



The Lion of St. Mark's

APRIL 2013

Larry & Louella Bair



*retiring after
thirty-four years
of dedicated service on
our newsletter crew!*

Larry and Louella have seen many changes take place over the years in both our newsletter and the way they are assembled. One thing that has not changed has been their dedication and love for their God and St. Mark's. We are so grateful for their beautiful example of serving the Lord with a willing heart and a loving spirit.

We will miss the warmth of their smiles, the joy of their presence and the sparkle their humor brought to a sometimes mundane job.

Larry & Louella we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your service and the many wonderful ways you have added to our lives. There is a special part of our hearts that you take with you!

We love you and thank our God for you upon every remembrance of you! May God continue to bless you and hold you safely in His loving arms!

Your friends on the Lion crew & at St. Mark's

INDEX & UPDATE

Inside This Issue:

Honoring & Recognizing 34 years of Service.....	1
Council Update	2
Parish Register	2
Officer & Staff Contact Information	2
Sewers & Quilters Needed.....	3
Blessing Drivers & Graduates.....	3
Iron Chef Williamsport 2013 a Great Success.....	4
United Campus Ministry NYC Mission Trip.....	5
Son West Round Up VBS 2013.....	6
Camp Mt. Luther Brunch & Open House	7
Camp Mt. Luther Spring Work Day	7
Camp Mt. Luther Sawdust Ministry Kick-Off	8
2nd Annual Fishing Derby at Doeblers Farm	9
Bid on the Winning Iron Chef Williamsport Meal.....	9
Family Promise Hosting & More!.....	10
Lutheran Youth Day 2013	11
Women & Children's Dinner.....	11
Quakes & Zones Update.....	12
St. Paul Lutheran College Scholarship	13
Spring Cleaning for the Fall Bazaar	14
Catechetical Trip to Harrisburg	14
Weekly Bible Study	15
April Sunday School Teachers.....	15
Teen Movie Night.....	15
Praying 4 Our Youth Ministry	15
Children's Church	15
News in Our Pews	16
UCLC 24 hour Devotion Line	16
UCLC Food Pantry Update	16
UCLC Ecumenical Lunches	16
Thank You Notes	17
Birthdays & Anniversaries.....	18
Directory Updates	18
Ongoing Stamp & Tab Collections.....	18
Special Concerns List	19
April Calendar	20

Council Update

The Congregation Council meet in regular session on March 25, 2013. The Council:

- ◆ received the regular reports of the pastor, officers, and committees,
- ◆ elected Wanda Fortin as Treasurer of the congregation,
- ◆ noted the upcoming week of hosting for Family Promise,
- ◆ discussed a multi-year plan for re-leathering portions of the organ

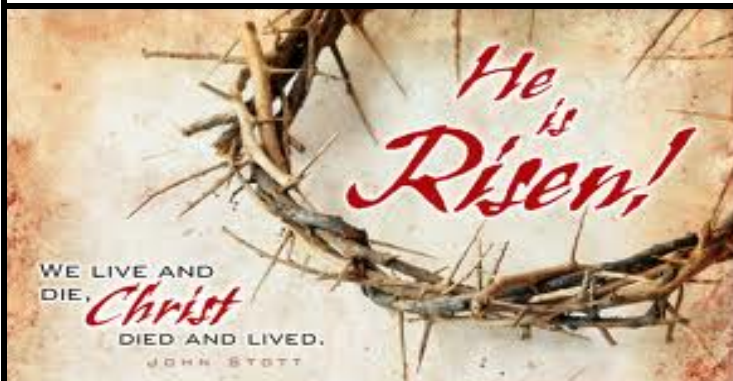
Parish Register

- ◆ Pastor Elkin officiated at the funeral for Christopher Winters in the Maneval Funeral Home on March 15, 2013. Interment was in Wildwood Cemetery.
- ◆ The Receiving Blanket Milestone was given to Scarlett Grace Lynch, daughter of Brittany and Joshua Lynch on March 17, 2013.

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
Larue Dieter, Prayer Chain	433-3453 Larubd@gmail.com



Sewers & Quilters Needed!!

- ◇ People to sew bags for school kits
- ◇ People to help make quilts

BAGS – Now that we are using cording for the drawstrings, the bags are easy to make. There are instructions and fabrics available in the Narthex. Help yourself. If you have questions, see Grace Arner or Shirley Hill.



QUILTS – You do not have to know how to sew. You can help knot the quilts or help baste the layers together. Stop in any Wednesday morning and check it out. It is a pleasant way to do a useful thing.

- ◇ Large pieces of fabric to use in quilt tops
- ◇ Sheets in good condition for quilt backings
- ◇ Old blankets or flannel sheets for quilt fillers

Milestone Ministry Reminders!!

Blessing of the Keys—Car Keys that is!

We have a special milestone celebration for the youth in our congregation who attain their junior driver's licenses. It's a meaningful observance, during which the new driver gives up something from his or her childhood in exchange for the new responsibility of driving. We have also developed a means of recognition for those drivers receiving their senior license.



BUT YOU NEED TO TELL US WHO SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED!!

Since different families have different timetables for these events, we can't just refer to the church register for the information. We have no idea which youth are reaching this important milestone in their lives—unless you tell us!! Please let the church know if your child has recently received a junior or senior license as soon as possible. A date for celebration will be set once we know who these special teens are. *PLEASE CALL US!!*

Recognizing our High School & College Graduates!



WHO'S GRADUATING...

...from high school or college??

Let us know so these young people

can be recognized for their accomplishments!!

Call or e-mail the office no later than MAY 13

—we're waiting to hear!

Iron Chef Williamsport 2013 a great success!

The kitchen, the Fellowship Hall, and the hallways at St. Mark's were full of activity on Sunday March 17 as the 5th Annual Iron Chef Williamsport event was in full operation. More than 30 persons were involved as staff for the event and 108 persons were guests for the meal that was served in Fellowship Hall from the steam tables in Middle Lounge. The entertainment for the evening was a cooking contest that took place in our church kitchen. The challengers from Lycoming Center Presbyterian Church, led by Pr. Jerry Fourroux, tried valiantly, but did not overcome our home team of Pr. Elkin, Kathy Eshelman, and Todd Smith. The one-hour contest of cooking skill was projected to the large screen in Fellowship Hall and also made available online. The full hour of the contest has been archived and can still be watched by going to <http://www.ustream.tv/user/stmarkschurch> on one's home computer.

The purpose of all of the exciting activity was to raise funds and friends for Family Promise of Lycoming County, our local affiliate for aiding homeless families. Through dinner guests and patrons of the event, we raised more than \$5,000 for the cause and raised the consciousness of many persons regarding the problem and how we can be of assistance. Mike Caschera returned as our master of ceremonies this year and we added a "roving reporter" (or rabble rouser) in the audience! Bernadette Jones was able to talk to and with guests by means of a second camera and special electronic switcher obtained with the aid of Keith Wood of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

What a staff we have! Our youth plus four from Lycoming Center were the servers for the meal, with Sara Jones as head waiter. They competed with each other in "Tips for A Promise" to raise additional funds for Family Promise from the guests at their assigned table. The winner this year was Josh from Lycoming Center, who received a special gift as thanks for his diligent work. Evan Barone collected the most of St. Mark's youth. All of the youth did very well throughout the evening.

Working right behind them was the kitchen cooking and plating staff, led by Bob Jones and Nicole Walz, respectively. Our guests enjoyed a wonderful meal of tomato bisque, sliced tenderloin of beef with Cabernet sauce, southern style green beans, and smashed sour cream & chive potatoes, with a chocolate indulgence for dessert. Lou DeSeau did a yeoman's job leading the set-up and clean-up for the event!

We received wonderful assistance from old friends, Carlos Saldivia and the crew at First Contact; Ed Ploy of PC Handyman; Williamsport Country Club's Nicole Walz, Logan Hinkley and Angela Hess; Peter Zerbe; M&T Bank; and Mike Cashera, who did a bang-up job of keeping everyone informed and entertained.

We are truly blessed with the members of our congregation who give so freely of themselves, with our church leaders who support us in our endeavors, with our friends who assist in many areas, with our guests, and with our patrons and sponsors. We thank God that all their efforts joined to provide a generous donation for Family Promise of Lycoming County. Special thanks to everyone who supported the event through the purchase of a dinner ticket and our patrons for the event:

Restaurateur (\$180 and more)

Phillip & Barbara Thomas
Ruth U. Pile
The Rev. Kenneth & Donna Zierdt Elkin
Grace & Tom Arner

Haute cuisine (\$100--\$174)

Life Celebration by MANEVAL
Kevin Novotny, director
Becky Miller Pryor
Harold & Joyce Hershberger
Jackie Kinney
Edwin J Krejci, DMD, PC

Cordon bleu (\$50-\$99)

Anonymous
Ruth Lamade
Charles & Hallie Luppert
Neil & Kathy Eshelman
Thomas & Marilyn Frazier
Gary & Shelby Weber
Dr. Ted & Jane Larson
Gary Chrisman

Cordon blue (\$50-\$99) continued

Dorothy Gerring
Dennis & Deborah Leonard

A la carte (\$1-\$49)

Carol Confer
Mel & Mindy Wentzel
John & Ruth Burkholder
Barbara Doebler
Todd Smith
Ralph & Lou Ann Zeigler
Rev. Mark & Susan Mahserjian-Smith
Deb & Jim Buckman
Children of St. Mark's

Special thanks also for services rendered or equipment loaned/donated:

First Contact Productions
M&T Bank
PC Handyman
Roger's Uniforms
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

Seeking the Peace of the City

We started our mission trip worshipping right here at St. Mark's with Pastor Elkin commissioning our team as short term missionaries in New York City. On Monday morning after getting up at 4:30, we were on our way to St. Paul's house, a soup kitchen in the heart of Times Square, where we led a worship service, served breakfast and cleaned up. We sang songs, and students read some scripture. It was a blessing to hear some of the guests singing along with us. For our worship, we focused on the following verses:

Jeremiah 29:11 *For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.*

Psalms 139:13-14 *For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.*



Our talk was "You Matter to God", and no matter what situation you find yourself in, God is with you. He will never leave you because you matter to Him. We moved on to our next activity which was a prayer walk through the city. We started in Battery Park and learned of the history of New York, we prayed for our diverse cultures as we faced Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty. We prayed in the financial district for our nation and condition of our economy. We prayed for the different neighborhoods, mainly Chinatown, Little Italy, and Harlem and for the diversity that exists in each. We prayed for peace in the city and in our nation.

We also participated in an urban plunge experience where we explored the neighborhood of Harlem. I have to say that I was pleasantly surprised. The media depicts Harlem as a dangerous, drug infested neighborhood, but I saw it as a clean, friendly environment where the residents are very proud of their culture, know each other, and feel safe. We were told that people either smiled, smirked, or grinned at you as you passed them. They said, "It was a lot more than they would have gotten from someone in midtown." They told us that Harlem was their home and they were very happy there.

After our plunge, we worked in the New York Common Pantry and served over 300 guests dinner. I think the hardest part of working in the pantry was serving families with small children. Homelessness hits families as well and that is something I really haven't thought about. By the end of the first day of serving, we were tired, but happy. Our faith was stretched, and we learned a lot about ourselves, about each other, and about the commitment it takes to serve unselfishly on a daily basis. I saw growth in the students that I hadn't seen before. Each of them had led a prayer for the group, and for some of them that was a huge step in their faith.

On Tuesday, we spent the morning helping the staff at a women's shelter, preparing their facility for a state inspection the following day. We inspected and changed mattresses, and cleaned and sanitized the rooms for their 150 guests. We met a resident named Barbara, who was very glad we had come to help clean her home. Her toothless smile warmed our hearts.

We ended our time of service in New York with a scripture reading of Jesus washing the disciples' feet. We then took turns washing each other's feet. It was a humbling experience for us and served as a reminder that our service didn't end when we got home. I hope it is just a beginning of the students' commitment to being Jesus' hands and feet wherever they go.

Here are some of the thoughts that the students had about the mission trip:

This past week going to New York City and working with the homeless population was an amazing and eye opening experience. It was humbling to look at the city and its people through the eyes of our heavenly father and strive to treat everyone as if they were Jesus and to whole heartedly and selflessly serve. It can be difficult to step outside your comfort zone and live in community but it also brings you closer to God and each other when we are pushed to our limits and that's all we have to fall back on. I feel very blessed to have been able to serve in the city to spiritually grow and serve. **Ali Dincher ~ senior**

Spending three days in New York taught me not to take what I have for granted, because thousands of homeless people would prefer just a small piece of my life. I learned that you shouldn't reject someone because they are different, for we are all children of God. In the end, I felt content and happy with what I did during the week. God always ensures his servants never work alone. You never know who God will throw in your way, but you must always be ready to open up when He does. **Colin Foreman ~ senior**

I went on the mission trip to New York City with UCM. I had a lot of fun, but also learned a lot about the homeless population and about other cultures. It was a unique experience that not many people have the chance to do and I would recommend this trip to anyone. It was an eye opener to the world outside your own. **Victoria Frick ~ junior**

I had a great experience doing this trip. I would definitely do it again. My favorite part of the trip would have to be seeing the gratitude on the faces of the homeless that we served. I think it is wonderful what the food centers and homeless shelters do to help the less fortunate. God has opened my eyes through this trip to make me see that I am so blessed to have a home, family and friends. This trip has truly strengthened my relationship with God and because of that I am so thankful. **Hannah Rall ~ senior**

This was my first mission trip to help the homeless. I enjoyed serving them and talking with them. I was reminded that God loves all of us, no matter who we are. I would definitely go on another mission trip and work with those less fortunate than me.

Christina Comini -high school senior

We would like to thank everyone who supported our mission trip financially and through your prayers. We couldn't have done it without you.

Son West Roundup VBS

Vacation Bible School

MONDAY THRU FRIDAY

June 17th—June 21st

SonWest Round-Up

exploring Jesus through stories of Moses.



Last year's Marketplace was so well-received, that we are adapting that concept to the wild west for snacks and crafts!



Learn about the ultimate love of Jesus Christ!
 Find out more about God's ultimate plan and power!
 Discover what the ultimate rescue is about.
 And, place your ultimate trust in God!
 Everyone is encouraged to join in!
 We need volunteers to run stores in the Fellowship Hall;
 portray fun characters such as
 Dastardly Dirk, Sheriff Sunday, and more;
 organize games; and create scenery and gather "costumes" ...
 There's something for everyone who wants to be involved!



**The music CD will be available upon registration.
 Look for forms in the staff hallway or on St. Mark's website!**

ITEMS NEEDED:

*If anyone has weathered planking
 (let us know if it has to stay whole or if we can cut it),
 barrels, wood crates, saddles, bridles, cowboy hats,
 chaps, vests...well, you get the idea...
 they would be great for helping to set the mood in Fellowship Hall!
 If you can loan us any of these items, we would greatly appreciate it!*





CAMP MOUNT LUTHER

355 Mt. Luther Lane, Mifflinburg, PA 17844

Phone: (570) 922-1587 Fax: (570) 922-1118
E-Mail: cml@campmountluther.org

Sunday, April 21: Brunch Fundraiser & Spring Open House

Brunch Fundraiser: 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Tickets are now available from the camp office for this event.

The deadline to order tickets is Friday, April 12th.

Come to Mount Luther for our popular brunch featuring breakfast meat, home fried potatoes, scrambled eggs, fruit, breakfast pastries, cold cereal, coffee, tea, and more!

You can enjoy fellowship with others and good all-you-can-eat food.

The fundraiser benefits the camp's general operating fund.

Price: \$10.50 for adults, \$5.25 for children under 12.

Tickets are available by contacting the camp office (570-922-1587) or via e-mail at cml@campmountluther.org.



Open House: 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Come to camp to for an afternoon of fun.

You'll be able to take a camp tour, ask questions about our summer program, and meet some of year's summer staff. This is an especially good event for first time campers.

And, first time campers who are not yet registered for the summer and who attend the event can get a \$25 discount on their summer registration!

No reservations are required for the open house- just show up!

Thursday, May 4: Spring Work Day at CML

Practice stewardship through service at Camp Mount Luther at our annual Spring Work Day. We need your help getting the camp grounds and facilities ready for Summer Camp.

There will be plenty to do and everyone in the family can help!

The day will run from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Please bring supplies to do cleaning, mulching, raking, and light construction projects such as step ladders, buckets, rakes, etc.

A light lunch will be served.

RSVP by April 29 if staying for lunch.



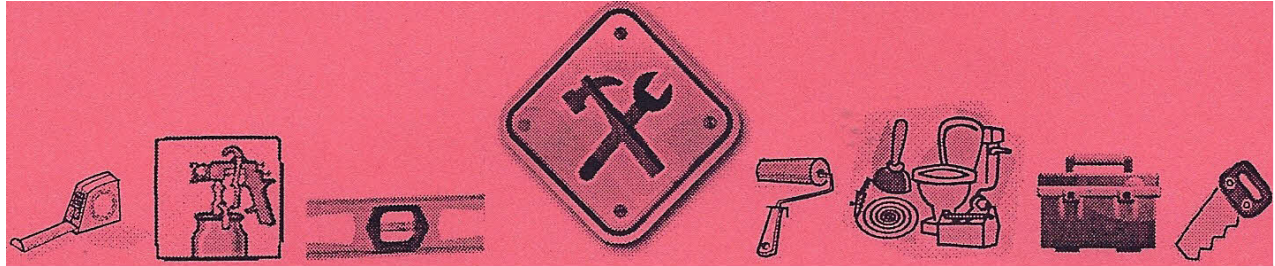
This event is also coinciding with the formation of the Upper Susquehanna Synod's Sawdust Ministry.

See the following page!

SAVE THE DATE!

MAY 4, 2013

"GET WITH SAWDUST" AT CAMP MOUNT LUTHER!



**Want to Make a Big Difference in Someone's Life?
Got Tools?
Got Skills? (Carpentry, Painting, Drywall, Demolition, etc.)
Want to Get Skills?**

**THEN GET WITH SAWDUST!
WHAT'S THAT?**

A ministry of a group of churches/groups/individuals in a community who get together to do home repairs for people who cannot physically and/or financially do these things.

WHO CAN GET WITH SAWDUST?

Anyone who wants to - men, women, and youth
People of all skill levels, ages, careers, and availability.
Church members, sons & daughters, grandsons & granddaughters, visitors, non-members, friends, people from the community & other groups/churches

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT CAMP MOUNT LUTHER ON MAY 4, 2013?

USS Sawdust Ministry Kickoff in conjunction with CML Workday
Lunch will be provided!!!

Mike McCay and the North Branch Sawdust Ministry team will give a
"How To Start Your Own Sawdust Team"
talk for those churches interested in starting their own
ministry during the lunch hour!

Get some folks together and bring a team representing your congregation -
remember, they don't have to be members!

Please RSVP to the Camp Office at 570-922-1587 or
chad@campmountluther.org and
mention that you're coming to make SAWDUST!

Want more info on starting a Sawdust ministry in your community?
Contact: Beth Yenchko eyenchko@uss-elca.org
or Pr. Karl-John Stone karljohn@uss-elca.org

Second Annual Fishing Derby at the Doeblers farm

Sunday May 19th 2:00–6:00 p.m.

There will be prizes awarded for:

- ◆ The top 3 biggest fish caught for the day. (measured in Inches)
- ◆ Winner of the casting contest.
- ◆ The largest Catfish caught.

Worms will be provided.

Food and drinks will be arranged.

An open fire will be blazing.

Start getting your fishing equipment ready.

More information will be coming in the May newsletter.

Contact the Comini's if you can think of anything else. Cell: 337-3226

Hope to see you all there! In Christ's Love, Eric Comini



Fishing Derby 2012

For a very special gift!

At the conclusion of the recent Iron Chef competition, some folks expressed an interest in the winning menu, and so we have decided to offer a special and unusual opportunity. On Friday evening May 17, 2013, Pastor Elkin and the St. Mark's chefs will recreate their unique menu featuring a *Veal roll with manchego cheese and balsamic reduction glaze*, and many accompaniments for an exclusive party made up of the successful bidder and his/her three guests, who will be seated at the kitchen window and able to watch the preparation and engage the chefs in conversation. As an added enticement, the Williamsport Chamber Choir and Orchestra will be giving their concert in the nave of St. Mark's that evening, and the party will have complimentary tickets to the concert.

We are offering this as a fund-raiser for Family Promise. Bidding begins at \$100 for the single group of four seats, and increments of \$10 greater than that. Send bids by email only to:

specialevent@stmarkswilliamsport.org

There will be a place on the congregation website stmarkswilliamsport.org where the highest bid amount will be posted. **Bids close at midnight on April 1** and the winning bidder will be notified immediately after that.

Use this to honor a graduate, a mother, or some other special person, or simply enjoy a great meal with family, friends, or associates. It is:

...Dinner and a concert for you.

...Fun in the kitchen for the chefs.

...Audience for the Chamber Choir.

...Money for Family Promise.

...A win for everyone!

...Let the bidding begin!

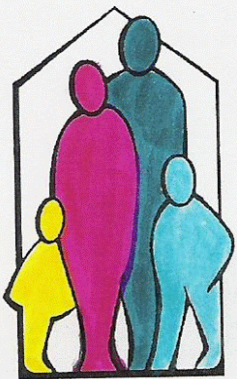
Family Promise of Lycoming County

Hosting for Family Promise April 7 – April 14, 2013

Company Is Coming!

Our first week of hosting for Family Promise in 2013 will be quickly upon us. We will host up to four families /14 individuals experiencing a housing crisis from April 7 – April 14, 2013. Assistance with this vital outreach is needed with a variety of tasks.

Please consider assisting in all ways that are possible for you. Ways to help?



- ◆ Pray for our families and our volunteers.
- ◆ Volunteer to drive the van, assist with set-up or tear-down, prepare a dessert or a meal, be an evening visitor or an overnight host or do laundry at the end of the hosting week.
- ◆ Provide the extra groceries that support our meals. Items needed are fruit snacks, snack crackers, individual bags of chips and pretzels, individual cups of fruit, jello and pudding, and boxes of cereal. These items may be placed in the tub in the Narthex coat room.
- ◆ No time to shop? Monetary donations to the Hosting Fund are always needed for the groceries that are taken to the Day Center, for fresh fruits and vegetables and for milk for use during hosting week.

Call Becky Miller Pryor @ 971-4585 or Larue Dieter @ 433-3453 to volunteer.

Recycle for Family Promise

Larson Designs and Family Promise have partnered with a company that recycles old cell phones, regardless of their condition. This company pays Family Promise for each cell phone it receives.

The donation for each phone is based on its condition.

So the better the condition of the phone, the more money Family Promise receives.

Turn in your old cell phone at the Day Center (804 Sherman Street)
and Larson Designs will do the rest.

Since the beginning of this recycling program Family Promise has received \$90.00.

Purchase Giant Gift Cards for Family Promise

Another way to support Family Promise ~
stop by the Day Center and purchase

Giant gift cards to use at Giant while grocery shopping!

Family Promise gets 5 percent of the gift card purchase price! How easy is that?

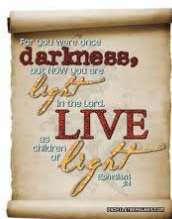
Lutheran Youth Day 2013

“Live as Children of Light”
April 13, 2013 10 a.m.~ 5:30 p.m.

Guest Star Rachel Kurtz

Susquehanna University
 Stretansky Concert Hall

Large & small group gatherings, worship, skits, lunch,
 high-energy music, & a concert at the end of the day!



Youth grades 6 ~ 12

\$10 per person

\$12 for T-Shirts

T-Shirts must be ordered by April 8th ~ they will not be for sale at the event!

Sign-Up sheet in office hallway

Women & Children's Dinner

All women and children to age 12, please join us for our Annual Women's Dinner

on Wednesday, May 8, at 6:00 pm.

The evening begins with a meal prepared for us by our own men here at St. Mark's, under the supervision of Bob Jones. The meal includes applesauce, filled chicken breast, corn, mashed potatoes, and roll, with a delightful dessert. All this costs only \$8.25 for a full portion, and \$4.50 for a half portion. Please order what you think you or your child(ren) will eat.

Entertainment is provided this year by Williamsport Area High School's own **Les Chanteuses**, the women's acapella vocal ensemble, (*pictured here with GQ*) under the direction of Kent Weaver.

Please, be sure to have your reservations in **NO LATER THAN** Friday, May 3. We look forward to seeing you there!



Quakes & Zones!!

In spite of blizzards and mechanical malfunctions, our intrepid group of three adults and seven youth made it to Pittsburgh safely for this year's Youth Encounter event. There was a lot to be thankful for that weekend...not the least of which was the great group of kids with whom we travelled.

In regard to this weekend full of faith, fellowship, and fun, Sara, Jerod, Christina, Grace, Ezra, Morgan, and Evan responded to the following questions (in no particular order):



Describe one thing that you accomplished or learned, or that made an impact on you this weekend.

- ◇ I learned that we are God's children and that he loves us no matter what other people say to us.
- ◇ I learned that we are all favorites of God: each of us is his.
- ◇ I learned some new verses. I learned more about God while having fun.
- ◇ Something that made an impact was listening to all the stories of all these people who struggled with so much in their life. But they found their way to God and He was there with them through it all. It made me realize how much he cared and that as long as we believe in Him, He would make sure we get through it all right.
- ◇ How everyone wasn't afraid to sing or dance
- ◇ Hearing the stories that impacted other people's lives
- ◇ What made an impact was the way everybody's life is; how they interact with people.

Overall, what did it mean for you to be in Pittsburgh this weekend?

- ◇ To find new things out about myself: to strive to help people in need
- ◇ To learn about God and have fun and meet new people
- ◇ That we want to have fun and be with God and get closer to God
- ◇ That God will always be in my corner fighting for me and that He is always helping me to thrive in my faith
- ◇ To learn more and have fun with friends; to get a stronger relationship with God
- ◇ That God loves us no matter what the world says or does to us
- ◇ It was a good experience that I'll always have. It was an important thing to do and learn about God.

Our youth had a wonderful time and got a lot out of the event. They are grateful to everyone at St. Mark's for their support, both financially and in prayer—they are truly appreciative of their church family.

The St. Paul Lutheran Church Scholarship

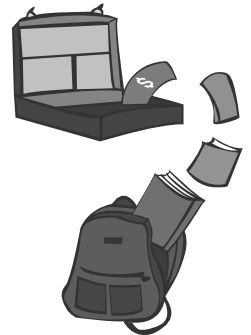
ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS & COLLEGE STUDENTS !!!

The Scholarship Program:

The St. Paul Lutheran Church Scholarship Program was founded by the congregation of the former St. Paul Lutheran Church in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. St. Paul Lutheran Church, prior to its closing, established this special scholarship program to benefit Lutheran students in Lycoming County, Pennsylvania, in perpetuity.

Eligibility:

Eligible candidates will be graduating seniors of a high school, or a high school graduate equivalent, located in Lycoming County, Pennsylvania. Candidates must be members of a Lutheran church, and eligible candidates also include those individuals who were members of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, at the time of its closing. Candidates must be attending, or plan to attend in the 2013-2014 academic year, an institution of higher education (academic, technical, or vocational). Eligible candidates must also have a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale and demonstrate involvement in church and community. Candidates may reapply in successive years for scholarships available from this program.



Scholarship Awards:

Scholarships awarded in 2013 will be available only for the 2013-2014 academic year. Scholarship awards may be used only for educational expenses, including tuition, books, laboratory expenses, or other education-related expenditures that are approved by the Foundation.

Selection of Recipients:

The number of scholarships awarded, the amount of the scholarship awards, and the selection of scholarship recipients will be determined by the Foundation.

Application Process and Deadline

Students who wish to apply to the scholarship program must complete an application and required letters of recommendation and submit materials **postmarked no later than April 15, 2013**, to:

**St. Paul Lutheran Church Scholarship
Lutheran Community Foundation
625 Fourth Avenue South, Suite 1500
Minneapolis, MN 55415**

The scholarship application may also be downloaded from the Foundation's website at http://www.thelcf.org/scholarship_applications.

Questions?

Additional questions about this scholarship program may be directed to Jody Jonas at the Lutheran Community Foundation at 1-800-365-4172 or via email at jody.jcnasre@hel.cf.org.

Spring Cleaning?

The annual Fall Bazaar will be Saturday, September 14, 2013.

If you are cleaning out the nooks and crannies of your home consider donating those no longer needed items to the Women of St. Mark's. Donations may be placed in the Bazaar Room.

Please note we are not accepting textbooks, encyclopedias, cribs or car seats.

Speak to Becky Miller Pryor if you wish to donate a computer or television. These items are difficult to sell and require additional work to recycle. Your spring and summer clothing may be donated to Daniel's Closet at Redeemer Lutheran Church.



Catechetical Trip to Harrisburg

Earlier this year, due to circumstances beyond our control, St. Mark's trip coordinator (Bernadette) was unable to follow through (because of her busted arm) with the original plan to take the confirmation class to Johnstown. Pr, Elkin and Michele leaped valiantly into the gap and within a couple days put together a trip to Harrisburg to observe the art and architecture of various religious houses in that area. So, on Saturday, March 9, 2012, Evan, Ben, and Stefan, together with Pastor Elkin and Gary Weber, visited various churches, a cathedral and a synagogue. Here is a portion of what they had to say about their adventure:

Evan Barone writes: *I saw many unique churches while I was on the confirmation trip. One was St. Anne's church; it was amazing. There were tons of icons on the wall. Icons are considered windows to heaven. You could tell which person was Jesus, because there was IC and XC on him. Another way you could tell it was Jesus was because he wore blue and red. You could tell it was Mary because she had stars on her forehead and shoulders. There was incense to remind you of the prayers going up. There were doors to the apse and Mathew, Mark, Luke, and John were on the middle door. There were two deacon doors one on each side. The nave is considered a ship to heaven. It is heaven on earth.*

Ben Haussmann writes: *On our catechetical trip we studied architecture of different churches, and what the church is trying to show about God - is He powerful, holy, peaceful, etc. The church I'm doing my report on is St. Patrick's Cathedral. This particular church is trying to show how powerful God is. For example, some of the organ pipes were trumpet enamade which means that those organ pipes were horizontal like a trumpet. They were also as loud as a trumpet. The organ was on the balcony and all of its pipes were visible unlike St. Mark's organ pipes. The sound from the organ was very, very loud showing how powerful God can be. This church has stained glass almost everywhere you looked, and if you didn't see stained glass you would see something painted or stenciled on the wall. There were also symbols for prophets and symbols for God all over the place. The Romanesque style was found in the church as well. Romanesque means round arch. I learned a lot on this trip, but one thing that stuck out is that the Bishop's chair is called a cathedra. You know the Bishop's chair is the Bishop's chair by the coat of arms on it. This church was my favorite church out of every one we visited.*

Stefan Weber writes: *The church I am writing about is called St. Michael Lutheran Church. It was once a German church but, it changed a little bit ago. The only German thing they do now is on Christmas Eve they sing the first verse of Silent Night in German. They have two bibles that were donated to the church by two German pastors. The church had two big towers on each side of the front of the church. Unfortunately, part of the church's front caught fire and burned down. Their sanctuary was made of almost all marble. That describes the church, St. Michael.*

Have You Studied Lately?

Please join us for our weekly Bible Study held on Wednesdays from 11:45 A.M.~ 1 P.M.

Bring your lunch & your Bible!



April Sunday School Teachers

There is no substitute for a great teacher!



Pre-K ~ 2nd: Sally Bjornstadt
3rd & 4th: Sharon Comini
5th: Shelby Weber

TEEN MOVIE NIGHT!



April 28th at 6:00 pm
Spread the word—hope to see you there!!

Join Us in Prayer for Our Youth

Our next prayer time will be on Sunday, April 21st at noon in the chapel. Please join us as we remember our youth, 21 and under in a time of prayer.



CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Sunday, April 14th at 10:30 A.M. in the Chapel.

This particular service is organized and will be presented by our students currently enrolled in their catechetical studies.



The News In Our Pews

In the news business it is either feast or famine and this month joyfully it is feast!

Sara Larson spent her spring break in early March on a mission trip to Nicaragua with the Penn College Dental Hygiene program. They will be providing dental care and education to the students of "The Little School" in Managua. Poor people from the countryside took up residence in the urban buildings damaged by the 1972 earthquake. They are some of the poorest in a nation second only to Haiti among the poorest countries in the western hemisphere. Penn College students spent their first day learning about the area and then setting up a health fair to educate the families. Over the next four days they set to work cleaning teeth, applying sealants and varnishes, teaching the technique of brushing and analyzing whether they need further work. Kudos to Sara and her classmates for a true act of Christian charity!

Stained Grass Window with our own **Ken Shafranko** is celebrating twenty years together this month. Ken is quoted as reflecting that playing music helps untie emotional knots and release the stress from one's daily work. The group has performed at St. Mark's to the delight of the congregation and we wish them sincere congratulations for achieving this milestone.

A story in the Webb Weekly featured **Kathy Kolb** and her web business Kolb Net Works. Her company offers website development and design, internet marketing services, social media consulting and many other services. Kathy has operated this business for 16 years and says her passion for the internet is why she chose this career path. It succeeds because she loves it and loves working with websites and the people who install them.

West Branch School students **Cooper Larson** (grandson of Ted and Jane) and **Annika Waffenschmidt** wrote articles for the Sun Gazette describing the dramatic efforts and the school. Cooper described his experience playing a dwarf in the production and Annika discussed the history of the plays presented by the school.

Then, lots of pictures – **Hannah Haussmann** interviewing past alumni of Sheridan School as the school prepares for its 100 year anniversary and also its final year. **Vicki Hospes**, pictured in the newspaper in her role as physical therapist assistant at Jersey Shore Hospital. Tony the Tiger visiting Little Lambs preschool to the delight of their young charges. The school's director, **Holly Tillman**, has had her children's book published- more of that later.

Last of all (before someone else adds this) I was a part of the group breaking ground for the new addition to the SPCA building – I was very excited but look very somber – perhaps it was because I had to wear a hard hat - only for the SPCA!

~Joyce Anne Hershberger

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

United Churches of Lycoming County

FOOD PANTRY ITEMS NEEDED AT THIS TIME:

Tea/Coffee/Cocoa	Canned Fruit Chicken
Noodle Soup	Oatmeal
Noodles & Pasta	Tuna Helper
Canned Vegetables	Saltines
Microwave Popcorn	Tomato Soup
Oatmeal Packets	Chunky Soups
Spaghetti Sauce	

**Hours are: 9:30-Noon on Mondays for delivery
And Tuesdays/Thursdays from
10-3 for clients by appointment only
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-

March Ecumenical Lunches Wednesdays, 12 to 1 PM

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

- 3 ~ **Mrs. Virginia Dusman**, Lutheran Laywoman,
"Pennsylvania Dutch Stories"
- 10 ~ **Mr. Phillip Landers**, Retired Professor Penn College,
Enrolled Agent—IRS, and Site Coordinator - AARP Tax Program
"Taxes, Senior Citizens and the IRS"
- 17 ~ **Mr. Curley Jett**, Retired Williamsport Police Officer
"Better Safe than Sorry"
- 24 ~ **Ryan Miller**, Edward Jones Investments; **Jim Malee**, Malee Lay Firm (Wills & POAs); **Virla Ocker**, The Hillside—A Senior Living Community; **Kevin Novotny**, James C. Maneval Funeral Home (End of Life Planning) *"Key Life Decisions: Are you Prepared?"*

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!

Thank You Notes

To Our St. Mark's family,

Phil and I want to thank you for your many kindnesses during my recent diagnosis of breast cancer and subsequent treatment. We are thankful for God's many blessings and for your prayers during this time. We remain grateful for your ongoing support and prayers. God bless you all for your thoughtfulness. ~ Barb Thomas

A note of grateful thanks to the many persons who make possible our Iron Chef event. In addition to all of the things that happen in advance, on the day of the competition itself the building turns into a beehive of activity. There was the **room staff** that prepared Fellowship Hall, Crossways Room, the serving stations in the hallways and more; the **cooking staff** that prepared the meal for the guests, the **technical staff** who volunteered their professional time both the days prior and on the competition day on wiring, cameras, microphones and more; our **referee and judges** who took time from their professional culinary duties to volunteer to assist us; our **master of ceremonies and roving reporter** who have the gift of talking in an interesting way; the phalanx of young **waiters** who kept the food and drink coming. All this to support the six of us who were the actual **competitors** in the kitchen. And then after the event, there are those who stayed to help **wash dishes**, because of the way our kitchen is arranged, nothing can be washed until after the competition is completed. Actually, several returned on Monday morning to finish up the dishes. Blessed are they! And of course our multi-talented **sexton** assists in so many aspects of the whole event...and one who could not be a chef this year still did many other things as **publicity agent**, program-preparer, reminder, encourager, and doing it all one-handed. Then there are those who felt they could help best by **writing checks**, and being **patrons**, and that is crucial to the whole enterprise, since the purpose is to raise funds for Family Promise. The final tally is not yet in, but the net will be in the range of \$5,000.

Thank you to everyone, in whatever way or ways you could help. ~ Pastor Elkin

Dear St. Mark Lutheran Church,

Thank you for keeping our ministry strong by contributing to Camp Mount Luther! God blesses us with gifts and appreciates our sharing of these gifts in the work of changing lives at camp through a new and exciting encounter with Jesus Christ. We appreciate you recognizing this important work through your recent gift to our ministry. The gifts of time, talent, and treasures from all of our friends are important in assisting us with our mission of making Christ through outdoor ministries. This letter is to acknowledge the following gift, recorded on 2/26/2013: \$500.00 for Synod Mission Support (Evergreen). We indeed thank you for sharing God's abundance in partnership with us in outdoor ministries at Camp Mount Luther. As we celebrate our 50th Birthday in 2013, we are so blessed to have those like you who support us financially and through your continued prayers.

God's Peace, Chad W. Hershberger, Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your generous donation of \$100.00 to the American Rescue Workers. As you know, needy families and individuals in our community go without proper food, clothing, and shelter every day due to a variety of factors including low wages, job loss, injuries, illness, age, domestic violence, or divorce. While all of us are susceptible to hard times, children and the elderly are at the most risk, and they make up a large number of the clients we serve. With the generous support of people like you, we will be able to help many of these families and individuals not only to meet essential daily needs, but to work toward a brighter future with the various programs that we offer. For more information on how your donation is helping to make a difference in the lives of so many in our community, we invite you to visit our Web site at <http://www.arwwrnt.org>. Thank you again, and we look forward to your continued support.

Sincerely, Colonel & Mrs. Sam Astin

May Jesus the Good Shepherd, grant you the gifts of love—Peace that's all-enfolding, Grace from up above, Hope renewed this Easter, Joy all Springtime through—With happiness within your heart as His special gift to you! Thank you so much for all your donations to us. We do appreciate all. God bless you and love you all ways.

Sincerely in Christ, Sister Henry SCC, St. Anthony's Center

Happy Birthday!

04/02 Jenna Eyer
 04/02 Jon Huff
 04/02 Bernadette Jones
 04/02 Mary Helen Scinicarello
 04/05 Eric Comini
 04/05 Tina Harvey
 04/06 Linda Rosini
 04/07 Carol Butters
 04/07 John Goertz
 04/08 Zachary Travis
 04/09 Elda Zeigler
 04/10 Taylor Wentzel
 04/10 Sadie Wentzel
 04/11 Robert Clouser
 04/12 Nathan Hafer
 04/13 Geoffrey MacGill

04/13 Michael Ochs
 04/14 Ezra Buckman
 04/14 Veronica Doane
 04/14 Johnny Hinds

04/18 Beverly Best
 04/18 Christina Comini
 04/18 Beverly Schmitt
 04/18 Diana Zeigler
 04/19 Cynthia Hartzel
 04/20 Jeffrey Byerly
 04/20 Doris Griggs
 04/20 Karen Pelleschi
 04/20 Carl Reidy Jr.
 04/21 Catherine Kneeder
 04/23 Marc Fish
 04/23 Benjamin Hausmann
 04/26 Karen Burd
 04/27 Lisa Welker
 04/29 Ruth Ditchfield
 04/30 Dorothy Bingaman



Happy Anniversary!

04/08 Robert & Bernadette Jones
 04/08 Louis & Kathy Kolb
 04/21 Theodore & Jane Larson

04/23 Carl & Audrey Albright
 04/23 Randy & Jeanette Lukens
 04/26 Clint & Megan Epleman

PLEASE MAKE THESE Directory Updates

CHANGES:

Larue Dieter new email address:
 Larubd@gmail.com

Carol Confer new email address:
 Conferwil@aol.com



Ongoing Collections



We are still collecting used stamps. 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.

The tabs we collect are taken by Pastor Elkin to the Ronald McDonald House and later sold at a recycling center. The money is then used for the operation of their facility. Even a few tabs add up, so please keep collecting. There is a collection container for tabs in the Narthex and near the Crossways hallway.



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

Jim Buckman

1974 Jacks Hollow 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

Highland Care Center
Room 318 Bed # 2
918 N. Main St.
Laporte, PA 18626

Art Decker

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

Larue Dieter

2150 Warrensville Rd,
Apt. 2
Montoursville, PA 17754

Catherine Goertz

Williamsport Home,
B-816
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 Ctr.
Rm #401-1
2140 Warrensville Rd.
Montoursville, PA 17754

David & Carol McMorris

330 Forest Hills Circle
Prescott, AZ 86303

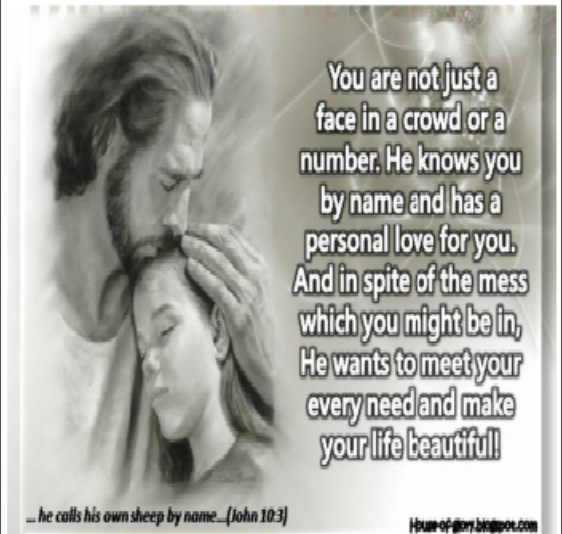
Robert Miller

947 Hepburn St.
Williamsport, PA 17701

Kay Poliska

1100 Allen St.
Montoursville, PA 17754

YOU MATTER TO GOD



Elizabeth Ruesskamp

Willow View Personal Home
124 Emery St.
Williamsport, PA 17701

Mary Helen Scinicarello

Danville St. Hosp. #311
Danville, PA 17821

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

St. Mark's april Calendar of Events

1 Monday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
7:00 PM Handbells
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

4 Thursday

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

5 Friday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

7 Sunday

Easter II

Hosting FPLC

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

8 Monday

Hosting FPLC

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

9 Tuesday

Hosting FPLC

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
10:00 AM Conf. Pastors@ CoS
6:00 PM Brownies

10 Wednesday

Hosting FPLC

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

11 Thursday

Hosting FPLC

11 Thursday

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

12 Friday

Hosting FPLC

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

13 Saturday

Hosting FPLC

10:00 AM Lutheran Youth Day 2013

14 Sunday

Easter III

Hosting FPLC

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

15 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 Handbells
7:00 PM Wmspt. Civic Chorus

16 Tuesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
10:00 AM LL Liaison Mtg

17 Wednesday

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

18 Thursday

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

19 Friday

Lion Article Deadline

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

21 Sunday

Easter IV

21 Sunday

8:00 AM Holy Communion
9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Holy Communion
11:00 AM CML Brunch
11:45 AM Family Handbells
12:00 PM Prayer 4 Youth/Chapel
12:15 PM The Way
2:00 PM CML Open House
6:00 PM Confirmands meal/mtg

22 Monday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
6:00 PM LSM
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

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

28 Sunday

Easter V

8:00 AM Holy Communion
9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Holy Communion
3:00 PM Eagle Scout Event
6:00 PM Teen Movie Night

29 Monday

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

30 Tuesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer