family. There will be several Greater Gifts (fair trade) gifts from around the world as well as some terrific books for the entire family. Costs starts at \$.99 – so something for everyone. Plus 10% of all table sales is donated back to support our ministry here at St. Mark's.

Below are just a few of the books available on Sunday, November 14:

**Christmas Around the World** – Wonderful book sharing recipes, crafts, songs, etc. from around the world showing how other countries celebrate the Birth of our Lord.

**Celebrate Jesus! At Christmas** – This is a great book for families with discussions, interactions and focus on Jesus through: scripture readings; songs & hymns; devotionals and Advent wreath lighting.

**Christmas at Home Just for Kids Cookbook** – A unique collection of holiday recipes just for kids!

**Blessings and Prayers for Men** – a Devotional companion

**Life among the Lutherans** – based on Garrison Keillor's Lake Wobegon monologues. A collection of stories about the struggles of ordinary people in an imperfect world, the life and work of the pastor who leads them and the church to whose high standards they aspire in the small town they call home.

**Step by Step Christmas Crèche** – Countdown the days to Christmas! Day by day and step by step, make the models that build into a special Christmas crèche to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

**Sandy also has Thanksgiving books, small stocking-stuffer books and items for Advent!**

The book fair will be set up in Fellowship Hall after church—  
so stop by and see the Holiday collection of books and gifts for everyone on your list.

## Count Your Blessings Everyday!

Not what we say about our blessings, but how we use them, is the true measure of our thanksgiving. - W. J. Purkiser

When I'm worried and I can't sleep  
I count my blessings instead of sheep.  
- Irving Berlin



The hardest arithmetic to master is that which enables us to count our blessings.  
- Eric Hoffer

Envy is the art of counting the other fellow's blessings instead of your own. - Harold Coffin

Those blessings are sweetest that are won with prayers and worn with thanks.  
- Thomas Goodwin



Count your blessings instead of your crosses;  
Count your gains instead of your losses.  
Count your joys instead of your woes;  
Count your friends instead of your foes.  
Count your smiles instead of your tears;  
Count your courage instead of your fears.  
Count your full years instead of your lean;  
Count your kind deeds instead of your mean.  
Count your health instead of your wealth;  
Count on God instead of yourself.  
- Author Unknown



## YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY



On Friday and Saturday, December 3 and 4, 2010, LSM (Lutheran Shared Ministry) will present *A Christmas Carol*, dinner theatre style, in Fellowship Hall at St. Mark's Lutheran Church. All donations will go to United Campus Ministry.

Our cast is amazing this year (as it was two years ago)! Reprising their roles from the previous production are Nick Buckman (St. Mark's) as Marley and the Ghost of Christmas Present and Diana Zeigler (St. Mark's) as Mrs. Cratchit, with her two daughters, Anna and Laura, as two of the Cratchit children.

Joining us this year, from St. Michael, are Doug and Brian LeBlanc as Bob Cratchit and Fred/Young Scrooge, respectively. Julia and Nora Deibler came down Market St. from St. Luke to appear as the Charity Collector/MFF and the Ghost of Christmas Past. Proving this really is a family event, Emily Newcomer (St. Mark's) appears as Belle, while her father, Jim, steps in as the intimidating Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come.

Still more families participate as cousins Makensi Doebler and Annika Waffenschmidt (St. Mark's) portray two more Cratchit children and their grandparents join the carolers! Alex Griess (Messiah) solos and carols, while her brother, Dallas, makes his stage debut as Tiny Tim. St. Mark's own, Lou Kolb, narrates this classic tale of Scrooge, who is portrayed by Ben Hartman, of Lewisburg.

A list of all those joining the ranks of carolers will be published soon, after the first rehearsal on Sunday October 31. *A Christmas Carol* is adapted and will be directed by Bernadette Haas Jones.

Set Construction happens on Saturday, November 6, at 10:00 a.m. We would like to see at least one person from each congregation assisting with the meal and each of the technical areas (props, costumes, sets, etc.). Youth are needed to fill in as wait staff for one or both evenings. They will be instructed and supervised by an adult captain. Anyone interested in food service, please contact St. Mark's at 323-4619. Bernadette may be reached at [bjones@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:bjones@stmarkswilliamsport.org) to answer any questions you might have. Please join us in this wonderful opportunity for our churches to get together at this special time of year!!!

### In case you dozed off during October, here's what you missed:

- ◆ Cookout, hayride and corn maze at Snyder's Farm (about two dozen had a great time)!
- ◆ Children's Church (fun songs, great story, lots of participation)
- ◆ LSM's School of Religion (interesting topics, good company)
- ◆ CROP walk (wonderful weather, grand way to raise funds)
- ◆ John Bower Basketball sign-ups (it's not too late—contact Michele)
- ◆ Friday Fun Night (Sara & Bernadette were here—where were you?)
- ◆ Fall Fun Fest (about 30 ate, bobbed for apples, rustled through leaves for prizes & competed in Trinity Trivia)

**Check out what's happening in November for more fantastic opportunities for fun, fellowship and learning!**



**SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS ARE STILL NEEDED FOR SEVERAL MONTHS THIS YEAR! PLEASE CALL MICHELE TODAY!!**

**Thank you! Thank You! Thank you! Thank You! Thank you!**

Dear Congregation of St. Mark's,

Wow! What an awesome accomplishment in your recent donation of bags, upon bags, upon bags of food for the food pantry. Those who are struggling in these hard times are so very appreciative of your wonderful generosity.

Thank you so much for reaching out and sharing a piece of your abundance. May God bless all of you for your faithfulness and may you continue to share with others your love in Christ.

Blessings, Gail Burkhart, Food Pantry Coordinator



**Thank you God for all the people who prayed for Hudson and me when we were in mommy's belly and when we were babies. Thank you for all the gifts of love, diapers and clothes that helped us grow. Love, Nolan, age 3**

To the Members and Friends of St. Marks Lutheran, Greetings in the Precious Name of our Lord! Thank you so much for your check in the amount of \$37.50. Your continued support of this vital ministry is so appreciated by us. Our Lord is certainly on the move with fresh and new things He desires for us at Yokefellow. There are many things yet to be done, but with the help of friends and covenant brothers and sisters like yourself, His work will continue to move forward. We are anticipating many volunteers and partners who have a heart for the 'least of these'. Our Lord has commissioned us to minister to those behind the walls. As of August 2, I have come into this ministry as the new director. I am both humbled and honored to be chosen for this great harvest. I also continue as the assistant chaplain at Lycoming County Prison. I could certainly use your prayer support as we see together what is God's heart for His work to be done. Thank you again and may the Lord bless you richly.

Pastor Danesta Whaley, Director  
Yokefellow Prison Ministries

Dear St. Mark Lutheran Church, As the days get shorter and the leaves are starting to turn to beautiful fall colors, we here at Camp Mount Luther are reminded of the generosity of our friends and supporters. Because of people like you, we are able to continue to provide a Christian-based outdoor ministry experience for our participants. Through mountaintop experiences in the woods of Central Pennsylvania, children, youth, and adults grow in their faith and learn more about themselves and their world. Thank you for your recent Synod Benevolence (Annual) gift of \$100.00 recorded on 10/12/2010. We are truly grateful for our friends and supporters who are vital to what we do. Your support enables us to continue a tradition of providing a place set apart by God for worship, study, environmental education and Christian fellowship. We couldn't do it with the support of people like you.

Again, we thank you! God's Peace,  
Chad Hershberger, Executive Director, CML

A sincere thank you to Pastor Elkin and Kathy Eshelman for the very nice luncheon they provided for the Stephen Ministers. Thank you, too, to Bob and Bernadette for the excellent preparation and first class service. It was all so special and thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated by all who were present.

Again, Thank you!  
Connie Shaible

Dear Friends, Thanks so much for your support of our United Churches Ministry, both financially and through your prayers. Your contribution makes it possible for us to provide ministry in area institutions, to our community over the radio, TV, and newspaper, through the Shepherd Ministry and Food Pantry and to work with the churches in our county to do what we choose to do together. With a Passion for Unity,

Gwen Bernstine, Executive Director, UCLC

**Dear St. Mark's Family,**

**Thank you so very much for all the beautiful flowers that have been delivered to me. I also want to give thanks to my Stephen Minister who has been with me for almost three years. Also, I appreciate and am thankful for the weekly phone calls from my Friendship Ministry caller.**

**A life member of St. Mark's, Eleanor Sobers**

Thank you to everyone who brought food or gave monetary gifts for Harvest Home Sunday, October 10. Gail Burkhart, coordinator of the local United Churches Food Pantry is always grateful for the large amount of food she receives from our church family. (Ed. Note: See first thank you note.) There is always a greater need when fuel bills start to go up for the winter. Food and hygiene items can be brought in any Sunday and placed in a box located in the narthex. This is an ongoing project year round. Thank you again for helping those in need in our community.

Worship and Music Committee

# Happy Birthday!

11/01 Shawn Wright  
 11/04 Marguerite Smith  
 11/04 Elizabeth Ward  
 11/06 Samantha Kneedler  
 11/07 John Bower  
 11/07 Ann Kuntz  
 11/08 Paul Fornwalt  
 11/08 Brenda Gair  
 11/09 Cathy Fenderson  
 11/09 Becky Miller Pryor  
 11/11 Shawn Zimmerman  
 11/12 Pamela Davenport  
 11/13 Elizabeth Haussmann



11/17 Kyle Doebler  
 11/18 Ronald Baker  
 11/18 Donna Baker  
 11/20 Tracey Heaps



11/20 Donna Hutchinson  
 11/21 Ray Reams  
 11/22 Lisa Weaver  
 11/23 Robert Jones  
 11/23 James Newcomer Jr.

11/23 Ralph Thorne  
 11/25 Nancy Bieber  
 11/25 Stephen Dewar  
 11/25 Ashley Miller  
 11/25 Lois Smith  
 11/26 Shirley Miller  
 11/26 Lucia Walz  
 11/27 Shelly Clokey  
 11/27 Katlin Jensen  
 11/29 John Burkholder  
 11/29 James Gilbert  
 11/29 Matthew MacGill  
 11/30 Harold Hershberger

# Happy Anniversary!

11/05 Rick & Jennifer Robertson  
 11/06 Gregg & Kathleen Dancho  
 11/10 Charles & Ruth Ditchfield  
 11/12 Eugene & Reba Jacobs

11/18 Stephen & Candace Dewar  
 11/19 David & Cheryl Williams  
 11/19 Ralph & Lou Ann Zeigler Jr.  
 11/20 Robert & Mary Clouser

11/22 David & Nicole Walz  
 11/25 Michael & Tracie Elliott  
 11/26 Charles & Judith Fortin  
 11/30 Melvin & Melinda Wentzel

It's beginning to look a lot like **CHRISTMAS!**

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We need to begin in the very near future to prepare for our outreach to residents of the Selinsgrove Center and the Danville State Hospital. To assist our gifting at the Selinsgrove Center we need moisturizing body wash for sixteen ladies and non-refrigerated pudding cups in all flavors. Your donations may be placed in the tub in the Narthex.

Please also consider providing a Christmas gift to a resident of Danville State Hospital. Requests are generally modest and can easily be purchased at K-Mart or Wal-Mart. Specific gift requests will be available in the Narthex about mid-November. Speak with Becky Miller Pryor for additional information.



**THE TREES COME ALIVE THIS ADVENT SEASON!**

Alive with Teddy Bears, mittens, gloves, hats! Two trees will be ready to decorate with these items by Sunday, November 28. Please stop in Fellowship Hall and add your gift to the trees. The Teddy Bears will be given to the Williamsport Police, Wise Options for Women and the Pregnancy Care Center; and the mittens, gloves, and hats will be given to area families in need.



**ADVENT WREATH MAKING**

You...yes, you...and your family are invited to attend the annual Advent Wreath Making on Sunday, November 28, 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!





## HEALTH, HEALING & WHOLENESS

*"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:2)*  
*"Two are better than one ... if one falls down, his friend can help him up."(Ecclesiastes 4:9-10)*

### ***Holiday Visiting Tips:***

#### ***A Message for the Faith Community and Friends of Alzheimer's Families.***

People with dementia continue to relate to the world even without words. Most crave the company of people and conversations, even if they cannot participate as well as they once did. They often understand much of what you are saying, or at least pieces, even in later stages when they may be living in a care facility. KEEP TALKING! Become a good storyteller (or story reader). Reminisce out loud about shared memories. When you tell someone your stories or details of your life, the person listening feels important. They feel as if they still matter to others. For those of you who are social magpies ... after years of politely sharing conversation time, and not dominating discussion, THIS IS YOUR CHANCE! Feel free to help fill the gaps of the conversation. Enjoy yourself – the more you do it the easier it gets!

Alzheimer's and dementia families often look to the church as a special source of emotional and spiritual strength. For some caregivers who have been forced to give up other interests and activities, the church may be the last source of social contact and respite. These folks suggest a number of ways the church community can be supportive:

- ◆ Provide occasional relief from care tasks. Some churches provide meals for a month, or a summer of yard work, or minor home repairs for others in need.
- ◆ If you are delivering a meal, plan to share an occasional meal together.
- ◆ Transportation for the caregiver who does not drive.
- ◆ Assure non-judgmental acceptance of the family caregiver's style of managing.
- ◆ Cultivate community. Spend time, but on the caregiver's terms.
- ◆ Offer small surprises – a book you read and found meaningful, a box of herbal tea.
- ◆ Accept feelings without judgment, and maintain confidences. Recognize their need to grieve.
- ◆ Offer specific help. And check with the caregiver before initiating it. Circumstances can change from day-to-day. New needs arise, so be flexible – they know their situation best.
- ◆ Be dependable. Never offer any type of help unless you truly plan to follow through.
- ◆ Visit regularly if you can. If the loved one with dementia seems to enjoy the time with you, your visit was a lovely gift to him/her.
- ◆ If you will be making several visits, start a project that you can work on together with the person needing care. Wrap yarn balls or stack quilt pieces together.
- ◆ Persons in long-term-care facilities may miss touch, and enjoy having their hair brushed, or a gentle hand massage. Ask staff before offering the massage, and ask permission of the person with dementia as well. Remember that skin is often fragile, joints may be painful, or the care receiver may bruise easily. Ladies may also enjoy having their nails painted.
- ◆ Try to consciously balance your concern for both the caregiver and the care receiver.

Changes in memory and thinking can be frightening to the person with dementia. It is reassuring to know that despite his declining abilities, the church community still care and will not turn away from him. Remember, "An ear is worth a thousand tongues." Sometimes just listening is better than talking ... but not always!

*Thanksgiving blessings!*

*Debbie Best, Program Coordinator, Diakon Family Life Services*

***\*Note: This month's article contains notes and passages from: Ballard, E. & J. Whitney Duke. (November 2005).***

# SPECIAL CONCERNS LIST

**Patricia Alexander**

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

**Edith Anderson**

The Hillside, Room #109  
2725 Four Mile Drive  
Williamsport, PA 17701

**Nancy Bohartz**

624 Sixth Ave.  
Williamsport, PA 17701

**Marie Byerly**

Sycamore Health Center  
1445 Sycamore Rd. Rm. 547  
Williamsport, PA 17701

**Elizabeth Chrisman**

Valley View Nursing Center  
2140 Warrensville Road  
Montoursville, PA 17754

**Bonita Crossley**

R.R. #1, Box 1001  
Hills Grove, PA 18619-9300

**June Decker**

Williamsport Home, Room 404  
1900 Ravine Rd.  
Williamsport, PA 17701

**Larue Dieter**

2150 Warrensville Road, Apt. 2  
Montoursville, PA 17754

**Charles Ditchfield**

Valley View, Room 308  
Montoursville, PA 17754

**Beatrice Doebler**

Williamsport Home, C-1212  
1900 Ravine Rd.  
Williamsport, PA 17701

**Doris Fortin**

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

**Jean Gulliver**

Rose View Center, Rm. #332  
1201 Rural Ave.  
Williamsport, PA 17701

**Charles Homan**

2215 Warrensville Rd.  
Montoursville, PA 17754

**Ardath Houser**

Muncy Valley SKU #229  
215 East Water Street  
Muncy, PA 17756

**Charlotte Hughes**

140 Blueberry Lane  
Williamsport, PA 17701

**Eugene & Reba Jacobs**

1306 Faxon Parkway  
Williamsport, PA 17701

**Anne Miller**

947 Hepburn St.  
Williamsport, PA 17701

**Lillian Miller**

2420 North Hills Drive  
Williamsport, PA 17701

**Mary Helen Scinicarello**

Danville St. Hosp. #311  
Danville, PA 17821

**Eleanor Sobers**

425 W Highland Ave.  
S. Williamsport, PA 17702

**Anna Stiadle**

1900 A. Ravine Rd., Apt. 112  
Williamsport, PA 17701

**Ira Tuxford**

210 Louise Ave.  
Montgomery, PA 17752

**Beulah Wrede**

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

**Ralph Zeigler Sr.**

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

## 21st Annual Dialysis Benefit Concert

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send a check or money order  
specifying *Dialysis Benefit Concert*  
and payable to :

St. Luke Lutheran Church to:  
St. Luke Lutheran Church,  
1400 Market St., Wmspt., PA

**Non-Sponsorship Tickets:** Individual \$8.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Family \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**Special Opportunities for Sponsorship:**

	<b># of Tickets</b>	<b>In Honor of:</b>
Friend	\$ 25 - \$ 49 _____	_____
Giver	\$ 50 - \$ 74 _____	_____
Contributor	\$ 75 - \$ 99 _____	_____
Supporter	\$100 - \$249 _____	_____
Donor	\$250 - \$499 _____	_____
Benefactor	\$500 + _____	_____

**Prepaid Sponsorship benefits:**

\*\*\* A complimentary ticket for you and your guests.  
\*\*\* Your name will be listed in the concert program.

# ST. MARK'S NOVEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## 1 Monday

### Hosting FPLC

9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
10:30 AM Little Lambs Liaison Mtg  
6:45 PM Handbells  
7:00 PM Civic Chorus

## 2 Tuesday

### Hosting FPLC

8:00 AM City Pastors  
9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
6:00 PM JBBL Practice @ Cochran  
6:30 PM Mummers Banquet

## 3 Wednesday

### Hosting FPLC

9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
9:20 AM Staff Mtg & Quilting  
12:00 PM Bible Study  
3:30 PM Praisercise  
7:00 PM Worship & Music Comm. Mtg

## 4 Thursday

### Hosting FPLC

6:31 AM Men's Ministry  
9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
7:30 PM Senior Choir

## 5 Friday

### Hosting FPLC

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

## 6 Saturday

### Hosting FPLC

8:30 AM Women's Retreat @ Pine St. UMC  
10:00 AM CC Set Construction  
6:30 PM FPLC Silent Auction @ PCT

## 7 Sunday

### All Saints Day

8:00 AM Holy Communion  
9:15 AM Sunday School  
10:30 AM Holy Communion  
11:47 AM OCC Group Pack 'n' Wrap  
12:15 PM The Way Gathering  
3:00 PM First Communion Class  
4:00 PM Dialysis Benefit Concert

## 8 Monday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
6:30 PM UCM Faith Talk @ PCT  
6:45 PM Handbells  
7:00 PM Civic Chorus

## 9 Tuesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
6:00 PM Brownies  
6:00 PM JBBL Practice @ Cochran  
6:30 PM Finance Committee

## 10 Wednesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
9:20 AM Staff Mtg & Quilting  
12:00 PM Bible Study  
3:30 PM Praisercise

## 11 Thursday

6:31 AM Men's Ministry  
9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
7:30 PM Senior Choir

## 12 Friday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

## 13 Saturday

8:00 AM Corning Glass Museum

## 14 Sunday

OCC Shoeboxes Due  
Pentecost XXIV  
8:00 AM Holy Communion  
9:15 AM Sunday School  
10:30 AM Children's Church  
10:30 AM Holy Communion  
3:00 PM First Communion Class

## 15 Monday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
6:00 PM Civic Chorus Board  
6:30 PM Council Mtg.  
6:45 PM Handbells  
7:00 PM Civic Chorus  
7:00 PM Dog Club

## 16 Tuesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
6:00 PM JBBL Practice @ Cochran

## 17 Wednesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
9:20 AM Staff Mtg & Quilting  
12:00 PM Lunch 'N' Fellowship  
3:30 PM Praisercise

## 18 Thursday

6:31 AM Men's Ministry  
9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
9:20 AM Stephen Ministry  
5:45 PM UCLC Annual Assembly & Dinner  
7:30 PM Senior Choir

## 19 Friday

Newsletter Deadline  
9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
6:30 PM Friday Fun Night  
8:30 PM Lock-In Gr. 6-12 Begins

## 20 Saturday

9:00 AM Daniel's Closet @ Redeemer

## 20 Saturday

2:00 PM Lock-In Gr. 6-12 Ends

## 21 Sunday

### Christ the King

8:00 AM Holy Communion  
8:30 AM Book Fair  
9:15 AM Sunday School  
10:30 AM Holy Communion  
10:30 AM Passing on Faith  
11:45 AM First Comm. & Bible Milestone Luncheon  
12:15 PM The Way Gathering  
6:00 PM Confirmands, Parents & Mentors

## 22 Monday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
6:45 PM Handbells

## 23 Tuesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
6:00 PM Brownies  
6:00 PM JBBL Practice @ Cochran  
6:30 PM Family Promise Board

## 24 Wednesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
9:20 AM Staff Mtg & Quilting  
12:00 PM Bible Study  
3:30 PM Praisercise

## 25 Thursday

Office Closed  
Thanksgiving

## 26 Friday

6:30 PM Friday Fun Night

## 28 Sunday

### Advent I

8:00 AM Holy Communion  
9:15 AM Sunday School  
10:30 AM Holy Communion  
12:00 PM Advent Wreath-Making  
6:00 PM Teen Movie Night

## 29 Monday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
6:45 PM Handbells  
11:00 PM STS Retreat in Danville

## 30 Tuesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
1:00 PM Pastor returns from STS Retreat  
6:00 PM Family Promise Board  
6:00 PM JBBL Practice @ Cochran



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

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

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



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## Dancing on the Premises!

Join this group to start burning off the winter calories before they take hold! Using *Zumba* videos, *Latin Dance Tapes* (from DWTS), *Walk Away the Pounds* and any other videos that look interesting, we're going to get up and get moving! We're meeting Wednesday afternoons at 3:30, beginning November 3.

We welcome all levels of ability and ambition: if you want to get up and go full out or sit and do finger exercises, you are encouraged to join us—laughter has cardio benefits!! It could get ugly, but come anyway!! This is an informal group for all ages and spandex is not allowed!



There is no accredited instructor so, while some of us can help adjust activity levels—we are not trained (as will be obvious once you see us move!). Our goal is to have a good time and feel like we're not wasting it (time, that is). See you Wednesday!!