



THE LION OF ST. MARK'S

JULY 2011

Fourth of July Celebration



2010

With only a few days until the big day, much remains undone. We are in need of the following items for the more than 400 people who join us on our front lawn and in the Nave for our patriotic program.

- ★ Small pieces of candy (Tootsie Rolls, Bubble Gum, Suckers, Smarties)
- ★ Bottled water in 8 oz. and 16 oz. bottles
- ★ Individually bagged snacks (pretzels, fruit snacks)
- ★ Bags of popping corn
- ★ Lemonade and Ice Tea mix

- ★ Money to offset the cost of trinkets and hotdog rolls. Checks may be made payable to St. Mark's and earmarked for the Fourth of July.

But the biggest need is YOU!!!! We need folks to help set-up, serve drinks and snacks, pass out trinkets, pop popcorn, grill hotdogs and clean up before the start of the fireworks. The more folks who volunteer, the less time any one person needs to serve. Working together we can have a great event for the community and ourselves.



**To serve, speak with or call
Becky Miller Pryor @ 321-9523 ASAP.**



Habitat for Humanity Luncheon Wednesday, July 6, 2011 12:00 PM in Montgomery

St. Mark's is hosting a mid-week luncheon for a group of Habitat volunteers from Virginia at the newest build in Montgomery. The Social Ministry Committee is seeking donations of bottled water, jars of pickles and olives, cans of fruit cocktail, pineapple chunks, and mandarin oranges, a batch or two of homemade cookies and money to offset the cost of veggies, fresh fruit, hotdogs and rolls for 25 workers.

Speak with Becky Miller Pryor if you would like to help serve that day or to donate a food item. Checks may be made payable to St. Mark's and earmarked for the Habitat luncheon. Thank you for any assistance you can give.

INDEX & COUNCIL UPDATE

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Council Notes

- 1 The congregation Council met in regular session on
1 June 20 in the Library, since other parts of the building
2 were busy with hosting Family Promise.
- 2 The Council:
- 2 ✦ received the regular reports of the pastor, officers,
3 and committees.
 - 3 ✦ granted letter of transfer for Ann Jackson to St.
4 Luke.
 - 4 ✦ noted that parents will need to supervise their own
4 children in the nursery henceforth.
 - 4 ✦ set the date of October 16 for Consecration Sun-
5 day, and reciprocating with St. Luke on October 30
 - 6 ✦ granted letter of commendation to Faith U.M., Mon-
6 toursville for Brittany Dewar Frey.
 - 7 ✦ moved to the Chapel for Prayer at the Close of the
8 Day.

The council selected Gary Weber and Beth Shafranko to represent St. Mark's at the Synod Assembly. Especially since it was the first time for them to attend, they appreciated the opportunity to serve and learned much about the operation of the church beyond the congregation.

Parish Register

- ✦ Pastor Elkin officiated at the graveside service for Betty Fry (mother of Linda DeSeau) in St. Michael's Cemetery, Quiggleville, on June 11, 2011.
- ✦ Pastor Elkin officiated at the funeral service for Nancy Bohartz in the nave on June 10, 2011, with burial in the Montoursville Cemetery.
- ✦ Pastor Elkin officiated at the funeral service for Harold Davis on May 31, 2011 in the Allen & Redmond Home with burial in Wildwood Cemetery.

Staff & Officers Contact Information

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------|-----|----------|
| stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org | Website: stmarkswilliamsport.org | Church Office | 323-4619 | fax | 323-2452 |
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| Susan M-Smith, Parish Secretary | smsmith@stmarkswilliamsport.org | Ken Shafranko, Treasurer | | | 322-6005 |
| Richard Wagner, Financial Secretary | rwagner@stmarkswilliamsport.org | Mel Wentzel, Director, <i>The Way</i> | | | 327-8286 |
| Lou DeSeau, Environmental Services | ldeseau@stmarkswilliamsport.org | Kathy Eshelman, Stephen Ministry | | | 433-0522 |

Of Interest

The Second Annual Amazing Grace Tour

Saturday, August 6, 2011, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Join in visiting some of Williamsport's beautiful houses of worship this year. Included in each tour will be music, architecture, stained glass windows, history and refreshments. The Williamsport Houses of Worship included in the 2011 tour are:

St. Boniface Catholic Church
 New Covenant United Church of Christ
 St. Mark's Lutheran Church
 The Salvation Army
 Holy Cross Orthodox Church



The cost per ticket will again be \$10 and the proceeds will go to the Salvation Army and to the United Churches' Shepherd of the Street Ministry. Reserve the first Saturday in August in your calendar and enjoy learning more about our wonderful churches! For more information contact Gwen at United Churches, 322-1110 or uclc@sunlink.net. We also have tickets available in the office or after service in the narthex. Checks should be made out to United Churches of Lycoming County.

Special this year...

As you may have noticed from the list above, *St. Mark's has been added to the tour schedule!* This is a wonderful opportunity to let others know about our heritage and our beautiful house of worship. We need your help in the following areas:

- ☞ Docents: *these volunteers would be stationed throughout the nave, ready to speak about the windows in their area or answer other questions from our guests*
- ☞ Resource host/hostess: *this volunteer would be stationed in the narthex, ready to hand out programs and information on St. Mark's*
- ☞ Hospitality host/hostess: *light refreshments will be offered in the narthex, help is needed in organizing, preparing and serving these to our guests*

This is a great occasion for the family of St. Mark's to put their best foot forward and extend a warm welcome to these visitors from all walks of life. Talk to Pastor of Bernadette regarding your interest.

MEDICARE 101

At Luncheon Fellowship at noon on September 21, Mr. Tom Kapustic of Health America will present an informational seminar called "Medicare 101." It is hard work for us all to keep straight all of the twists and turns of health insurance, and this seminar will help with solid basic information. Here are some of the topics that will be covered in the hour presentation:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| What is Medicare? | Enrolling in Medicare. |
| What Medicare Part A pays for. | What Medicare Part B pays for. |
| What is not covered by Parts A & B. | Your Medicare choices. |
| Medigap plans. | Medicare Advantage plans. |
| Medicare Prescription drug coverage. | Appeals. |
| Patient rights. | Types of beneficiary complaints. |

This is an informational event, not a sales talk. In fact, by regulation the presenter is not permitted to promote his business at this event. He will have business cards available for any who wish to contact him at a later time, but the information given on September 21 is applicable to whatever insurance carrier one chooses to patronize.

United Churches of Lycoming County

Grace and peace to you in our Lord Jesus Christ,

During the past months, I have been asked many times: "Has the poor economy affected the Shepherd of the Streets?" Yes, it has. This economy has brought a hectic pace and stress to the Shepherd ministry. Only the joy of ministering to the poor has given us peace. The hectic pace was induced by a decrease of donations and an increase of clients.

It has been difficult to balance income with outgo. I have had to raise my eyes to heaven and ask the Lord to give both the provision and the wisdom to use it. When what we do has to do with health and safety, I could only help until I had no more funds and then wait a few days until more funds came in.

This means the sign, which causes dismay on both sides of it, had to be put in the door more often: **WE HAVE NO FUNDS.** Yet, I believe a recessive economy has a peculiar effect on the faithful.

We know that we participate in God's mercy by being merciful.

We know that we become a part of the divine enterprise by participating in the works of God.

We know that the genuineness of our love is proven by our concern for others.

We know that our Lord Jesus Christ became so poor that by His poverty we might become rich.

We know that if we give ourselves to the Lord that the Will of God is accomplished through us.

We know that when others are enriched by our generosity that it produces thanksgiving to God.

We know that when we give, there is given back to us a far more blessed thing.

We know that we are not only supplying the real needs of the poor, but we are glorifying God in doing so.

This is our summer appeal. Please give, for if the eagerness is there, whatever you give is acceptable. If you have little it becomes part of the much, if you have much it becomes more by the little. And it is all to the glory of God.

Yours in Christ, Deacon Smith, Shepherd of the Streets

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 weekly. The phone number is 570-322-5762.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

These are the items that are currently needed:

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------------|-----------|
| mac n' cheese | canned fruit | tea bags |
| granola bars | cake mixes | frostings |
| canned veggies | spaghetti sauce | coffee |
| Ramen Noodles | jello mixes | crackers |
| pancake mix | pancake syrup | mustard |
| Ketchup | powdered drink mixes | |

Donations are received Monday mornings from 9:30 - Noon. Appointments to receive food are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 am - 3 pm and when necessary at other times as well. Gail Burkhardt is the UCLC Food Pantry Coordinator and may be reached at 322-1657.

The Shepherd of the Streets



needs regular sizes of:
 deodorant, soap, combs,
 razors, shaving cream,
 shampoo, conditioner,
 towels, wash cloths,
 toothbrushes, toothpaste,
 tissues, toilet paper,
 women's hygiene products,
 baby shampoo, oil, powder,
 diapers, baby swabs, and wipes.

ELCA Women Fall Bazaar

Spring Cleaning for the Fall Bazaar

Saturday, October 1, 2011 9:00am – 1:00pm

Although we are not having a clothing sale this spring, the Women of St. Mark's still need your house-wares and other items for our annual Fall Bazaar. Spring cleaning donations may be placed in the Bazaar Room in the basement.

Please consider donating your seasonal clothing to Daniel's Closet.



Love ~ Pray ~ Share

Make up a kit for someone who is suffering!

Did you get a bag to fill for a School Kit? You may prefer to make up one of the other kits that Lutheran World Relief distributes. Please note that the guidelines have changed for three of the kits. Soap bars are also again being collected.

PERSONAL CARE KITS (formerly Health Kits) – People who must leave their homes suddenly will want to wash away the dirt and sweat. Wrap the following items in the towel and tie securely.



- 1 bath-size towel (approx 52" x 27"), dark color recommended
- 2 bath-size (4 to 5 oz.) of soap, any brand, in original wrapping
- 1 adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging
- 1 sturdy comb, remove packaging
- 1 metal nail clippers, remove packaging

BABY CARE KITS (formerly Layettes) – To a mother living in poverty, the following items can give warmth and comfort, and soap to keep the germs away from her precious baby. Gently used, clean items (no stains or tears) can be substituted for new ones. Varying the sizes of clothing will help as the baby grows. Wrap all the items in one blanket and secure with pins.

- 2 lightweight cotton t-shirts
- 2 long or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers without feet
- 2 receiving blankets, medium-weight cotton or flannel
- 4 cloth diapers, flat fold preferred
- 1 jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with a hood, or include a baby cap (Size up to 24 months).
- 2 pairs of socks
- 1 hand towel, dark color recommended
- 2 bath-size bars (4 to 5 oz.) of gentle soap, in original wrapping
- 2 diaper pins or large safety pins



FABRIC KITS (formerly Sewing Kits) – Sewing is a valuable skill that can lead to an income for men or women. Fold the thread and one piece of fabric inside the other piece and tie with yarn, ribbon, or strip of fabric. (No knits, 100% polyester)

- 2 pieces of cotton or cotton-blend fabric cut into pieces measuring
- 3 yds. of 44" wide fabric or 4 yds. of 36" wide fabric
- 2 spools of matching general purpose thread, 250-300 yds. Each

SCHOOL KITS – School Kits give children in impoverished schools, refugee camps, or other difficult settings some basic tools for learning. Remove excess packaging and pack all the items in the cloth bags that have been provided. Secure with rubber bands.



- Notebooks approx. 8" x 10 1/2" with 150-200 sheets (no loose-leaf)
- (3 of the 70-sheet notebooks are preferred.)
- 1 blunt scissors (metal blades)
- 1 box crayons (16 or 24)
- 6 unsharpened pencils w/erasers
- 1 pencil sharpener
- 1 eraser approx. 2 1/2" long
- 1 ruler (12" or 30 cm.)
- 12 sheets construction paper



SOAP – Soap keeps hands clean, germs at bay, and helps people present themselves with dignity.

New bars of any brand in the original wrappers are requested. All sizes are accepted, but bath-size (4 to 5 oz.) are preferred.

SCHOOL BAGS FOR NEEDY KIDS

Even though school is nearly finished for the year, we need to think about next fall. Empty bags to be filled with school supplies will be in the Narthex during June.

Help yourself to one (or more) bags.

Over the summer, watch for sales or specials on the items listed on each bag.

Place the completed bags in the box in the Narthex.

In September they will be packed and sent to children all over the world who have barely enough food to eat, let alone the luxury of materials with which to learn.

ITEMS NEEDED FOR EACH BAG



- ⌘ Notebooks approx. 8" x 10 ½" with 150-200 sheets
- ⌘ (3 of the 70-sheet notebooks are preferred)
(no loose-leaf/binder sheets)
- ⌘ 1 blunt scissors (metal blades)
- ⌘ 1 ruler (12" or 30 cm)
- ⌘ 1 pencil sharpener
- ⌘ 6 unsharpened pencils w/erasers
- ⌘ 1 eraser approx. 2 ½" long
- ⌘ 12 sheets construction paper
- ⌘ 1 box crayons (16 or 24)



Family Promise

Hosting Week a Success

From June 19, 2011 to June 26, 2011 we hosted four families / 12 people experiencing a housing crisis. All of the families were very neat, pleasant and expressed thanks for the safe harbor St. Mark's provided for their children and themselves.

Jane Zimmerer and Becky Miller Pryor wish to thank the many volunteers who set-up Fellowship Hall and the four bedrooms, prepared meals, washed dishes, baked wonderful cakes, pies, and cookies, played with the children, chatted with the adults, drove the van in the morning and evening, slept over, cooked breakfast on the weekend, donated groceries and money, cleaned up at the conclusion of the week and did laundry for the next hosting week.

A special thank you is given to Larue Dieter for the many hours she spent telephoning the many volunteers needed to make hosting possible. Without her help Jane and Becky would have been overwhelmed. Thank you, thank you, thank you!



Mark your calendars now for our next hosting week. It is September 11 – September 19, 2011. **How best can you answer Christ's call to serve?**

ELCA Local, National & International News

[USSWO 24th Annual Convention](#)

The Upper Susquehanna Synodical Women's Organization Annual Convention will be held on Saturday, July 23, 2011, at the Evergreen Center at Camp Mount Luther, 355 Mt. Luther Lane, Mifflinburg. Registration is from 7:30-8:30 a.m. Cost is \$40 again this year for all attendees. June Bricker, the new head chef at Mount Luther, will provide refreshments during registration and a roast beef dinner for lunch. We will experience together worship, Bible study, business, a workshop, much fellowship, and fun. Contact the synod office for more information and registration material as well as delegate nomination forms.

[DC Mission Trip for Youth Has Openings](#)

The Tulpehocken Conference is sponsoring a Mission Trip to Washington DC for youth in Grades 7-12 on Saturday July 30 through August 2. The group will stay at the Steinbruck Center at Luther Place Memorial Church and will be exploring the roots of poverty and homelessness as they serve in the name of Christ. Space is limited, but there are a few openings still available for interested youth within our synod. One or two adult sponsors are also welcome. Approximate cost (for program and housing) is \$120 plus meals. If interested or for more information, please contact Pastor Rich Fangmann at 570-286-6459 or by email at pastorrich@ptd.net.

[Another ELCA Synod Sets Up Disaster Fund](#)

The Central States Synod has set up a "Peace Joplin Fund" to receive monies from congregations and synods in response to the tornado in Joplin, MO. Peace Lutheran Church, an ELCA congregation, was destroyed in the tornado. Checks can be made payable to St. Mark's, making sure the purpose is clearly defined in the memo area.. Funds used for Peace Lutheran Church will be dispersed in consultation with the congregation, in whatever way the congregation needs assistance, including, but not limited to, rebuilding, replacement of equipment, supplies and other property, and pastoral care and spiritual counseling for the members. When the needs of the congregation are met, then any excess monies will be used to assist people in need in the community.

[A Season of Prayer with the People of Sudan](#)

From ELCA Advocacy Ministries: Prayers are always in order, particularly as July 9th approaches when South Sudan will become an independent nation. Remembering the role prayer played in the days before the January 2011 referendum on self-determination for South Sudan, a number of faith communities will again come together in a Season of Prayer with the people of Sudan in this time. Specifically, we are invited to pray for thirty minutes each Friday until July 9. In the United States, we are called to pray at 11:00 a.m. And we have invited our sisters and brothers in Sudan to pray with us at 7:00 p.m. in their country. Pray at these times or whatever time works for you; pray wherever you are; pray individually or gather with your congregation, ecumenical or interfaith community; pray in any manner you feel comfortable praying.

[Weather-related disasters hit US](#)

Recently, several U.S. weather-related disasters have claimed lives, displaced families and caused massive destruction to homes, businesses and farmland. LWR joins you in prayerful concern following the Southeast U.S. tornadoes (April 27, 2011), Mississippi River flooding (May 19, 2011) and the Midwest tornadoes, including the deadly tornado that struck Joplin, Mo. (May 22, 2011).

Our friends at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Domestic Disaster Response, The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod (LCMS) World Relief and Human Care, and Lutheran Disaster Response are actively responding to these and other U.S. disasters.

By special request from International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), a longtime partner in distributing LWR quilts and kits overseas, Lutheran World Relief provided a small supply of School Kits and Quilts to supplement of other relief supplies sent to the affected areas in Alabama as part of IOCC's emergency response.

To learn more about the Lutheran response to U.S. disasters and to make a gift of support, please visit or call:

[ELCA Domestic Disaster Response](#)

Fund name: U.S. Severe Spring Storms
800.638.3522

[LCMS World Relief and Human Care](#)

888.930.4438

[Lutheran Disaster Response](#)

800.638.3522

Thank you for your compassionate concern and for your support of Lutheran World Relief.

Lutheran World Relief is a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS), individuals and parish groups in international relief, development, advocacy and social responsibility. LWR is a member of Action by Churches Together.

From the Pastor's Pen ...

The annual Synod Assembly has come and gone. I was present. I greeted various acquaintances. I was asked to play a hymn to begin one session. When a discussion became too tangled, I moved to table it to give folks time to sort things out behind the scenes rather than on the floor. I said nothing else publicly. I left.

As one could tell from the above report, my enthusiasm for the Synod's activities is very faint. I found it astounding that the assembly moved along as though everything is normal. We're acting as though there is no problem even though giving is down, attendance at worship is taking a nosedive, and by the way, 480 congregations have left the ELCA. Might there be serious reasons for this, and might those reasons give pause to the church's leadership? One would never guess that from what I felt to be the head-in-the-sand, everything-is-just-fine approach to life in the part of the church beyond the local congregation.

The Council has asked me to address some of this in summer forum time this year. The first two sessions have already been held under the title The Bible and the Church's Worship. We are discerning how deep and important the connections are between them, and then we'll explore the connections of the Bible with other parts of our lives as Christians. That will eventually lead us to discussion of current issues in the church. Anyone can join the conversation in the Middle Lounge at 9:15 each week.

FAMILY PROMISE FUNDRAISER—ALL THEY NEED IS YOUR TIME!

Family Promise has added a new fund raiser to help cover costs: they will be managing a concession at Little League. This promises to be a major fund raiser for them. We've done this before folks!! When the Arts Council needed our help for Mural Canyon, many of us showed up to assist. This is the same thing for a very worthy cause...what can you do??

Their dates are August 18, 19, 20 and 28th. from 8am to 11pm. The shifts for each day are:

(8:00 - 11:15), (11:00 - 2:15), (2:00 - 5:15), (5:00 - 8:15), (8:00 - 11:00)
(9:00 - 12:15), (12:00 - 3:15), (3:00 - 6:15), (6:00 - 9:15), (9:00 - 11:00)

The shifts overlap so that everyone is not leaving at one time. Anyone 16 years of age or older is welcome. It's great fun and an opportunity to work with and for great people! Invite friends and family!!!

If you can help, please contact Melissa at familypromiselycoming@hotmail.com or (570)567-7103.

FUN ' N ' FELLOWSHIP



→FUN NIGHT←

July 16

Okay...we don't play with our food or eat our games.

But, we do bring yummy treats and have a great time!!

Won't you please join us at 6:30 p.m.,

Friday, July 16, in Fellowship Hall?



LUNCH ' N ' FELLOWSHIP

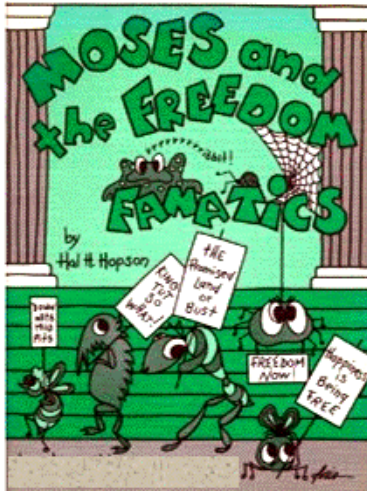
Chef-in-Training!!!

Devin says, "Come, EAT!"

On July 20th, our young chefs will prepare a mid-day meal of Beef Tips accompanied by your choice of noodles, rice or taters.

Please bring a dish to share.

MUSIC!



**GET YOUR CALENDAR...
WE'LL WAIT...**

NOW, WRITE THIS DOWN:

You know, you're really not giving yourself enough time to plan for this.

◀ Look. It's **NEXT MONTH** from July 31 through Aug. 6, and we need you to participate in

St. Mark's Summer Music Camp!

MOSES and the FREEDOM FANATICS is a musical drama by Hal Hopson (we've presented several of his cantatas) about the Exodus! There are several solo parts (Moses, Aaron, Pharaoh, Miriam and a couple more), *but we need all of you!!*

On each of the following evenings, there is a **5:30 p.m. meal** in Fellowship Hall. We begin rehearsal promptly at **6:00** and go until **7:30 p.m.** on:

Sunday, July 31

Monday, August 1

Tuesday, August 2

Wednesday, August 3

Thursday, August 4

Friday, August 5

SATURDAY, AUG. 6: 9:30 a.m. FINAL REHEARSAL

6:00 p.m. TUREEN MEAL (meat will be provided)

7:00 PERFORMANCE in Fellowship Hall

SUNDAY, AUG. 7: FINAL PRESENTATION FOR THE 10:30 SERVICE

A **CD** is being prepared so that each family may have a copy. We are sure that playing the tape every day will help with the learning of the music and words!

WE HOPE THAT YOU WILL MAKE PLANS TO BE PART OF THIS SPECIAL SUMMER EVENT!!

It will surely be an exciting, intergenerational event, with the music being sung

by all ages, kids through adults!! But, beyond the cast, **WE NEED HELP!!**

In a nutshell, we need everyone!!! Sewers, carpenters, painters, phone callers...you name it, we need it!! Stay tuned for more information!!!

Please contact Bernadette or Jungwha to let them know of your interest.

YOUTH & FAMILY

Little League Grand Slam Parade Wednesday, August 17!

Our theme: *"Benched...for Life"*

We have volunteers for construction; we have a trailer; we will need volunteers to assist with painting, cutting, etc.



One tentative work day is Saturday, August 13, at 9:00 a.m. Anyone who wants to help, please call the office or email Bernadette.



We need a total of 5 youngsters to volunteer to ride on the float—and will be taken on a first contact, first on board basis! We also need 6 adults to walk along...this is a new rule with the parades to insure the safety of the viewers.

Keep your eye on the bulletin and next month's Lion for other work dates and further info. We need your support!



Sunday, July 20, 6 pm
Bring a treat and join us!

TWEENS' DAY

for those entering 5th or 6th grade

Wednesday, July 20

9:30 - 2:30

movie, lunch and service project



Yes, we realize it just seems like yesterday that the school year ended. But, we are asking you now to look at your schedule for the coming year to find a month or two (or three? or more?) that you can assist our children by teaching Sunday School.

This is one of the most valuable and rewarding ministries of St. Mark's: creating the foundation on which the church can grow in years to come. Please search your hearts, talk to those who are already involved and call the office today to volunteer (or email or facebook Michele).



CATECHETICAL NEWS



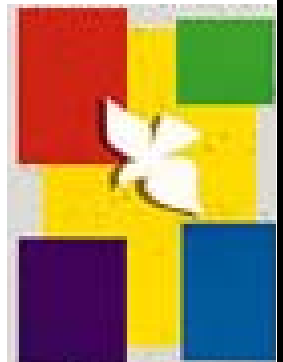
Having finished their course of study for this school year, our confirmands—Dustin, Jarrett, Morgan, Ezra, Laura, Anna, and Kara—are ready to go with confirmation camp on July 10-13. On Sunday, July 10th, they will meet with their parents, Bernadette and Pastor to get an overview of the coming days. Then, it's off and running on Monday morning as they begin their three days of intense study with Pastor Elkin! The families and mentors finish the series on Wednesday evening with a picnic/pool party at the Elkins'.

These seven have met with their families and mentors (Rick, Eric, Kirk, Nick, Karen, LuAnn and Mary) the third Sunday of every month since September, studying the gospel according to Luke and exploring different aspects of worship, prayer and service, as well as doing some service projects with their mentors.

When you see any of these young people, please thank them for their services and encourage them in their studies.

NEW CATECHETICAL CLASS FORMING!

Letters inviting students to become a part of the confirmation process will soon be going out. If you have a student in sixth or seventh grade and do not received one of these letters, **PLEASE LET US KNOW!** Sometimes we miss things in the computer systems. 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, email (addresses in the front of the newsletter), or facebook.



SAVE THE DATE!!!

Jarrett Eyer and Dustin Pelleschi are being confirmed on SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2011!

With Confirmation Camp, they will have finished their two-year course of study. Their mentors are Eric Comini and Rick Robertson.



YOUTH & FAMILY THANK YOU



Our St. Mark's family traveled to China this year for vacation Bible school. During their adventures, they learned how God made us, listens to us, watches out for us; how He loves us...no matter what!!

They learned six new songs with lasting meanings and were actively involved in the Bible stories: showing what God made during creation, Elijah building the altar to praise his God, going inside

the belly of the big fish (yes...all of them at once...ask them about it!), and experiencing the fear and faith of the early Christians while hearing of Paul's distress over his denial. Almost 40 children and youth were involved and, together, collected almost \$135 for Operation Rice Bowl, which helps starving children in southern Asia. It was an exciting week built on one of the best VBS programs we've ever used.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!

HOW MANY TIMES CAN WE SAY IT?

THANK YOU!!!

The following people were just amazing and we couldn't have had such a successful VBS without them:

| | | |
|----------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Shirley Kinney | Jackie Kinney | Lois Smith |
| Donna Elkin | Becky Miller Pryor | Hannah Ramsauer |
| Vicki Hausmann | Sarah Buono | Chele Fredericks |
| Kathy Eshelman | Sara Jones | Laura Zeigler |
| Shelby Weber | Mindy Wentzel | Christina Comini |
| Diana Zeigler | Roxie Larson | Megan (Christina's friend) |
| Morgan Comini | Michele Owen | Kirk Owen |
| Sharon Comini | Susan Mahserjian-Smith | Eric Comini |
| Lou DeSeau | Codi Zanella | Gary Weber |
| Brenda Gair | Becky Harding | Sally Bjornstad |
| Mel Wentzel | Dick Lakey | Max Hospes |
| Devin Owen | Riley Weber | Corey Hospes |
| Anna Zeigler | Bernadette Jones | Dan Zeigler |
| Jungwha Kim | Sierra Stautinger | |
| Katie Schmitt | | THANK YOU!!! |

A very special thank you goes out to Ruth and John Burkholder, who made the wonderful "God made me" figures for the children's first-day craft at PandaMania. They do so much for our milestones and other programs; most of our church family have at least one keepsake made with love and care by these two special people. Thank you, John & Ruth.

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

...AND WHILE WE'RE THANKING FOLKS...

Thanks go out to all those who assisted with the annual picnic contributed to one of the most enjoyable events this year!! Any of you who weren't able to attend missed out on a great time with the best picnic weather ever!! We gratefully thank the following people:



| | | |
|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Michele Owen | Devin Owen | Lou DeSeau |
| Kirk Owen | Bob Jones | Pastor Elkin |
| Christina Comini | Riley Weber | Trish Hershey |
| Theoron Hershey | Morgan Comini | Ezra Buckman |
| Sara Jones | Kara Hershey | Stefan Weber |

and all who assisted with set-up and clean-up.

FOR PICTURES AND INFO OF THIS AND OTHER EVENTS, CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE AT www.stmarkswilliamsport.org



Michele and Bernadette would like to thank the teachers and helpers who gave of their time and talents to our Sunday Church School students this past year. We have a very dedicated group and we couldn't have done it without you!

Sally Bjornstad
 Karen Boone
 Deb Buckman
 Nick Buckman
 Eric Comini
 Sharon Comini
 Kathy Dancho
 Lou DeSeau

Pastor Elkin
 Brenda Gair
 Vicki Hausmann
 Joyce Hershberger
 Trish Hershey
 Bernadette Jones
 Bob Jones
 Jane Kline

Kirk Owen
 Michele Owen
 Becky Miller Pryor
 Jenn Robertson
 Rick Robertson
 Shelby Weber
 Gary Weber
 Mel Wentzel

Dear Friends at St. Mark's Lutheran Church,
 Your recent \$139 dollar donation to the Shepherd of the Streets Ministry is deeply appreciated.
 Your gift of love is the spark needed for the candle to burn brighter in the hearts of those walking a difficult road.
 May the Lord shine brightly in all you say and do.
 Sincerely yours in Christ, J. Morris Smith, Th.D.
 Thank you for your generosity. May the Lord bless you all.
 Karen Nelson, Volunteer

To all of St. Mark's,
 Thank you for the flowers, cards and visits and caring while I was ill. St. Mark's is the best.
 Love, Bobbie Yetsko



...and thank you some more!

A big thank you to all at St. Mark's for the Milestone Anniversary (Wedding) Celebration, honoring all of us who have reached the 50+ milestone in 2011. Every detail was perfect, topped off by the best food ever.

All the work and planning was evident from the start and made us feel quite special. Our appreciation is extended to all involved.

Gratefully, Judy & Charlie Fortin

Dear Pr. Elkin and St. Mark's Family in Christ,

Ray and I want to express our deep appreciation for the wonderful 51st anniversary milestone celebration.

To all who had any part in the celebration, we wish to express our deepest thanks.

From the flowers to the memory cross, tree and lovely framed memory tree picture, everything was deeply appreciated.

The special dinner was so tasty and the youth waiters were so efficient that our entire family was very impressed!

Again, with deep thanks to all,

Sincerely, MaryAnn & Ray Stiller

To my dear friends at St Mark's,

I wish to express my thanks to you for all the gifts and good wishes, the support and good humor, the smiles and the hugs, and all else you did for me during the past months while I served the congregation as musician. I had a marvelous time making music with you and for you. I was never so moved as I was on the last Sunday I played. Your expression of thanks was overwhelming. I will treasure the many gifts you gave to me. I also want to publicly thank my husband, whose support and help made it possible to find the time to fit this job into my schedule. It was a very busy time, but also a rewarding time for both of us.

Donna

Dear Pastor Elkin,

David and I have viewed the photos and commemoration of MaryAnn and Raymond Stiller. Words cannot express how much we appreciate the loving kindness you have shared with our family. We don't get up to Williamsport very often but when we do, we always enjoy your services and sermons. The Easter Vigil has become our favorite. Our Lord's love is evident in your joyful singing and enthusiastic encouragement to all. The past year has been difficult for MaryAnn but the Lord has stood by both her and Raymond. We continue to pray. God is faithful and His great love endures forever.

May God always bless you, your family and ministry to His people as you faithfully serve him in your daily living,
Nancy & David Etris (sister and brother-in-law of MaryAnn and Raymond Stiller)

I'd like to send a sincere thank you to everyone who has asked about Declan. I've let him know how much you care and it means a lot to him.

He's doing well and has "good drill sergeants." Is that possible? He'll be going straight to school from his graduation from basic training and won't be home until Thanksgiving.

Thank you again for your interest, Bernadette


Dear St. Mark's Friends,

I would like to thank everyone who has prayed for my granddaughter during the past year.

She died early on Friday, June 24. Thank you all again for your care and concern.

Sincerely, Dot Berndt

Happy Birthday!

| | | |
|-------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| 07/01 Gabriella Gregory | 07/12 Doris Brown | 07/20 Patricia Alexander |
| 07/02 Stanley Baker | Annika Waffenschmidt | Dorothy Berndt |
| Kristine Wacker | 07/13 Bonita Crossley | Katelyn Lauer |
| 07/03 Maxwell Hospes | Luther Doeblor | Eleanor Sobers |
| Theodore Larson Jr. | Levi Gair | 07/21 Tracie Elliott |
| 07/04 Philip Thomas | 07/14 Declan Jones | Pamela Jensen |
| 07/05 Ardath Houser | Nancy Larson | Mary Schultz |
| Dierah Williams |  | 07/22 Constance Shaible |
| 07/06 Corey Hospes | | 07/23 Reba Jacobs |
| 07/07 Andrea Hinds | | David Weaver |
| Gabriel Nichols | | Bryce Young |
| 07/08 Sarah Little | 07/15 William Confer Jr. | 07/24 Edward Gair |
| Robert Lynn Jr | Vicki Haussmann | 07/25 Carol Confer |
| 07/09 Hugh Byerly | 07/16 Ashley Butters, | Shirley Hill, |
| Dylan Ott | Stephanie Confer | Kristi Maggs |
| 07/10 Nicholas Buckman | Kay Plankenhorn | 07/26 Gail Greninger |
| Bethany McCullough | 07/17 Eugene Jacobs | 07/27 Ann Kuntz |
| Edgar Miller III | Russell Smith | 07/30 Carol McMorris |
| 07/11 Mary Martin | 07/18 Brenda Bower | 07/31 Stephen Dewar |

Happy Anniversary!

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 07/01 Ralph & Holly Thorne |  | 07/06 Robert & Kristin Lynn |
| 07/03 Ray & Cynthia Huff | | 07/07 Peter & Norma Prato |
| 07/05 Walter & Margie Doeblor | | 07/24 Sean & Maria Elkin |
| 07/05 Daryl & Elizabeth Lewis | | 07/29 Robert & Susan Curry |

News in Our Pews

And the beat goes on – almost without skipping a beat Donna Elkin ended her stint as substitute organist and choir director and Junghwa Kim became our newest choir director and organist – just the third to hold this position in decades at St. Mark's! Donna did a great job for us and we thank her most sincerely and welcome Junghwa to Williamsport and St. Mark's.

Congratulations to Bob Swartz who was honored for his many years of service to the Repasz Band. This band has a truly illustrious history which you might be interested to read on their website. Their story goes back as far as the Civil War.

Nick Buckman continues to add to his theatrical credits with a performance in "Shop Til you Drop"- great title, details from Nick

It was nice to see the Fortin family who were at St. Mark's to celebrate the milestone anniversary of Charlie and Judy. Ray and Mary Ann Stiller and the Sherlinskis were also honored.

Lots of summer activities coming up and June was the month of graduations, proms, etc. so be sure to let me know of your good news so that I can share it with everyone.

-Joyce S. Hershberger

From Keith at Thrivent...

Teach your children well: basic financial education

Before they begin to count, children know what money does—it's never too soon to teach them more

- ✍ Allowance: should they do chores because they're part of the family or for their allowance? How about a compromise? Small allowances coupled with special tasks for a little extra?
- ✍ Saving: piggy banks are good to start, but a savings account starts to teach to concept of money working for them. Encourage children to put part of their allowance aside to save for major wants.
- ✍ Shopping sense: TV and peer pressure are a constant temptation. Let them know they won't get something every time you go to the store, explain why you're buying generic instead of name brands, let them make mistakes—a purchase that breaks easily or isn't as much fun as advertised teaches them about making good choices.
- ✍ Teen employment: show your children how government withholdings take a bite out of their pay-checks and reduces the amount they have for their own use—don't plan on the X amount per hour.
- ✍ Budgets: help them plan for the use of their income: list their income, their routine expenses (gas, pizza, movies), do the math to plan the savings, address shortfalls.
- ✍ Goals: teens should be ready to focus on larger (computer, car) and long term (college, apartment) goals. This may be a time to teach them about investing.

The above info is gleaned from a much longer article. If you wish to learn more, contact Keith Wood at 323-9727 or keith.wood@thrivent.com.

Creation Corner

These are not just stamps — they're 16 ways to help the planet

"Go Green" U.S. postage stamps are now available according to USA Philatelic. The Postal Service is doing its part to "Go Green" by providing you with eco-friendly mailing materials and stamps. As part of their Go Green commitment, they've designed a series of 16 Forever stamps showing what each of us can do to promote the health of our environment. See www.usps.com/green for more info.



Green: The Color and the Cause

Washington, DC's Textile Museum is hosting an exhibition (through September 11) that explores the techniques people have devised to create green textiles, the meanings that this color---traditionally associated with nature and its attributes, including life, fertility and rebirth---has held in cultures across time and place, and the ways that contemporary textile artists and designers are responding to concerns about the environment. Also, complementing this exhibition is one



(through January 8, 2012) entitled "Second Lives: the Age-Old Art of Recycling Textiles" that highlights ways people in various cultures have ingeniously re-purposed worn but precious fabrics to create beautiful new textile forms. Both at the Textile Museum, Washington DC.

www.textilemuseum.org

Thanks & a tip o' the hat to Michael Ochs

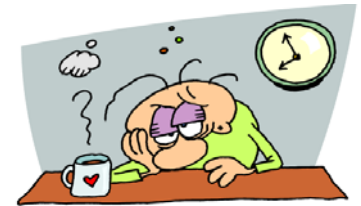


HEALTH, HEALING & WHOLENESS

The people took their dough before it was leavened, with their kneading bowls wrapped up in their cloaks on their shoulders. They baked unleavened cakes of the dough that they had brought out of Egypt; it was not leavened because they were driven out of Egypt and could not wait, nor had they prepared any provisions for themselves. (Exodus 12:34, 39)

I suppose one could say that this is the first example of ‘eating on the run,’ or ‘eating on the fly,’ as some would say. The American Dietetic Association reports that roughly 75% of all office workers eat lunch at their desks two to three times a week. Why? For some it may be because there is only a 30-minute time slot in which to have lunch, so bringing food from home or grabbing something “to go” from the local deli, mini-market, or work-place cafeteria allow us to multi-task by continuing to work, while eating at the same time. Or it may be because in corporate America, eating on the job has become a necessity for those who feel a time crunch and are stressed. According to Prevention Magazine, the average “lunch hour” has shrunk to 36 minutes. In offices across America, it isn’t uncommon for folks to eat both breakfast *and* lunch at their desk. Let’s face it, these mobile repasts typically consist of foods that are higher in fat and calories – muffins, donuts, Danish, or bagels with cream cheese, not to mention fast-food “breakfast sandwiches” - and have little nutritional value.

So what is the problem? We’re adults – we do what we have to do to get the job done, right? There are actually multiple issues. First, studies have shown that eating and working at the same time leaves the worker feeling less full after lunch than those who focused on what they were eating. This often leads to snacking by mid-afternoon in an attempt to counter an energy slump. In addition, those who ate while working were often unable to recall exactly what they ate. Unconscious eating may cause us to gobble down larger amounts of food without giving it a second thought.



Finally, there is the problem of bacteria on the surface of the desk, telephone, computer mouse and keyboard. Charles Gerba, PhD, a professor of environmental micro-biology at the University of Arizona in Tucson states, “People turn their desks into bacteria cafeterias because they eat at them, but never clean them. The phone is the dirtiest, the desktop is next, and the mouse and computer follow.”

If eating at your desk is your only option, here are a few tips to make it a safer and more enjoyable experience:



- ✧ Watch what you eat. Pick foods that are lower in fat and calories, moderate in size so you don’t become too full and unable to comfortably work later. Don’t allow yourself to get into a food rut – eating the same things day-after-day.
- ✧ Consider taking 15-20 minutes just to stop all work, focus on your food, and leave the remaining 10-15 minutes for a walk outside or throughout the building.
- ✧ Avoid take-out; pack your lunch so you have more control over calories and nutrition, not to mention cost. Many people spend from \$5 to \$10 per day on take-outs.

- ✧ Disinfect your desk – at least once per day. Wet paper towels are not enough – they only give bacteria a free ride to another surface in the office. Avoid touching those surfaces while you eat; you just wind up contaminating your food over and over again.

- ✧ Use a placemat. Give yourself a little extra protection after the wipe-down.

- ✧ Eat with a friend; you’ll find you will be more productive and creative when you’ve had the opportunity to interact with colleagues.



Choose one improvement and practice it for a month. That’s about how long it takes for a new behavior to become a new and better habit.

Debbie Best, RN, BSW, MHA

SPECIAL CONCERNS LIST

Patricia Alexander

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

Edith Anderson

The Hillside, Room #104
2725 Four Mile Drive
Montoursville, PA 17754

Marie Byerly

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

Bonita Crossley

73 Pine St.
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

Beatrice Doebler

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

Jean Gulliver

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

Jean Gulliver

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

Chuck Homan

2215 Warrensville Rd.
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Ardath Houser

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215 East Water Street
Muncy, PA 17756

Charlotte Hughes

140 Blueberry Lane
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Eugene & Reba Jacobs

1306 Faxon Parkway
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Anne Miller

947 Hepburn St.
Williamsport, PA 17701

Mary Helen Scinicarello

Danville St. Hosp. #311
Danville, PA 17821

Eleanor Sobers

425 W Highland Ave.
S. Williamsport, PA 17702

Robert Smith

Elmcroft of Loyalsock, Rm. 130
2985 Four Mile Drive
Montoursville, PA 17754

Anna Stiadle

Williamsport Home, Apt. 112
1900 A. Ravine Rd.
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

Summer History Day Camp 2011

Lycoming county Historical Society's 2011 History Day Camp will take place July 25 - 29, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The camp is for children ages 8 -12, and the cost is \$60 per child for children of LCHS members and \$70 per child for non-members.

This year the Day Camp will focus on the Civil War and the nineteenth century, coinciding with the 150th anniversary of the firing on Fort Sumter and the beginning of the Civil War. Each day will have a theme:

Monday, July 25: "Travel Through Time", including learning about canals and the railroad

Tuesday, July 26: passtime and leisure activities of the 19th century (music, crafts, literature)

Wednesday, July 27: the life of a Civil War soldier (encampment, military drills, skirmishes, and dance)

Thursday, July 28: logging and lumbering, the log boom, and a ride on the Hiawatha river boat

Friday, July 29: a tour of the Rowley House, a restored Victorian mansion and graduation



We are planning on rotating our Day Camp themes from year to year, with the 2012 Camp focusing on American Indian and frontier culture.

Space is limited, so we encourage early registration. You can obtain an application and find out more details about the camp's activities by calling the Taber Museum at 570-326-3326.

ST. MARK'S JULY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1 Friday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

3 Sunday

Pentecost III

8:00 AM Holy Communion
9:15 AM Summer Forum
10:30 AM Holy Communion



4 Monday

Office Closed

4:30 PM Set-up for celebration
6:00 PM 4th of July Outreach
Ministry
7:30 PM 4th of July Patriotic Or-
gan Program

5 Tuesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

6 Wednesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
9:20 AM Staff Meeting

7 Thursday

6:31 AM Men's Ministry
9:00 AM Morning Prayer

8 Friday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

9 Saturday

Float Your Fanny!

10 Sunday

Pentecost IV

8:00 AM Holy Communion
9:15 AM Summer Forum
10:30 AM Holy Communion

10 Sunday (cont.)

6:30 PM Confirmation Camp
Overview

11 Monday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
Confirmation Camp

12 Tuesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
Confirmation Camp

13 Wednesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
Confirmation Camp

14 Thursday

6:31 AM Men's Ministry
9:00 AM Morning Prayer

15 Friday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
6:30 PM Friday Fun Night

16 Saturday

9:00 AM Amazing Grace pre-
view for volunteers
11:00 AM Hometown Heroes

17 Sunday

Pentecost V

8:00 AM Holy Communion
9:15 AM Summer Forum
10:30 AM Holy Communion

18 Monday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
7:00 PM Dog Club

19 Tuesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

20 Wednesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
9:30-2:30 TWEENS' DAY!
12:00 PM Lunch'n'Fellowship

21 Thursday

6:31 AM Men's Ministry
9:00 AM Morning Prayer

22 Friday

Newsletter Deadline

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

23 Saturday

9:00 AM Daniel's Closet @
Redeemer

24 Sunday

Pentecost VI

8:00 AM Holy Communion
9:15 AM Summer Forum
10:30 AM Holy Communion
6:00 PM Teen Movie Night

25 Monday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

26 Tuesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
6:30 PM Family Promise Board

27 Wednesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
9:20 AM Staff Meeting

28 Thursday

6:31 AM Men's Ministry
9:00 AM Morning Prayer

29 Friday

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

31 Sunday

Pentecost VII

8:00 AM Holy Communion
9:15 AM Summer Forum
10:30 AM Holy Communion
5:30 PM Music Camp Dinner
6:00 PM Summer Music Camp
Rehearsal

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

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

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



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FRONT LAWN CELEBRATION

MONDAY, JULY 4, 2011

4:30 PM SET-UP FOR CELEBRATION

6:00 PM OUTREACH MINISTRY BEGINS

7:30 PM PATRIOTIC ORGAN PROGRAM

9:30 PM FIREWORKS!!!

COME CELEBRATE WITH US!!!!

