



THE LION OF ST. MARK'S

DECEMBER 2011

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

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 11th ~ 18th

How can you extend the love of Jesus to these folks?

To volunteer, contact Becky Miller Pryor (murphy173@verizon.net) or Jane Zimmerer (jerer8@hotmail.com).



Saints Alive!!!

I want to personally thank the congregation for its response to the stewardship appeal earlier this month. Through all of our thoughtful prayers, we were moved by the Heavenly Spirit to show our thanks to God through our financial commitments.

The challenge was given and the results were outstanding. We had a 25 per cent increase in our pledges! While we're still "not there" as far as where we would like to be, we are so much closer. The Financial Committee has recommended a budget to council and we will bring it to the congregation on December 11. I am looking forward to standing before you on that date at our congregational meeting.

Again, Stewardship is what we do after we say that "We Believe".

Thank you and God bless you,
Ray Huff, President of St. Mark's congregation.

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Council Notes

- 1 The Council met in regular session on November 21, 2011 in the
- 1 Crossways Room. The Council:
- 1 ♦ received the reports of the pastor, officers, and committees.
 - 1 ♦ received the proposed budget for 2012 from the Finance Committee and adopted it for presentation to the congregation.
 - 2 ♦ called a special congregational assembly for Sunday, December 11, 2011, following each of the worship services, for the purpose of acting on the budget. If there are no amendments made at the 10:30 service, the process is concluded; if there are amendments, balloting resumes on December 18 following the 8:30 service for their concurrence.
 - 4 ♦ planned a special Advent/Christmas meal for Council members and staff on December 19 in Fellowship Hall.
 - 4 ♦ concluded the meeting with Prayer of the Close of the Day in the chapel, led by Dan Zeigler.

Parish Register

- 5 ♦ Holy Baptism for Jonathan Lynch was celebrated on All Saints Sunday, November 6, 2011.
- 6 ♦ Holy Baptism for Dalton Nash was celebrated on Christ the King Sunday, November 20, 2011.
- 6 ♦ First Holy Communion for Dalton Nash and Sean Jensen was celebrated on Christ the King Sunday, November 20, 2011.
- 7 ♦ Holy Bibles were given to Sean Jensen and Ashton Ott on Christ the King Sunday, November 20, 2011.
- 7 ♦ Pastor Elkin officiated at the graveside funeral for Josephine Coleman in Twin Hill Cemetery on November 23, 2011 on behalf of Pr. Frontz of Messiah Church.

Staff & Officers Contact Information

Website: stmarkswilliamsport.org

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|--|--|
| 9 Main E-Mail: | stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org |
| 9 Church Office 323-4619 | Church fax 323-2452 |
| 9 Rev. Kenneth Elkin, Pastor | pastor@stmarkswilliamsport.org |
| 9 Pastor's Home Phone | 323-7367 |
| 11 Jungwha Kim, Director of Music | jkim@stmarkswilliamsport.org |
| 11 Bernadette Jones, Christian Ed. | bjones@stmarkswilliamsport.org |
| 12 Michele Owen, Christian Ed. | mowen@stmarkswilliamsport.org |
| 12 Susan M-Smith, Parish Secretary | smsmith@stmarkswilliamsport.org |
| 13 Graydon Yearick, Financial Secr. | gyearick@stmarkswilliamsport.org |
| 13 Lou DeSeau, Environmental Serv. | ldeseau@stmarkswilliamsport.org |
| 14 Ray Huff, Council President | rhuff@stmarkswilliamsport.org |
| 15 Ray Huff Home Phone | 368-1473 |
| 16 Gregg Dancho, Vice-President | 435-2716 |
| 16 Jane Zimmerer, Secretary | 433-3324 |
| 16 Michele Ramsauer, Asst. Sec | 368-8036 |
| 16 Ken Shafranko, Treasurer | 322-6005 |
| 17 Mel Wentzel, Director, <i>The Way</i> | 327-8286 |
| 18 Kathy Eshelman, Stephen Ministry | 433-0522 |



Official Notice of Special Assembly

The Congregation Council at its regular November meeting called a Special Assembly of the St. Mark's congregation, to be held on Sunday, December 11, 2011.

Note carefully the change in procedure:

The meeting will be opened following the 8:00 service, and all voting members present will have opportunity to comment, amend and vote on the proposed budget.

This meeting will be **continued** until after the 10:30 service, when all voting members present will have a like opportunity to comment, amend, and vote on the proposed budget. If there have been no amendments made at the 10:30 meeting, the business of the day is closed.

If, however, there have been any amendments made at the meeting following the 10:30 service, the meeting will be **continued** until the following Sunday, December 18, when those attending the 8:00 service will have an opportunity to vote on the amendments.

Questions about the budget may be addressed to our treasurer, Ken Shafranko at 322-6005.

Proposed Budget for 2012

Below is a condensed version of the 2012 spending plan for the congregation. Some explanatory notes that may be helpful in understanding what is presented here:

The substantial excess of expenses over income for 2011 has been funded for most of the year by significant contributions received in December of 2010. Additionally we had the benefit of a release of interest from a prior year from the Welker trust that was delayed due to a tax issue.

Envelopes and pledges for 2011 were forecast to be 2% lower than 2010 levels. The finance committee believes that trend will continue for 2012.

Salaries and benefits for 2011 are below what we have budgeted for 2012 because during 2011 the musician position was vacant until May.

	2012 Budget	2011 YE Estimate	2011 Budget
Envelopes & Pledges	235,200	241,400	240,000
Investment Principal Transfer	16,000	0	6,047
Investment Income Transfer	18,700	15,000	25,000
All Other Income	50,975	51,406	51,287
Total Income	<u>320,875</u>	<u>307,806</u>	<u>318,497</u>
General Administrative	13,050	13,170	14,900
Salaries & Benefits	211,446	204,118	204,427
Music & Worship	5,300	3,743	2,950
Youth & Family Ministry	5,550	4,184	6,150
Building	62,350	71,408	63,045
Benevolence	23,125	26,322	27,025
Total Expenses	<u>320,821</u>	<u>322,945</u>	<u>318,497</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)	54	-15,139	0

Annual Statements

A decision has been made that the Financial Secretary will NOT be sending financial statements out in early December for members to compare against their own records.

If you have reason for concern or believe an error exists please bring your concerns to the attention of the Financial Secretary before the end of the year when final statements will be mailed. Thank you!

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.

SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL



OUR TEACHERS FOR DECEMBER ARE:

PRE-K AND K:

SHARON COMINI

1ST AND 2ND:

BRENDA GAIR

3RD AND 4TH:

JOYCE HERSHBERGER

5TH:

ERIC COMINI

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

GLORY

God Loves Our Rockin' Youth!



Join us if you want to rock!

HOME BIBLE STUDY
WITH FUN GAMES & SNACKS
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 17th

4-6 PM

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



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.



PLEASE CALL AND MAKE YOUR RESERVATION TODAY!

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.

SODA TAB COLLECTION

Soda tabs have been collected and weighed. Over the past year 12 pounds have been collected! These tabs are sold at a recycling center and the money will be used by the Ronald McDonald House for the operation of the facility. Even a few tabs add up, so please keep collecting. There is a collection container for tabs in the Narthex and in the Crossways hallway.



**ALL CHURCH
FRIDAY
FUN NIGHT**

December 30
JOIN US AT 6:30 P.M.
FOR HOLIDAY FUN!!

John Bower Basketball League

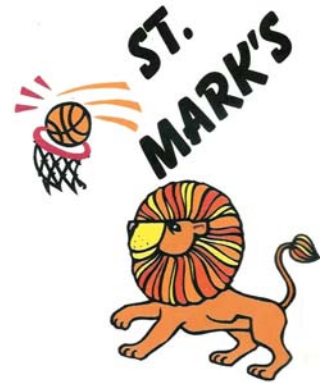
ST. MARK'S LIONS NEED YOU!!

The John Bower Basketball League practices have begun! We have three teams this year!!!! Beginner, Pee-Wee and Midget games take off in December. Check the bulletin for schedules!

Good luck to all involved!!!!

Adults, feel free to help out with driving, treats or beverages. Contact the church office at 323-4619 or e-mail us through the website.

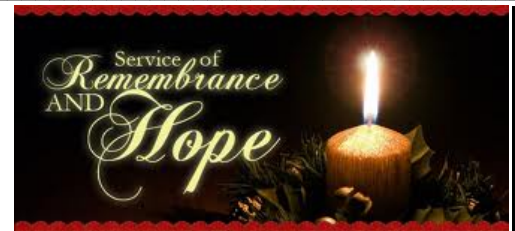
C'mon!! Let's have some fun!



PASSING ON FAITH

Passing on Faith: Service of Remembrance

Please join us for this moving service on Wednesday, December 28, 2011, at 7:00 pm, during which we remember those who have gone before us to join the church triumphant. If anyone needs a ride, please call the office. Anyone who can assist with transportation, please do the same.



Passing on Faith: Baptism

Jonathon Delroy "J.D." Lynch, son of Brittany and Joshua Lynch, was baptized on Sunday, November 6. On Christ the King Sunday, November 20, Dalton Nash, son of Nykeana Nash and sponsored by Kirk and Michele Owen, was baptized at the 10:30 service.

Passing on Faith: First Communion & Third Grade Bible

On Christ the King Sunday, November 20, Sean Jensen and Dalton Nash, after three weeks of study, received the sacrament of Holy Communion at the 10:30 service. Afterwards, there was a luncheon celebrating Dalton's baptism, his & Sean's joining the table at Communion and Sean & Aston Ott received their Bibles for the Third Grade Milestone.



CHILDREN'S CHURCH



Sunday, December 11th at 10:30 a.m., in the Chapel
 For the special offering this month, we will prepare greeting cards to take with us on our caroling! If the children have any they've made or purchased, please send them along to church that day.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Shoeboxes for kids



Operation Christmas Child

Our Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes have been packed, wrapped, filled and taken to the distribution center for shipment - a total of 56 shoeboxes were completed!!!

With such a large number of shoeboxes, our shipping costs were even higher this year, and we are still taking donations to off-set this cost. Each shoebox costs \$7 to ship. There are donation envelopes available in the Narthex. A huge "Thank You" to all who helped at the Pack 'n Wrap, packed their own shoeboxes, and donated items or money for shipping, our collection certainly was a huge success!!!!!!

FINALS SURVIVAL KITS FOR OUR KIDS IN COLLEGE!

We are sending finals week survival kits to our kids in college:

Sara Larson
Brett Campbell
Lauren Campbell

Declan Jones
Sarah Buono



That's who we have on our lists—
if you know of someone we've missed,
please send us their name and address **immediately!**
Also, parents, PLEASE SEND ADDRESS UPDATES!

If you have any donations, please get them to us NOW,
we want to send these out during the first week of December!

YOUTH choir

**They came, they practiced with
Miss Kim and Chele,
and they sang!
The new Youth Choir did a great
job at the 10:30
service on Sunday,
November 13,
as they sang "I'm a Miracle!"
Look for them again, soon!**

FOR TEENS ONLY!



Because of the way
the holidays fall,
we meet again on

January 23rd
at 6:00 pm



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

Upcoming Christmas Events

THE TREES COME ALIVE THIS ADVENT SEASON



alive with Teddy Bears, mittens, gloves, hats!
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. The mittens, gloves, and hats will be given to area families in need.



KIDS' MORNING OUT SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

9:00 A.M. – 12 NOON

Look for the sign-up lists!

Kids participate in baking for our shut-ins, crafting for gifts, storytelling and games while Mom & Dad get things done for the holidays!

ADULT COOKIE BAKE SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

12:30– ???

Look for the sign-up lists!

X-TREME BAKING & FLOUR FLINGING!

Cookies are shared among the bakers and with our shut-ins.



dreamstime.com



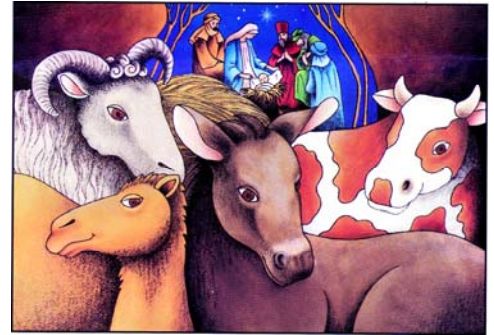
CHRISTMAS CAROLING TO OUR SHUT-INS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Celebrate the season with song as we visit those who aren't able to get out to join the festivities!
Hot cocoa at the church afterwards.

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.

REHEARSALS BEGIN SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, AT 10:00 AM!!! We realize how busy everyone is at that time of year and have put together a rehearsal schedule keeping that in mind. Rehearsals will continue 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! The music is very familiar, putting new words to old carols and hymns.

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

BREAD BAKING IS BACK



Wednesday, December 28th at 10:00 a.m.!!

What sweet or savory treats
do we have in store for this year?

Register at the office to find out!

Christmas Flowers

Enclosed with this copy of the Lion is an envelope for ordering Christmas flowers. Flowers may be dedicated in honor or memory of a special loved one. You may also give a monetary gift towards relieving local hunger or towards other decorations to be used in the Nave.

These gifts may also be dedicated.

Please have all orders in the church office by December 18th, preferably before.

Flowers may be taken home after the late Christmas Eve service.

A note from Jungwha

Thanks to all of you!



It is a great time to thank people I love and work for; Senior Choir, Adult Choir, Family Handbell Choir, musicians who sang and played for our summer worship, youth choir, of course, our musical father (?) Pastor Elkin.

I remember my early days in Juilliard School having my first church job as an organist of one of Baptist churches in New Jersey while I was in school (back then I commuted from New Jersey to New York.) One day while I was playing a fast piece insanely fast, my teacher asked me why I played so fast, although it is supposed to be fast. Nevertheless, it sounded like I was chased by something. So I told him I was chased by time, since I have to divide my time well for school work and church work, both of them were too big to fill in. I practiced insanely seven hours a day and two hours for score-reading for the keyboard harmony class. I snored aloud when I slept. I even heard it. A week feels like forever. Those are the memorable hectic school days. It is still vivid in my head.

I had another '*being chased*' experience when I joined the Mendelssohn Choir of Pittsburgh. However, this time I was in the profession already. I cannot overlook any field of the profession. It is not about how much I practice any more. I am planning way ahead to be ready. I struggle to survive with whatever happens in my schedule looking back to my previous teacher at Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY, who has two jobs; one in America, another in Sweden. Every time school has recess, he is in another continent of the world. One thing I regret not learning from him is time management. How does he do that? He must have 48 hours a day like our shepherd, Pastor Elkin...

I remember the time I spent as a Mendelssohn Choir member with the Maestro, Rafael Frühbeck, a guest conductor from Spain. I always wanted to learn conducting techniques not from choral conductors but from orchestral conductors. In my opinion, they have more tangible skills than choirmasters, because instrumentalists have the music written only their parts with multi-rest bars. Therefore they completely rely on the cues out of Maestros who have the full score as opposed to choral music, which has other singers' parts to see while they are not supposed to sing. That maestro I met in rehearsal process communicates with musicians throwing his whole body as a tool of expressive device in addition to the facial expression, of course. His eyes roll all over places and his neck turns 360 degrees while his remaining body does something else.... Awesome! In a second, he gets everyone's attention. What a charisma and technique! I should learn from him because he is not eloquent in English like me, but he knows nuts and bolts and all whistles of music making. Language is not his tool, but he goes all over the world to dictate professional musicians.



Now I realize how hard my profession is and how hard people to follow me, because I play all the time while I work with the chancel choir fixing my eyes, feet, hands, neck on the music to provide the accompaniment parts simultaneously. As a singer of the group, I relieved as the Maestro made mistakes saying myself nobody is perfect, ha! The ringers can be compared as the string players in orchestra. They are not making the direct eye contact to see the conductor, but they observe his gesture sometimes through the shadow, the bottom of the conducting pattern (ictus), tip of the baton, or from the left hand because of their location just like the ringers who have to see the table to change the bells, damp on the table, etc.



Everyone in music ministries does their best to lead and share their musical portion for St. Mark's Church. It is matter of how I deal with the situation while I carry two persons' job in me. The Maestro I sang with is not even one of the most famous conductors in the world. Ouch!

Wait for me, I am still growing to be a better musician. Thank you, all!

United Campus Ministry

With the semester heading into its final stretch Penn College, United Campus Ministry has been busy. We would like to thank Pastor Rob Manzinger, Rev. Ken Wagner-Pizza, Ross Judy, Jim Foran, Amanda Bair and Pastor Ken Elkin for leading our weekly Faith Talks this fall.

The annual Campus Ministry meeting was recently held at Shippensburg University. The main topic of conversation was the decreasing funding available for our campus ministry programs. 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 said they will be able to provide the same amount as last year! We are very thank-ful 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. We are planning our soup sale for the second week of February. If anyone has a great soup recipe and would like to help UCM out, please let me know.

Our fall service project took place at Yokefellow Prison Ministry during fall break weekend. We helped to spruce up the house and make it ready for visitors. We were happy to sweep, mop, dust and if the weather was better, we also would have done windows.

Congratulations go 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 heading to Philadelphia to work with the specific needs of the city. I will keep you posted on ways you can do to help us prepare for the trip.

I am starting to put the Faith Talk schedule together for the spring semester. Anyone with a heart for college students can lead a session or two, please let me know.

We will be preparing study bags for final exams that will take place in early 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. Congregations and individuals who would like to put together study bags or make donations for snacks will be most appreciated. Last year we were able to hand out over 100 study bags to students. They are like seeds you scatter, never knowing where they will end up, or the differences they make. If you have any study bags or items for the bags, we'd like to collect them by the end of November. I will be happy to pick them up.

Thought for the day:

Trials are a part of life, we need to learn to expect them and we also need to expect to learn from them.

Thank you for all your continued support and pray that the students can live out their faith every day on campus.

- Sharon Comini, Coordinator, United Campus Ministry

News in Our Pews

For the past two months I have shared information with you about flowers - this month it is time to talk about vegetables- large economy size vegetables- a large turnip in point of fact! Five pounds, two ounces!

This prize winning turnip was grown by **Mrs. Fred Tebbs** in 1956. Mrs. Tebbs is the mother of **Lucille Weaver** and was pictured in the newspaper recently in a feature from the past with the large vegetable- fun to see - is Lucille a prize winning vegetable grower - we will have to wait to find out!

The new Cracker Barrel had its grand opening late in October and our own **Evan Barone** did the honors to cut the ribbon. Evan wrote to Cracker Barrel requesting a restaurant in this area - they agreed and the rest is history! Great moment for Evan!

Annika Waffenschmidt wrote a commentary in the newspaper about the West Branch School's trip to Camp Susque.

Long time member and active volunteer at St. Mark's **Frank Vognet** made the front page of the Sun-Gazette in their series on members in the military. Frank joined the Coast Guard as a senior in high school. After his preliminary training he was sent to Okinawa just as the war was ending and then was a part of a mine sinking team. One detonated too close to the ship and a piece of shrapnel hit Frank in the forehead, severely injuring him. Doctors feared for the sight in one of his eyes but he recovered and what a good thing for us- he has served St. Mark's as chief of the ushers for many years, was a council member and helped in many ways with the building. Frank and Shirley will celebrate 65 years of marriage in February! Nice tribute to Frank!

~ Joyce S. Hershberger

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

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.

DECEMBER:

- 7- Mr. Terry Roller, Executive Director, STEP Inc.,
"Success Through Engagement and Partnership"
- 14- Revs. Kevin Brophy and Gwen Bernstine, Area Pastors,
"It's Beginning to Sound a Lot Like Christmas"
- 21- Mr. And Mrs Carl Schlapi (Opal), Area Musicians
"Christmas Songs"
- 28- No Lunch Scheduled - *Happy Holidays*

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:

green beans	canned fruit	tea bags
cranberry sauce	cake mixes	frostings
Ramen Noodles	baked beans	canned yams
pudding mixes	instant potatoes	stuffing
elbow macaroni	canned potatoes	desert mixes
powdered creamer	corn bread mix	saltines
canned milk	powdered milk	brown sugar
oatmeal packets	pancake mix	sugar (1 lb.)
gravy mix		

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.

Christian Counselors at Cornerstone

The counseling department at Cornerstone Family Health exists to serve those with emotional and spiritual needs. They provide mental health care, with a Christian spiritual emphasis where desired (but are sensitive to those of differing faiths), to individuals, couples, and families throughout north central PA. Three licensed psychotherapists, Tim Bryant, PhD, LMFT, David Rising, EdD, and Kathy Hoppe, DMin, LMFT, provide counseling for a wide range of issues. They are available to anyone; you do not need to be a medical patient in the practice or any other FPC site. Their mission is to provide compassionate, Christ-centered, whole-person health care in partnership with their clients. Call 326-4118 or check them out on the web at www.cornerstonefamilyhealth.org

A Memorial Tree Service

will be held Wednesday, November 30 at 6:30 p.m. (registration at 5:30) at the James C. Maneval Funeral Home, Ltd. 500 W. 4th St. Wmspt. Families who have lost loved ones in recent years will be given the opportunity to place an Ornamental Dove, which carries the name of your loved one, on the tree. Kindly RSVP by Nov. 28 at 322-3204.

Alternative Gift Fair

Penn College Human Services is hosting this event to give people the opportunity to give a gift and support local non-profits at the same time. You can shop online at GiftsThatGiveHope.org/williamsport. The giving of these gifts support these local non-profit organizations: North Central Sight Services, West House, NeedleWork Guild, Shepherd of the Streets, Favors Forward, Family Promise, Center for Independent Living, and CAPP.

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.



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:
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.

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.

WAHS HOLIDAY HOO ~ HA!



The combined orchestra, chorus and band from the Williamsport Area High School presents it's annual holiday concert. It was enthusiastically dubbed the "Hoo-HA" several years ago and seems to have stuck! Join these young performers as they celebrate the season on

Sunday, December 18, at 3:00 p.m.

Health, Healing & Wholeness

*"Then Peter came and said to him,
'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive?
As many as seven times?'*

Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.'" (Matthew 18:21-22; NRSV)

Forgive ... such a small word, yet so hard to comprehend and to put into practice! Though it is changing, there is still relatively little research on the direct connection between forgiving and health – no direct evidence that proves once-and-for-all that holding a grudge leads to long-term health problems. There is however, a great deal of scientific evidence that **does** exist on the health affects of depression, anxiety, and anger – by-products of the hurt and betrayal felt when someone has wronged us – increased blood pressure, increase in heart rate, the release of hormones that trigger out fight-or-flight reactions, headache, stomach problems, sleeplessness – all occurring whenever we allow the painful episode to rewind and replay over and over in our minds.

We compound these effects whenever we allow the 'things we wish we'd said' to roll across our tongues as we smack our lips at the thought of retribution. The result is that we begin to stew in our own juices, and the one who actually gets hurt is us. Rev. Dr. Lewis Smedes once said, "To forgive is to set a prisoner free, and to discover the prisoner was you." Forgiveness, as well as its opposites, resentment and revenge, all begin the same way – **with a decision**.

Lest we confuse the two, let's begin by saying that forgiveness **does not** mean forgetting! It does not sanction or justify the actions of the one who has deeply wounded us, and does not release the other person from responsibility - or in some cases, even legal punishment. Those who forgive are not fools – it doesn't mean that the relationship can, or even should, go back to the same as prior to the incident. Instead, forgiveness empowers **us** to take responsibility for our own future happiness. The process may not be easy, and likely will not adhere to a set time-table - we may even find we need to work and re-work our way through it. In some cases, forgiving can be extremely difficult, so it may be wise to find someone trained to assist in the process – someone we trust, such as our pastor or a therapist.



The important point is that we don't have to wait for the other party to say they are sorry – we could have a rather long wait - one that leaves **us** stuck with the pain. Instead, with God's grace, working through the process of forgiving empowers us to become the ones who determine when the healing begins; that typically means allowing ourselves to feel the full impact of the pain incurred. Trying to forget and push the resulting emotions out of our awareness, only leads to repressed feelings that can later manifest themselves in other emotional or physical ways (for example, chronic headaches, depression, ulcers or in some extremes, substance abuse).

The bottom line is this; recognizing the fact that we can forgive the person without forgiving his/her actions, takes away that individual's power over us, and in the process allows us to no longer be held captive to the role of being a victim. Through prayer, scripture, and openness to the Spirit, God reminds us that He has come to us - to journey with us to healing and release from the pain that has made us captive. Consider forgiveness to be the gift that you give yourself this Christmas. Take that first step. Emmanuel has come to accompany you on your journey toward wholeness in body, mind and spirit.

May God's Blessing be with you and your loved ones during this season of joy.

Debbie Best RN, BSW, MHA

SPECIAL CONCERNS LIST

Patricia Alexander

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

Edith Anderson

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

Jane Angle

Rose View Court, Rm. 316
1251 Rural Ave.
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. B816
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

Williamsport Home, Rm. 312
1900 Ravine Rd.
Williamsport, PA 17701

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. 311
1900 Ravine Rd.
Williamsport, PA 17701

Ira Tuxford

210 Louise Ave.
Montgomery, PA 17752

Beulah Wrede

Valley View Nursing Center
2140 Warrensville Rd. Rm. 312
Montoursville, PA 17754

Ralph Zeigler Sr.

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

12/01 Maria Elkin
 12/01 Sara Jones
 12/03 David McMorris
 12/03 Edgar Miller Jr.
 12/03 Robert Miller
 12/04 David Elkin
 12/06 David Gilbert
 12/07 Brittany Lynch
 12/08 Catherine Goertz
 12/09 Emma Elkin
 12/11 Orion Snyder
 12/12 Ernest Larson
 12/15 Richard Hafer
 12/15 Lyndsi Stugart

12/16 Betty Kaufman
 12/16 Lucille Weaver
 12/17 Marlene Vollmer
 12/18 Ryan Clokey



12/18 Michael Jensen
 12/18 William Waldeisen
 12/19 Kurtis Caster
 12/19 Martha Hopler

12/19 Gladys Knauss
 12/19 Fred Thayer
 12/19 Zachery Zimmerman
 12/20 Clint Eppleman
 12/22 Daryl Lewis
 12/23 Edith Anderson
 12/23 Judith Fortin
 12/24 Patti Drake
 12/24 Holly Thorne
 12/26 William Hill
 12/26 Hannah Ramsauer
 12/28 Helen Schramm
 12/30 Amalie Robertson
 12/31 Cynthia Huff

Happy Anniversary!

12/08 Matt & Cassandra Wellen
 12/20 Robert & Aletha Swartz



12/21 Thomas & Becky Miller Pryor
 12/29 Joseph & Rachel Reiter

Lunch n' fellowship



with us at Lunch n' Fellowship!

Wednesday, December 21st at Noon

Please bring a side dish and dessert to share.

**It's gonna' be Hog Heaven at St. Mark's
 so join us for a squealing good time!**

For Our Veterans



We are collecting used stamps again.
 There is a basket for collection in the Narthex.
 The stamps are used at the Veteran's Hospital
 by patients for their therapy.
 Thank you for your contribution.



ST. MARK'S DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1 Thursday

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

2 Friday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

3 Saturday

10:00 AM Play Rehearsal

4 Sunday**Advent II**

8:00 AM Holy Communion
9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Holy Communion
11:45 AM Family Handbells
12:00 PM Spaghetti Youth Fundraising Dinner
12:15 PM The Way

5 Monday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
5:45 PM JBBL-Beg PW Practice
6:30 PM JBBL PW Practice
6:45 PM Handbells
7:15 PM JBBL Midgets Practice

6 Tuesday

8:00 AM City Pastors
9:00 AM Morning Prayer
1:00 PM Pastor returns from Retreat

7 Wednesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
9:20 AM Staff Mtg & Quilting
11:45 AM Bible Study
6:00 PM Selinsgrove Ctr. Party

8 Thursday

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

9 Friday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

10 Saturday

9:00 AM Kids' Morning Out
12:30 PM Adult Cookie Bake
2:00 PM Set Up FPLC Hosting

11 Sunday**Advent III****Hosting FPLC**

8:00 AM Holy Communion
9:00 AM Congregation Assembly

11 Sunday

9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Children's Church
10:30 AM Holy Communion
11:45 AM Congregational Assembly
11:45 AM Family Handbells
2:00 PM Caroling to Shut-Ins

12 Monday**Hosting FPLC**

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
5:45 PM JBBL-Beg PW Practice
6:30 PM JBBL PW Practice
6:45 PM Handbells
7:15 PM JBBL Midgets Practice

13 Tuesday**Hosting FPLC**

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
6:00 PM Brownies
6:30 PM FPLC Board Mtg.

14 Wednesday**Hosting FPLC**

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
9:20 AM Staff Mtg & Quilting
11:45 AM Bible Study
6:30 PM Play Rehearsal

15 Thursday**Hosting FPLC**

6:31 AM Men's Ministry
9:00 AM Morning Prayer
9:20 AM Stephen Ministers
7:00 PM Senior Choir

16 Friday**Hosting FPLC****Newsletter Deadline**

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

17 Saturday**Hosting FPLC****18 Sunday****Advent IV****Hosting FPLC**

8:00 AM Holy Communion
9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Holy Communion
11:45 AM Decorate Nave
11:45 AM Family Handbells
12:15 PM The Way
6:00 PM Catechetics meal/mtg

19 Monday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
9:30 AM LL Christmas Tea
6:00 PM Council/Staff Christmas Party
6:45 PM Handbells

20 Tuesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
9:30 AM LL Christmas Tea

21 Wednesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
9:20 AM Staff Meeting
12:00 PM Lunch N' Fellowship

22 Thursday

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

23 Friday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
10:00 AM Play Rehearsal

24 Saturday**Christmas Eve**

7:00 PM Holy Communion
7:00 PM Simple Gifts of Christmas
10:00 PM Holy Communion

25 Sunday**Christmas**

8:00 AM Holy Communion
9:15 AM Carols, Stories & Cookies in Fellowship Hall
10:30 AM Holy Communion

26 Monday**Office Closed****27 Tuesday**

9:15 AM Lion Crew

28 Wednesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
10:00 AM Bread Baking
7:00 PM Remembrance Service

29 Thursday

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

30 Friday

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

31 Saturday

New Year's Eve

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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Celebrating the Savior in so many ways!

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Dec. 4 | Worship, 8 & 10:30 AM
Liturgy of Welcome to The Way, 8:00 AM
Sunday Church School, 9:15 AM
Spaghetti Youth Fundraising Dinner, 12:30 PM |
| Dec. 7 | Selinsgrove Center Christmas Party
leave the church @ 6:00 PM |
| Dec. 10 | Kids Morning Out, Cookie Baking,
Craft & Gift Making, 9 AM
Adult Cookie Baking, 12:30 PM |
| Dec. 11 | Worship, 8 & 10:30 AM
Sunday Church School, 9:15 AM
Children's Church 10:30 AM
Caroling, 2—4 PM |
| Dec. 18 | Worship, 8 & 10:30 AM
Sunday Church School, 9:15 AM
Christmas Decorating, 12-1 PM |
| Dec. 21 | Lunch N' Fellowship, Noon |
| Dec. 24 | Christmas Eve
'Simple Gifts of Christmas'
presented in Nave at 7 PM
Service of Holy Communion, 7 PM
Service of Holy Communion, 10 PM |
| Dec. 25 | Worship, 8 & 10:30 AM
Christmas Fellowship, 9:15 AM |
| Dec. 26 | Delivering Poinsettias to shut-ins |
| Dec. 28 | Bread Baking, 10 AM
Service of Remembrance, 4:00 PM |
| Dec. 30 | Holiday Fun Night, 6:30 PM |