



THE LION OF ST. MARK'S

SEPTEMBER 2011



SUNDAY SCHOOL KICK-OFF BREAKFAST SUNDAY, SEPT. 4, AT 9:15! WHAT A GREAT WAY TO START THE YEAR!

September 4: Please join us for breakfast & conversation in Fellowship Hall at 9:15

- † Meet with the teachers of our adult classes...find out what they're doing!
- † Meet with your child's teacher
- † Meet and mingle with students of all ages!!

...AND SO IT BEGAN:

On August 28, the teachers of our elementary classes gathered for an overview of the curriculum for the year, asked questions and "re-grouped" after the summer!

...AND CONTINUES:

September 11: regular classes for all ages resume at 9:15 in the Chapel, then...

- † 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

The Way

Have a yearning desire to cultivate a closer relationship with Jesus and learn more about the teachings of Martin Luther? Has the time come for you to reaffirm your baptism in Christ? Do you want to learn more about St. Mark's and cultivate stronger fellowship with others here at St. Mark's?

If any of these ring a bell then "The Way" is especially for you. Throughout the year we share our thoughts and ideas leading to the reaffirmation of our baptism in Christ. Along the journey of faith we have the opportunity to experience a spiritual growth in the community of the church as well as within ourselves. Please consider becoming a member of "The Way" and contact Mel Wentzel at 327-8286 or Pastor Elkin at 323-4619.



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Council Notes

The Council met on Monday, August 15.

- Received the regular reports of the pastor, officers, and committees.
- Heard a reading from Pr. G.H. Gerberding from a century ago. He was pastor's uncle's grandfather.
- Approved the purchase of appropriately sized tables for the Middle School Sunday School class.
- Noted the addition of new staff member, Graydon Yearick, replacing Richard Wagner who retired as Financial Secretary.
- Noted the continuing need for Sunday Church School teachers.
- Concluded with Prayer at the Close of the Day in the chapel.

Parish Register

† Holy Baptism for Breanna Lee Bower, daughter of Jonathon Bower & Tanya Sheets on August 14, 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



Jungwha's Outcry: Treble singers needed!!!

Happy New School Year!!! As we start the new season, I need your help.

Can you think of organ music without the low notes of the pedals? If there is no work for the feet on the organ, I don't want to go to the concert. Thank you very much for our mighty bass in the senior choir, but they don't sing joyously when there are not enough treble singers in women and men. We appreciate foundation of sound from the pedal division of the organ and lower parts of the human voice, but we need sopranos and tenors; someone who will flourish and lead the sound over the foundation of sound. Without them it is like turkey without gravy!

That is our situation in the senior choir at St. Mark's. I cannot express enough the importance of treble singers in the choir. Sometimes I eat plain part of cakes to get to the icing! The treble singers stand out just as icing is conspicuous on a cake. We appreciate the joy and character they bring to the music.

If you can sing higher notes and if you have ever thought of joining choir but are hesitant, I have the solution for you. You will find a place next to well-established singers and follow their lead. When we don't have enough supporting sound, everyone notices difference just as if an organ doesn't have enough high pitch ranks of pipes. It will sound dull.

We like to sing hymns with organ accompaniment because of its brightness and fullness. Our choir would like to sing with human bass and soprano. Organists appreciate the bass section more than any other musicians, because we know the magnitude of it every time we perch on the organ bench. Now the foundation is laid before you, please join us to explore the enchantment of the icing part of the cake!!!

If you are one of followings, you are eligible to join.

- ♪ You must have vocal cords.
- ♪ You must be able to see and read the text.
- ♪ You should understand Jungwha's foreign tongue. This might be the hardest part, but you will get there. Maybe not in the beginning.....
- ♪ You must have time Thursday night between 7:30 – 9 p.m. and Sunday morning a little before worship.

Can you make it? Can you lend your soprano or tenor pipes to Senior Choir on Thursday evening and Sunday morning? Let Jungwha know your willingness to join to Senior Choir or just come one Thursday to experience the atmosphere and musical journey.

Dates to remember:

Adult Choir: resumes on **September 8, Thurs, 7:30 pm**

Adult Handbell Choir: resumes on **September 19, Mon, 6:45 pm**

Family Handbell Choir: resumes on **October 2, Sun, 11:45 am** (after 2nd Worship)

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

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

United Churches Golf Tournament

On Tuesday, Sept. 20, UCLC will have their first annual golf tournament to support United Churches of Lycoming County.

Foursomes and sponsors needed!!

Call or email Pr. Ken Weiss with any questions: 323-6325 or kweiss1213@hotmail.com



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.

"Daniel's Closet"

at Redeemer Lutheran Church
1101 Washington Blvd., Wmspt
322-2333



Free Clothing for
Children, Men & Women!

9 - 11 a.m.

Saturdays, Aug. 27 & Sept. 24

Come and See!

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!

Ecumenical Lunches Resume

The United Churches Wednesday Noon Ecumenical Lunches resume this September. They will be held each week from 12 to 1 at Pine Street United Methodist Church. You are assured of a delicious lunch, warm ecumenical fellowship and a thoughtful program designed to enrich your life both mentally and spiritually. No reservations are necessary. The price of the lunch will be announced when catering arrangements are finalized. Both laity and clergy are urged to come and enjoy as many of these programs as possible.

September 14 - **Mrs. Carol Waltz and Mrs. Candy Watkins**, Carol is the Organist, Messiah Lutheran Church and Candy is a retired Music Teacher, "*Autumn*"

September 21 - **Ms. Pamela Wollet**, MSW, LSW, Children's Bereavement Coordinator, Susquehanna Health, "*Heartworks*"

September 28 - To Be Announced



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



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.

→ ALL KITS ARE DUE BY SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25! ←

CROP WALK

Our community's annual walk to fight hunger, the CROP Walk, is scheduled for Sunday, October 9, 2011 at 1:30 P.M. at the River Walk in Williamsport! This is our first year at this new location. Registration will begin at 1:00 P.M. at our very own St. Mark's Lutheran Church! You will select your River Walk route for a 3, 6 or 10 mile walk or anywhere in between. Thank you to all who walked and donated for the CROP Walk in 2010. Together we raised \$562! Those of us who walked had a great time and we hope more join us this year!



Last year's walkers

Last year's CROP Walk brought over thirty churches, synagogues, and organizations with donations totaling \$14,347.91. This year is the 32nd walk and during the past 31 years they have collected \$715,815.30. Thank you for doing your part in fighting hunger both locally and globally. 25% of the money we collect comes back to our community and is distributed equally to the American Rescue Workers Food Pantry, the Salvation Army Food Pantry, the United Churches Food Pantry and St. Anthony's Center. The other 75% is distributed by Church World Service nationally and internationally to help people who are hungry. We have taken a local allocation for the past 14 years, which has brought a total of \$53,739.61 back into our community. Other walks in our county have added to this total!

UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRY

Students are back - classes started last week, and we are looking forward to an exciting semester! Monday evening Faith talks begin this week (local Pastors host these each week), and I will have a table set up outside the new freshman eatery (The Capital Eatery) every Wednesday from 11 - 2:30 to meet with students.

Please encourage the Penn College Students in your congregation to connect with us. We look forward to welcoming returning students as well as those new to the campus. This year we also welcome a new advisor, Professor Deb Buckman.

She teaches in the science department and is a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church.

Some of the special events this fall include this week's Fall Fiesta, a getting to know you evening of pizza and bowling, and a fall Mission Weekend where we will work at Yokefellow and then go on a hay ride at St. Michael's.

We could use some baked good for the Bake Sale which is Wednesday, September 28. Please let me know if you can help. You can me at 570-419-5376 or ucm@uclc.org.

- Sharon Comini

Women of the ELCA

WE'RE OFF AND RUNNING!!!



The Women of St. Mark's invite all women (and men, too) to join in their activities. The more the merrier! Ordinary people like us, each doing small things, can accomplish great things.

People to help quilt are needed to work at the church Wednesday mornings or to sew at home. Bring scissors and come to Morning Prayer at 9:00 a.m., or come when you can.

People to help at the Bazaar can pick your times from the following schedule. Extra help is needed to set up before the sale and to pack up and clean after the sale. Contact Becky Miller-Pryor or Shirley Hill.

<i>Wed. Sept. 7</i>	<i>Quilting begins – 9:15 a.m. or whenever you can come</i>
<i>Wed. Sept. 28</i>	<i>Decorate Nave with quilts – 9 a.m. to 10</i>
<i>Wed. Sept. 28</i>	<i>Set-up for Bazaar – 10 a.m. to Noon</i>
<i>Thurs. Sept. 29</i>	<i>Set-up for Bazaar – 9 a.m. to Noon</i>
<i>Fri. Sept. 30</i>	<i>Set-up for Bazaar – 9 a.m. to Noon</i>
<i>Sat. Oct. 1</i>	<i>Fall Bazaar & Rummage Sale – 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.</i>
<i>Sun. Oct. 2</i>	<i>Blanket Sunday</i>
<i>Wed. Oct. 5</i>	<i>Pack quilts and kits for shipping – 9 a.m. to 11</i>
<i>Wed. Oct. 19</i>	<i>Meeting of Women of St. Mark's – 10 a.m. Lunch 'N Fellowship – 12:00</i>

RECYCLING IS "GREEN"

Do you have buried treasures in your home? The Quilters need sheets in good condition for quilt backings and old blankets for fillers.

The Bazaar-Rummage Sale needs your gently used household articles, toys, dishes, pans, lamps, jewelry, cookbooks, fiction books, seasonal decorations, framed pictures, sports equipment, etc. All money earned from this sale goes to charities.



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. Many good quality items have already been placed in the Bazaar Room, but we need more items for a successful sale.

Beginning the week of September 25th your donations may be placed on the stage. Set-up will begin on Wednesday, September 28th after Morning Prayer. Preparations will continue during the day on Thursday and Friday. To allow more folks to assist in setting up we will also meet at 7:00 PM on Thursday and Friday

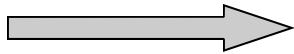


to continue preparing for the sale. Please consider lending a hand during the day or in the evening. Speak with Shirley Hill or Becky Miller Pryor to volunteer before, during or after the sale.

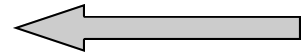
Please note we are not accepting encyclopedias or textbooks for the sale.

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

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.

9/11 MEMORIAL EVENTS

Sunday, September 11 is the tenth year anniversary of that fateful Tuesday when terrorists attacked the nation. Several events will be held in our community.

- **The 9-11 Memorial Ride** will continue to roll. Fr, John Manno invites area pastors to gather with him at the Clinton Township Fire Hall in Montgomery at 3:00 p.m. and take part in *The Blessing Of The Bikes*. The afternoon and evening will be filled with many fun activities for families and individuals throughout our region.
- **An Interfaith Service** will be held at the Community Arts Center in Williamsport at 7:00 p.m. and people from all congregations are invited. This service will include reflections from people who worked at Ground Zero during the recovery process, as well as inspiring music.
- **Mural Canyon Vigil:** Visit artist Michael Pilato as he paints in vigil, honoring those who were lost.

In order to survive, our country came together and worked together, not just at the sites of the terrorism, but also right here in Williamsport. We continue to work together, to pray together, to stand together united under God in the task of making this a better place to live. On Sunday, September 11, please take time to join together with others in our community to remember the events that took place on that dreadful Tuesday morning and how we, as a nation, have overcome the attacks."

FUN ' N ' FELLOWSHIP



→ **FUN NIGHT** ←

FRIDAY,

SEPTEMBER 23!

6:30 P.M.

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO HAVE FUN...JOIN US!!!

BRING A FAVORITE GAME, A SNACK & A FRIEND!

LUNCH ' N ' FELLOWSHIP



SOO-EY, it's pulled pork!

Wednesday, September 21!

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

Remember it's the Medicare 101

Information Seminar!

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 now 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. If you have not already spoken to one of us, be expecting a phone call soon.

Monetary donations may be made payable to St. Mark's with the memo line designating the Hosting Fund. If you have never volunteered but would like to find out more, contact either Jane or Becky for more information.

Needed: 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 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 need two cakes for the beginning of our hosting week. Two additional cakes would most likely be needed by mid-week.

Thank you to Mary Lou Doebler for keeping us in cookies for the entire week.

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

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. Thank you to those folks who have already donated yarn to this project.

Items for Sale



The Quilting Ladies of St. Mark's have four sewing machines for sale. All of the machines are housed in wooden sewing cabinets. These machines have served the quilting group for many years, but are no longer used. One machine is operational, two are in need of repair, and the fourth machine would be considered vintage.

One may purchase a machine with or without a cabinet. Or one may purchase only a cabinet if so desired. The cost for any of these items is a donation to the Women of St. Mark's.

Speak with Shirley Hill, Grace Arner, or Becky Miller Pryor if interested.

YOUTH & FAMILY



For youth in 6th- 12th grades in Pittsburgh, PA,
Friday-Sunday, January 27-29, 2012

This is a great event for our youth!

A *Quake* is a Christian weekend retreat for middle school students and their leaders. At these, God builds caring Christian community among youth and adults, personal faith in Jesus Christ, and positive relationships among peers through great music, motivational speakers, small group activities, lessons on life and exciting interaction between youth groups.

A *Zone* is an intense Christian weekend event designed to help high school youth grow in their faith. At these, youth will develop relationships with other high school youth and Christian adults while growing in their personal faith with Jesus Christ. Featured are large group celebrations, nationally renowned musicians, a service project, and awesome late night Christian activities.

What's the difference? Both are centered on Jesus and provide opportunities for faith building. *Quakes* focus on faith in Jesus Christ and building Christian community. *Zones* go deeper by providing opportunities for faith not only to grow, but also be applied. Youth are challenged to discover and put into practice their spiritual gifts, as well as be involved in on-site service opportunities.

If we take a group, we have to register by mid-October. St. Mark's will pay half of the hotel/event fee and we have planned fundraisers for the students to earn the rest. Please note that we will be leaving on a Friday morning...if your school is in session, they will allow an exemption for religious purposes.

To find out more, please join us Sunday, Sept. 4, after the 10:30 service for a question & answer session! Visitors from Messiah will be there to tell us of their experiences!



Sunday, Sept 25, 6 pm
Bring a treat and join us!
This month: "The Mask of Zorro!"

Little League Grand Slam Parade Float



Thank you, thank you, Dan, Lou, Bob M., Devin, Laura, Anna, Sara, Michele, Zack, and Corey for helping us put together a wonderful float!!!

Thank you also to Vicki, Pam, Bob J., Dinah and Pr. Elkin for walking the entire route; to Ben, Sean, Hannah & Elizabeth for riding on it; and to Lou (for his truck), his grandson, DJ (for driving) and Lou's relative for the trailer!

CATECHETICAL NEWS



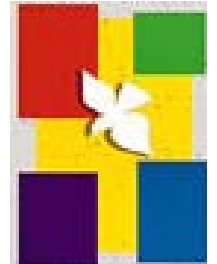
SAVE THE DATE!!!

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.

NEW CATECHETICAL CLASS FORMING!

Letters inviting students to become a part of the confirmation process will go out. If you have a student in sixth or seventh grade and have 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.



To date, we know that Ben Haussmann, Dawson Owen and Stefan Weber are joining Laura, Anna, Kara, Morgan and Ezra in the catechetical process...when did these kids get this old????

BIBLE STUDY

BIBLE STUDIES RECONVENE

Study ^{the} Bible
with us



Wednesdays Join Pastor Elkin and the gang at noon on Wednesdays at noon beginning on Sept. 7 for good conversation, song, laughter...and we learn things, too!! Feel free to bring your lunch as you enter into study with us.

This year, we continue exploring the book by Dr. Frank Senn *Lutheran Identity, A Classical Understanding*. Each page leads us to a number of related questions for us to explore.

Thursdays For the early-birds on Thursday mornings, we have a 30-minute study at 6:31 A.M. each week. This fall we are working through the O.T. book of 1 & 2 *Chronicles* with the aid of a brief commentary by Fr. Patrick Reardon.

MOSES and the FREEDOM FANATICS



What a great time we had!! Hope you didn't miss it! Good times, good friends, good singing, good acting, good food...what more could you want?!

It was a fun-filled week, leading up to the pot-luck dinner and performance on Saturday. Those instrumental in bringing it about were: Jungwha Kim; Gillian, Ezra, Deb & Jim Buckman; Bud Doebler, Pastor Elkin, Michele Fredericks, Ben, Hannah, Elizabeth & Vicki Haussmann, Sean & Pam Jensen, Sara & Bernadette Jones and Laura, Anna & Diana Zeigler.

Behind the scenes, Lou DeSeau, Sara Jones, Anna & Laura Zeigler and Devin Owen were amazing putting together and painting the set...the girls did a beautiful job painting the stone design on top of the guys' well-applied base coat of paint!

Keeping us energized with good, nourishing meals were Shirley Kinney, Lois Smith, Michele Owen, Jackie Kinney, Kathy Eshelman, Linda DeSeau, Bob Jones and Donna Elkin.

Thanks go out to all these persons mentioned as well as to everyone who came to see us on Saturday evening! We hope that those who just caught some of the songs can make it for the entire story next year!

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

SALLY BJORNSTAD
 KAREN BOONE
 NICK BUCKMAN
 BRENDA GAIR
 VICKI HAUSSMANN
 JOYCE HERSHBERGER
 BECKY MILLER PRYOR
 JENN ROBERTSON
 SHELBY WEBER

Michele and Bernadette wish to sincerely thank those listed above who have volunteered to teach Sunday Church School this year.

We have four elementary classes which meet nine months a year. These nine are the only ones who have signed up for a month (or two). You can see that almost half of them no longer have school-aged children attending—and yet, they have volunteered.

What about you?

CONSECRATION SUNDAY

Consecration Sunday is October 16 this year. We understand the concept that, from a biblical perspective, financial stewardship is not money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, we know that financial contributions are a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes. Since this goes against our natural tendencies to want to regard everything as our own possessions, we must continue to think about this and make it a part of our life a bit at a time.

Consecration Sunday is a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving. We are not members of a social club who should pay dues; we are followers of Jesus Christ who want to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship. We must look into our hearts and ask ourselves: "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"



Every attendee and member who completes an Estimate of Giving Card, does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday, October 16. We urge everyone to attend, even those who are hesitant to complete a card, because the procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend worship on Consecration Sunday, October 16. In the coming weeks, please think prayerfully about the blessings God has given to you, and about how you are called to share those blessings.

The other part of the event is the celebration meal that follows each worship service on October 16. At services on October 2 and 9, we'll be asking for your reservation for the breakfast following the 8:30 service or the lunch following the 10:30 service on Consecration Sunday. It is important that every member take part.

St. Mark's and rural churches from the Lock Haven area will participate in a Pastor Exchange on that day. Pastor Elkin will take God's message to Pastor W. Steven Shipman's churches in the valleys, and Pastor Shipman will speak to us on how Stewardship (our works and efforts) coincides with what we do after we say "We believe...". Stewardship is, indeed, our faith in action.

Stewardship is what we do after we say "I believe."

MEN'S MINISTRY

CONTINUES TO MEET EVERY THURSDAY MORNING AT 6:31!

STOP BY AND SEE WHAT THEY'RE DOING IN 30 MINUTES
EACH WEEK!



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

Dear St. Mark's Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your generous monetary contribution to Family Promise of Lycoming County. It is much appreciated.

Dear St. Mark's,

Please accept the enclosed donation of \$100 to the Parish Life Committee in thanks for the use of Fellowship Hall.

Dear Michele (and VBS participants),

Thank you to you and everyone at St. Mark's Lutheran church for providing over 250 meals for orphaned children all over the world.

Mary,
for the Rice Bowls Team



Our father's birthday party on August 6th was a huge success, enjoyed by more than 115 people who celebrated with him, due to the work of many on the committee.

Please know we are so appreciative of your efforts.

Becky Miller Pryor and Family

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ at St. Mark's,

Thank you so much for the beautiful sets you provided for our Pandamania vacation bible school. The VBS went very, very well in every way—and it certainly wouldn't have been anywhere near as effective without your generous help; we simply could not have made the rooms anywhere nearly as attractive and interesting. We also thank the Lord for this wonderful change of weather this past week—we've really been concerned about this summer's heat & humidity and rain—but what we got was just perfect.

At any rate, we are all very appreciative of your support—and if there is anything we can do to help support or publicize future events by you at St. Mark's, just let us know.

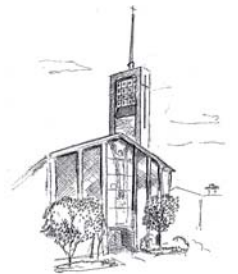
Sincerely, Pr. Pete Wilson and Dwayne, Youth & VBS Director

Dear Pastor Elkin and Bernadette,

Thank you so much for making the Amazing Grace Tour such a special event. Everyone I spoke with told me they had a wonderful time! Our Shepherd Program and the Salvation Army will be blessed by your gracious hosting efforts.

You all went out of your way to make it a delightful experience. Please thank everyone who helped for us!

Blessings, Gwen Bernstine



We want you to know that your kindness at this time is more deeply appreciated than any words of thanks can express ~ the Calvert Family

Dear Shirley,

Thank you so much for helping with the luncheon after my mother's funeral service. It was much appreciated. Please thank the others who assisted with everything. It was lovely and I thank you again for your thoughtfulness.

Sincerely, Gail Greninger

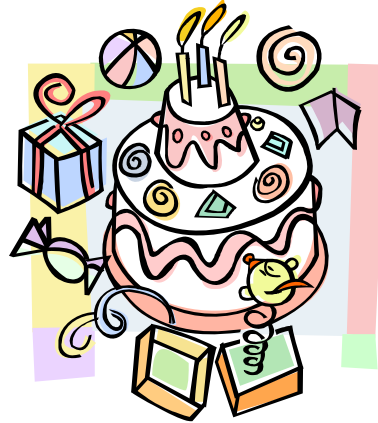
We are sincerely grateful and "thank you" for your support! Indeed, your help means so much to us as we serve many people every day. I assure you every donation is put to good use. May God bless and reward you for your thoughtful charity to others! In sincere appreciation, we will pray for you and in all your intentions.

Gratefully, Sister Henry, SCC

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

9/01 Anna Stiadle
 9/03 Todd Smith
 9/04 Jeannette Lukens
 9/05 Brett Campbell
 9/05 Lauren Campbell
 9/05 Valerie Doebler
 9/05 Sean Elkin
 9/05 Hailey Jarrett
 9/05 Kirk Owen
 9/06 Derek Lewis
 9/06 Betty Rechel
 9/09 Debra Buckman
 9/09 Nolan Ott
 9/09 Hudson Ott
 9/09 Ava Peluso
 9/10 Mary Clouser
 9/11 Carol Harvey
 9/12 Theodore Larson Jr.
 9/12 Beth Shafranko

9/12 Mary Ann Stiller
 9/12 Marion Waldeisen
 9/13 Alice Helm



9/13 Timothy Maggs
 9/13 Stefan Weber
 9/15 Shirley MacGill

9/15 Andrea Welker
 9/16 Louella Bair
 9/17 Tammy Fitzpatrick
 9/18 Abreanna Doane
 9/19 Audrey Bower
 9/19 Deborah Holmes
 9/20 Richard Harris
 9/22 Ronald Arner
 9/22 Brittany Dewar
 9/24 Jeffery Maggs
 9/24 Aeris Powley
 9/25 Richard Kneedler
 9/26 Blanche Doebler
 9/26 Abigail Robertson
 9/27 Michael Elliott
 9/28 Lawrence Satifka
 9/28 Bailey Sims
 9/28 Ralph Zeigler Sr.
 9/30 Pamela Fink

Happy Anniversary!

9/03 Ronald & Grace Arner
 9/03 Steven & Nancy Bieber Jr.
 9/03 Eric & Sharon Comini
 9/03 Tom & Helen Schramm
 9/04 Robert & Shelly Clokey
 9/10 William & Marion Waldeisen



9/19 Johnny & Renee Hinds
 9/25 Michael & Jackie Kinney
 9/27 James & Donna Maule
 9/28 George & Kay Poliska
 9/28 Robert & Michele Ramsauer

...AND, YET AGAIN, THANK YOU!

Thank you very much for assisting the Shepherd of the Streets Ministry by donating items to be given to those in need. Your generosity is appreciated by many!

May God bless you always!

Sincerely yours in Christ, J. Morris Smith, Th.D.

Thank you very much for your generosity. We appreciate your donation very much. May the Lord bless you all.
 ~ Karen Nelson, volunteer

Hi -- I just wanted to send you a quick email to let you know how much my family and I appreciated the kindness you showed us as we were offered free food and drinks on our way to the 4th of July fireworks in Williamsport. It was refreshing to see believers loving neighbors in tangible ways! As a fellow believer, it was encouraging! May God continue to bless you and His church there at St. Mark's Lutheran Church!

Enjoying grace, Gary, NE PA

News in Our Pews

It never fails to amaze me what a small group of dedicated people, children or adults, can put together. With a cast of eight and eleven adults comprising the cast, Moses and the Freedom Fanatics played to rave reviews on Saturday, August 10 in Fellowship Hall. Ben, Hannah and Elizabeth Haussmann, Sean Jensen, Laura and Anna Zeigler, Gillian Buckman and Annika Waffenschmidt were the actors and Deb, Ezra and Jim Buckman, Pam Jensen, Ruth Burkholder, Bud Doebler, Pastor Elkin, Diana Zeigler, Michele Fredericks, Sara Jones and Vicki Haussmann provided the background music. Jungwha and Bernadette were the capable directors and the kitchen crew served the meals. One week of rehearsals and planning and the whole production came together beautifully. If you missed it, plan to come next time – it is wonderful dinner theater!

Another outstanding event this past month was the Amazing Grace tour which took place on the same day. Heavy rain failed to dampen the spirits of those who attended and a letter to the editor about the tour paid a special compliment to the organ and the organist at St. Mark's! Pastor Elkin and Jungwha shared the honors so we can't be sure which one the letter was referring to – but we know they are both excellent.

Bernadette send special thanks to Sara Jones and Anna and Laura Zeigler for all their help with summer events - VBS, the choir camp and the upcoming float in the Little League parade.

And last of all caught a glimpse of Ben Haussmann watching in awe as his rocket flew into the air at the NASA day camp at Sheridan School!

Keep in touch with your hot items and even those that are lukewarm!

-Joyce S. Hershberger

AMAZING GRACE TOUR

In spite of the weather, the turn-out was very nice. Many people saw our wonderful church and heard our story for the first time on August 6. Still others viewed it with greater perspective and learned more.

There were many who helped in putting our best foot forward: Pastor Elkin, for being a tireless host; Jungwha Kim, for her brilliant talent at the organ; Gloria Greevy and Michele Owen, for greeting and overseeing the resource table; Joyce Hershberger, Jim & Deb Buckman, and Jane Kline, for being ready to answer any questions; Sally Bjornstad, for serving the refreshments and helping Shirley Miller make countless finger sandwiches, as well as providing the spreads. Thank you all...we couldn't have done it without you!!!

A new welcome pamphlet with the history and features of our church home was prepared and is available for any who would like one...ask Pr. Elkin or Bernadette and ye shall receive!!

...one more thank you:

Dear Bernadette,

What fun we had participating in the summer choir camp! I can't tell how much Sean and I enjoy acting and singing together with our church family.

I know it takes a lot of time and effort on your part and I'm so grateful that you're willing to do it. Can't wait til Christmas!

Thanks so much, Pam & Sean Jensen

HEALTH, HEALING & WHOLENESS

Last night I watched the movie *Marley and Me* – the story of an incorrigible yellow Labrador retriever, who defied all attempts to become a civilized member of his family. The only thing harder than trying to train Marley, is training a beagle! As the story progresses, we see that what has been said about pets is true – they love you unconditionally! You may have had a lousy day, but your pet doesn't hold that against you. You may have had to scold them, but they forgive in a matter of minutes. When you emotionally invest yourself into relationships with them, their passing is felt as deeply as if they had been two-, rather than four-legged, companions. So, this month's column is dedicated to Marley, and all pets who love unconditionally.

According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the website, MayoClinic.com, pets offer numerous health benefits.

1. "Scientists have found that people who owned dogs were more likely to be alive, one year after suffering a heart attack than were people who didn't own dogs.
2. In comparisons of the heart rate and blood pressure of people without pets versus those of pet owners, people with pets had lower heart rates and blood pressure levels. An added benefit was that people with pets also had less increase in their heart rate and blood pressure when put under stress. Their blood pressure also dropped faster after a stressful event.
3. Studies of older adults have found that those who shared their lives with pets were less likely to experience depression, were better able to tolerate living alone, and were more active than their counterparts who didn't have pets."

Pets can increase your opportunities for exercise and outdoor activities, and your opportunities for socialization.

I'd like to share the following observations someone once made about life lessons from a dog:

- ✧ Never pass up the opportunity to go for a ride with someone you love.
- ✧ On hot days, drink lots of water.
- ✧ When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.
- ✧ Run, romp, and play daily.
- ✧ Allow the experience of fresh air and wind in your face to be pure ecstasy.
- ✧ When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by, and nuzzle them gently.
- ✧ If someone scolds you, forgive quickly.
- ✧ If something you want is buried, dig until you find it.
- ✧ Never pretend to be something you're not.
- ✧ Be loyal.

Will there be pets in heaven? I think so, and to them I believe God will also say, "Well done, good and faithful servant. Well done!"

If you have recently lost a beloved pet, and are having some difficulty adjusting, here are a few books that may be helpful:

Pet Loss: A Thoughtful Guide for Adults and Children by A. Fischer & A.H. Nieburg.

Joy in a Woolly Coat: Living with, Loving and Letting Go of Tressed Animal Friends by J.A. Church. Good books for children

The Tenth Good thing About Barney by Judith Viorst

Mr. Roger's First Experience: When a Pet Dies by Fred Rogers.

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
Montoursville, PA 17754

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 Doeblor

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

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

OUR GROUP PACK'N'WRAP IS SCHEDULED FOR

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6

AFTER THE 10:30 SERVICE

Time's a-wasting! Don't wait until the last minute and miss the sales: start now picking up small boxes of crayons, tablets, pencil sharpeners, small toys... you know what we mean...



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

ST. MARK'S SEPTEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1 Thursday

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

2 Friday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

3 Saturday

9:00 Set up for breakfast

4 Sunday Pentecost XII

8:00 AM Holy Communion
9:00 AM Sunday School Kick-off
Breakfast
10:30 AM Holy Communion
11:41 AM YouthQuake/Zone Interest Meeting

5 Monday

Office Closed

6 Tuesday

8:00 AM City Pastor's Breakfast @ St. Mark's
9:00 AM Morning Prayer
6:00 PM Brownies

7 Wednesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
9:20 AM Staff Mtg & Quilting
12:00 PM Bible Study
6:30 PM Worship & Music

8 Thursday

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

9 Friday

Council Agenda Deadline

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

10 Saturday

FP Hosting Set-up

11 Sunday Pentecost XIII

Hosting FPLC

8:00 AM Holy Communion
9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Confirmation
10:30 AM Holy Communion
11 :45 AM Family Handbells

12 Monday

Hosting FPLC

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

6:00 PM Property Committee @ Zimmerer's home

12 Monday (cont.)

7:00 PM Wmspt. Civic Chorus
8:00 PM UCM Faith Talk @ PCT

13 Tuesday

Hosting FPLC

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

14 Wednesday

Hosting FPLC

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

15 Thursday

Hosting FPLC

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
9:20 AM Stephen Ministry
6:00 PM Executive Committee
7:30 PM Senior Choir

16 Friday

Newsletter Deadline

Hosting FPLC

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

17 Saturday

Hosting FPLC

18 Sunday Pentecost XIV

Hosting FPLC

8:00 AM Holy Communion
9: 15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Holy Communion
12:15 PM The Way #1
6:00 PM Catechetics meal/mtg

19 Monday

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

20 Tuesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
12:00 PM LSM at CoS
6:00 PM Brownies
6:30 PM Family Promise Board

21 Wednesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

9:20 AM Staff Mtg & Quilting
12:00 PM Lunch N' Fellowship & Medicare 101 Info. Seminar

22 Thursday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
7:30 PM Senior Choir

23 Friday

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

24 Saturday

9:00 AM Daniel's Closet @ Redeemer

25 Sunday Pentecost XV

8:00 AM Holy Communion
9: 15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Holy Communion
12:15 PM The Way #2
6:00 PM Teen Movie Night

26 Monday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
6:45 PM Handbells
7:00 PM Wmspt. Civic Chorus

27 Tuesday

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

28 Wednesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
9:00 AM Set up for Bazaar
9:20 AM Staff Mtg & Quilting
12:00 PM Bible Study

29 Thursday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
9:00 AM Set up for Bazaar
7:30 PM Senior Choir

30 Friday



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

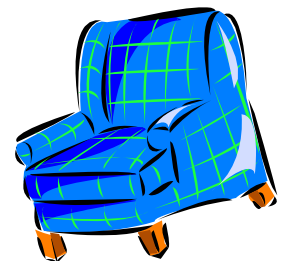
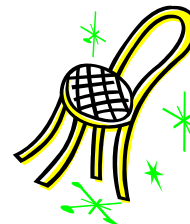


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Williamsport, PA 17701



*We're saving
a
seat for YOU
at Sunday Church School!*