



THE LION OF ST. MARK'S

AUGUST 2011

The Way

Does a better understanding of your personal faith interest you? Would you like to reaffirm your baptism and come to a closer relationship with your Lord and Savior? "The Way" is a journey where we learn and grow together in our faith in Christ. As you read several of the shared personal experiences, please ponder your commitment and reaffirmation of your faith and look for more information about joining our 2012 journey of "The Way."

The Way taught me to listen more intently to each scripture lesson and relate it to my personal life. We learned to ask, "How is this speaking to me?" I have now transferred that experience over into every service automatically. What a valuable life-long tool that has become ... We learned to see important doctrines in a new, adult light and our spirits were re-awakened.

The most meaningful experience was the Easter Vigil. This was the time when our baptisms and faith were re-affirmed. ~Sally Bjornstad

I thought I knew a lot about our church and the Lutheran liturgy but after starting The Way, I knew my knowledge was minimal. The Way has taught me so very much. The field trips through the church, especially the tour with the description of all the colored windows and what they represented, were very enlightening. The weekly handouts to create our own notebook were great to keep for future reference. The discussions and fellowship with other Christians who are on this same spiritual journey was a big help to me.

My confidence has increased, and I feel more empowered to share with others my faith and my love of the Lord. I also enjoyed searching for information in the LBW and learning how each Sunday service is planned. I feel very blessed that our church offers The Way to give us the opportunity to grow in our faith. ~Carol Confer

St. Mark's program, The Way, is appropriately named. This opportunity provided me with a pathway to reconnect me as an attending and participating member of a viable church life ... It was surprising how smoothly we moved into avid discussion, questions, and individual sharing. I appreciated the opportunity to affirm my Lutheran upbringing as well as learn a great deal of St.

Mark's history and building. The Way 2010-2011 class has a deep bond as church family that will continue to grow as we support each other... we all need spiritual support in today's complicated and demanding world. ~Leah Haussmann



The Way was an amazing experience for me. I was a new person coming into the church deciding if I wanted to join the church and Pastor recommended I join The Way. This has not only brought me to love the church and the people in it, but it also was the best therapy I could have ever asked for. I enjoyed having a sponsor who guided me through the experience. I definitely will leave The Way with great life long friends, a church I belong to and a greater passion for the word of God. ~Mae Thaljih

Let Mel Wentzel know of your interest by calling 327-8286 or emailing him at tookool4school@comcast.net

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Council Notes

The Council does not meet in regular session in July, its next regular session will be August 15.

The Council has endorsed the decision of the Mutual Ministry Committee's Hiring Sub-Committee to employ Mr. Graydon Yearick to replace Mr. Richard Wagner, who submitted his retirement resignation this month. The Staff of the congregation honored Mr. Wagner at a luncheon on July 18 and expressed its appreciation for his partnership in our work together in St. Mark's.

Mr. Yearick was the committee's choice out of 16 applicants who answered our call for candidates. For more than 20 years he developed a data processing facility for 15 community banks in central Pennsylvania, and before that was Vice-President for Operations at Williamsport National Bank for 16 years. He began his career as a Senior Programming Analyst at the IRS in Washington. With this extensive background, the committee thinks that he will have little trouble handling our bookkeeping duties.

There are several interesting circumstances. It happens that Mr. Wagner and Mr. Yearick are both members of the United Methodist congregation in Oval. In the interview process, we discovered that Mr. Yearick is the brother of our long-time member Connie Shaible.

Mr. Yearick will be in the office on August 1 to begin the transition with Mr. Wagner. We anticipate that when a person calls with a question or comment, they will be greeted by a man of friendly competence, just as we have had with Mr. Wagner.

Parish Register

† Funeral service for Luther Doebler, July 28, 2011

Staff & Officers Contact Information

stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org	Website: stmarkswilliamsport.org	Church Office	323-4619	fax	323-2452
The Reverend Kenneth Elkin, Pastor	pastor@stmarkswilliamsport.org	Pastor's Home Phone			323-7367
Ray Huff, Council President	rhuff@stmarkswilliamsport.org	Ray Huff Home Phone			368-1473
Jungwha Kim, Director of Music	jkim@stmarkswilliamsport.org	Gregg Dancho, Vice-President			435-2716
Bernadette Jones, Christian Education	bjones@stmarkswilliamsport.org	Jane Zimmerer, Secretary			433-3324
Michele Owen, Christian Education	mowen@stmarkswilliamsport.org	Michele Ramsauer, Asst. Sec			368-8036
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



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!

It's not too late to join us!! Each evening this week, 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 **SATURDAY, AUG. 6**, we arrive early at 4:00 p.m. for a **FINAL REHEARSAL**, then enjoy a...

TUREEN MEAL in Fellowship Hall at **6:00 p.m.** (hamburg barbeque will be provided). The **PERFORMANCE** follows at **7:00 p.m.**

SUNDAY, AUG. 7 there will be a **FINAL PRESENTATION** for the **10:30 SERVICE**

A **CD** is prepared for each participating family to get familiar with the music. 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,
AS PARTICIPANT OR AUDIENCE,**

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!! *Please contact Bernadette or Jungwha to let them know of 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?
What Medicare Part A pays for.
What is not covered by Parts A & B.
Medigap plans.
Medicare Prescription drug coverage.
Patient rights.

Enrolling in Medicare.
What Medicare Part B pays for.
Your Medicare choices.
Medicare Advantage plans.
Appeals.
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

United Churches of Lycoming County

United Churches Golf Tournament

On Tuesday, Sept. 20, UCLC will have their first annual golf tournament to support United Churches of Lycoming County. After 65 years in existence and helping countless people in the name of God, they find themselves needing some major fund raisers to keep their ministries going strong. Therefore, the Amazing Grace tour is almost here and the Golf Tournament is not that far behind.

They need at least 25 foursomes - with over 150 houses of worship joined in service there should be no reason that they cannot get at least that number of foursomes, yet, to date they have only 14. While still 50 days away, they must submit their list of golfers sooner than you might think. The registration form for golfers is available in the narthex. Call or email Pr. Ken Weiss with any questions: 323-6325 or kweiss1213@hotmail.com

They need sponsors! They set a special level of sponsorship for houses of worship at only \$50. To date they have a commitment from only 4 churches. Businesses and organizations (even churches) can have a professionally made sign at one of the tee boxes for only \$100. Several groups have ordered these and more would be appreciated. If you know of any businesses that might be interested, ask them to sponsor this event or a foursome. Encourage them to support United Churches.

Door prizes are also needed to give to each golfer - many businesses and organizations have items with their logo printed on them for just this purpose...maybe you know of someplace that would like to use them at our golf tournament.

Also, some raffle items are needed. Does someone know a jeweler who would donate a ring or a pair of earrings? An artist who might be willing to donate a painting or photograph? Please call Pr. Weiss with any ideas.



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

What do your donations help U C L C to accomplish?

- † worship services at most of our nursing homes, assisted living homes, prisons
- † Shepherd of the Streets
- † food pantry
- † United Campus Ministry at Penn College
- † noon Ecumenical lunches at Pine Street
- † daily devotional line
- † weekly news about faith related issues
- † Footsteps to Follow in the paper each week
- † interfaith dialogue and services
- † CROP Walk
- † worship services during Lent
- † Church Women United

...and more! Your support *is* needed!

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Habitat for Humanity Luncheon

St. Mark's hosted a mid-week luncheon on July 6, 2011 for a group of twenty-five Habitat volunteers from Sterling, Virginia at the newest build in Montgomery. Donna Elkin, Todd Smith and Becky Miller Pryor with help from Deb Buckman and Michele Owen prepared and served a picnic lunch complete with grilled hot dogs for a very hungry group of teens and adults. As is usually the case, the volunteers were impressed with how well St. Mark's does food.

We were able to use the extra snacks, candy, water, lemonade and hot dogs from our July Fourth celebration as part of the luncheon. Donna provided two batches of cookies. With money donated from the congregation we were able to round out this tasty meal with fresh fruit, veggies, dip and macaroni salad. Thank you to all who made this outreach possible.

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 Layettees) – 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

The Way was an amazing experience for me. I was a new person coming into the church deciding if I wanted to join the church and Pastor recommended I join The Way . This has not only brought me to love the church and the people in it, but it also was the best therapy I could have ever asked for. I enjoyed having a sponsor who guided me through the experience. I definitely will leave The Way with great life long friends, a church I belong to and a greater passion for the word of God.

Mae Thaljih



- 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

From the Pastor's Pen ...



There is lots to see and experience on the Amazing Grace tour on August 6.

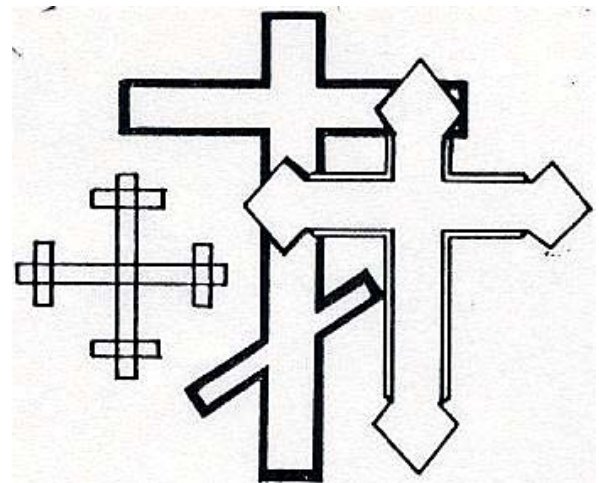
Have you ever thought about how the church building affects the shape and content of our worship services? Here at St. Mark's our Nave is a formal space with straight orderly rows of pews leading to a focus on the cross and the altar, the place from which the Holy Communion is celebrated. The Chapel is often arranged with its seats facing each other to facilitate the singing of the Psalms back and forth. It is a much more intimate space for the gathering of the people of God. In the Nave, the majesty of God is foremost; in the Chapel there might be more of a sense of God's immanence, his being close at hand.

Do color and light influence our worship? We have the stunning series of stained glass windows in our Nave that remind us on the south side about the parts of the worship service and that we are fitting into something that has been going on for a very long time, and on the north side reminding us of all of the things that we do in every aspect of our lives because of that connection with the Lord Jesus in worship. The chapel has, in addition to the series of panes depicting the life of Christ, lots of

clear glass, so that the room is flooded with natural light to remind us of the glories of creation in every season of the year.

These are a few of the things that visitors to our building may discover on the Amazing Grace tour. What might we find out in the other church buildings on the tour? What is good or not so good about a fan-shaped arrangement of the seating at St. Boniface? How might it help or hinder our proper focus in worship? We have one icon in front of us each week. What would it be like to have dozens of them everywhere one looks in Holy Cross Church? Does one get the feeling of being surrounded by the saints? The Salvation Army is not just a social-service agency, but also a worshipping community. What is attractive about their special exuberance in their relatively small space?

There are lots more observations and surprises to be discovered. Take some time to participate, see and experience hospitality from our brothers and sisters in Christ, and return with renewed appreciation for our own facilities, too.



ELCA Local, National & International News

Dear Friends in Christ,

The people of East Africa desperately need your help.

The worst drought in 60 years has hit the region. Ten million people in Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia and Djibouti are affected. Crops have failed, livestock are dying, and families have no way to feed themselves.

HELP LWR RESPOND TO THE DROUGHT AND FOOD CRISIS IN EAST AFRICA.

Tens of thousands of people are walking up to 15 days to seek relief at the refugee camps in Dadaab, Kenya. The camps, built to house only 90,000 people, are now home to hundreds of thousands, with over a thousand new arrivals each day. Because the threat of famine is so high, **LWR has pledged \$500,000 to our longtime partner, The Lutheran World Federation**, who is working in Dadaab to help vulnerable refugees get food rations, shelter and other life saving services.

BUT THE NEEDS ARE STILL SO GREAT. PLEASE HELP LWR INCREASE ITS RESPONSE WITH AN EMERGENCY GIFT.

Please join LWR in prayer for the people of East Africa and please give what you can to extend the compassion of Christ to your brothers and sisters in need.

In Christ's Mercy,
John A. Nunes, President and CEO
Lutheran World Relief 700

LWR AND PARTNERS ARE RESPONDING With the danger of widespread famine in the Horn of Africa increasing daily, LWR has committed an initial \$500,000 to longtime partner, Lutheran World Federation, to expand its work in the Dadaab camps to ensure that new arrivals and other vulnerable people — such as unaccompanied children and the elderly — receive food, water, shelter and other critical services. While people are in dire need of assistance now, we also recognize that projects to safeguard and build up livelihoods — sustainable development — save even more lives in the future. LWR will continue to work with local partners to help impoverished communities become less vulnerable to future droughts. **PLEASE HELP.** The needs in this region are very great. As drought conditions continue, we expect more people to flee their homes in search of humanitarian aid. Help increase LWR's response to this crisis with a gift to the **East Africa Drought** fund. LWR accepts gifts by phone at 800.597.5972, online at lwr.org/donate or by sending a check or money order to: Lutheran World Relief P.O. Box 17061 Baltimore, MD 21298-9832 USA Your gifts will be used to respond to the East Africa Drought until needs there are met. Gifts received after that time will be used where needs are greatest. Thank you for your compassion. **Please give generously.**

REUTERS/Thomas Mukoya, courtesy Trust.org - Alertnet.

"Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD. Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!"

Psalm 130:1-2

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. phone: 800.597.5972 lwr.org

[ELCA Domestic Disaster Response](#)

Fund name: U.S. Severe Spring Storms
800.638.3522

[LCMS World Relief and Human Care](#)

888.930.4438

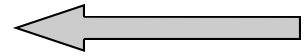
[Lutheran Disaster Response](#)

800.638.3522

S T. MARK 'S P A R K I N G



PLEASE READ THIS!!!



By now you will have noticed that our numbers have been repainted in our parking lots, as well as the lines for the spaces in the south lot.

VISITOR PARKING IS NOW NEXT TO THE PLAYGROUND, CLOSE TO THE OFFICE DOOR!

If there are not enough spaces there when you come to weekday events, please park along the curb.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS NEWS.

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** ←

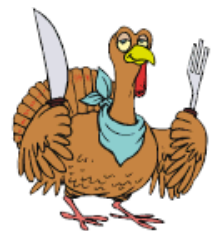
**MOVIE IN THE
COURTYARD!
FRIDAY, AUGUST 26
AT DUSK!**

JOIN US EARLY FOR REFRESHMENTS!

LUNCH'N' FELLOWSHIP

Wednesday, August 24!

Yum! It's Turkey!!!



Bring a dish to share, a friend,
a kind word and a pleasant smile!!

Family Promise

Hosting for Family Promise

From Sunday, September 11, 2011 until Sunday, September 18, 2011 we will be hosting families with children who are experiencing a housing crisis.

We are in need of volunteers



- ✧ to set up Fellowship Hall and the rooms being used for bedrooms,
- ✧ drive the van in the morning and evening,
- ✧ donate money to offset the cost of fresh foods, milk and any needed supplies,
- ✧ prepare meals,
- ✧ serve meals and eat with the families,
- ✧ visit in the evenings with our guests,
- ✧ stay overnight and get the coffee going in the morning,
- ✧ clean up at the end of the hosting week,
- ✧ and launder the bedding.

If you have two hours to donate you can be a volunteer and make a difference in a family's life. Please plan now to be part of that difference. Check your calendars for your availability.

With assistance from Larue Dieter, Jane Zimmerer and Becky Miller Pryor will be contacting folks who have previously served during hosting week in one capacity or another. Be expecting a telephone call from one of us beginning approximately mid-August.

If you have never volunteered but would like to find out more, contact either Jane or Becky for more information.

Needed: Cookie Makers and Cake Bakers

To assist with our Family Promise hosting and to lighten the load of the people who donate dinners we are looking for folks who will donate a cake or a batch of cookies for use as dessert with the dinners we serve each evening. For those who enjoy baking, this is a wonderful way to volunteer during Hosting Week.

We would need two cakes and a batch of cookies at the beginning of our hosting week. Two additional cakes and possibly a batch of cookies would most likely be needed mid-week.

Speak to Jane, Becky or Larue if you can provide a dessert.

Needed: Yarn

A former guest of Family Promise is so grateful for the care she received while in the program that she would like to "pay it forward" to current guests. This person is in the process of knitting and crocheting throws to be given to incoming guests or as Christmas gifts. She is seeking donations of yarn to keep her needles going.



If you have unwanted yarn to donate please put it in the bin in the Narthex. If you need additional information please speak with Becky Miller Pryor.



Leave a Legacy for Ministry and Mission: A will is one of the most important documents you will create. Yet over 60% of the people who die each year, die without a will. And surprisingly, less than 10% of the ELCA Lutherans who die each year remember their congregation in their will. If you do not have a will, the commonwealth of Pennsylvania has one for you but it does not include your charitable interests. If you do not have a will or are planning to update your will and want to include your favorite ministries, please call Pr. Greg Kramer for more information at the Lutheran Planned Giving Office at 570-374-2044 or call the ELCA Foundation, 800/638-3522, ext. 2970 or visit our website at www.elca.org/fo.

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.



Our main work day is Saturday, August 13, at 9:00 a.m. We will also be working Wednesday around noon to finish up with things we can't do earlier. 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 still need adults to walk along...this is a new rule with the parades to insure the safety of the viewers. We need your support!



Sunday, Aug. 28, 6 pm

Bring a treat and join us!

This month: "The Legend of Zorro!"

Sign-up for
**SUNDAY
SCHOOL
TEACHERS**

is outside Mich-
ele's office.
Please join us!!



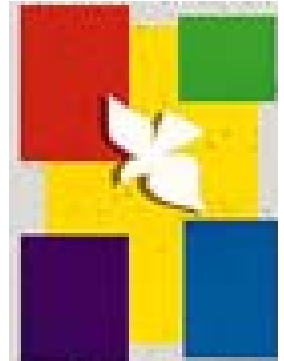
TWEENS' DAY was a big success! Ben Haussmann, Sadie & Taylor Wentzel, Lynna Robertson & friend, Angelica Echave, and Dawson Owen met Pr. Elkin, Michele, Devin and Lou at 9:30 am and proceeded to a parishioner's home where they did yard work as their service project. They returned to church in time to help Michele prepare a tasty lunch of hotdogs and fruit, then watched "Bridge to Terabithia" and discussed Christian themes within the movie. Their parents picked up their tired children at 2:30. A wonderful day for them!!



CATECHETICAL NEWS

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.

ELCA Women Fall Bazaar

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

WE NEED YOUR STUFF!

The Women of St. Mark's need your no-longer-needed items for our annual bazaar. We are looking for house wares, linens, toys, small appliances in good condition, collectibles, holiday decorations, baskets, pictures, frames, jewelry, and small pieces of furniture.

As you are cleaning think of this sale and place those items in the Bazaar Room in the basement. When placing your items in the Bazaar Room please try to put your items as near to the walls as possible, thus not blocking the entrance.

Please note we are not accepting sets of encyclopedias or textbooks.

Your seasonal clothing may be donated to Daniel's Closet at Redeemer Lutheran Church.



Notes from Declan to "The People of St. Mark's"



05 July 2011
7:57 PM
Hey All!

I got your notes, thank you very much.

Doing well with my training. I just got over a fever and fighting off a cough. I am actually working on two different tans lines: the modified farmers' tan, knees down and mid-bicep down, and what I call the "soldiers' tan." It gets hot enough down here that we put our uniforms into what we call "HeatCat 5:" we roll up our sleeves and pants. So, the soldiers' tan is mid-forearm down.

I think I have read the Bible more here than anywhere else. I have read Acts, Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 & 2 Kings, skimmed Chronicles and started to read Daniel.

I hope you had a good 4th of July. I spent it cleaning the bay, fighting off sleep and sitting through a finance brief. I did get fireworks, though, in my opinion, ours (*at home*) are better. They did have artillery firing during throughout the show.

I need to get ready for bed. Hope you are all well in the cool, dry PA.

Declan

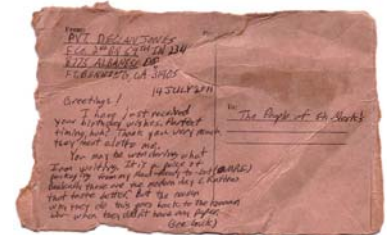
P.S. Jungwha, I love the verse.

* * * * *

14 July 2011
Greetings!

I have just received your birthday wishes. Perfect timing, huh? Thank you very much, they meant a lot to me.

You maybe were wondering what I am writing on. (*see picture*) It is a piece of packaging from my Meal-Ready-to-Eat (MRE). Basically, these are the modern day C-Rations that taste better. But the reason why they do this goes back to the Korean War when they didn't have any paper. They would use pieces from their rations to write letters.



Again, thank you for the birthday wishes. I hope you all are well. If you think it is getting hot in the nave during service, remember where I am.

I found this prayer in a Bible I picked up in the chaplain's office:

O Lord, even when we are at war, make us instruments of your piece.

Where there is hatred let us plant the seeds of your love.

Where there is injury...pardon.

Where there is doubt...faith.

Where there is despair...hope.

Where there is darkness...light.

Where there is sadness...joy.

O Lord, even when we are at war, make us instruments of your piece.

Take the good seeds that we plant and grow them into good blessings for the sake of Your Name and Your Kingdom. Amen

I liked it. It says it was inspired by the Peace Prayer attributed to Francis of Assissi.

Well, I have to go, thanks again,

Declan

P.S. Devin, I am now 19.

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

Habitat thanks...

Dear Becky and crew,

Thank you for all your hard work

Norma Shannon
Lunch Coordinator
Habitat for Humanity

Thank you for the wonderful lunch provided to our group from Sterling United Methodist Church. It has been a blessing!

Dear St. Mark Friends,
I just got home from a week of camp Mt. Luther. It was sooooo much fun! I met new friends, went canoeing, went backpacking, slept under the stars, and I learned lots of great camp songs. Thank you^{for} contributing to half of the payment for the week. I appreciate it!

Fourth of July Celebration

Becky Miller Pryor cannot thank the congregation enough for their very generous support of this celebration. Many members of the congregation donated snacks, candy, hot dogs, rolls, popcorn, trinkets, drink mixes, bottled water, or money to make it possible to welcome more than 400 people to St. Mark's on that beautiful night.

The patriotic program featuring the talents of Jungwha Kim, Pastor and Donna Elkin, Nick Buckman and Bernadette Jones thrilled the more than 115 people who filled our sanctuary. Outdoors many more folks listened while seated in their lawn chairs thanks to the technical talents of Jim and Deb Buckman.

In a bit more than four hours we popped and served 40 plus pounds of popcorn, gallons of lemonade and ice tea, 250 plus hotdogs, 225 mini-bags of candy, 10 bags of loose candy, 400 bags of Funyuns, 275 bottles of water, five cases of soda, hundreds of trinkets and 150 kiddy tattoos. We do not charge for any of it, but we do ask for contributions in support of St. Anthony's Center. This year we are able to send Sister Henry \$371.67!

None of this would happen without the many members of the congregation who donate their time to set up, serve and clean up in time for the fanfare of the fireworks. Special thanks is due Larue Dieter; Clint Eppleman; Jen, Rick, Lynna, Amalie, and Abigail Robertson; Ed, Brenda, Owen and Levi

Gair; Eric, Sharon, Christina and Morgan Comini; Kirk, Michele, Devon and Dawson Owen; Bob, Bernadette and Sara Jones; Pastor and Donna Elkin; David and Emily Elkin; Todd Smith; Cheryl and Dave Williams; Roxie Larson; Dinah Labenburg; Mel, Melinda, Taylor and Sadie Wentzel; Jim, Deb and Nick Buckman; Barb Horn; Gary and Riley Weber; Ray and Cindy Huff; Jungwha Kim; Lou and Linda DeSeau; and Trish, Theoron and Kara Hershey.



Please remember our vendors in your shopping. We received donations from Weis Market on Lycoming Creek Road, Wegman's, Sam's Club Spirit Team, Frito-Lay, Pepsi Bottling Company, and TGI Friday's who provided all of the ice we used.

7/23/11

Sincerely I ♥ GML

Hannah
Houssmann



Dear Pr. Elkin and the Saints called St. Mark's Lutheran Church,
just wanted to let you know that our staff prayed for you this week, for your ministry together, and sharing the Gospel in Williamsport. May God bless you and our partnership in Christ's name!

Peace,

Beth Ann Stone, USS

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

YET THIS SUMMER:

Sunday Morning Forum topics:

- + August 7 - The Bible, liturgy, life, and current issues in the church
- + August 14 - Identity Theft prevention, with guest Keith Wood
- + August 21 -- the work of Gideons International, with guest Robert Apple.

POST-SUMMER, PRE-SEPTEMBER:

August 28: Teacher Preparation and overview for the coming school year!

- + Join us in the Crossways room as we review the curriculum for our young students in Sunday School!
- + If you've never taught before, this is a great time to find out what it's all about!
- + Even if you're not signed up to teach, come and find out what it's all about!
- + Refreshments!

...AND SO IT BEGINS:

September 4:

- + Please join us for breakfast and conversation in Fellowship Hall
- + Meet with the teachers of our adult classes...find out what they're doing!

September 11: regular classes for all ages resume

- + Upstairs: Pre-K & K, 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th, 5th grades and Middle School
- + Middle Lounge: Adult discussion group
- + Crossways Room: Adult class with Pastor Elkin
- + North Lounge: High School discussion group



sundayschool

My word...will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire and
achieve the purpose for which I sent it.
Isaiah 55:11, NIV

Happy Birthday!

08/01 James Buckman
 08/01 Larue Dieter
 08/01 Kara Hershey
 08/02 Michele Ramsauer
 08/03 Aric Larson
 08/03 Emily Satifka
 08/03 Matthew Welker
 08/04 Alona Hopler
 08/04 Frank Ulman
 08/05 Creighton MacGill
 08/06 Donna Miller
 08/07 Dorothy Burd
 08/07 Donna Clark
 08/07 Bret Foust
 08/07 Louis Kolb
 08/08 Charles Fortin
 08/08 Christopher Lauer
 08/08 Audrey Wacker
 08/09 Mary Kimble
 08/10 Susan Newcomer
 08/10 Lynna Robertson
 08/10 Karen Staffini
 08/10 Leigh Travis
 08/11 Gillian Buckman
 08/11 Charles Greevy

08/12 Marie Byerly
 08/12 Maxine Chubb
 08/12 Louis DeSeau
 08/12 Meriah Doane
 08/12 Ashley Winner



08/14 Ray Huff
 08/15 Carl Albright
 08/15 Kathleen Dancho
 08/15 Frank Doeblner
 08/15 Beverly Hieber
 08/15 Amie Larson

08/16 Robert Swartz
 08/17 Tiffany Jarrett
 08/17 Pamela Travis
 08/18 Stacie Bieber
 08/18 Elizabeth Lewis
 08/19 Sean Clouser
 08/20 Lawrence Lehman
 08/21 Gregg Dancho
 08/21 Renee Hinds
 08/22 Steve Eyer
 08/22 Andrew Kneedler
 08/22 Janelle Lukens
 08/23 Kay Poliska
 08/26 Nathan Clouser
 08/27 Andrea Gregory
 08/28 Galen Davenport Jr.
 08/28 Amanda Weaver
 08/29 Evan Doeblner
 08/29 Shirley Kinney
 08/29 Ashton Ott
 08/30 Vanessa Morgan
 08/30 Lou Ann Zeigler
 08/31 Carl Smollinger
 08/31 Melinda Wentzel
 08/31 Bobbie Yetsko

Happy Anniversary!

08/01 Ernest & Nancy Larson
 08/02 Ronald & Donna Baker
 08/03 David & Tracey Heaps
 08/06 Theodore & Barbara Larson Jr.
 08/06 Raymond & Mary Ann Stiller
 08/06 Carl & Lucille Weaver
 08/07 Bryan & Karen Pelleschi
 08/09 Fred & Patricia Thayer
 08/10 Robert & Rosemary Clokey
 08/10 Timothy & Deborah Maggs
 08/13 Kenneth & Beth Shafranko



928mycodes.com

08/14 Neil & Kathy Eshelman
 08/14 Edward & Brenda Gair
 08/15 William & Shirley Hill
 08/18 Carl & Beverly Hieber
 08/22 Douglas & Beverly Schmitt
 08/24 Paul & Jane Zimmerer
 08/25 David & Carol Butters
 08/26 Charles & Gloria Greevy
 08/28 Philip & Barbara Thomas
 08/30 Thomas Waffenschmidt
 & Valerie Doeblner



In memory of Nancy Bohartz, Knight-Confer Funeral Home has arranged to have a young tree planted on public lands during the earliest possible season.

This living memorial is part of an endeavor to restore the Pennsylvania landscape for the benefit of all the residents of the state. It will grow without personal inscription and become an important, enduring part of its natural surroundings.

BANKS FOR HABITAT!

\$9.55 has been collected so far for Habitat for Humanity via the banks taken home by the children for that purpose.

These banks can still be returned to us and you will be updated with the children's contributions.



Habitat for Humanity

News in Our Pews

As I write this, it is ninety degrees outside and my husband keeps reminding me how much we will miss this in the winter – I am unconvinced!

Our Fourth of July event was its usual big success- hundreds of people enjoyed St. Mark's hospitality – this special effort was recognized in the May Lutheran for its then 13 now 14 years of evangelism.

Our special people this month include Morgan and Christina Comini who celebrated their birthday and asked for gifts to the Lycoming County SPCA. Christina is a volunteer at the shelter and has first hand knowledge of its needs.!

Brenda and John Bower observed their 25th wedding anniversary in June with a family dinner. Brenda is the daughter of Marlene Vollmer.

Riley Weber was named to the high honor roll at WAHS.

Bob Schultz was pictured in the local newspaper with his class at the WAHS who are studying a review of the alphabet and techniques at the art school. Some years ago Bob instructed a group of us in a class entitled – Yes, You Can Draw. It was great fun and very instructive and maybe it is time to give us a review and share opportunity with others at St. Mark's!

And on a personal note, our granddaughter, Emily Newcomer is in Europe as a part of the People to People Program. The young students and their chaperones flew to Switzerland, then traveled to Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, France and to England where they will depart for home on July 28. Along the way they visited many historic locations, including Normandy, the International Court of Justice, the home of Anne Frank, Versailles, the Eiffel Tower and many, many more – spent three nights with a German family, cruised the Rhine River, the canals of Amsterdam – too many to mention! What stories she will have to tell and how much I wish I were along!

Carl Hieber is the proud father of Eric Hieber, who is the proud father of a brand new baby boy! Our best to the family!

-Joyce S. Hershberger

Batter up!

Williamsport Crosscutters' All Faiths Night
Thursday, August 18, 7:05 p.m.

**With groups of 20 or more,
 get general admission tickets for less than half price!**



Can all you baseball fans get together out there for \$3 tickets?

Orders must be placed and payment received no later than Thursday, August 14!

The form is in the front office...all orders must go in at the same time.

With thanks to Luther Doebler and his family, an audio Bible is now available at St. Mark's. Both the Old and New Testaments are included on the cassettes.

Please call the office if you would like to borrow it.



HEALTH, HEALING & WHOLENESS

The summer months are flying by, and at one point or another, we will all experience seasonal overload. You know what I mean – you have to go to aunt Suzie's picnic, attend all the kids' ball games, take the kids to the pool, tend those gardens, can/freeze that fresh produce – the list could go on forever! Whatever happened to sitting on the front porch with a glass of iced tea or lemonade, watching the paint dry, or the grass grow? Before we know it, we've become "human doings" instead of human beings, and our stress level has reached the point of making our fun activities feel more like chores.

Typically stress develops when the demands of your life exceed your ability to cope with them. Like our fingerprints, stress is unique to each and every one of us. Research in the field of Neuro-Theology has demonstrated that people who meditate or pray, actually change their brain chemistry in a way that promotes better health and well-being – not surprising if we remember that God has promised to be near us, **especially** when we pray. Other benefits of an active prayer life include relaxation, increased ability to focus, and a sense of peace. Most of us know God's Ten Commandments; I would like to offer up another Ten Commandments – of managing stress:

1. *Thou shalt organize thyself.* Take better control of the way you are spending your time and energy so you can handle stress more effectively.
2. *Thou shalt control thy environment by controlling who and what is surrounding you.* In this way, you can either get rid of stress or get support for yourself.
3. *Thou shalt love thyself by giving yourself positive feedback.* Remember, you are a unique individual who is doing the best you can.
4. *Thou shalt reward thyself by planning leisure activities into your life.* It really helps to have something to look forward to.
5. *Thou shalt relax thyself by taking your mind off your stress and concentrating on breathing and positive thoughts.* Dreaming counts, along with meditation, prayer, listening to relaxing music, communicating with friends and loved ones, etc.
6. *Thou shalt rest thyself as regularly as possible.* Sleep for 7-8 hours a night. Take breaks. There is only so much your mind can absorb at one time. It needs time to process and integrate information. A general rule-of-thumb – take a ten-minute break every two hours. Rest your eyes, as well as your mind.
7. *Thou shalt be aware of thyself.* Be aware of distress signals such as insomnia, headaches, anxiety, upset stomach, lack of concentration, cold/flu, excessive tiredness, etc. Remember, these can be signs of potentially more serious disorders (i.e. ulcers, hypertension, heart disease).
8. *Thou shalt feed thyself/thou shalt not poison thy body.* Eat a balanced diet. Avoid high calorie foods that are high in fats and sugars. Don't depend on drugs and/or alcohol. Caffeine will keep you awake, but it also makes it harder for some to concentrate. A ten-minute walk has been proven to be a better tranquilizer than some prescription drugs.
9. *Enjoy thyself!* It has been show that happier people tend to live longer, have fewer physical problems, and are more productive. Look for humor in life when things don't make sense. Remember, you are very special and deserve only the best treatment from yourself.
10. *Thou shalt pray the serenity prayer – and mean it!* "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference."

Your body's flight-or-fight reaction has strong biological roots. It's there for self-preservation. But if stress is getting the better of you and you fear its long-term effects, don't be afraid or ashamed to seek help in breaking through old stress behavior patterns. Your physical health may depend on it!

Have a safe, happy, and enjoyable end to your summer!
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 Doeblar

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

Catherine Goertz

Apt. #816
1900B Ravine Rd.
Williamsport, PA 17701

Jean Gulliver

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

Chuck 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

Irma Logan

811 Woodland Ave.
Williamsport, PA 17701

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

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF BACK-TO-SCHOOL SALES



OUR GROUP PACK'N'WRAP IS SCHEDULED FOR
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6
AFTER THE 10:30 SERVICE

Now is the time to take advantage of those
back-to-school sales, picking up small boxes of crayons,
tablets...you know what we mean...

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW, SO YOU CAN JOIN US THEN!!!

ST. MARK'S AUGUST CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1 Monday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
5:30 PM Choir Camp Meal
6:00 PM Choir Camp Rehearsal

2 Tuesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
5:30 PM Choir Camp Meal
6:00 PM Choir Camp Rehearsal

3 Wednesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
9:20 AM Staff Meeting
5:30 PM Choir Camp Meal
6:00 PM Choir Camp Rehearsal

4 Thursday

6:31 AM Men's Ministry
9:00 AM Morning Prayer
5:30 PM Choir Camp Meal
6:00 PM Choir Camp Rehearsal

5 Friday

Council Agenda Deadline

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
5:30 PM Choir Camp Meal
6:00 PM Choir Camp Rehearsal

6 Saturday

Sherman Miller 80th Birthday @ FH
10:00 AM Amazing Grace Tour
4:00 PM Choir Camp Rehearsal
6:00 PM Tureen Meal
7:00 PM *Moses & the Freedom Fanatics*

7 Sunday

Pentecost VIII

Saints Reports - Rough Drafts Due
8:00 AM Holy Communion
9:15 AM Summer Forum
10:30 AM Holy Communion
10:30 AM *Moses & the Freedom Fanatics*

8 Monday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

9 Tuesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

10 Wednesday

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

11 Thursday

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

12 Friday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

13 Saturday

9:00 AM Work Day for Grand Slam
Parade Float

14 Sunday

Pentecost IX

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

15 Monday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
6:30 PM Council Mtg.
7:00 PM Dog Club

16 Tuesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
6:00 PM Parade Float work (if needed)

17 Wednesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
9:20 AM Staff Meeting
12:00 PM Lunch N' Fellowship
1:00 PM Parade Float final work
4:00 PM Parade participants meet
6:00 PM LL Grand Slam Parade

18 Thursday

6:31 AM Men's Ministry
9:00 AM Morning Prayer
12:00 PM Finance Comm. @ Ross

19 Friday

Newsletter Deadline

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

21 Sunday

Pentecost X

Saints Reports - Final Copy Due
8:00 AM Holy Communion
9:15 AM Summer Forum
10:30 AM Holy Communion

22 Monday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

23 Tuesday

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

24 Wednesday

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

25 Thursday

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

26 Friday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
9:15 AM Lion Crew
9:00 PM Movie Night at Dusk

27 Saturday

9:00 AM Daniel's Closet @ Redeemer

28 Sunday

Pentecost XI

8:00 AM Holy Communion
9:15 AM SS Volunteer Prep
10:30 AM Holy Communion
6:00 PM Teen Movie Night

29 Monday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
30 Tuesday
9:00 AM Morning Prayer
6:30 PM Little Lambs Open House

31 Wednesday

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



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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THE SECOND ANNUAL AMAZING GRACE TOUR

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

Visit some of Williamsport's beautiful houses of worship.
Included in each tour will be music, architecture, stained glass windows,
history and refreshments.

The Houses of Worship included in the 2011 tour are:



St. Mark's Lutheran Church

The Salvation Army

St. Boniface Catholic Church

Holy Cross Orthodox Church

New Covenant United Church of Christ

Transportation is available between sites via trolley or bus.

We have tickets available in the office for three different starting times all beginning at St. Mark's: 10:00, 10:45, or 11:15

The cost per ticket will be \$10. Proceeds go to the Salvation Army and the Shepherd of the Streets. Checks should be made out to United Churches of Lycoming County.