



THE LION OF ST. MARK'S

OCTOBER 2012

Blanket Sunday – October 7

WRAP THEM IN LOVE!

Blanket Sunday is the first Sunday in October. Our completed kits and quilts will be sent to people facing disasters and poverty. Many thanks to everyone who participated. If you missed the opportunity to provide kits or quilts you can still make a contribution toward the purchase of blankets. You may use the envelopes provided or just mark your donation "Blankets".



Autumn Hayride – Saturday, October 13



The cost of the outing will be \$6 per person. St. Mark's will be paying for half of the cost for children from infant to 18 years of age. The cost will include the hayride, a trip through the barn to see the animals, picking your own pumpkin and a coloring book. You may meet us at Styer's at 1 PM or at the church at 12:30 PM. Money is not needed until the day of the hayride. We must know if your family is planning to attend so we can have payment ready. If you have any questions or need help with transportation please contact Michele Owen at owen@stmarkswilliamsport.org, or call 323-4619. There will be a sign-up sheet outside of Michele's office.

Harvest Home Sunday – October 14

Our congregation will be celebrating a "Day of Thanksgiving" by bringing nonperishable items for the local United Churches Food Pantry. These items should be brought to the church in the provided bag or plastic bag, on Sunday, October 7th or 14th. The food will be displayed on Sunday, October 14th. People in need are given a three day supply of food. We have a very generous response every year from our church family. We hope you and your family will part of this annual celebration as we thank God for what He has given us.



Retired Missionary Bette McCrandall to visit with us Sunday, October 7 & Wednesday, October 17!



This news just in...Bette McCrandall, our recently retired missionary to Liberia, will be in our area in the coming weeks and will be visiting with us next Sunday, October 7. She will have time with our adult Sunday School group that morning and greet the congregation at worship and thank us for the many years of support and prayers during her work in Liberia. In addition, she will be present for the Luncheon Fellowship day on October 17 and we'll have further opportunity for conversation with her there before the LSM School of Religion gets underway that afternoon. Be sure to set aside some time to greet this small but mighty servant of the Lord Jesus on October 7 and 17.

INDEX & UPDATE

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Please make the
Directory Changes
listed on page 16 !

Council Update

- The Congregation Council met in regular session on September 17, 2012. The Council:
- ◆ received the regular reports of the pastor, officers, and committees.
 - ◆ moved to accept the Matt Fortin family in membership by Letter of Transfer.
 - ◆ reviewed the regular responsibilities of Council membership
 - ◆ commended the busy and extensive work of the Property Committee
 - ◆ noted the upcoming stewardship emphasis and Consecration Sunday
 - ◆ reminded committees to get budget requests made in a timely manner.
 - ◆ set dates for future gatherings
 - ◆ closed by joining in Prayer at the Close of the Day in the chapel.

Parish Register

- ◆ Pastor Elkin officiated at the wedding of Lauren Sims and Chad Polak in the Nave on September 8, 2012.
- ◆ Pastor Elkin officiated at the Affirmation of Baptism—Confirmation for Anna Zeigler, Laura Zeigler, Morgan Comini, and Ezra Buckman on September 9, 2012.
- ◆ Pastor Elkin officiated at the funeral service for Beatrice Doebler at the Maneval Funeral Home on September 12, 2012, with burial in Green Lawn Memorial Park.
- ◆ Pastor Elkin officiated at the wedding of Jeremy Miller and Danielle Guthrie in the Nave on September 15, 2012.

Staff & Officers Contact Information

Website: stmarkswilliamsport.org

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Main E-Mail: | stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org |
| Church Office 323-4619 | Church fax 323-2452 |
| Rev. Kenneth Elkin, Pastor | pastor@stmarkswilliamsport.org |
| Pastor's Home Phone | 323-7367 |
| Jungwha Kim, Director of Music | jkim@stmarkswilliamsport.org |
| Bernadette Jones, Christian Ed. | bjones@stmarkswilliamsport.org |
| Michele Owen, Christian Ed. | mowen@stmarkswilliamsport.org |
| Susan M-Smith, Parish Secretary | smsmith@stmarkswilliamsport.org |
| Graydon Yearick, Financial Sec. | gyearick@stmarkswilliamsport.org |
| Lou DeSeau, Environmental Serv. | ldeseau@stmarkswilliamsport.org |
| Ray Huff, Council President | rhuff@stmarkswilliamsport.org |
| 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 |



DON'T JUST TALK THE TALK! WALK THE WALK!

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.
It is a beautiful walk!

To participate, you can walk and collect donations from friends, neighbors & family
OR you can donate after the 8:00 and 10:30 services
to sponsor one of the walkers from St. Marks.
If you would like to walk, bring your walking shoes
and a dish to share to church on the 14th.

We will eat lunch at 11:45 and then register and walk together at 1:00.

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 15 years,
which has brought over \$55,000.00 back into our community.

Other walks in our county have added to this total!

~ Brenda Gair

P.S. If you're not up to walking, please help is at our hospitality stand in our parking lot!

Open Heart Surgery performed at St. Mark's...

...on the organ. The "heart" that pumps the lifeblood, its wind, throughout the instrument, is the large electric motor attached to what is essentially a heavy flywheel and fan about three feet in diameter in a drum 4 feet long. After decades of service, the bearings on the shaft of that fan wore out this summer and so open-heart surgery was needed to replace the bearings. We received one estimate of \$2,800 for the job from a distant company, and thought the bid to be too high. Our own very clever men looked at it, but decided it was beyond what they could handle. With the help of Bob Miller we called in two expert craftsmen from Billtown Mechanical who tackle difficult and unusual projects. Working in very cramped quarters, they invented a method for extracting the old bearings without collapsing or damaging the blades of the fan, found and installed new bearings, and fabricated new cork cradles to surround and shield the bearings. The completed job cost \$1,100; it works perfectly, and should continue in service for many years.

In the same area, the two halves of the flywheel are joined by leather straps which absorb the little jerk that happens each time the electric motor is turned on. They too deteriorate over time, and occasionally need to be replaced. Rather than have the organ company bring in special expensive leather at a premium price, we went over to the valley and secured some good harness leather from a Amish tack shop, and our own Lou DeSeau cut and installed the leather pieces which are working just fine. Lou was also able to clean the organ blower's damper pad of 50 years of accumulated filth while we were working in that area. He looked like he had had a hard day in a coal mine!

We have to make careful judgments when there are tasks that we can handle ourselves and when we need to call in the right kind of experts. Your Property Committee and Sexton are very clever folks whom you are trusting to make these choices wisely.



Life Chain for Sanctity of Life



Many hundreds of Christians including their pastors will line the sidewalks on the "Golden Strip" (East 3rd Street) on

Sunday, October 7, 2012, from 2:30 to 3:30

in a time of silent prayer for those who cannot speak for themselves, unborn infants in danger of having their lives taken from them.

Anyone is welcome to join Pastor Elkin in standing in prayer during this hour. Park near Ruby Tuesday's.

Thank You to Our October Teachers!!

There is no substitute for a great teacher!



Pre-K & K:

Brenda Gair

1st & 2nd:

Jane Kline

3rd & 4th:

Sharon Comini

& Christina Comini

5th:

Shelby Weber

Just for Kids



Children's Church

**SUNDAY, October 14, 10:30 a.m.,
in the Chapel, is our first celebration of
Children's Church for this year.**

The special offerings that day are contributions toward our CROP Walk team or items of non-perishable food for Harvest Home.

For those new to St. Mark's, Children's Church is a time for worship planned especially for our young members. They sing hymns, share the Gospel, respond to a Psalm, learn from a sermon, contribute and offering and pray the Lord's Prayer; all following the four parts of our worship service: Gather, Hear (Word), Celebrate (Meal), and Send. They finish in time to carry their offering into the Nave with the adults, then join their parents for the rest of the service. Please consider accompanying your children in the Chapel or bringing them over before you settle in the Nave.

FIRST COMMUNION

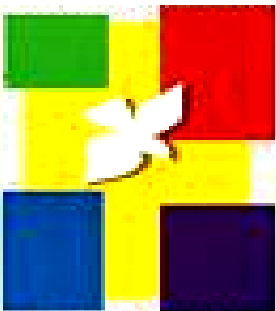
Letters will soon be going out to the parents of those children in the third grade, inviting the students to learn about Holy Communion and what it means to them.

If your child is not yet in third grade, but you feel he or she is ready to understand and receive Communion, PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE if you want them to join the class. We feel that children of that age are ready to learn about this sacrament, but, obviously, you know your children better than we do. We are more than happy to include any of our youth in the process.



Classes begin on Sunday, November 4, at 3:00 p.m., in the Middle Lounge, and continue on November 11 & 18 at the same time. The students' First Communion will be celebrated on the festival of Christ the King, Sunday, November 25, 2012.

FIRST CATECHETICAL CLASS OF THE YEAR MET!



Taylor Wentzel, Sadie Wentzel, Annika Waffenschmidt, Grace Schreckengast, and Makensi Doebler, along with their mentors, Jane Kline, Chele Fredericks, Diana Zeigler, Donna Elkin, and Michele Owen (respectively), joined Evan, Ben, Dawson and Stefan (with Gary, Bob S., Lou, and Ray) on Sunday, September 16, for the first meeting of the year! It was a getting-to-know-you session, with orientation for the program and materials. The parents of the students met with Pastor Elkin in the Crossways Room and got a head start on the Bible study for this year.

Their next meeting is on Consecration Sunday, October 21. Looks like it's going to be a great year!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD GROUP PACK N' WRAP

Tick-tick-tick-tick-tick... Time is running out!



**Shoebboxes
for kids**

On **Sunday, November 4**, after the 10:30 service, we share a light lunch and then pack and wrap Operation Christmas Child boxes. For three years now, we've made the packing of these boxes an intergenerational event and had a great time doing it!!

If you've been shopping the sales and buying in bulk, you can bring your finds to the box in the staff hallway. You don't have to get a lot of different things to fill one or two boxes. If you find a good deal, pick up one or two dozen an item! Bring your donations and empty shoeboxes in to the office--there's a box in the hallway by Middle Lounge. We'll store it.

At Children's Church, the following Sunday, November 11, the children will process in offertory with the completed boxes. Those who choose to pack their own may bring them in on November 4, but the final deadline is November 11.

Donations are welcome and appreciated to go toward the shipping of each box. The cost per box is \$7. Donations may be given at any time up until November 13.

Consecration Sunday Meals



We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us:

October 21, 2012 signs of your precious love.

Please join us for either breakfast at 9:00 am
or for the luncheon at 11:45 pm.

You may **RSVP** by filling out a **Reservation card**
or by contacting the office by phone or email.

Corning Museum of Glass Trip

Look for a sign-up for Corning trip (November 3) SOON

Join Us in Prayer for Our Youth

We held our first prayer meeting for the youth of our congregation. We started our prayer time with a reading from Jeremiah 42:1-4.

All the army officers, led by Johanan, son of Kareah and Jezaniah, son of Hoshaiiah, accompanied by all the people and said, "We have a request. Please listen. Pray to your God for us, what's left of us. You can see for yourself how few we are! Pray that your God will show us the way we should go and what we should do." Jeremiah the prophet said, "I hear you request, and I will pray to your God as you have asked. Whatever God says, I'll pass on to you. I'll tell you everything, holding nothing back."



Thanks to all those who came out to pray. Our next prayer time will be on Sunday October 21st at 1:00 PM in the chapel. We moved the time to 1 PM to accommodate the Consecration Luncheon. We hope anyone staying for the luncheon will join us in the Chapel afterwards. Unless there is a conflict future meetings will be at noon. Again all are welcome to join us as we lift up our youth in prayer.

News in Our Pews

If September comes, can Christmas be far behind? It seems only yesterday that schools were closing and summer beginning and here we are back in school, a touch of fall in the air and before you know it – it will be winter!

Lots of exciting news as schools are back in session – **Lauren Campbell**, a student at American University in Washington, has been awarded a prestigious internship at the Brookings Institute, a well-known "think tank"! Lauren's sister **Ashley Campbell** passed her boards in pharmacy with flying colors and is now working at a Rite-Aid in Philadelphia! Great work, Ashley!

As the new fall semester begins, our own **Mel Wentzel** is supervising a new group of student teachers in many schools in the county- good luck to Mel as he oversees this vital part of teacher training.

On a lighter note, **Nick Buckman** is director of music for the Rocky Horror Show to be presented at the Custom Taylored Productions - the movie was great fun and I am sure the show is equally entertaining!

Seeing **Shirley Kinney's** picture in the last year's flood photos is a reminder of how Shirley is one of those quiet heroes who is always available when there is need. She is pictured working at the Plunkett's Creek Fire Hall preparing food for flood victims but is also a constant volunteer in our kitchen whatever the occasion. Thanks to Shirley for many jobs well done!

Caught a glimpse of **Ruth Rees** with the committee working on the library gala planned for September 27 – Adriana Trigani is back by popular demand to speak at this event which is always very popular! One more piece of good news comes from **Donna Clark** – daughter **April** is attending Luzerne Community College and was on the dean's list for the spring semester with a GPA of 3.4. She is studying social services and is doing an internship this month as a counselor. Donna thanks all of us for our prayers for April and invites you to drop her a note at her new address

Keep in touch with more news as honor rolls, etc. begin to be announced – we love to talk about St. Mark's people!

~Joyce Anne Hershberger

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

Fall Bazaar a Success!

The Women of St. Mark's thank the congregation for their many donations and assistance with the annual bazaar. Lou DeSeau and Tim Maggs did yeoman's work in setting up Fellowship Hall. Special thanks is extended to Sharon Comini and Deb Holmes for bringing students from Penn College and Lycoming College respectively to assist in bringing all the items from the basement to Fellowship Hall. The students' energy seemed boundless. Then in the days preceding the sale, several women worked each morning to organize the tables in preparation for the big day. And a big day it was. The kitchen, under the direction of Shirley Kinney, saw many hungry customers in addition to our own folks. Fellowship Hall remained busy throughout the day with steady sales. At the conclusion of the sale, Lou and Linda DeSeau, Ralph and LouAnn Zeigler, and the Owen family were invaluable in storing the tables and assisting with boxing items to be distributed in support of other charitable work.



Items were donated to the West End Community Center, Shepherd of the Streets, Newberry Branch of NGA, Relay for Life/Lancers Against Cancers, First Church of Christ (Disciples) and the American Rescue Workers.

We raised more than \$1,200.00. These funds will be used by the Women of St. Mark's to support charities both locally and globally.

United Campus Ministry

The fall semester at Penn College has been in full swing for three weeks now. UCM held their fall kick-off on August 23rd. We were especially pleased to have the praise band from First United Methodist Church perform for our kick off. We met students and had plenty of pizza to give away. It was a great way to start our semester. We also had a table set up for the Fall Fiesta. Local businesses and churches were invited to have a table set up as well. It was a nice way for the students to meet the people from the community as well as introduce them to the student groups on campus.

We held our fall retreat at Krislund Camp earlier this month. The high ropes course was challenging. The theme of the weekend was "Letting go of excess baggage." We focused on the verse found in Hebrews 12:1

"Let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily hinders our progress. And let us run with endurance the race that God has set before us."

We enjoyed an awesome hike up the mountain, where we carried our "baggage" with us. The rocks we carried on the two mile hike had our burdens written on them. Once we reached the top, we all went off quietly to pray and let go of our burdens. As we prayed, some of us threw our burdens away, while some laid them at the foot of the cross that was built from branches of fallen trees. It was a very meaningful experience that reminded us that Jesus wants us to cast our burdens unto him for he cares for us. Needless to say with our burdens gone, the trek back down the mountain was much easier.

One of the main goals of UCM is to serve our community. This fall, we will be doing a few service projects. We enjoyed helping St. Mark's get ready for their bazaar, and in October, we will have the opportunity to work with the community during our Fall Break Mission Weekend. We are looking forward to working with Yokefellow Prison Ministry again as well as local organizations. We are especially excited about our spring break mission trip to New York City, where we will be working again with the Center for Student Missions.

UCM is off to a great start. We had some great Faith Talks so far. Thanks to Pastor Elkin for sharing his trip to Camino Santiago with us, and to Gwen Bernstine, the director of United Churches, who spoke with us about the importance of prayer. Please continue to pray for the students in United Campus Ministry. With your prayers and support, we can truly grow faith in young adults. We are excited to continue another semester of learning and growing in the word.

~ Sharon Comini

Youth

ENCOUNTER

QUAKES + ZONES

January 25-27, 2013

Pittsburgh, PA

Early Bird registration October 15, 2012

\$136 (\$151 after that) \$60 due by above date

**PLEASE LET US KNOW YOUR
INTENTIONS ASAP**



**"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**

Musician Peder Eide



Peder Eide (I'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.

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.

Rehearsals begin on Monday, October 8, at 6:30 p.m., and will continue on Mondays and Wednesdays through mid-November.

Under the direction of Bob Jones, we announce the cast as follows: Mrs. Cratchit and children, Vicki, Ben, Hannah, & Elizabeth Haussmann; Charity Collector, Diana Zeigler; Fred (nephew), Jared Barone; Ghost of Christmas Past, Annika Wafenschmidt; Ghost of Christmas Present, Declan Jones; Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come, Sean Wither (Messiah); and Eudora Scrooge (yes, Eudora, widow of Ebenezer), Bernadette Jones. Those asked to perform the parts of Ebenezer's ghost, Bob Cratchit, young Eudora and her fiancé, and Tiny Tim have yet to confirm as this goes to press.

If you want to be a caroler, the first rehearsal is Saturday, November 10, at 9:00 a.m.; the second is Sunday, November 18, at 2:00. Everyone will be expected to be there November 25 through December 1 (with the exception of a night off on Tuesday that week).

Set work and painting days are Saturdays, November 10, at 10:00 a.m., and November 17, at 9:00 a.m.

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*.

3rd Annual Family Promise of Lycoming County Paddle and Silent Auction

Start Collecting Your Quarters

Where: 24 East Third Street at the Center for Independent Living

When: Saturday, October 13, 2012

Time: 6:00 PM

Cost: \$10.00 in advance, \$12.00 at the door. Price includes food and beverages.
\$3.00 for 1st Paddle, \$6.00 for 3 Paddles



Thank You Notes

Dear friends,

I want to thank every one who made my 99th birthday so special. Thanks to the Pastor for his beautiful flower arranging and to Bob and Parish Life for making such a delicious luncheon. I want to add a special thanks to my St. Mark's family for coming- I can't think of anything more special than being with ALL of you on my birthday. Can't wait until next year! In Christian Love, Louella Bair



Dear Pastor Elkin,

On behalf of Gideons International, I wish to thank you for allowing me to present our mission to the congregation at St. Mark's church. We are an extension of the churches that support our mission, which is to distribute God's word around the world. One hundred percent of the monies donated are used to purchase scriptures to be given to those who need to know that there is a God that loves them and there is hope beyond this world. We pray that many souls will be saved through the Holy Spirit working thru the Word. Please remember to keep the Gideons in your prayers. In His service, Clark Camp



Larue Dieter and Becky Miller Pryor wish to thank the many volunteers and the congregation at large for their support of our most recent week of hosting four families experiencing a housing crisis. The families were grateful for what we provided. Our efforts at being hospitable and making things as homey as possible did not go unnoticed by them. Larue and Becky are also most appreciative of the several folks who took on first-time responsibilities or expanded their volunteering to assist with scheduling, set up and clean up. We too are grateful for the help.

P.S. Our next hosting week is December 23 – December 30, 2012. Please be thinking now as to how you may assist at this very special time of year.

Calling all Teens!!



Sunday, Oct. 28, 6 pm
Bring a treat and join us!
Bring a friend!

Lunch 'N' Fellowship

Wednesday, October 17th at Noon



Featuring retired missionary to Liberia *Bette McCrandall*

Serving Homemade Soups & Bread

Bring a side dish & dessert to share.

Bring a friend too!



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.

Health, Healing & Wholeness

*"For the Lord will not reject forever. Although he causes grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone."
(Lamentations 3:31-33, NRSV)*

In August, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a recommendation that all adults born between 1945 through 1965 (a.k.a. baby boomers) be tested for Hepatitis C. They termed it "a silent killer" and an "unrecognized health crisis", because this particular hepatitis virus can be present in the body, increasing the risk for transmission and causing serious liver damage, liver failure, cirrhosis, and liver cancer - all without one's knowledge. *"It is the leading cause of liver transplants and liver cancer – the fastest-rising cause of all cancer-related deaths – in the US."*

"Many baby boomers were infected with Hepatitis C during their teens and twenties. Some may have become infected via blood transfusions or other health care exposure before universal precautions and widespread blood testing were implemented in 1992. Others may have become infected from experimentation with drug use, even if only once decades ago. Because these exposures were often long ago, many baby boomers may not recall – or may be unwilling to discuss – the events that have placed them at risk. As a result, many have never been tested for hepatitis C." (... CDC Fact Sheet (August 2012). *Hepatitis C: Expansion of Testing Recommendations, 2012*. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: Atlanta, GA)

Health care exposures include: those on long-term dialysis treatment, accidental needle-sticks involving blood from a patient with hepatitis C, recipients of blood, blood products, or transplanted tissue/organs from a donor who was an unknowing carrier. Less commonly, the virus can be spread via sexual contact, through sharing personal items such as razors and toothbrushes [containing blood contaminants], tattooing and/or piercings performed in unregulated settings, and from mother to baby during birth.

- In its report, the CDC states it is making these testing recommendations for the following reasons:
- ◆ The vast majority (more than 75%) of American adults with hepatitis C are baby boomers. Testing people in this age group will help identify many undiagnosed cases.
 - ◆ Deaths from hepatitis C are on the rise. As hepatitis C infected baby boomers age, the likelihood that they will develop serious, life-threatening complications from the disease increases – unless those infections are appropriately diagnosed and treated.
 - ◆ New therapies can cure up to 75% of persons treated for hepatitis C. Identifying silent cases of hepatitis infection has the potential to save more lives than ever before.

It is also important to re-iterate how the virus **is not spread**. **It is not spread** by sharing eating utensils, via breast feeding, hugging, kissing, holding hands, coughing, sneezing. It is also not spread through food or water, and has not been shown to be transmitted by mosquitoes or other insects.

Finally, because contracting this disease can be life-style related, there may be a temptation to 'blame the victim' for his/her choices leading to the disease. For those who do, I say, "Remember Job." Jobs friends sat with him, in silence, for days, but eventually, they gave in to the human habit of blaming the sufferer for his predicament. Their speeches were based on wrong assumptions. We all need to be careful what we assume to be true in the lives of others. Like Jobs friends, we cannot assume that suffering [with hepatitis C] is one's own fault, or is a result of youthful indiscretion and sins.

Speak to your doctor, and get tested. The process is simple and should be covered by most health insurance.

October blessings!
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
Pancake Mix & Syrup	Pudding
Macaroni & Cheese	Tuna Helper
Spaghetti & Sauce	Flour
Soups	Sugar

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.

October 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.

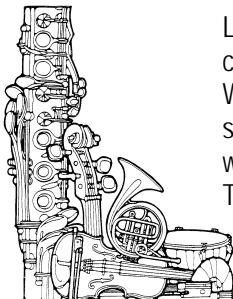
- 3- **Ruth A. Love-Schooley**, Adult Education Specialist, PSU, PA
Career Link Lycoming County,
"Helping Others Along Their Career Pathway"
- 10- **Daniel J. Doyle**, Member, Christian Social Concerns Committee &
Member Resurrection Catholic Church, Muncy,
"Hunger and Poverty: Together Let Us Raise Our Voices For Justice"
- 17- **John Hettinger**, Director of Development, Lycoming County SPCA,
"Speaking for Those Who Can't Speak for Themselves"
- 24- To Be Announced.
- 31- To Be Announced

This is a ministry that everyone in our congregations and community is welcome to participate in. Make plans to join us and you're welcome to bring a friend!

Attention St. Mark's Committee Chairpersons!

Please have your annual budget requests to Ray Huff by October 6 or earlier.
We must have them to able to properly formulate a budget plan.
Thanks, Ray

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,
Donna at 323-7367 or 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 Doeblor

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

**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, PA 17701

Happy Birthday!

10/02 Travis Rechel
 10/05 Stephanie Bieber
 10/06 Caitlin Butters
 10/06 Eleanor Whiting
 10/09 Jane Zimmerer
 10/10 Kameera Smith
 10/11 Amy Burkholder
 10/11 Barbara Doebler
 10/11 Gary Goertz
 10/11 Patrice Santalucia
 10/12 Christine Sauers
 10/13 Shirley Vognet
 10/14 Gary Chrisman
 10/14 Makensi Doebler
 10/16 Wilson Doebler

10/17 Sean Fenderson
 10/18 Marion Larson
 10/19 Breanna Chicas
 10/20 Ashley Campbell



10/20 Megan Greevy
 10/21 Carolyn Wacker
 10/22 Madisyne Wellen

10/23 Ryan Lynn
 10/24 Charles Kuntz
 10/24 Richard Miller
 10/24 Mark Welker
 10/26 Hannah Hausmann
 10/26 Jane Strous
 10/27 Kathy Eshelman
 10/28 Andrew Hausmann
 10/28 Tait Thorne
 10/29 John Hoffman
 10/29 Barbara Thomas
 10/30 Deborah Maggs
 10/30 Lois Winters-Goldy
 10/31 Donna Maule
 10/31 Natalie Miller

Happy Anniversary!

10/01 Kirk & Michele Owen
 10/04 Lee & Veronica Doane
 10/09 Kenneth & Kathleen Caster
 10/09 Frank & Mary Lou Doebler
 10/09 Jeffrey & Catherine Kneedler
 10/09 Lawrence & Norma Lehman
 10/10 Frank & Phyllis Ulman



10/16 Tracy & Andrea Gregory
 10/25 Scott & Mary Kimble
 10/26 Louis & Linda DeSeau
 10/26 Bob & Constance Shaible
 10/28 Russell & Lois Smith
 10/30 Romain & Evelyn Bastian

Directory Updates

CHANGE:

Larue Dieter change email address to: Larubd@gmail.com

Elda Zeigler change phone number to: **570-322-9988**

April Hartzel-Lewis change address to: **1506 E. Hills Crescent, Williamsport, Pa 17701**

Nathan Hafer change address to: **516 N. Wakefield St., Arlington, VA 22203-2052**

April Clark change address to: **161 South Main St., Pittston, Pa. 18640**

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 cross-ways 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.



ST. MARK'S OCTOBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1 Monday

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

2 Tuesday

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

3 Wednesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
9:20 AM Staff Mtg & Quilting
11:45 AM Bible Study
1:30 PM School of Religion

4 Thursday

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

5 Friday**Council Agenda Deadline**

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

6 Saturday

9:00 AM Expectations Class

7 Sunday**Blanket Sunday**

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

8 Monday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
6:30 PM CC Rehearsal
7:00 PM Handbells
7:00 PM Wmspt. Civic Chorus

9 Tuesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
10:00 AM Conf. Pastors@ CoS
6:00 PM Brownies
6:00 PM JBBL sign-up

10 Wednesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
9:20 AM Staff Mtg & Quilting
11:45 AM Bible Study
1:30 PM School of Religion
6:30 PM CC Rehearsal

11 Thursday

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

11 Thursday

7:00 PM Senior Choir

12 Friday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

13 Saturday

1:00 PM Hayride/Styer's Farm
6:00 PM 3rd FPLC Paddle & Silent
Auction Benefit

14 Sunday**Harvest Home**

8:00 AM Holy Communion
9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Children's Church
10:30 AM Holy Communion
11:45 AM Family Handbells
12:15 PM The Way
1:00 PM Crop Walk

15 Monday

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

16 Tuesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

17 Wednesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
9:20 AM Staff Mtg & Quilting
12:00 PM Lunch N' Fellowship
1:30 PM School of Religion
6:30 PM CC Rehearsal

18 Thursday

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

19 Friday**Lion Article Deadline**

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

21 Sunday**Consecration Sunday**

8:00 AM Holy Communion
9:00 AM Consecration Breakfast
9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Holy Communion
11:45 AM Consecration Luncheon

21 Sunday

11:45 AM Family Handbells
1:00 PM Praying 4 Youth/Chapel
6:00 PM Confirmands meal/mtg

22 Monday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
6:30 PM CC Rehearsal
7:00 PM Handbells
7:00 PM Wmspt. Civic Chorus

23 Tuesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
6:00 PM Brownies

24 Wednesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
9:20 AM Staff Mtg & Quilting
11:45 AM Bible Study
1:30 PM School of Religion
6:30 PM CC Rehearsal

25 Thursday

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

26 Friday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
9:20 AM Lion Crew

27 Saturday

9:00 AM Daniel's Closet

28 Sunday

8:00 AM Holy Communion
9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Holy Communion
11:45 AM Family Handbells
12:15 PM The Way
6:00 PM Teen Movie Night

29 Monday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
6:30 PM CC Rehearsal
7:00 PM Handbells
7:00 PM Wmspt. Civic Chorus

30 Tuesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

31 Wednesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
9:20 AM Staff Mtg & Quilting
11:45 AM Bible Study
1:30 PM Martin Luther Movie
6:30 PM CC Rehearsal

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
142 MARKET ST.
WILLIAMSPORT, PA 17701

Phone: 570-323-4619
Fax: 570-323-2452

Website: <http://www.stmarkswilliamsport.org>
Email: stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org



Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
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Williamsport, PA 17701

John Bower Basketball will soon be here!

Our sign-ups will be on **Tuesday, October 9th at 6pm** in the courtyard (weather permitting).

Attendance at this meeting is mandatory!

The information provided on the applications is not just for the church,
but there are also meetings to be attended,
teams to be figured out, shirts to be ordered, etc.



If you can't attend this meeting, please get your information to Michele ASAP.

There will be applications outside Michele's office.

Also, we are in need of at least one coach this year,

if you are interested in coaching or have any questions,
please contact Michele at 323-4619 or Kirk at 323-0610.

A background check will be necessary but will be paid for by the church.

