



THE LION OF ST. MARK'S

NOVEMBER 2011

A message from your congregation president:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ.

Steven Covey tells us to begin with the end in mind. In keeping with his maxim, I am prayerfully approaching our looming Congregational Assembly for the budget on December 11. I am writing this on October 21 and we need to have some thinking and doing happen before that meeting.

I'll try to lay out the facts as plainly as possible. We all need to think more deeply about our pledges and offerings for 2012.

Offerings and pledges account for 75% of our annual income. The remainder comes from rentals, investment fund returns, and memorial accounts. Our current (2011) budget has \$240,000.00 coming in from offerings and pledges.

On Consecration Sunday our pledges totaled \$132,000 for 2012; 10 days later, the total has risen to \$176,948. That number still represents a significant shortfall as we plan for next year.

Let's look at expenses. In our budget we have obligations for salaries/benefits, property, and administrative needs. That amount totals \$282,000.00. Again, remember that our pledge total at the moment is \$176,948 for next year.

I understand that some of you are reluctant to give a pledge for whatever reason, and your wishes are to be respected. I also realize that many who do not give a pledge faithfully contribute to the church. For that reason the Finance Committee can increase our anticipated income somewhat by tracking previous giving.

We also have \$1,050,000.00 in our investment account and we get interest from that account. While it is possible to take principal from one portion of that account, once that is done, it also removes the possibility receiving interest from that amount forever.

The bottom line is this: We are obligated to pay \$282,000.00 for the basic needs of our church (salaries, property needs, and at some point we'll need to address a roofing issue). The remaining \$36,000.00 of our \$318,000.00 budget (2011) goes for our extremely worthwhile programs in Sunday School, outreach, hospitality, Family Promise, benevolence and the like.

Budget should be based on visions and goals. Committees have been deciding what they think God is calling them to do in their particular section of the church by dreaming, visioning and thinking. After that they ask "What does it cost to do what needs to be done"? They have forwarded their work to the Finance Committee that is charged with preparing a budget to send on to the Council, which in turn must make a recommendation to the Congregation on December 11.

If we continue to have the shortfall, we'll have to "rob Peter to pay Paul" and that means that the very heart of what we do both in the church and in our outreach would be imperiled.

I do not want to stand before you on December 11 and say that we cannot fund part of our work. That is the purpose of this article and a short (I promise) talk at the October 30 services. I know that the St. Mark's family will rise to deal with the problem. With God's help, we can all look forward to December 11, 2011.

Thank you,

Ray Huff, President of St. Mark's congregation.

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Council Notes

The Congregation Council met in regular session on October 17 in the Crossways room. The Council:

- ◆ received the regular reports of the pastor, officers, and committees.
- ◆ Noted that some more Sunday Church School teachers continue to be needed for certain months of the year.
- ◆ Heard the results of the Consecration Sunday events, and the difficult job facing the Finance Committee in the coming month.
- ◆ Elected Tim Maggs to fill the unexpired term of Ruth Pile on Council.
- ◆ Concluded the meeting by joining in *Prayer at the Close of the Day* in the chapel.

Parish Register

**Ardath Houser, died October 15, 2011.
Memorial services will be announced later.**

**Enrolled for catechetical studies this fall are:
Evan Barone, Benjamin Haussmann,
Dawson Owen & Stefan Weber**

Staff & Officers Contact Information

Website: stmarkswilliamsport.org

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
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Women of St. Mark's

How Thankful Are You?

Recently Pastor Elkin presented a sermon based on the popular hymn by Sydney Carter called "Lord of the Dance". This reminds us to ask ourselves how many ways do we "dance with the Lord"? One way is to decide, "How thankful am I for God's blessings?" Do you appreciate what God has given to you?

Since the early 1900's Lutheran women have been practicing Thank-offerings. Whenever an event occurs for which they are thankful, they put aside a coin, or a small offering, with a prayer. Appreciation for life's beautiful moments, such as the loving touch of a child or even the joy of a beautiful sunset, can say thanks to God.



Sunday, November 13th, will be Thank-offering Sunday at St. Mark's. If you wish to participate, envelopes are available in the Narthex, or you can use your usual method of payment. Checks should be made out to St. Mark's and be clearly designated for "Thank-offering".

Speaking of Being Thankful...

Lutheran World Relief and the Women of St. Mark's thank everyone in the congregation of St. Mark's who donated or helped with our Quilt and Kit Ministry. Results of gifts sent from St. Mark's were as follows:



Local flood relief – 33 quilts
 Lutheran World Relief – 78 quilts, 63 School Kits, 9 Baby Care Kits,
 2 Personal Care Kits, 1 Fabric Kit, and 20 pounds of soap
 Cash to purchase blankets – \$235.00

Together we reach many people in distress. Thank you for "dancing with the Lord".

SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL

OUR TEACHERS FOR NOVEMBER ARE:



PRE-K AND K: SHARON AND ERIC COMINI
 1ST AND 2ND: SALLY BJORNSTAD
 3RD AND 4TH: JOYCE HERSHBERGER
 5TH: BONNIE & STEVE EYER

THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING!!!!
 TEACHERS ARE STILL NEEDED FOR SEVERAL MONTHS THIS YEAR.
 PLEASE CALL MICHELE TO VOLUNTEER.

United Churches of Lycoming County

ECUMENICAL LUNCHES

Wednesdays, 12 to 1 PM

A tasty \$6 lunch, warm, ecumenical fellowship & a thoughtful program designed to enrich your life mentally, physically, spiritually and socially at Pine Street United Methodist Church.

No reservations are necessary.

NOVEMBER:

- 2 - JoAnne Girton, Linda Goodman, Bob Hacker, Lucy Henry, Kay Huffman, Kristin Ivers, Doris Teufel, & Tom Wetzel;
Members: Williamsport Music Club
"Academy Award Winning Songs"
- 9 - Dan Doyle, UCLC Christian Social Concerns Committee,
"Faithful Budget: Creating a Circle of Protection for the Poor"
- 15 - Mr. Terry Roller, Executive Director, STEP Inc.,
Success Through Engagement and Partnership
- 23 - The Rev. Kevin Brophy, Pastor, Salladasburg UM Charge
"Thanksgiving - 2011"
- 30 - The Rev. Larry Waltz, UCLC Annual Assembly Committee,
"Celebrating Our Journey"

This is a ministry in which everyone in our congregations and community is welcome to participate.

Make plans to join us and you're welcome to bring a friend!



24 hour Devotion Line

Is available to encourage you in your relationship with God. Devotions are under three minutes and change weekly.

The phone number is 570-322-5762

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

These are the items that are currently needed:

| | | |
|------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| canned peas | canned fruit | tea bags |
| Canned carrots | cake mixes | frostings |
| Ramen Noodles | coffee | canned tuna |
| Pudding mix | Jello | egg noodles |
| Oatmeal packets | chunky soups | sugar |
| Powdered creamer | tomato soup | Saltines |
| Cocoa packets | 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.

In His Presence 3

will be held in our community from Saturday October 29 to Saturday November 5. Known traditionally as the Feast of Tabernacles, eight houses of worship will host worship on their evening from 6-9 pm. They would like to welcome all the Body of Christ to participate. The theme is "Healing River." Any questions, or for an itinerary, contact Mike Krall at 494-0299.



Christmas Baskets of Food and Toys

The American Rescue Workers are making their lists and checking them twice.

The application process will begin on Wednesday, Oct. 12. Days and times will be announced.

Coupons Needed

Many of you get coupons you can't or don't use. The Kiwanis Club of Jersey Shore sends those coupons to the retired teachers association who forwards them on to military families to use at the PX up to 6 months past the expiration date. To be part of this outreach contact Jeni at Rose View Center Recreation Dir., 570-323-4340 or Mellinger@GenesisHCC.com

Holiday Harp Concert to Benefit Local Flood Victims

HarpSounds, the harp duo of Donna Missigman and Wendy McCormick will perform a holiday benefit harp concert at St Boniface Church on Sunday, December 4, 2011 at 2PM. All proceeds from this concert's free will offering and CD sales at the concert will benefit local families and individuals affected by recent flooding. Please come out and enjoy an afternoon of beautiful music while supporting members of our community.



Articles Contributed by Dot Berndt!

SOME FUN ANAGRAMS:

Astronomer: Moon Starer
 Desperation: A Rope Ends It
 The Eyes: They See
 George Bush: He Bugs Gore

The Morse Code: Here Come Dots
 Dormitory: Dirty Room
 Slot Machines: Cash Lost In Me
 Animosity: Is No Amity
 Election Results: Lies - Let's Recount
 Snooze Alarms: Alas! No More Z 'S

A Decimal Point: I'm A Dot In Place
 The Earthquakes: That Queer Shake
 Eleven Plus Two: Twelve Plus One



One Light Bulb at a Time...

A physics teacher in high school, once told the students that while one grasshopper on the railroad tracks wouldn't slow a train very much, a billion of them would. With that thought in mind, read the following, obviously written by a good American . . .

Yesterday I was in Wal-Mart looking for a wastebasket. I found some made in China for \$6.99. I didn't want to pay that much so I asked the lady if they had any others. She took me to another department and they had some at 2.50 made in USA. They are just as good. Same as a kitchen rug I needed. I had to look, but I found some made in the USA and they were \$3.00 cheaper. We are being brain washed that everything that comes from China and Mexico is cheaper. Not so. That is also why I don't buy cards at Hallmark anymore. They are made in China and are expensive. I buy them at Dollar Tree...50 cents each and made in USA.

I was in Lowe's the other day looking at the hose attachments. They were all made in China. The next day I was in Ace Hardware and just for the heck of it I checked the hose attachments there. They were made in USA. Start looking...

In our current economic situation, every little thing we buy or do affects someone else - even their job. So, after reading this email, I think this lady is on the right track. Let's get behind her!

My grandson likes Hershey's candy. I noticed, though, that it is marked made in Mexico now. I do not buy it any more. My favorite toothpaste Colgate is made in Mexico... now I have switched to Crest. You have to read the labels on everything...

This past weekend I was at Kroger . . . I needed 60W light bulbs and Bounce dryer sheets. I was in the light bulb aisle, and right next to the GE brand I normally buy was an off-brand labeled, "Everyday Value." I picked up both types of bulbs and compared the stats ? they were the same except for the price . . . The GE bulbs were more money than the Everyday Value brand but the thing that surprised me the most was the fact that GE was made in MEXICO and the Everyday Value brand was made in - get ready for this - the USA in a company in Cleveland , Ohio. So throw out the myth that you cannot find products you use every day that are made right here...

So on to another aisle - Bounce Dryer Sheets, yep, you guessed it, Bounce cost more money and is made in Canada. The Everyday Value brand was less money and MADE IN THE USA! I did laundry yesterday and the dryer sheets performed just like the Bounce Free I have been using for years and at almost half the price!

My challenge to you is to start reading the labels when you shop for everyday things and see what you can find that is made in the USA - the job you save may be your own or your neighbors! If you accept the challenge, pass this on to everyone you know so we can all start buying American, one light bulb at a time! Stop buying from overseas companies!

Let's get with the program and help our fellow Americans keep their jobs and create more jobs here in the USA!



Thrivent Fundraiser at Hoss's

Dear Friend of Lycoming-Sullivan County's Thrivent Builds:

We are excited to team up with Hoss's Steak and Sea House to raise money for a very worthy cause. Please consider visiting the Hoss's location listed below on 11/4/2011 to aid us in raising money to benefit Lycoming-Sullivan County's Thrivent Builds.

Cut out this coupon and present it on **11/4/2011** at Hoss's in **Williamsport**. Hoss's will then donate 20% of your total check paid to **Lycoming-Sullivan County's Thrivent Builds**

***New this year: If your group raises \$1200 or more in sales, Hoss's will donate 25%! This applies to single day, single store events only.**

Group #14060

Please present this page when ordering. Voucher distribution is prohibited on Hoss's property.

Please present this when ordering and Hoss's will then donate 20% of your total check.

Organization's Name:

Lycoming-Sullivan County Thrivent Builds
1420 McKeag Drive, Williamsport, PA 17701



Group #: 14060

Date: Friday, November 4, 2011

Location: Hoss's Steak and Sea House
1954 East Third Street, Williamsport, PA 17701



***New this year: If your group raises \$1200 or more in sales, Hoss's will donate 25%! This applies to single day, single store events only.**
Voucher distribution is prohibited on Hoss's property.

News in Our Pews

Where did the summer go – seems only yesterday that we were enjoying the water, picnics and baseball games and now fall is here, the children are in school and we brace for whatever winter brings!

With the beginning of the school term we congratulate **Sean Jensen** and **Hannah Haussmann** for their selection as students of the month at Sheridan Elementary School – these young people are consistently recognized for good work!

West Branch School had a Grandparents' Tea in late September and **Jane and Ted Larson** were pictured in the newspaper being recognized by their grandson, **Duncan** to the enjoyment of all those around the couple and especially the grandparents themselves.

An extensive newspaper article featured the author's visit to **Little Lambs Preschool/Childcare** which has for fourteen years been housed in the second floor of the Parish House. **Holly Tillman** operates an excellent program and it is a very nice addition to St. Mark's.

I noticed with sadness the death of **Ardath Houser**. Ardath was the daughter of **Rev. and Mrs. J. Ray Houser** who were part of the St. Mark's family for over a quarter century.

One last postscript to the saga of my garden irises – as I walked up the hill after a walk I noticed two of my irises were blooming! Can **Donna Boston** make that claim?

~ Joyce S. Hershberger

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

Social Ministry

A Bountiful Bazaar

The Women of St. Mark's thank the congregation for their generous support of their annual fund raiser. As preparations got underway the Bazaar Room was filled to capacity with treasures of all sorts. But without the help of several of our youth, council members, men and women of the church and, thanks to Deb Holmes, a group of freshmen students from Lycoming College that is where the treasures would have stayed. In short order the tables were set-up, items were brought up from the basement and much unpacking was accomplished.



The day of the bazaar saw a steady stream of people who complimented us on such a nice array of merchandise. At the end of the sale, with the support of many congregation members, the items that remained were packed up to go to a variety of local charities that included Expectations, formerly the Pregnancy Care Center, The West End Community Center, Shepherd of the Streets, Newberry Branch of NGA, Relay for Life and the American Rescue Workers. We were also able to collect many small "treasures" for our Christmas boxes and for our Easter activities held each spring in the courtyard.

If all this activity was not enough, the Women of St. Mark's earned profits totaling more than \$1,100.00, all of which is returned to charities both locally and globally. Shirley Hill has submitted a request to Thrivent Lutheran for additional monetary funding to continue this charitable work.

A heartfelt thank you is extended to the many folks whose efforts made this year's event a wonderful success. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Christmas is Coming

The Social Ministry Committee is already preparing for the upcoming holiday season and needs your help. Please consider donating items for one or both projects listed below.

◆ *Selinsgrove Center Christmas Party:* In early December we host the thirteen ladies of CM-6 with stories, songs, and modest gifts. The committee is in need of **moisturizing body wash** and **non-refrigerated pudding cups** in all flavors. Additionally we take a gift of cookies, **candy kisses** and fruit to the caregivers. Non-perishable items may be donated now and can be placed in the tub in the Narthex.



◆ *Danville State Hospital Christmas Gifts:* By mid-November be looking in the Narthex for our Christmas trees adorned with ornaments requesting a specific gift for a resident of the hospital. We have been asked to provide gifts for 20 residents. The gifts will range in price from \$5.00 to no more than \$15.00 per gift. Additionally there will be opportunities to provide a general gift such as a pack of socks or a sweatshirt or slippers. These general gifts tend to be cheaper in cost and are used for patients arriving too late to have a specific wish filled by a congregation. **FYI:** Sales held before Thanksgiving, Black Friday and Deer-Hunting Monday have provided wonderful bargains in the past.



Family Promise Hosting

With the holiday season soon upon us, it is not too early to be thinking about volunteering for the upcoming hosting of children and their families experiencing a housing crisis. **We will be providing meals, fellowship and shelter from December 11 to December 18, 2011.** How can you extend the love of Jesus to these folks? To volunteer, contact Becky Miller Pryor (murphy173@verizon.net) or Jane Zimmerer (jerner8@hotmail.com).



Service of Remembrance



This year, with the holidays falling on a Sunday, our Remembrance Service will be held on Wednesday, December 28th at 7pm. With the service being held later in the evening than the usual afternoon time, if anyone needs a ride, please call the office to let us know and we can arrange transportation.

Veteran's Day Service



There will be a Veterans' Day Service on Friday, November 11, at 7:00 pm, in the Nave.

Please join us as we remember those who have served and pray for those who are serving.

GLORY

God Loves Our Rockin' Youth!



Join us if you want to rock!

HOME BIBLE STUDY
WITH FUN GAMES & SNACKS
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19th
4-6 PM

at the COMINI'S,
336 Bennett Street,
Montoursville
971-5434/651-9062



Along the Way Book Fair

**Start your Christmas shopping early...
...and you don't even have to leave the church!
Along the Way will offer a Book Fair for
St. Mark's for one day only - NOV. 20th**



You'll have a chance to purchase quality Christian gifts/books for the entire family. There will be several Greater Gifts (fair trade) gifts from around the world as well as some terrific books for the entire family. Cost of all items starts at \$.99 – so there is something for everyone. Join us. 10% of all table sales is returned in donation to support our ministry here at St. Mark's. Sandy also has some Thanksgiving books as well as small stocking-stuffer books and items for Advent.

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

United Campus Ministry

With the semester half over at Penn College, United Campus Ministry has been busy. We would like to thank Pastor Rob Manzinger, Rev. Ken Wagner-Pizza, Ross Judy, Jim Foran, and Amanda Bair for leading our weekly Faith Talks in September. Our annual Campus Ministry meeting at Shippensburg University was held recently. The main topic of conversation was the decreasing funding that is available to run our campus ministry programs in central Pennsylvania. In these tough economic times, everyone is feeling the pinch. We were told that some denominations could no longer provide funding. A few have decreased their giving, and one denomination had said that they would be able to provide the same amount as they did last year. We are very thankful for these funds and do our best to be good stewards of what is provided. We will continue to supplement our program with bake sales, soup sales, and donations from local congregations.

At Parent Weekend, Student Activities held an interfaith service. Special thanks to Danesta Whaley for her inspiring message. We were happy to see about 50 parents and students at the service. Contemporary Christian music was provided by Campus Crusade for Christ.

Homecoming was a fun, active time for the students and UCM participated in the standing float activity. Our fall service project took place at Yokefellow Prison Ministry House during fall break weekend. We did whatever needed to be done to spruce up the house and make it ready for visitors. We swept, mopped, and made everything nice and clean. You have to love the smell of Murphy's oil soap. We were glad to serve.

Congratulations goes out to Joe Sewalk, a culinary student who recently completed his internship at LeJeune Chef. We're proud of you Joe, and we will miss you at UCM.

We are starting to make plans for our spring mission trip. We are hoping to work with the Center for Student Missions again and head to Philadelphia to work with the specific needs of the city.

We will be preparing study bags for final exams that will take place in the beginning of December. The bags are filled with snacks, drinks, and prayers of encouragement to let the students know that someone is thinking about them while they prepare for finals. Any congregations or individuals who would to put together study bags or make donations for snacks would be most appreciated.

Thank you for your continued support. Pray the students can live out their faith each day on campus.

In His service,
Sharon

YOUTH & FAMILY

QUAKES

Youth

ENCOUNTER

ZONES

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

Christina, Sara, Max, Corey, Morgan, Ezra and Evan have signed up to go on this trip. Sharon & Eric Comini, Bob & Bernadette Jones and Lorraine Barone are chaperoning. If any youth would still like to register, THEY MAY!!! It will be an additional \$15 cost.

Our youth are working to earn their portion of the \$132 (\$147 late registration) fee by:

1) **HOLDING A SPAGHETTI SUPPER ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, AT 12:30!!**

Not only will you be served by our youth, but entertained by them as well!!! Our very talented troupe of teens will perform on a variety of musical instruments for your enjoyment! Cost for all ages is \$7. YOU MUST RESERVE IN ADVANCE!



2) **SELLING CALENDARS AND CHRISTMAS CARDS!!**

Look for them soon! Both are very high quality: the calendars are scenic with verses from the Bible and would make excellent gifts at \$6 each. Each box of cards is also \$6. The students will have samples, soon.



Thank you in advance for helping our youth with one or both of their projects.



& FRIDAY FUN NIGHT

November 18th

THIS IS THE SAME NIGHT AS THE DOWNTOWN HOLIDAY PARADE. JOIN US AT 5:45 P.M. AS WE WALK OVER FOR THE PARADE AND RETURN FOR HOT CHOCOLATE AND GAMES (IF THERE'S TIME).

John Bower Basketball League

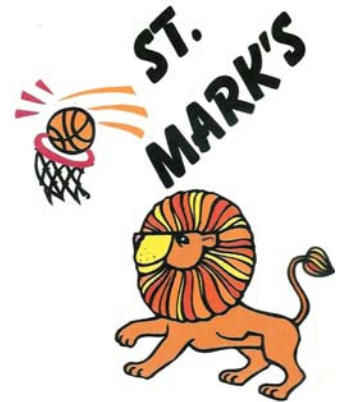
ST. MARK'S LIONS NEED YOU!!

The **John Bower Basketball League** will be starting soon! We'd like to have as many interested players come out as possible, so we can get an idea of what teams we can field!! Can we attain an older team this year??!

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

Practices began during the first week of November at Cochran. If you want to play, please fill out a registration form in Michele's office ASAP. We need to know!!!!

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



FIRST COMMUNION

FIRST COMMUNION CLASSES BEGAN ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, AT 3:00 PM.

The children's instruction continues on November 6 and 13 (also at 3 PM). The sacrament will be given on Sunday of Christ the King, November 20. Letters went out in October to those of the age at which instruction begins for this important step in their life in the church. If you, as a parent, feel your child(ren) is ready for this important step in his or her life and you have not received this letter or you have any questions regarding this please call Pastor Elkin.



CHILDREN'S CHURCH

**Sunday, November 13th at 10:30 a.m.,
in the Chapel**

The special offering this month is contributions for mailing our Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. In the offertory procession that day, the children will carry the gifts that were wrapped the previous week adding them to the ones already in the front of the Nave.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



Operation Christmas Child

GROUP PACK'N'WRAP!!!

NOVEMBER 6 AT 11:47 (RIGHT AFTER 2ND SERVICE)

We've been gathering items all year for the shoeboxes.

So, on Sunday, Nov. 6, c'mon over to Fellowship Hall after church to join us for a light lunch of finger foods and the always entertaining wrapping of empty shoeboxes for the children to fill up with surprises for needy children around the world.

On Sunday, Nov. 13th, the children will process with the boxes for offering after Children's Church. On that day, if you have prepared your own gift boxes at home, you are welcome to present your offering to the effort with the children. We will be taking the boxes to the collection center on Tuesday, November 15—so the absolute last chance to bring them here is that Sunday.

The cost of shipping each box is \$7, so if we have 30-40+ boxes as we have had in the past, the cost builds up quickly. If you would care to contribute to this expense, envelopes will be in the narthex on Sunday, Nov. 6 and Nov. 13, or you can send your gift to the office with the designation "Operation Christmas Child."

As always thank you all for your generosity.

YOUTH choir

On November 13, Our new Youth Choir will sing in the Nave after they walk in procession from Children's Church. Miss Kim and Miss Chele will rehearse with the children **IMMEDIATELY** following the 8:00 service on October 30 and November 6. If you attend the early service, please send your kids to the Chapel **BEFORE** they share hospitality. If you come in time for Sunday School, please be here at **9:00** on those two days. Thank you for helping the children accomplish this.

T E E N M O V I E N I G H T!

November 27th
6:00 pm



Spread the word!!
Hope to see you there!!

TRIP TO CORNING MUSEUM OF GLASS!!



Look around you and you'll see glass everywhere!

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

A truly unique Museum experience, The Corning Museum of Glass offers:

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

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

On **Saturday, November 5**, we will leave St. Mark's at 8:30 a.m. to travel to Corning, NY, for a day of fun and learning (and some fall foliage?!). We will eat at the museum—either in the facility or we can pack a lunch and tailgate. Depending on how late we stay, we will stop for a meal on the way home.

Sign-up sheets in the narthex and staff hallway!

Go to cmog.org for info

Admission is free for all children & teens aged 19 and under.

An adult day pass is \$14, seniors: \$11.90, AAA (with id): \$11.90.

There is a café available on the premises, also a coffee shop.

Kids' meals start at \$5-6.



Hands On Opportunities:

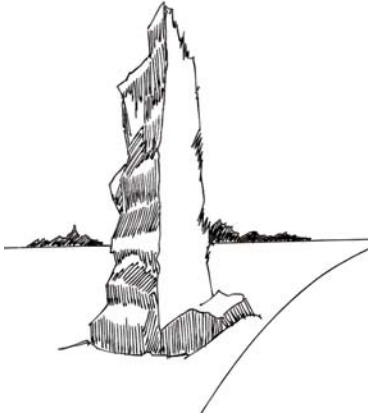


Activities such as glassblowing, glass-working, fusing, flame-working and sandblasting are available BUT MUST BE PAID FOR WHEN WE RESERVE!
Please contact Bernadette for more information on these activities.

Coming Events

Passing on Faith:

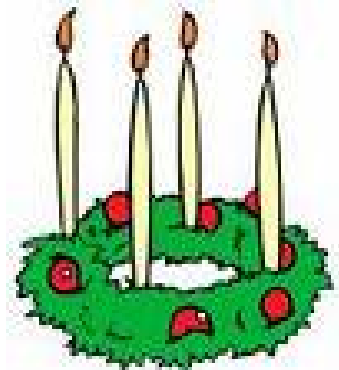
Third Grade Milestone



Our third graders will receive Bibles at the 10:30 service on November 20. They and their families are invited to join in the luncheon immediately following the service. At that time, Pastor Elkin will sit down with the children to explore their Bibles and see what messages relatives and friends have written or favorite passages they have highlighted in the Books.

Advent Wreath Making

You...yes, you...and your family are invited to attend the annual Advent Wreath Making on Sunday, November 27, at noon in Fellowship Hall. The children will again decorate their tree in the Hall with the hand-made ornaments donated to the children of St. Mark's. Please join us for a time of food, fun and fellowship and make an advent wreath for your home!



The Trees Come Alive This Advent Season

- alive with Teddy Bears, mittens, gloves, hats!
Two trees will be ready to decorate with these items by Sunday, November 27. Please stop in Fellowship Hall and add your gift to the trees. The Teddy Bears will be given to the Williamsport Police, Wise Options for Women and the Pregnancy Care Center; and the mittens, gloves, and hats will be given to area families in need.



SIMPLE GIFTS OF CHRISTMAS



This lovely musical based on the carol
"The Friendly Beasts"
will be presented at the 7:00 service on Christmas Eve.

We need children, youth and adults to stage this retelling of Christ's birth. Adults and youth will carry most of the singing as well as the speaking parts as the youngsters act out the story. Adult and youth assistance is also required for assembling and organizing costumes and props for our young actors.

The music is very familiar, putting new words to old carols and hymns. We realize how busy everyone is at that time of year and have put together a rehearsal schedule keeping that in mind. Rehearsals will take place from 10:00 to noon on December 3, at 6:30 pm on December 14, from 10:00 to noon on December 17, and a dress rehearsal on Friday, Dec. 23, at 10:00 (no school that day). We hope this provides time for shopping, decorating and school concerts!

SIMPLE GIFTS OF CHRISTMAS will be under the direction of Bernadette Jones, with Jungwha Kim as Musical Director. Sign-up sheets are in the usual places! Please join us in presenting this fun and meaningful rendering of the Christmas story. We can't do it without you!

UPCOMING ADVENT EVENTS

ADVANCE NOTICE – MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!



KIDS' MORNING OUT

SATURDAY

DECEMBER 10

9:00 A.M. – 12 NOON

Look for sign-up list
In the staff hallway



ADULT COOKIE BAKE

SATURDAY

DECEMBER 10

12:30– ???

Look for sign-up list
In the staff hallway



CHRISTMAS CAROLING TO OUR SHUT-INS, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|-------|------------------|-------|--------------------|-------|
| Shawn Wright | 11/01 | Ronald Baker | 11/18 | Robert Jones | 11/23 |
| Marguerite Smith | 11/04 | Donna Baker | 11/18 | James Newcomer Jr. | 11/23 |
| Elizabeth Ward | 11/04 | Tracey Heaps | 11/20 | Ralph Thorne | 11/23 |
| Samantha Kneeder | 11/06 | | | Nancy Bieber | 11/25 |
| John Bower | 11/07 | | | Stephen Dewar | 11/25 |
| Ann Kuntz | 11/07 | | | Ashley Miller | 11/25 |
| Paul Fornwalt | 11/08 | | | Lois Smith | 11/25 |
| Brenda Gair | 11/08 | | | Shirley Miller | 11/26 |
| Cathy Fenderson | 11/09 | | | Lucia Walz | 11/26 |
| Michele Fredericks | 11/09 | | | Shelly Clokey | 11/27 |
| Becky Miller Pryor | 11/09 | | | Katlin Jensen | 11/27 |
| Shawn Zimmerman | 11/11 | | | John Burkholder | 11/29 |
| Pamela Davenport | 11/12 | Donna Hutchinson | 11/20 | James Gilbert | 11/29 |
| Elizabeth Haussmann | 11/13 | Ray Reams | 11/21 | Matthew MacGill | 11/29 |
| Kyle Doebler | 11/17 | Lisa Weaver | 11/22 | Harold Hershberger | 11/30 |



Happy Anniversary!

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|--|--|--------------------------|-------|
| Rick & Jennifer Robertson | 11/05 | | | Robert & Mary Clouser | 11/20 |
| Gregg & Kathleen Dancho | 11/06 | | | David & Nicole Walz | 11/22 |
| Eugene & Reba Jacobs | 11/12 | | | Michael & Tracie Elliott | 11/25 |
| Stephen & Candace Dewar | 11/18 | | | Charles & Judith Fortin | 11/26 |
| David & Cheryl Williams | 11/19 | | | Melvin & Melinda Wentzel | 11/30 |
| Ralph Lou Ann & Zeigler Jr. | 11/19 | | | | |



SURVIVAL KITS FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

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

Sarah Buono, Brett Campbell, Lauren Campbell, Declan Jones & Sara Larson



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

ELCA, USS & WEST BRANCH NEWS

Flood Response Needs

Kitchen Help Needed: St. John's, Espy, remains in the middle of one of the hardest hit neighborhoods from the recent flooding in the Bloomsburg area. The church has also been serving a vital ministry to the community since the flood waters receded, particularly in providing three meals a day for flood victims, clean-up and work crews, and anyone else who needs a meal or a place to connect with their neighbors. The need to provide meals will remain for the foreseeable future. The churches of our synod are blessed with many good cooks. If you or your church might be able to provide some kitchen help, such as cooking or bringing and serving a meal, it would be a great contribution to the flood relief effort. Also, being present to eat with folks who have had their lives turned upside down can be a great way to minister to our neighbors in need. For more information, please call Merrill Smith on her cell phone at (570) 205-9284.

Appliances Needed: Major appliances are needed in good working order for flood victims. Especially needed are refrigerators, washers, and dryers. Please contact Mike McCay at St. Luke Lutheran Church, Bloomsburg, at 570-317-5418 or mccay4@gmail.com if you have such an item to donate to a flood victim.

Work Teams Still Needed: If you are still interested in going to the Bloomsburg area to help, or bring a work team, Mike McCay of St. Luke, Bloomsburg, will be a contact person to help you find work. Each team needs:
 Each team needs a leader who can be the contact person/coordinator.
 Each rebuilding/construction team needs to have at least one skilled member who can supervise/direct work.
 The leader needs to contact Mike regarding numbers, dates, and type of work they can do.
 He will coordinate jobs to be done, necessary materials, etc. before you arrive.
 If you will be staying over, Mike needs numbers and specifics to arrange housing. Meals can be arranged.
 Best way to contact Mike is e-mail mccay4@gmail.com. You can also call his cell phone at 570-317-5418.

“Christmas at Sea” Gift Bags for Seafarers

The USS Global Mission Committee is encouraging congregations of this synod to join together in collecting "Christmas-at-Sea" Gift Bags for seafarers this December through the Seafarers and International House (SIH) in New York City (<http://www.sihnyc.org/>). SIH port chaplains in 2010 visited 1,517 ships in port from Providence to Philadelphia, distributing 5,750 gift bags to crewmen of many nationalities. Each gift bag should contain one sweat-shirt (L-XL), three pairs of socks, one casual t-shirt (M-L), one knit heavy winter cap, one can of nuts or bar of chocolate, and a personalized Christmas card from you! Sturdy, imprinted plastic bags for this project are available at the synod office in Lewisburg. Filled sacks should be brought to the synod office by November 28 (the Monday after Thanksgiving) so that they may be transported to NYC in time for distributing them. Thank you for taking part in this ministry to some of the hardworking, lonely freighter crews who are responsible for 90% of the world's trade via merchant ships.

A Gift for the Person Who Has Everything

Here are two great options this Christmas for gifts for people who already have so much...

ELCA Good Gifts: Instead of a traditional gift, consider making a donation in someone's honor, and then sending them a World Hunger card to let them know of the gift. You can feel good about giving a gift that honors the person, they can appreciate the meaningful work behind the gift, and someone in Iowa or Indonesia (or anywhere in between) will benefit because of it. A full range of prices and options are available, and the Good Gifts website makes it easy to order free gift cards to announce your gift, or send an [eCard](#) directly to your gift recipient. For more information: <https://community.elca.org/sslpage.aspx?pid=607>

Carol Main Scholarship Fund: This Fund, created in 2007 to honor Mrs. Carol Main, wife of USS Bishop Emeritus A. Donald Main, funds scholarships for spouses of Liberian Lutheran clergy seeking educational opportunities to better themselves, their families, and their communities. The Fund currently supports two Liberian women pursuing their goals. Contributions of any size are appreciated, and donors of \$10 or more receive a gift enclosure card describing the fund, suitable for including in a Christmas or other occasion card. (Please indicate your preference for a Christmas or "plain" gift enclosure card.) Make checks payable to "Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA" (memo: Main Scholarship), PO Box 36, Lewisburg, PA 17837.

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

Jane Angle

Sycamore Manor
1445 Sycamore Rd. Rm. 514
Montoursville, PA 17754

Marie Byerly

Sycamore Manor
1445 Sycamore Rd. Rm. 547
Montoursville, PA 17754

Bonita Crossley

73 Pine St.
Hills Grove, PA 18619-9300

Art Decker

338 Sherwood Ave.
South Williamsport, PA 17702

June Decker

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

Larue Dieter

2150 Warrensville Road, Apt. 2
Montoursville, PA 17754

Beatrice Doebler

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

Catherine Goertz

Williamsport Home, 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

**Charlotte Hughes**

140 Blueberry Lane
Williamsport, PA 17701

Eugene Jacobs

Sycamore Manor
1445 Sycamore Rd. Rm. 125
Montoursville, PA 17754

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, Rm. 412
1900 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

Health, Healing & Wholeness

***“Turn to me and be gracious to me, for I am lonely and afflicted.
Relieve the troubles of my heart, and bring me out of my distress.
Consider my affliction and my trouble ... (Psalm 25:16-18,: NRSV)***

It is a subject that is not all that easy to talk about, yet it is the subject of jokes and dozens of TV advertisements – bladder control or urinary incontinence. For some it may be a minor irritation, and for others, an embarrassing problem that forces them to stay at home. If you're one of the millions of people who struggle with the loss of bladder control, see your doctor – there are numerous ways to deal with this problem. Bladder control is not a disease, but a symptom of an underlying medical or physical problem, and your doctor can help determine the cause.

Causes of episodes of incontinence include: alcohol (acts as a bladder stimulator and diuretic), caffeine (diuretic and bladder stimulant), and bladder irritants: carbonated drinks, tea, coffee, artificial sweeteners, spicy or foods with a large amount acid (such as tomatoes or pineapple); medications for heart disease or blood pressure, sedatives, or muscle relaxants. Treatable medical conditions such as urinary tract infections or constipation (the rectum and bladder share many of the same nerves; hard compacted stool - causes these nerves to be overactive and increase urinary frequency). Compacted stool can sometimes press on the bladder, and interfere with emptying the bladder.

Chronic or persistent loss of bladder control can sometimes be the result of physical changes: pregnancy & childbirth – from the weight of the fetus on the bladder, to damage of nerves caused by the strain of delivery. Additional causes include changes related to aging, such as a decrease in the bladder's ability to store urine; and pelvic surgery, such as hysterectomy, all can damage pelvic floor muscles. In men, inflammation of the prostate; enlargement of the prostate or prostate cancer may cause urine loss. In both men and women suffering from bladder cancer, bladder obstruction or urinary stones may be to blame for urine leakage. Neurological disorders such as multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease, stroke, brain tumor or spinal injury can interfere with nerve signals affecting bladder control.

If you are embarrassed by having bladder control, you can manage on your own by wearing absorbent pads – carrying extra clothing, or cut back on drinking liquids. But if urine leakage has begun to affect your quality of life by limiting your activities, see your doctor. There are numerous ways to treat the condition, ranging from medication to surgical intervention.

It is not always possible to prevent the development of urine leakage problems, but several things may decrease your risk: maintaining a healthy weight, not smoking, practicing pelvic floor exercises, avoiding bladder irritants, exercising, and eating more fiber to prevent constipation may all work in your favor. However, if incontinence affects your day-to-day activities, don't hesitate to see your doctor. In some cases, simple lifestyle changes or medical treatment can ease your discomfort.

November blessings!
Debbie Best RN, BSW, MHA

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

Thank you to everyone who brought food or gave monetary gifts for Harvest Home Sunday, October 9. Gail Burkhart, coordinator of the local United Churches Food Pantry, advised us that the shelves empty very quickly. The need to help people increases every year especially when fuel bills start to arrive. This is an ongoing project year round. Food and hygiene items can be brought in any Sunday and placed in a box located in the narthex. Thank you again for helping those in need in our community.

Worship and Music Committee

Dear Becky,

Thank you for your recent donation the twin stroller, books, food chopper, diaper bag and bottle liners to our center. All of the items are in very good condition and we appreciate your thinking of us. They will be put to good use, you may be sure.

Sincerely, Norma, Volunteer,
Expectations Women's Center

Dear St. Mark's Lutheran Church,

On behalf of Greater Lycoming Habitat for Humanity, I would like to thank you for your recent contribution of \$9.55. Your donation will help us continue our mission of building decent, affordable houses in partnership with deserving families in our community.

This letter is your official receipt for your contribution. In accordance with IRS requirements, we confirm that you received no goods or services, privileges or benefits in return for this gift. Please note, that unless you indicate otherwise, you may be listed as a donor in our newsletter and other publications.

Thanks again for your generosity.

Building Together,



C. Earl Kinter
Board President

Friends,

Thank you so much for your contribution. God will surely bless you for your generosity. Without you we could not do what we are doing for the poor. I hope you know how much we need your help and how much we appreciate each and every donation.

God bless you. You are in my prayers each day.

Love,
Sister Henry

Dear friends at St. Mark's,

Thank you so very much for the many cards and well wishes I received after my recent spinal surgery. Words never seem to express how truly grateful I am for such loving support.

The doctor and his staff are constantly surprised by how well I have done after each surgery. I tell them I have many Godly friends of faith surrounding me with prayer, and of course I think of all of you.

Thanks again for bearing the love of Christ during my time of need.

God's love and mine, Susan

Dear Ken,

Thanks for all your help in hosting CROP this year. I think it went really well and I am hoping we can do it again next year. I know you have been a big supporter of CROP over the years and this year you really came through in an even bigger way as you served as our perfect host.

Thanks again & God bless you!

Ken

ST. MARK'S NOVEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1 Tuesday

8:00 AM City Pastors
 9:00 AM Morning Prayer
 6:00 PM Brownies
 6:30 PM Finance Committee

2 Wednesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
 9:20 AM Staff Mtg & Quilting
 11:45 AM Bible Study

3 Thursday

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

4 Friday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

5 Saturday

8:00 AM Corning Glass Museum

6 Sunday**All Saints Day**

8:00 AM Holy Communion
 9:00 AM Youth Choir Rehearsal
 9:15 AM Sunday School
 10:30 AM Holy Communion
 11:45 AM Family Handbells
 12:15 PM The Way
 3:00 PM First Communion Class
 11:45 PM Pack'n'Wrap for OCC

7 Monday

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

8 Tuesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

9 Wednesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
 9:20 AM Staff Mtg & Quilting
 11:45 AM Bible Study

10 Thursday

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

11 Friday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
 7:00 PM Veteran's Day Service

13 Sunday

Pentecost XXII
Thankoffering Sunday
 8:00 AM Holy Communion
 9:00 AM Youth Choir Rehearsal
 9:15 AM Sunday School
 10:30 AM Children's Church
 10:30 AM Holy Communion
 11:45 AM Family Handbells
 12:00 PM The Way Reunion Class
 of 2010
 3:00 PM First Communion Class

14 Monday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
 6:30 PM Property Committee
 6:45 PM Handbells
 7:00 PM Wmspt. Civic Chorus

15 Tuesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
 12:00 PM LSM @ COS
 6:00 PM Brownies
 6:30 PM Finance Committee

16 Wednesday

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

17 Thursday

6:31 AM Men's Ministry
 9:00 AM Little Lambs Activities
 9:00 AM Morning Prayer
 9:20 AM Stephen Ministers
 6:00 PM Executive Comm
 6:30 PM Mutual Ministry
 7:00 PM Senior Choir

18 Friday

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

20 Sunday

Christ the King
First Communion
 8:00 AM Holy Communion
 9:15 AM Sunday School
 10:30 AM Holy Communion
 11:45 AM Family Handbells
 11:45 AM First Comm. & Bible
 Milestone Luncheon

20 Sunday

12:15 PM The Way
 6:00 PM Catechetics meal/mtg

21 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

22 Tuesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
 6:00 PM Wreath Making in Nave
 6:30 PM Family Promise Board

23 Wednesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

24 Thursday

Office Closed
Thanksgiving

26 Saturday

9:00 AM Daniel's Closet @
 Redeemer

27 Sunday**Advent I**

8:00 AM Holy Communion
 9:15 AM Sunday School
 10:30 AM Holy Communion
 11:45 AM Family Handbells
 12:00 PM Advent Wreath-Making
 6:00 PM Teen Movie Night

28 Monday

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

29 Tuesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
 9:15 AM Lion Crew
 6:00 PM Brownies

30 Wednesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
 9:20 AM Staff Mtg & Quilting
 11:45 AM Bible Study
 6:30 PM Worship & Music Comm.

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

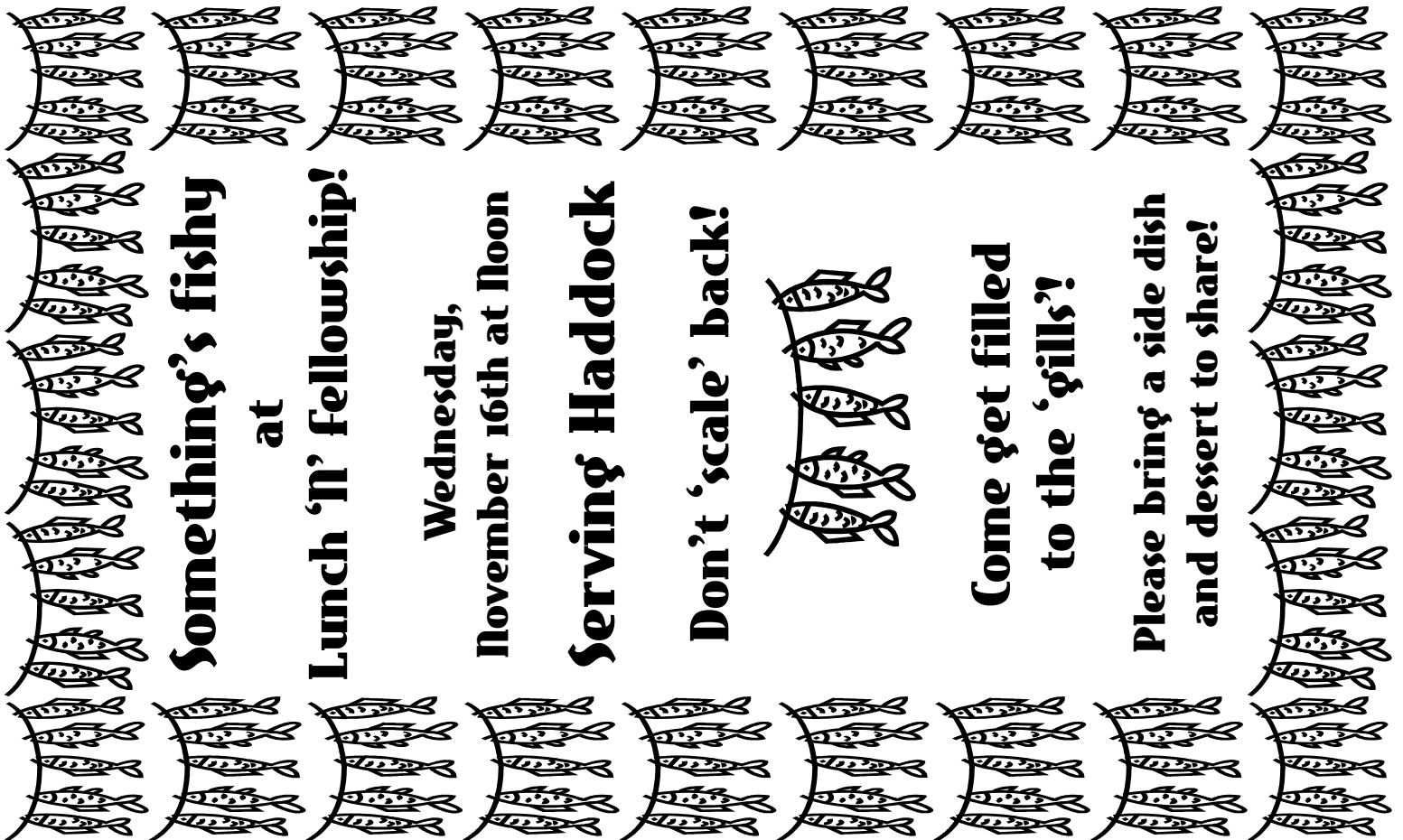


Address Service Requested

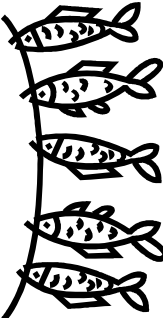
Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

Permit No. 257
Williamsport, PA 17701

A decorative border consisting of a repeating pattern of stylized fish swimming to the right, arranged in a slightly wavy line.

Something's fishy
at
Lunch 'N' fellowship!
Wednesday,
November 16th at Noon
Serving Haddock
Don't 'scale' back!

A single stylized fish icon, identical to those in the border, positioned centrally between the text blocks.

Come get filled
to the 'gills'!
Please bring a side dish
and dessert to share!