



# THE LION OF ST. MARK'S

SEPTEMBER 2012



## SUNDAY SCHOOL KICK-OFF BREAKFAST SUNDAY, SEPT. 2, AT 9:15!

WHAT A GREAT WAY TO START THE YEAR!

September 2: Please join us for breakfast & conversation in Fellowship Hall at 9:15

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

### *...AND SO IT BEGAN:*

On August 26, the teachers of our elementary classes gathered for an overview of the curriculum for the year, asked questions and "re-grouped" after the summer!

### *...AND CONTINUES:*

September 9: regular classes for all ages resume promptly at 9:15 as follows:

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

...all classes will gather in the library at 10:05 for announcements and closing prayer.

## However, We Always Need Teachers!

DEB BUCKMAN

SHARON COMINI

MIKE JENSEN

BECKY MILLER PRYOR

SALLY BJORNSTAD

DONNA ELKIN

PAM JENSEN

SHELBY WEBER

CHRISTINA COMINI

BRENDA GAIR

SARA JONES

DIANA ZEIGLER

ERIC COMINI

VICKI HAUSSMANN

MICHELE OWEN

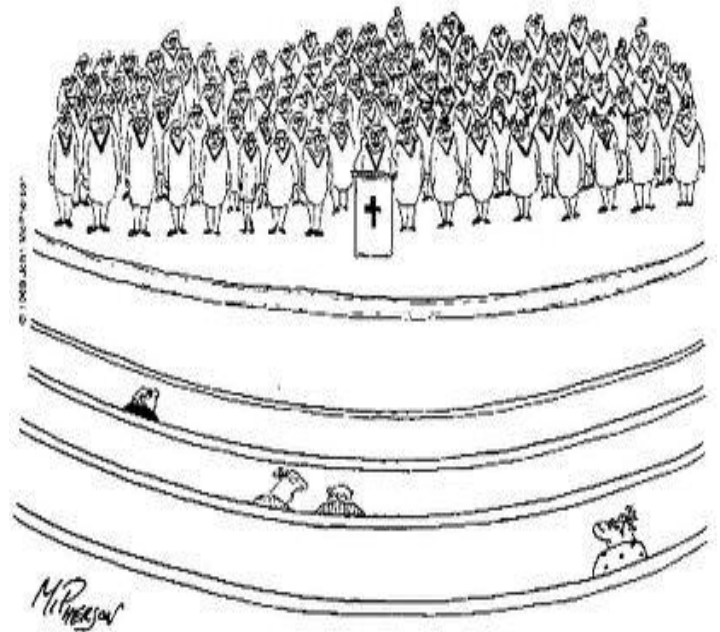
Michele and Bernadette wish to sincerely thank those listed above who have volunteered to teach Sunday Church School this year. We have four elementary classes which meet nine months a year. Some of the above have volunteered to be substitutes so we still have many more openings. It truly is so little time to donate to our youth: 4-5 Sundays a year. THANK YOU again to those who have stepped up!

**Volunteers are always needed: What about you?**

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**"If you ask me I think Jungwha got a little carried away with her Choir Recruitment efforts."**

Now wouldn't that be a great problem for Jungwha to have?

## Parish Register

- ◆ The Funeral Service for Anne Miller was held on August 11th.
- ◆ The Funeral Service for Ralph Ziegler, Sr. was held on August 15th.

## Staff & Officers Contact Information

Website: [stmarkswilliamsport.org](http://stmarkswilliamsport.org)

Main E-Mail:	<a href="mailto:stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org">stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org</a>
Church Office 323-4619	Church fax 323-2452
Rev. Kenneth Elkin, Pastor	<a href="mailto:pastor@stmarkswilliamsport.org">pastor@stmarkswilliamsport.org</a>
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Susan M-Smith, Parish Secretary	<a href="mailto:smsmith@stmarkswilliamsport.org">smsmith@stmarkswilliamsport.org</a>
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Ray Huff Home Phone	368-1473
Gregg Dancho, Vice-President	435-2716
Shelby Weber, Secretary	322-7149
Ken Shafranko, Treasurer	322-6005
Mel Wentzel, Director, <i>The Way</i>	327-8286
Kathy Eshelman, Stephen Ministry	433-0522



Directory Changes listed on page 22!

## What will you offer?



**We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us: signs of your precious love.**

**October 21, 2012**

These, or similar, words are repeated each Sunday after the offering. We may just say them; we may think about what we are saying, or we may earnestly pray in thankfulness to our God for all that He has done for us.

It is time to put those words into our hearts and into action. Consecration Sunday is October 21 this year. We understand the concept that, from a biblical perspective, financial stewardship is not money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, we know that financial contributions are a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes. Since this goes against our natural tendencies to want to regard everything as our own possessions, we must continue to think about this and make it a part of our life a bit at a time. Consecration Sunday is a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving. Again, we are responding with joy and thanksgiving.

Every attendee and member, who completes an Estimate of Giving Card, does so voluntarily while attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday, October 21. We urge everyone to attend, even those who are hesitant to complete a card, because the procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend worship on Consecration Sunday, October 21. In the coming weeks, please think prayerfully about the blessings God has given to you, and about how you are called to share those blessings.

The other part of the event is the celebration meal that follows each worship service on October 21. At services on October 7 and 14 we'll be asking for your reservation for the breakfast following the 8:30 service or the lunch following the 10:30 service on Consecration Sunday. It is important that every member take part.

Our friend Pastor W. Stevens Shipman will again speak to us on how Stewardship (our works and efforts) coincides with what we do after we say "We believe...". Stewardship is, indeed, our faith in action. Let us be thankful for all of our blessings.

~ Ray & Cindy Huff  
Consecration Committee Co-Chairs

## Two Filled, Two Open

**There are still two posts that need new leaders.  
Might you be the right person to serve in one of these capacities?**

**Flower Delivery Coordinator** – The altar flowers have brought beauty to the nave and glorified God, and then they can also bring joy to someone who is ill or lonely at home or in the hospital. The coordinator manages a list of persons who can take a few minutes to deliver flowers and a greeting in the name of our Lord Jesus.

**Hospitality Coordinator at 10:30** – This person manages the list of persons who provide the refreshments following the 10:30 service and encourages the conversations to continue.

**Prayer Venture Cards**—Ruth Sherlinski

**10:30 Greeter Coordinator**– Shirley Vognet

## WE STILL NEED YOUR STUFF!

### Fall Bazaar

Saturday, September 22nd  
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM



The Women of St. Mark's need your no-longer-needed items for our annual bazaar. We are looking for house wares, linens, toys, small appliances in good condition, collectibles, holiday decorations, baskets, pictures, frames, jewelry, and small pieces of furniture. Much has been donated, but more is needed to have a successful sale and raise more than \$1000.00 for local and global charities.

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

Please note we are not accepting sets of encyclopedias or textbooks, cribs or car seats. Electronics need to be in good working order. The American Rescue Workers no longer take televisions, cribs, car seats or computers regardless of condition.

Your seasonal clothing may be donated to Daniel's Closet at Redeemer Lutheran Church. If you have questions, please speak with Shirley Hill or Becky Miller Pryor.

## Daniel's Closet

**Clothing Distribution: Saturday, September 22, 2012 9-11 AM Redeemer Lutheran Church**



The Women of St. Mark's will not have a spring clothing sale, We encourage our members to donate their clean, usable summer clothing, shoes and accessories to Daniel's Closet. Items may be dropped off at Redeemer's church basement on Thursday, August 20th from 5:30 to 6:30 pm or you may contact Redeemer Church at 322-2333 to arrange another time. Please do not leave bags of clothing on the porch.



# The Prayer of the Righteous

*The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*

~ James 5:16

## A New Prayer Team is starting!

Would you consider being a part of a new prayer team?

The prayer team would meet once a month and read aloud in prayer the name of each congregation member that is 21 years of age and under. If you find this to be a ministry that is near to your heart and feel that God is calling you to do this, then come to the first planned prayer meeting on September 23, right after the hospitality, around noon, in the chapel.

The brief time together will begin with a sentence prayer and a scripture focus, and move directly to the naming of our students with a pause after each name. Silence, music, and a concluding prayer will round out the time.

Until September 23, prayerfully think about being a part of this very important ministry here at St. Mark's. Our young people, their parents, teachers, and the whole community need the prayers! God bless us all.

## And Daily Prayers Continue

For many years Pastor Elkin, assisted by others, has been leading Morning Prayer at 9:00 each weekday in the Chapel at St. Mark's. The tower bells ring out, and anyone within their sound is welcome to come and join in the regular round of psalms, hymns, lessons, and prayers as Christians have been doing since earliest times. The service is about 20 minutes in length, and then everyone goes on with other responsibilities. On the way to shop or other activities Monday through Friday, stop in and join in prayer!

Those who cannot make it to the church at 9:00 A.M. still can make use of the same lessons, hymns and psalms at home, because the list is printed each week in the bulletin.

## Our Prayer Chain, It's Not Just For Telephones Anymore!



If you have hesitated about becoming part of the Prayer Ministry because you aren't home to answer the phone or just don't like the responsibility of having to call the next person on the list we have a 21st century solution.

We are going to begin sending our prayer requests out by email.

To receive notification of prayer needs contact the office by phone or email (page 2 for contact info) and leave your email address.

You will be added to the list and receive an email whenever a need arises.

This way you can pray at your convenience and without pressure.

We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to pray for those needing prayer!

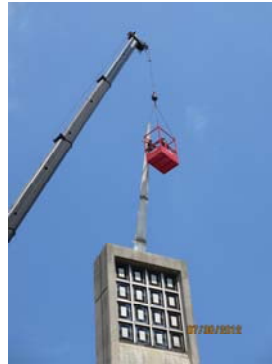
# Coming Down

On Thursday evening, July 26, 2012, a sudden, violent storm swept through downtown Williamsport. Strong winds circled out of the west and took parts of the roofs off the Grit building and the Community Arts Center, twisting around from the north to hit our spire.

The crew from Allison Crane arrived on Monday morning to remove the spire, piece by piece, with the assistance of some "sidewalk supervisors." Billtown Mechanical then went up to assess the damage to the base, in order to



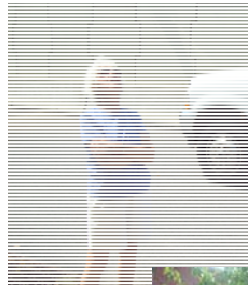
First to come down was our cross... very carefully...



It was then cut in sections at the seams in the aluminum casing, then the steel core.



Each piece, as it came down, was carefully laid on our front lawn



Our sidewalk supervisors made sure everything was done right...



...as the last main section was removed...



...leaving a small cross on top which was detached after being examined by Billtown Mechanical.



A view from the top



Waiting...



# R U a Queen Bee or a Worker Bee?

## ‘Bee’ a Steward of God

Giving your time is as valuable as giving materials or money!

1. "Bee" a Bazaar worker
2. "Bee" a Family Promise helper
3. "Bee" a quilter



## ”Bee” There For Any Of The Following:

Wed.	Sept. 5	Quilting begins – 9:15 a.m.
Wed.	Sept. 12	Lunch 'N Fellowship – 12 noon
Tues.	Sept. 18	Bring up rummage from basement – 7 p.m.
Wed.	Sept. 19	Set-up for Bazaar – 9 a.m. to noon
Thurs.	Sept. 20	Set-up for Bazaar – 9 a.m. to noon
Fri.	Sept. 21	Set-up for Bazaar – 9 a.m. to noon
Sat.	Sept. 22	Bazaar/Rummage Sale – 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

*(Extra help needed to pack and clean up after 1 p.m.)*



Sun.	Sept. 23-30	Family Promise hosting
Wed.	Oct. 3	Decorate Nave with quilts – 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.
Sun.	Oct. 7	Blanket Sunday
Wed.	Oct. 10	Pack quilts & kits for shipping – 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.

*(Reminder ~ All kits are due by the end of September)*

Wed.	Oct. 17	Meeting of Women of St. Mark's – 10 a.m.
Wed.	Oct. 17	Lunch 'N Fellowship – 12 noon

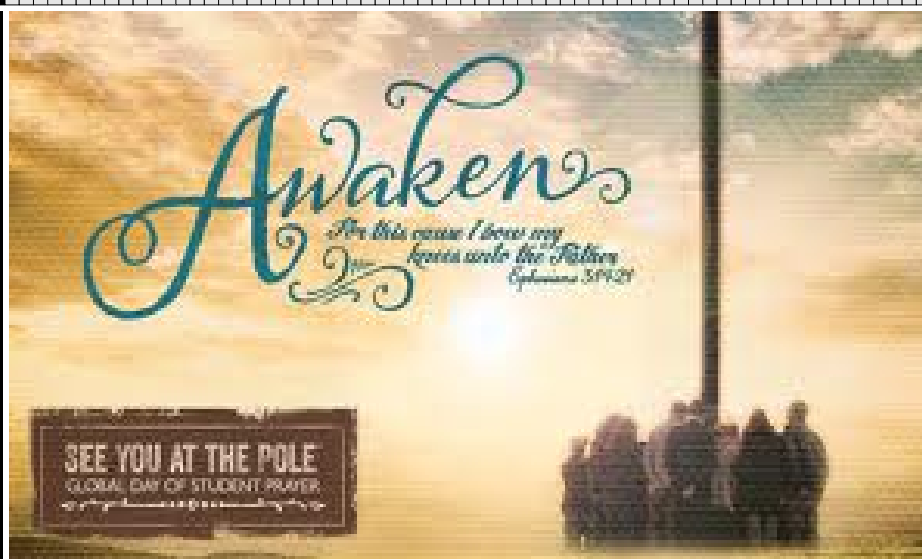
## Busy as Bees

Come and join our quilting group on Wednesday mornings. We will re-sume working on September 5<sup>th</sup>, following our summer break. Our grandmothers called their work sessions "Quilting Bees". We call ours service projects. They were enjoyable then and still are. Working together to create beautiful and useful quilts out of leftover materials is personally rewarding and fulfilling. Bring scissors any Wednesday morning and help tie or baste. If you wish to help by working at home, we welcome you. If you are unable to help with making the quilts, you can help by sending us materials, such as large pieces of fabric, old blankets, and sheets in good condition.





## See You At The Pole 2012



**For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father... I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being so that Christ may dwell in your hearts... And I pray that you... grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and... that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine...**

This theme passage of Paul's prayer for his friends in Ephesus is one of the most famous prayers in the Bible. He desires so deeply for them to be able to grasp the extravagant dimensions of Christ's love (msg)! He yearns for his friends to awaken in a fresh way to the endless possibilities of what only God can do! He is passionate in his cry for awakening in their inner beings like they've never experienced.

Pray for an unusual outpouring of the Spirit of God to awaken the hearts of students on campuses throughout our community... and the world!

See You at the Pole™, the global day of student prayer, began in 1990 as a grass roots movement with ten students praying at their school. More than two decades later, millions around the world pray on their campuses on the fourth Wednesday in September.

SYATP is simply a prayer rally where students meet at the school flagpole before school to lift up their friends, families, teachers, school, and nation to God. SYATP is a student-initiated, student-organized, and student-led event.

One of the amazing aspects of See You at the Pole™ is the spiritual harvest that continues on. After students rally together at their flagpole in September, Bible clubs, prayer groups, and evangelism takes place all year long. Many churches work together to sponsor before and after the Pole rallies for students.

Whether a single student standing alone, two or three huddled together in unity, or hundreds gathered in front of the school, See You at the Pole™ is about students praying for awakening on campuses all over the world.

The 2012 See You at the Pole™ theme is Awaken and the Scripture is Ephesians 3:14–21—“For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father... I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being so that Christ may dwell in your hearts... And I pray that you... grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and... that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine...”

**Wednesday, September 26**

**7:00 a.m.**

**AWAKEN AND PRAY!**



## News in Our Pews

Ah, these lovely summer days go by so quickly – mornings are a little foggy, not many bird songs, a bit of chill in the air – all signs of the fall to come. In the Hallmark card store you can already select Halloween cards and Christmas tree ornaments have been on view for weeks – time passes far too fast!

Things you may not know – **Paige Fortin** is off to Clarion College this fall and **Hannah Ramsauer** to Westchester – good luck to both these young women!

**Deb Buckman** and son **Nick** continued their dramatic careers with an appearance at The Pajama Factory in the production of "Sunshine Boys"- weekend performances were the weekend of August 18.

**Fred Thayer**, who has directed the Lycoming College choirs for many years and has directed the choirs in performances at St. Mark's, will be retiring this year. His sons, at his request, will honor him and his body of work in two special evenings – one to take place September 21 will feature **Jeff** and one in January for **Marc**. These will be special events – watch the newspaper for more information.

And, on a personal note, I have planted twenty-five of **Donna Bostons's** lovely iris and am looking forward to a lovely spring. To visit Donna and her prolific garden is to be impressed with all that she does – she tells me it isn't that unusual but the day we went she was making herb vinegars – between canning, harvesting and all that entails.

**Pastor Elkin** has quite a green thumb as well – everyone at the Elkins' lovely birthday surprise party for **Lou DeSeau's** 75th were appropriately impressed with his many flower and vegetable gardens!

It is always satisfying to see how St. Mark's member react in times of grief and need – **Shirley Kinney** says she is never turned down when she requests help with funeral luncheons and it seems we have had several in the past months – I know I can always count on my lectors and assistant ministers to be there when they are scheduled – St. Mark's and its members are truly special!

*~Joyce Anne Hershberger*

*Please submit items to Joyce via her email [deermountain2@comcast.net](mailto:deermountain2@comcast.net) or call her at 322-0410.*

Addition from **Larue Dieter** (because Joyce is modest): Last month our own **Joyce Hershberger** was named runner-up as 'Woman of the Year' for the Women's Club! Congratulations Joyce!

## Water, Water...Nowhere, Please!

The Congregation Council in special meeting on August 26 has called a **Congregation Special Assembly** for **September 16, 2012 following the 10:30 service** for the single purpose of acting on its recommendation to accept the bid of Tiadaughton Contractors for the method of keeping water away from the basement wall of the Parish House and thus out of the basement.

Water entry has been a long-standing problem, and a headache for us and for our tenants, Little Lambs Preschool. After many discussions by the Property Committee in recent years, the Tiadaughton firm has devised a system which involves permanently closing the window wells, adding a slope of clay-type soil, covering this with a rubber membrane attached to the building and ending about six feet away from the building, and adding a water-gathering pipe system at the edge of the membrane leading to the storm drain in the middle of the courtyard. Since the location is in the courtyard and not easily accessible to heavy machinery, there is lots of hand-work involved. The price of the contract is \$11,800, which the Property Committee judges to be reasonable given the scope of the project. An artist's drawing of the proposal is available in the office hallway. Questions about the project can be directed to Paul Zimmerer, Property Committee chair at 433-3324.



**"Instead of fixing the basement let's convert it into an indoor pool!"**

## Ongoing Collections



### Stamp Collecting

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.

### Tab Collecting

We are still collecting soda tabs in the crossways hallway! 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.



## Expectations Women's Center

### Fall Volunteer Training 2012 Information

Expectations Women's Center will be conducting training sessions for anyone interested in serving as a volunteer.

Please prayerfully consider joining our staff and volunteers as we minister to women in our communities who are experiencing unplanned pregnancies.

**The 7-session class begins September 20th**  
**Thursday evenings 6 to 9pm**  
**September 20, 27, October 4, 11, & 18**  
**and**  
**Saturdays 9am to 3pm**  
**September 29 & October 6**

Cost of training materials is \$30.

For more information or to register please call:  
 Julie at 523-6874 or Pam at 321-8254



*Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10*

## 4th Annual Walk to Prevent Suicide

**The 4th Annual Out of the Darkness Community Walk**  
**Sunday, September 23 at Indian Park, Beginning at Pavilion 5.**  
**Registration will be at 1 and the walk will be at 2.**

**In crisis? Know some who is? Help is just a phone call away!**  
**From anywhere call: 1-800-SUICIDE (784-2433)**  
**Lycoming County Crisis Intervention: 570-326-7895**

## BIBLE STUDIES RECONVENE

**Wednesdays** Join Pastor Elkin and the gang on Wednesdays at 11:45 AM beginning on Sept. 5 for good conversation, song, laughter...and we learn things, too!! Feel free to bring your lunch as you enter into study with us. This year, we enter into a study of Psalms.

**Thursdays** For the early-birds on Thursday mornings, we have a 30-minute study at 6:31 A.M. each week. This fall we finish up an exploration of the book of *2 Chronicles*. Stay tuned for where our next adventure will lead us *CREATION AND THE PATRIARCHAL HISTORIES: Orthodox Christian Reflections on the Book of Genesis!*

## *Lunch N' Fellowship*

*Wednesday, September 12th at Noon*

*Serving Chicken*



*Bring a side dish & dessert to share! Join us for a great time of fellowship!*

## Catechetics & Confirmations!

### **NEW CATECHETICAL CLASS FORMING!**

Letters inviting students to become a part of the confirmation process will go out. If you have a student in sixth or seventh grade and have not received one of these letters, PLEASE LET US KNOW. Sometimes we miss things in the computer systems.

If you have an older child who has not been confirmed, please contact us.

We can include anyone who wishes to become a part of the process.

If a youth is a lot older than the other students, he or she is also welcome to participate in *The Way*.

## **SAVE THE DATE!!!**

**Ezra Buckman, Morgan Comini and Anna & Laura Zeigler  
are being confirmed on SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2012!**

They have finished their two-year course of study with their mentors,  
Karen Boone, Nick Buckman, Kirk Owen and LuAnn Zeigler .

## Medical Equipment for Loan

**Is a loved one or you in need of crutches or a walker or shower chair to assist in your day to day care as a loved one or you recover from an illness or injury? St. Mark's may be able to help. Presently several items in very good condition are available for use as needed.**

**These items include:**

- ◆ **2 pairs of adjustable crutches**
- ◆ **2 aluminum walkers with front wheels**
- ◆ **1 walker that easily becomes a seat**
- ◆ **1 shower bench**
- ◆ **1 shower chair**
- ◆ **1 prong-footed aluminum cane**
- ◆ **1 portable toilet**
- ◆ **Wheelchair for transport**
- ◆ **1 booster seat with hand rails for use on a toilet.**



**Contact the church office if you wish to borrow one or more of these items.**

## CROP WALK 2012



Our community's annual walk to fight hunger, the CROP Walk, is scheduled for **Sunday, October 14, 2012 at 1:30 P.M. at the River Walk in Williamsport!**

**Registration will begin at 1:00 P.M. at our very own St. Mark's Lutheran Church!**

You will select your River Walk route for a 3, 6 or 10 mile walk or anywhere in between.

Thank you to all who walked and donated for the CROP Walk in 2011.

Last year's CROP Walk brought over thirty churches, synagogues, and organizations with donations totaling \$14,729.99. Thank you for doing your part in fighting hunger both locally and globally. 25% of the money we collect comes back to our community and is distributed equally to the American Rescue Workers Food Pantry, the Salvation Army Food Pantry, the United Churches Food Pantry and St. Anthony's Center.

The other 75% is distributed by Church World Service nationally and internationally to help people who are hungry. We have taken a local allocation for the past 14 years, which has brought a total of \$53,739.61 back into our community.

Other walks in our county have added to this total!



# Youth

E N C O U N T E R

**QUAKES + ZONES**



"For I know the plans I have for you,"  
**declares the Lord,**  
 "plans to prosper you and not to harm you,  
 plans to give you hope and a future."  
 - Jeremiah 29:11

**January 25-27, 2013**  
 Pittsburgh, PA  
**Early Bird registration October 15, 2012**  
 \$136 (\$151 after that) \$60 due by above date  
**Interest meeting Sept. 9,**  
**after Confirmation hospitality**

**Musician**  
**Peder Eide**



Peder Eide (l'd) has spent much of the last decade serving God and the church as a full-time national singer/songwriter and speaker. Peder ministers to over 100,000 students a year throughout all of North America at national gatherings, festivals, conferences, conventions, concerts, and churches. His love for young people fuels his ministry with the desire to encourage, challenge, and motivate people to a closer walk with Jesus Christ. "My goal is to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ to students through music, audience participation, and my example. I want to build them up and encourage them in their faith, and let them know that they are loved and valuable. I don't want them to feel just an emotional high, but I want to challenge them to make a commitment that strengthens their faith and gives them the confidence to keep on living a Christ centered life."

**Speaker**  
**Dave Gunnlaugsson**



"Packer" Dave Gunnlaugsson has a deep love for Jesus and for youth, which is why he is so excited to serve as a speaker at events. Packer's involvement with Youth Encounter dates back to his Cross Fire team experience to Africa in 1998-1999. He also worked on staff and has served as the Assistant Registrar and an Event Ministry Director. In addition to being passionate about Youth Encounter's ministry, he also enjoys camping ministry, disc golf, ultimate Frisbee, and spending time with his wonderful wife Nicky and their baby boy, Isaac. Currently they live in Wisconsin where Packer is a youth pastor.

# It's Time To Make a Joyful Noise!

## Family Handbell Ringers!

Since we didn't finish with a performance last spring, we will start playing during worship very soon as we resume our season.



Please join us so that we wrap up the last season successfully. And I also hope and pray you will join us for our new year ahead.

-Jungwha

## Adult Choir Needs You!

Adult Choir rehearsals will resume on Thursday, Sept. 6th at 7 pm ! Also we will sing our first anthem on Sunday, September 9th.

If you have time Thursday nights between 7 - 8:30 pm and Sunday's between 10 - 11:30 am, you are qualified with one condition - you gotta' have vocal cords to sing through and be able to stand while we sing. That's all you need so come join us!



-Jungwha

## Silent Auction/Paddle Ball Auction to Benefit Family Promise of Lycoming County

### Saturday, October 13, 2012

As a Hosting Congregation of FPLC we have been asked to provide one or more modest baskets for the silent auction. Becky Miller Pryor is asking for new items from the congregation to include in one or more baskets we will donate by mid-September.

I am looking for items for a family movie night basket. Items that could be donated are microwave popcorn, pretzels, movie theatre candy (\$1.00 boxes of dots, juju fruits, etc.), tootsie roll pops, new family friendly DVD's.

I am also looking for items to make a children's fun basket. Items that could be donated are coloring books, crayons, paints, scissors, puzzles, books, play-dough and more. (All of these items are on sale now.)

Reserve the date and start saving your quarters for a fun night of fundraising for Family Promise at the Center for Independent Living. Donated items may be placed in the box in the Narthex. Thank you for any help you can give.



# Thank You Notes

## A Special Thank You to Jane Zimmerer!

With heartfelt thanks and great appreciation Larue Dieter and Becky Miller Pryor acknowledge Jane's dedication and hard work as a co-coordinator of hosting for Family Promise. Due to new responsibilities at her workplace, Jane is no longer able to serve in this capacity. For more than three years Jane brought a strong commitment to serving families and great organizational skills as a co-coordinator to each hosting week. Her leadership will be missed. Jane will continue to volunteer as an overnight host as her work schedule allows.

After my "abrupt declining" of the original invitation to this past Sunday's Milestone Celebration, I really enjoyed every minute. It was so nice to worship with so many friends I hadn't seen in a few years—and with some I didn't know.

The lunch was delicious and different—a welcome change for me!

I promise not to refuse any further invitations if my legs will carry me and my brain still works.

Again-thanks so much!! Larue Dieter

What a wonderful surprise it was to receive the gift of St. Mark's photos plus notes from so many of "our" members! We do wish we were back in PA but Dave is in no shape to move him – may that change!

Very sincerely,  
Carol & Scott McMorris

A big thank you to all the kind St. Mark's members who sent us the special birthday greetings. Your thoughtfulness was much appreciated.

Eugene & Reba Jacobs

Pastor Elkin, Susan, Bernadette and Michele,  
For the lovely luncheon you all prepared and served last Friday, a sincere and heartfelt "Thank You"!

It was wonderful and enjoyed by everyone present.

Connie Shaible

Dear 70+ Milestone Committee,

What a very delightful time we all had at the luncheon on Sunday, August 12, 2012.

It isn't often that we are treated with such fanfare as well as finesse!! Loved the whole event—soup as very tasty and special as well as the salad.

Its not so bad to be 76 after all.

I'm still praising God.  
Jane Kline

Dear Susan,

What a delightful treat you et all prepared for your "staff of volunteers" at the luncheon today!

I enjoyed it very much and thank you for including me. Food was excellent!!

Thank you for your thoughtfulness,  
Jane Kline

Office Staff, Pastor, the Milestone & Parish Life Committees and anyone else involved in the Newsletter & Office Staff Recognition Luncheon & Milestone Celebration,

Thanks so much. Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

In Christian Love,  
Elsie Sechler

Dear friends at St. Mark's,

Thank you so much for your donations of the baby items.

The baby bouncer, baby play center, baby seat and other items are appreciated very much.

These items will go to good use.

God Bless,  
Janice Hepler  
Volunteer  
Expectations Women's Center

## We Are Hosting Family Promise

Sunday, Sept. 23 ~ Sunday, Sept. 30,  
we will be hosting families with children  
who are experiencing a housing crisis.

We are in need of volunteers

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



Everyone is busy with one thing or another these days, but if you have two hours to donate you can be a volunteer and make a difference in a family's life. Please make this week a priority for your family and you and plan to be a part of that difference. Check your calendars now for your availability.

You may contact Larue Dieter at 433-3453 or Becky Pryor at 321-9523 to reserve a specific time to volunteer. Larue and Becky will also begin telephoning folks in the near future to schedule needed volunteers.

Monetary donations may be made payable to St. Mark's with the memo line designating the Hosting Fund.

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

### Needed: Cake Bakers and Cookie Makers

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

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

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





## Lutheran Shared Ministry

**SCHOOL OF RELIGION 2012**  
**WEDNESDAYS IN OCTOBER. 1:30—3:30 PM**  
 at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 142 Market St., Williamsport

### Course 1 – Christian Contemplative Prayer

A movement from more active modes of prayer-verbal, mental or affective into a receptive prayer of resting in God; fostering a deeper more intimate relationship with God. Presentations on Centering Prayer & Lectio Divina (Praying with Scripture) with the opportunity to practice will be offered. These prayer forms are drawn from ancient prayer practices of our Christian Contemplative heritage. Course leader is: Martha Karchner *Her experiences include nursing educator, spiritual director & retreat leader. For the past 20 years she has had a keen interest in the study and practice of Contemplative Prayer. She is a member of Messiah Lutheran Church in South Williamsport.*

### Course 2 - The Foundational Narratives of Genesis 12-50

Love, hate, faithfulness, deceit...it's better than any TV drama because Genesis explores all of those things in their relationship to God as well as to other persons. These old stories of Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph and their families help us understand current problems; we'll have lively discussion! Course Leader: Kenneth Elkin, Pastor at St. Mark's

### Course 3 – Charles Dickens “A Christmas Carol”

The classic tale of Ebenezer Scrooge is a cherished symbol of Christmas and a wonderful story of redemption and hope. This four-week study is contained in one book which includes the entire text of Dickens' enduring tale along with thought-provoking questions and conversation starters. The discussions will help you understand the story's relevance, not just at Christmas, but all year 'round. This will be an insightful intro for those attending LSM's "A Christmas Carol" Dinner-Theatre this year. Course Leader: Bernadette Jones is the Coordinator of Youth & Family Ministry at St. Mark's. *(There is a charge of \$5.50 for the book used in this course)*

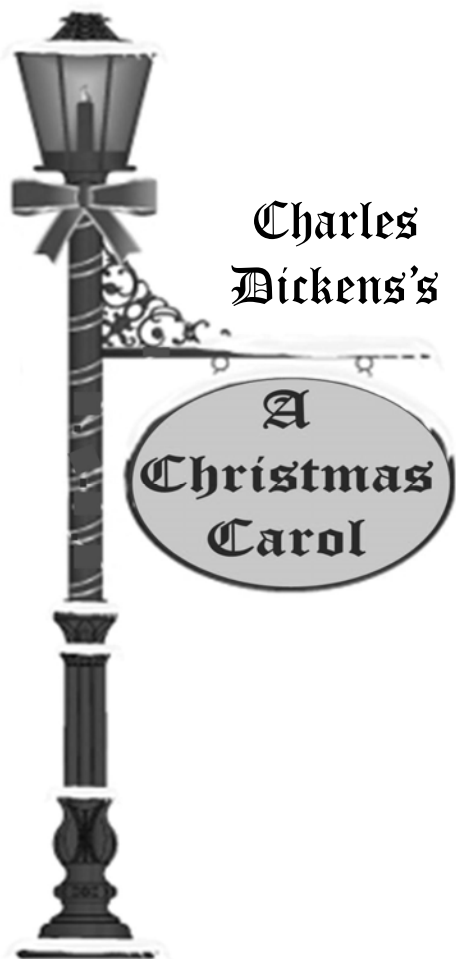
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Congregation: \_\_\_\_\_

*Registrations must be submitted to St. Mark's no later than Sept. 30: we need to prepare classrooms and handouts*

*St. Mark's is handicap accessible.*

# Lutheran Shared Ministry



On Friday, November 30, and Saturday, December 1, 2012, Lutheran Shared Ministry (LSM) will present A Christmas Carol, dinner theatre style, in Fellowship Hall at St. Mark's Lutheran Church. All donations will go to UCM of Penn College.

On Sunday and Monday evenings, September 9 and 10, 2012, at 6:00 p.m., auditions and a volunteer sign-up will be held in the Nave at St. Mark's. Willing folk from all the congregations in LSM are welcome to audition and sign up to assist with meal preparation and service, scenic construction and painting, costumes, props and other technical needs.

The one-act play is adapted from Dickens's story to incorporate straight acting during the staves, interspersed with carolers. Those who are not comfortable singing are encouraged to audition for the character roles; parts are available for four men, three women, five-six either/or, and 4-6 children. We hope to see a caroling group (not too large) from each congregation; singers and instrumentalists may also audition for some solo work. Except for the woman playing Eudora Scrooge, rehearsals will be limited to one a week until mid-November when the cast will meet as a whole 2-3 times a week. A Christmas Carol is adapted by Bernadette Haas Jones and will be directed by Bob Jones.

We would like to see at least one person from each congregation assisting with the meal and each of the technical areas (props, costumes, sets, etc.). St. Matthew has again agreed to make their yummy cakes for dessert. Youth are needed to fill in the wait staff for one or both evenings. They will be instructed and supervised by an adult captain.

So, please think about this wonderful opportunity for our churches to get together at this special time of year; pencil us in on your calendars; and join us for Charles Dickens's A Christmas Carol. Come to St. Mark's on September 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> to find out more!!!

# Health, Healing & Wholeness

*"Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like a man who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like." (James 1:23-24 NIV)*

It's maddening – embarrassing – but most times, completely normal. I'm referring to memory lapses – those times when you've walked into a room, and couldn't remember why you'd gone in it. Most frustrating for me is placing an important letter or paper in "a place where I won't forget it", only to have forgotten where I'd placed it. I've hidden gifts, and discovered on Christmas morning. Thank heaven for decorated gift bags!

If you are like me, and have put the peanut butter in the fridge and the milk in the cupboard, take heart! There are some important differences between forgetfulness and dementia (impaired memory and thinking). In dementia, memory loss is severe enough to interfere with the person's ability to function socially and at work. Other symptoms can include personality changes, impaired judgment, language, ability to perform a job that requires remembering several steps, or recognition of objects or people. In contrast, "normal" forgetfulness does not progressively worsen or become disabling. Memory lapses are most likely to occur when you are under stress, are tired, ill, distracted, or just trying to remember too many details.

Forgetfulness can also be linked to physical problems, such as:

- a reduction in blood flow to the brain caused by high blood pressure.
- those who suffer from sleep apnea (stop breathing temporarily many times during the night). Given memory tests, these folks score lower – scores usually rise after treatment.
- an under-active thyroid; can affect learning, memory and attention.
- low iron levels; important for our blood to carry oxygen throughout the body, including to the brain.
- cardiovascular disease, diabetes, depression, or the side effects of medications can also contribute.

And what may appear to be forgetfulness just might be attributed to poor hearing or vision.

Yes, it's true. It appears we really do lose some brain cells over a life-time. Researchers have found that a half to two-thirds of people age 50 or over have some degree of memory loss, however, they disagree over how much deterioration is "normal".

According to Harvard Medical School, "It's important to note, though, that memory loss isn't inevitable." To combat and sharpen your memory try reducing stress and improving your organizational skills. Regularly challenge your brain – play games, do crossword puzzles, word scrambles, play chess, or take some classes. Personally, I'd be lost without my daily planner. However, even though I've written something down, I still have to remember to read it ... ☺

*September blessings to all!*  
Debbie Best, RN, BSW, MHA

# United Churches of Lycoming County

## FOOD PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED ALL THE TIME:

- |                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Chicken Helper         | Desert Mixes     |
| Hamburger Helper       | Condiments       |
| Canned Fruit & Juice   | Pizza Mix        |
| Tea/Coffee/Cocoa       | Cookies          |
| Cake Mixes & Frostings | Beef Stew        |
| Oodles of Noodles      | Noodles          |
| Canned Vegetables      | Jell-O & Pudding |
| Pancake Mix & Syrup    | Sugar & Flour    |
| Macaroni & Cheese      | Tuna Helper      |
| Spaghetti & Sauce      | Soups            |

Hours are 9:30-Noon  
on Mondays for delivery  
and Tuesdays/Thursdays from 10-3  
for clients (appointments are needed).

We are in The Center,  
600 Campbell St, Wmspt.

## 24 hour Devotion Line



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

Call 570-322-5762.

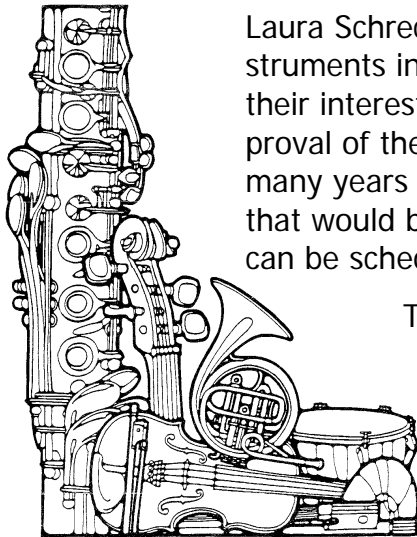
## ST. MARK'S TEEN MOVIE NIGHT



**Sunday,  
Sept 23,  
6 pm**

**Bring a treat  
and join us!**

## Musical Ensembles Forming



Laura Schreckengast and Donna Zierdt Elkin are inviting all those who play instruments in the congregation to contact either Laura or Donna and indicate their interest in taking part in small ensembles here at St. Mark's. With the approval of the Congregation Council, Laura and Donna have offered to use their many years of instrumental music teaching experience to form and lead groups that would be available to play occasionally for worship or other events, when it can be scheduled with our music director Jungwha Kim.

There will not be a fee for participating in an ensemble.

For more information contact:

Laura at 322-3160 or [fiddle003@verizon.net](mailto:fiddle003@verizon.net),  
Donna at 323-7367 or [donnaelkin@gmail.com](mailto:donnaelkin@gmail.com)

## Private Instrumental Lessons Available

At the same time or in a separate contact, Laura and Donna will also be glad to talk about the option of private-pay instrumental lessons for anyone interested in that opportunity as well.



# 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. 206  
1251 Rural Ave.  
Williamsport, PA 17701

**Dottie Bingaman**  
Williamsport Home, Apt. 708  
1900B Ravine Rd.  
Williamsport, PA 17701

**Marie Byerly**  
Sycamore Manor, Rm. 547  
1445 Sycamore Rd.  
Montoursville, PA 17754

**Kay Crane**  
Williamsport Home, Rm. 213  
1900B Ravine Rd.  
Williamsport, PA 17701

**Bonita Crossley**  
73 Pine St.  
Hills Grove, PA 18619-9300

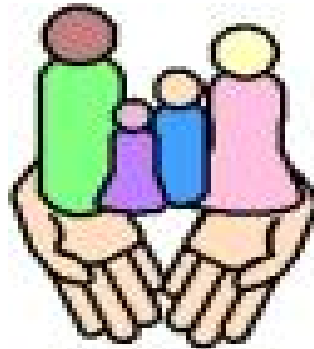
**Art Decker**  
Williamsport Home, Apt. 1209  
1900C Ravine Rd.  
Williamsport, PA 17701

**Larue Dieter**  
2150 Warrensville Rd, Apt. 2  
Montoursville, PA 17754

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

**Catherine Goertz**  
Williamsport Home, B-816  
1900 Ravine Rd.  
Williamsport, PA 17701

**Bill Hibschan**  
Williamsport Home, Apt. 709  
1900 Ravine Rd.  
Williamsport, PA 17701



## In His Hands

**Charlotte Hughes**  
140 Blueberry Lane  
Williamsport, PA 17701

**Gene Jacobs**  
Williamsport Home, Rm. 312  
1900 Ravine Rd.  
Williamsport, PA 17701

**Reba Jacobs**  
1306 Faxon Parkway  
Williamsport, PA 17701

**Irma Logan**  
Valley View Nursing Center  
Rm. 401-1  
2140 Warrensville Rd.  
Montoursville, PA 17754

**David & Carol McMorris**  
330 Forest Hills Circle  
Prescott, AZ 86303

**Robert Miller**  
947 Hepburn St.  
Williamsport, PA 17701

**Kay Poliska**  
1100 Allen St.  
Montoursville, PA 17754

**Elizabeth Ruesskamp**  
Willow View Personal Home  
124 Emery 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**  
Valley View Nursing Center  
Rm. 113  
2140 Warrensville Rd.  
Montoursville, PA 17754

**Beulah Wrede**  
Wolf Run Village  
Apt. A-15  
3750 Rte. 220 Hwy  
Hughesville, PA 17737

**Elda Zeigler**  
Rose View Court, Apt. 209  
1251 Rural Ave.  
Williamsport, P A 17701

## Happy Birthday!

09/03 Todd Smith  
 09/04 Jeannette Lukens  
 09/05 Brett Campbell  
 09/05 Lauren Campbell  
 09/05 Valerie Doebler  
 09/05 Sean Elkin  
 09/05 Hailey Jarrett  
 09/05 Kirk Owen  
 09/06 Derek Lewis  
 09/06 Betty Rechel  
 09/09 Debra Buckman  
 09/09 Nolan Ott  
 09/09 Hudson Ott  
 09/10 Mary Clouser  
 09/11 Carol Harvey



09/12 Theodore Larson Jr.  
 09/12 Beth Shafranko  
 09/12 Mary Ann Stiller  
 09/12 Marion Waldeisen  
 09/13 Timothy Maggs  
 09/13 Stefan Weber  
 09/15 Shirley MacGill  
 09/15 Andrea Welker  
 09/16 Louella Bair  
 09/17 Tammy Fitzpatrick

09/18 Abreanna Doane  
 09/19 Audrey Bower  
 09/19 Deborah Holmes  
 09/20 Richard Harris  
 09/22 Ronald Arner  
 09/22 Brittany Dewar  
 09/23 Evan Barone  
 09/24 Jeffery Maggs  
 09/24 Aeris Powley  
 09/26 Blanche Doebler  
 09/26 Abbigail Robertson  
 09/27 Michael Elliott  
 09/28 Lawrence Satifka  
 09/28 Bailey Sims  
 09/30 Pamela Fink

## Happy Anniversary!

09/03 Ronald & Grace Arner  
 09/03 Steven & Nancy Bieber  
 09/03 Eric & Sharon Comini  
 09/03 Tom & Helen Schramm  
 09/04 Robert & Shelly Clokey  
 09/10 William & Marion Waldeisen



09/19 Johnny & Renee Hinds  
 09/25 Michael & Jackie Kinney  
 09/27 James & Donna Maule  
 09/28 George & Kay Poliska  
 09/28 Robert & Michele Ramsauer

## Directory Updates

**CHANGE:** Vicki Hospes change her e-mail address to: [itwoluvny@gmail.com](mailto:itwoluvny@gmail.com)

**Megan Greevy** change her apartment number to #949

**April Hartzel** change her address to: 1506 E Hills Crescent, Williamsport, PA 17701

**Lisa Gaul** change her address to: 814 Mulberry Street, Williamsport, PA 17701

**Joyce S Jones** change her address to: 2121 Hailey Dr., Marlton, NJ 08053

**Kay Crane** At this time Kay is no longer able to hold the telephone receiver so although her number is still good she is not answering her phone. If you would like to check on her please contact the 2nd floor nurses station at the main number of the Williamsport Home. That number is 323-8781.

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD GROUP PACK N' WRAP



Shoeboxes  
for kids

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2012 AFTER THE 10:30 SERVICE**

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

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

# ST. MARK'S SEPTEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**2 Sunday**

8:00 AM Holy Communion  
 9:00 AM S.S. Kick-off Breakfast  
 10:30 AM Holy Communion

**3 Monday  
Office Closed**



**4 Tuesday**

8:00 AM City Pastors  
 9:00 AM Morning Prayer

**5 Wednesday**

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

**6 Thursday**

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

**7 Friday**

**Council Agenda Deadline**  
 9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
 4:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal

**8 Saturday**

6:00 PM Wedding

**9 Sunday**

8:00 AM Holy Communion  
 9:15 AM Sunday School  
 10:30 AM Confirmation  
 10:30 AM Holy Communion  
 12:15 PM YouthQuake Info. Mtg.  
 6:00 PM Auditions/Christmas Carol

**10 Monday**

9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
 2:00 PM Mutual Ministry Mtg.  
 6:00 PM Auditions/Christmas Carol  
 6:00 PM Property Committee @  
 Zimmerer's home  
 7:00 PM Wmspt. Civic Chorus  
 8:00 PM UCM Faith Talk @ PCT

**11 Tuesday**

9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
 10:00 AM Conf. Pastors@ CoS

**12 Wednesday**

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

**13 Thursday**

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

**14 Friday**

9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
 4:00 PM Wedding Rehearsal

**15 Saturday**

2:00 PM Wedding

**16 Sunday**

8:00 AM Holy Communion  
 9:15 AM Sunday School  
 10:30 AM Holy Communion  
 11:45 AM Sp. Cong. Mtg/WallSeal  
 12:15 PM The Way #1  
 6:00 PM Catechetics meal/mtg

**17 Monday**

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

**18 Tuesday**

9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
 6:30 PM Finance Committee  
 7:00 PM Bring up rummage from  
 bsmt.

**19 Wednesday**

9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
 9:00 AM Set up for Bazaar  
 9:20 AM Staff Mtg & Quilting  
 11:45 AM Bible Study

**20 Thursday**

6:31 AM Men's Ministry  
 9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
 9:00 AM Set up for Bazaar  
 9:20 AM Stephen Ministry  
 6:00 PM Expectations Training  
 7:00 PM Senior Choir

**21 Friday**

**Lion Article Deadline**  
 9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
 9:00 AM Set up for Bazaar

**22 Saturday**

FP Hosting Set-up  
 9:00 AM Bazaar

**22 Saturday**

9:00 AM Daniel's Closet

**23 Sunday**

**Hosting FPLC**  
 8:00 AM Holy Communion  
 9:15 AM Sunday School  
 10:30 AM Holy Communion  
 11:45 AM Prayer 4 Youth/Chapel  
 1:00 PM Out of the Darkness Walk  
 6:00 PM Teen Movie Night

**24 Monday**

**Hosting FPLC**  
 9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
 6:00 PM LSM Mtg. @St. Mark's  
 7:00 PM Wmspt. Civic Chorus

**25 Tuesday**

**Hosting FPLC**  
 9:00 AM Morning Prayer

**26 Wednesday**

**Hosting FPLC**  
 7:00 AM See You @ The Pole  
 9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
 9:20 AM Quilting  
 9:20 AM Staff Mtg & Quilting

**27 Thursday**

**Hosting FPLC**  
 6:31 AM Men's Ministry  
 9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
 6:00 PM Expectations Training  
 7:00 PM Senior Choir

**28 Friday**

**Hosting FPLC**  
 9:00 AM Morning Prayer  
 9:20 AM Lion Crew

**29 Saturday**

**Hosting FPLC**  
 9:00 AM Expectations Class

**30 Sunday**

**Hosting FPLC**  
 8:00 AM Holy Communion  
 9:15 AM Sunday School  
 10:30 AM Holy Communion  
 12:15 PM The Way #2



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](mailto:stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org)



*Address Service Requested*

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Williamsport, PA 17701

## Penn State Football Tickets Fundraiser

A friend of the congregation who lives at a considerable distance has found that he is unable because of personal circumstances to make use of Penn State football home game tickets this fall and has entrusted them to that well-known football fanatic, Pastor Elkin, as a gift to St. Mark's.

Since we recognize that not all of the costs associated with the replacement of our spire damaged in the recent storm will be covered by insurance, let's turn this into a fund-raising opportunity.

Whoever offers the highest monetary bid for a pair of tickets by noon of the Thursday before the date of the game will be awarded the tickets, for the benefit of the spire replacement fund. The face value of each ticket is \$55.00. and the seats are located in section EJ, Row 2.

Here are the details of the available tickets:

September 1	vs. Ohio	2 pairs of tickets, 1 parking pass
September 15	vs. Navy	2 pairs of tickets, 1 parking pass
September 22	vs. Temple	2 pairs of tickets, 1 parking pass
November 17	vs. Indiana	2 pairs of tickets, 1 parking pass

