



The Lion

of St. Mark's

DECEMBER 2013



The Word is always in season.

Here are the topics that we are working on together with Pastor Elkin right now.

- † The **First Communion class** has just concluded its three sessions. While together, we reviewed several major stories including the Passover, the Last Supper, Jesus feeding of the 5,000, Jesus eating with sinners. We discovered that God “makes a place for us” at his table. The students and parents worked on additional Bible stories together at home.
- † **Catechetical students, parents, and mentors** continue their monthly sessions. On alternating years we work on the patriarchal narratives in Genesis and Exodus, and the Gospel of Luke. Right now we're beginning the Joseph cycle in Genesis 36. In our last session, the parents viewed a video interpretation of the text in order to help them better work with their students on the home-questions for the next class.
- † The **Sunday morning Crossways class** is now on Unit 6 of that intensive survey study of scripture initiated by Australian Lutheran pastor Dr. Harry Wendt. This group has recently explored the three parts of the covenant with Abraham and its continuing significance in scripture and life, and are moving now to see how that plays out in succeeding generations. There are lots of places at the table for others to join the study.
- † The **6:31 A.M. Thursday Men's Bible Study** has just concluded its work in the book of Genesis and this week turns to the book of Job. After reading a portion of scripture, we read and discuss the comments of the Orthodox pastor and scholar Fr. Patrick Henry Reardon, and close the time by singing a hymn.
- † The **Wednesday Noon Bible Study** is continuing its study of the Psalms, now up to Psalm 35. We begin with a hymn to set the theme for the day, read the Psalm and Fr. Reardon's comments and then explore the meaning of the Psalm through art, music, literature, and life. It is always a wide-ranging discussion.
- † Pastor Elkin also leads studies in joint ventures with other congregations such as the **Lay School** on Wednesday afternoons in October, and the **Catechetical Retreat Day** in January. Both events are held here at St. Mark's for all area Lutheran congregations to participate.

Of course there are other opportunities as well, with many additional leaders, for all ages, especially on Sunday morning. Just as the First Communion students discovered that Jesus makes a place for them at his Holy Table, there are also places for each person at the table of Bible-study as well. If one of the many existing ones does not fit your schedule, please ask, and we'll invent another one!



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Council Update

The Congregation Council met in regular session on November 18 in the Crossways Room. The Council:

- † Received the regular reports of the Pastor, officers, and committees.
- † Adopted a budget for 2014 for presentation to the congregation on December 8.
- † Heard that landscaping design students from Penn College are working on proposals for us.
- † Heard that one of the boilers is receiving an unexpected repair.
- † Heard that the reconciliation team will meet with the Council in January.
- † Acknowledged several incidental uses of the building.
- † Announced a festive gathering on Dec. 16 for a meal together with spouses and the congregation's staff.
- † Set the next regular meeting for January 20, 2014
- † Concluded with Prayer at the Close of the Day, prayed in the Chapel.

Parish Register

First Communion Milestone on November 24, 2013:
Abigail Robertson, Gabriella Gregory, and Owen Gair.

The Holy Bible Milestone on November 24, 2013:
Abigail Robertson, Gabriella Gregory, and Owen Gair.

Staff & Officers Contact Information

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 Church Office 323-4619 Church fax 323-2452
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 Lou DeSeau, Environmental Serv. ldeseau@stmarkswilliamsport.org
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 or his home phone 368-1473
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 Shelby Weber, Secretary 322-7149
 Wanda Fortin, Treasurer 322-1286
 Mel Wentzel, Director, *The Way* 327-8286
 Kathy Eshelman, Stephen Ministry 433-0522
 Larue Dieter, Prayer Chain Larubd@gmail.com or 433-3453
 Michele Fredericks, Parish Life michele.l.fredericks@gmail.com

Special Notice of Congregational Assembly

Financial statements were mailed out in early November for members to compare against their own records. If you have reason for concern or believe an error exists please bring your concerns to the attention of Graydon Yearick the Financial Secretary before the end of the year when final statements will be mailed. Thank you!

	2014 Budget	2013 YE Estimate	2013 Budget
Envelopes & Pledges	245,000	245,000	240,000
Investment Principal Transfer	36,844	25,575	30,252
Investment Income Transfer	10,000		18,000
All Other Income	64,650	66,700	54,850
Total Income	<u>356,494</u>	<u>337,225</u>	<u>343,102</u>
General Administrative	13,650	14,500	12,650
Salaries & Benefits	223,267	217,000	255,627
Music & Worship	8,000	6,000	6,350
Youth & Family Ministry	6,250	4,400	5,350
Building	82,202	83,825	70,000
Benevolence	23,125	19,500	23,125
Total Expenses	<u>356,494</u>	<u>345,225</u>	<u>343,102</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)	0	- 8,000	

The Congregation Council at its regular November meeting called a Special Assembly of the St. Mark's congregation, to be held on Sunday, December 8, 2013. Note carefully the change in procedure:

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

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

If, however, there have been any amendments made at the meeting following the 10:30 service, the meeting will be **continued** until the following Sunday, December 15, when those attending the 8:00 service will have an opportunity to vote on the amendments.

Questions about the budget may be addressed to our treasurer, Wanda Fortin at 584-6403.

2013 Offering Envelope Alert

**Offering
Envelopes**



Beginning Sunday, December 1st, offering envelopes for 2014 will be available in the Narthex.

Please help us save postage by taking yours and the envelopes of anyone you know who is a shut-in.

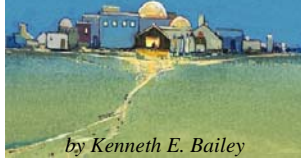
We have not assigned envelopes to youth.

If you would like your child or children to have envelopes please contact Graydon Yearick at the office or Barb Thomas (322-6460) at home.

End of year note: All contributions for 2013 must be in the Church Office by Tuesday, December 31st!

“Open Hearts in Bethlehem”

Open Hearts in Bethlehem



by Kenneth E. Bailey

...by Kenneth E. Bailey, gives us an interesting view of society at the time of Christ's birth. Drawing on the strength of literal translations of the Bible and what scholars have discerned of that time, this play focuses on the families who would have welcomed Joseph and Mary into Bethlehem.

Bernadette and Declan are working with the youth involved in this play that will be presented on Christmas Eve at the Family service. The cast includes Jacob Schreckengast, Ben Haussmann, Sadie Wentzel, Owen Gair, Brie Gregory, Elizabeth Haussmann, Stefan Weber, Taylor Wentzel, Sean Jensen, Hannah Haussmann, Grace and Jonah Schreckengast.

The program will take the place of the readings at the early service on Christmas Eve.

Christmas Lunch N' Fellowship

Wednesday, December 18th at Noon

Serving Ham. Bring a festive holiday dish to share!

Why not invite a friend to join you?

Christmas Carol Sing– a-long will follow!



Want to play a lifetime sport?

A good one which never grows old is helping others!! “That’s a sport,” You say? Yes! You race against the clock to help people...especially children...so they aren't living on the streets. The goal is to provide a safe, warm place for homeless families. That's Family Promise of Lycoming County...we need you on the team to win! Do you want to play?

On March 23, 2014, we will host the sixth annual Iron Chef Williamsport competition, one of the largest fundraisers for Family Promise...And you can join the team, too! How?

By:

- † Telling your friends and neighbors
- † Praying for the volunteers and for those who need Family Promise
- † Stuffing envelopes
- † Hanging posters in places you frequent in the course of your days
- † Handing out flyers at your clubs or civic organizations
- † Making phone calls from the comfort of your home

It takes as much effort to work together toward the goals of the families in FPLC as it does for a team to make a down, pass the baton, or sink a basket. Iron Chef Williamsport is one of the better ways we have of going outside the four walls of St. Mark's, involving the community, and providing for those less fortunate than we.

So, what can you do?

KIDS' NIGHT OUT

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7

5:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

Look for the sign-up list!

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



SOCKS, HAT & MITTEN TREES!



THE TREES ARE UP A WAITING TO BE DECORATED!
PLEASE BRING IN HATS, GLOVES, SCARVES, MITTENS,
AND SOCKS* TO FELLOWSHIP HALL.

THE TREES ARE READY AND WAITING FOR YOU!

All donations will be donated locally to those in need.

**Please note that we are not collecting teddy bears any more...
too many restrictions have been placed on the donating of these items.*

Children's Church

CHILDREN'S CHURCH next meets Sunday, December 8, at 10:30, in the chapel. For the children's special offering this month, we will prepare greeting cards to take with us on our caroling routes! If the children have any they've made or purchased, please send them



ADULT COOKIE BAKE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7th

8:00 AM - ?

Look for the sign-up lists!

X-TREME BAKING & FLOUR FLINGING!



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

Selinsgrove Center Christmas Party

Calling St. Mark's Elves!

Our annual Christmas party for the 17 ladies of CM-6 at the Selinsgrove Center is only ten days away! We are still in need of pudding cups in all flavors. We also gift the caregivers with holiday cookies and fresh fruit for their break room and need those items as well.



Please call Becky Miller Pryor ASAP (570-971-4585) if you are able to provide homemade cookies, a box of tangerines or clementines, a bag of apples, candy kisses or holiday tissue paper.

Monetary donations are always welcome to offset the cost of the slipper socks and to fill in any gaps with our gifting. Checks may be made payable to St. Mark's with the memo line indicating "Selinsgrove Party."

All donations for the ladies of CM-6 are needed by Sunday, December 8, 2013. On Tuesday, December 10, 2013 we will meet at the church at 6:00 p.m. to carpool to Selinsgrove. Additional "elves" wishing to join the festivities are always welcome!

Gifts for Danville State Hospital



Forgot to take a gift tag for a resident?

There is still time to provide a modest gift to ensure all residents will have gifts to open on Christmas morning. We supply general gifts that can be used where they are most needed. The need is greatest for those residents who arrive in November or December. Items being requested for both men and women include socks, gloves, pajamas, nightgowns, sweat shirts, sweat pants, underwear and shirts. Sizes for both men and women are large, extra-large and larger. Other gift suggestions are inexpensive wallets and watches. All donations should be left unwrapped and placed in the tub in the Narthex. Thank you for any assistance you can give to this outreach.

All gifts for Danville residents are due by Sunday, December 8, 2013.

Thank you for any assistance you are able to give.
Becky Pryor is the contact person for this project.

2013 Annual Service of Remembrance



Will be held on Sunday, December 29th at 4 p.m.

With the service being held later in the afternoon if anyone needs a ride, please call the office (323-4619) to let Michele know and we can arrange transportation.

As usual a beautiful keepsake ornament will be yours to take with you.

Daniel's Closet

Daniel's Closet Distribution Day

Saturday, December 21, 2013 9:00 am - 11:00 am

Redeemer Lutheran Church



Clothes, jackets and shoes in good condition for the entire family are needed this month at Daniel's Closet. They are especially in need of children's school clothing and shoes and plus size clothing for men and women.



Items may be dropped off at Redeemer's church basement on Thursday, December 19th from 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm or you may contact Redeemer Church at 322-2333 to arrange another time for drop off. Michele Owen has graciously agreed to transport any clothing brought to St. Mark's.

Sunday School Teachers

Teachers are still needed for several months this year.

Please call Michele as soon as possible.

Thank you to our December Sunday School Teachers!

Pre-K thru 2nd: Becky Miller Pryor

3rd thru 5th : Bonnie Eyer



January Lion Article Deadline

All articles for the January issue of the Lion are due

NO LATER

than Monday, December 16th. Thank You!



Teen Movie Night

December 22nd at 6:00 pm

Bring a snack! Bring a friend!

Spread the word

—hope to see you there!!



Youth Encounter 2014

QUAKES + ZONES

January 24-26, 2014

Pittsburgh, PA \$154 (\$60 due now)

"Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all."

~ 1 Chron. 29:11 (NIV)

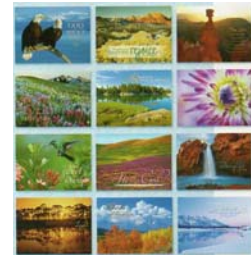


Several of our youth (grades 6 ~ 12) have signed up to go on this trip in January. Bob & Declan Jones are chaperoning. If any youth would still like to register, THEY MAY!!!

Our youth are working to earn their portion of fee by:

SELLING CALENDARS!!

Calendars are now on sale for \$7.00 each. Ask one of our youth to see one...they make great gifts!!



SPAGHETTI SUPPER ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, AT 12:00!!



Not only will you be served by our youth, but entertained by them as well!!! Our very talented troupe of teens will perform on a variety of musical instruments for your enjoyment! Cost for all ages is \$7. This year, you can also get the meals to go, if that is more convenient for you. PLEASE PLACE YOUR ORDERS OR RESERVE YOUR SEAT IN ADVANCE!

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

Heifer International Purchases by our youth



This year our confirmation students chose items, through various efforts, Children's Church and VBS for three different packages which were voted on by all the youth! Last year, they earned \$550, to which was added \$100 from a donor, for a total of \$650!! They spent their money wisely to send a girl to school and to purchase an irrigation pipe, a llama, chickens, ducks and geese.

Congratulations to our young people and thank you for your continuing generosity!!

Christmas Flowers

Enclosed with this copy of the Lion is an envelope for ordering Christmas flowers.

Flowers may be dedicated in honor or memory of a special loved one.

You may also give a monetary gift towards relieving local hunger or towards other decorations to be used in the Nave.



These gifts may also be dedicated.



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

Shepherd of the Streets

Becky Miller Pryor thanks the congregation for the many hygiene products that were donated in November to the Shepherd of the Street's office. There is a great need for all of these items as they are constantly being distributed to the individuals and families that seek help from this ministry.

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Update



Our Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes have been packed, wrapped, filled and taken to the distribution center for shipment - a total of 61 shoeboxes were completed!!!

With such a large number of shoeboxes, our shipping costs were even higher this year, and we want to thank everyone who gave so generously to cover this expense. Each shoebox cost \$7 to ship.

A huge "Thank You" to all who helped at the Pack 'n Wrap, packed their own shoeboxes, and donated items or money for shipping, our collection certainly was a huge success!!!!!!

Please consider joining us next year—it really is a fun time and it's hysterical to see the adults frantically wrapping as the children and youth circle the tables, searching for wrapped boxes, like sharks around a wreck!! Great fun!!!

Wake Up and Happy New Year!



We, liturgists, have a New Year starting at Advent Season. So it is appropriate for us to say **HAPPY NEW YEAR!** in the first Sunday in Advent.

It was stated and appreciated one of the preludes I played last year, "Wachet auf! (wake up in English)" – the fugue from Chorale –Phantasie by Max Reger.

Although Reger is very prolific and religious composer, there is limitation to play his organ works at liturgical setting. Most of his large organ works need certain size of organ. Therefore I haven't had a chance to play Reger's monumental works in worship before St. Mark's.

Do you know that we have the largest organ in Williamsport? This might be the only place to hear Reger's big three chorale works in Williamsport. Whereas Richard Lakey stays on Widor's Toccata, I would like to put my mark on Reger's Wachet auf on 1st Sunday of Advent.

Happy New Year, King of Peace is coming! Wake up, the Voice is calling!
In our words from LBW, "Wake, Awake for Night Is Flying."

"Musicfully",
Jungwha Kim

WAHS holiday hoo-ha!!!



The combined orchestra, chorus and band annual holiday concert was enthusiastically dubbed the "Hoo-Ha" several years ago and seems to have stuck!

Holiday Bread Baking



**BREAD BAKING
ON FRIDAY, DEC 27,
AT 10:00 A.M.!!**

What sweet or savory treats do we have in store for this year? Register at the office to find out!

FAMILY PROMISE UPDATE & HOSTING

The next week of hosting for Family Promise will be **January 26, 2014 through February 2, 2014**. As most of you know, Becky Miller-Pryor has completed her tenure as the coordinator of FP for the past several years. With the assistance of many volunteers at St. Mark's and volunteers from First Presbyterian Becky led our group to be the "gold standard" for hosting families.



Most recently Donna Elkin and I have agreed to be co-coordinators and we are looking forward to working with everyone. It is our hope that all of our current volunteers will continue to assist as they have in the past and that hopefully others will consider volunteering in some capacity. Although not formally a "coordinator", Evelyn Landis from First Presbyterian Church has provided valuable assistance both in making many phone calls and actually providing hands on assistance with meals and overnight hosting. Larue Dieter has assisted by making numerous calls to assist with the planning and organizing. Both of those individuals have agreed to continue.



Please look at your calendars and expect a contact from one of us early in January. If you have any thoughts or questions regarding this important ministry please feel free to contact Donna or myself. Again, we are looking forward to working with all of our volunteers.

Debbie Maggs & Donna Elkin

Special Canine Friends



Perhaps visitors to a nursing home or other facility have noticed a small or large dog wearing a neckerchief and badge accompanied by its owner walking around greeting those who might enjoy their company. The sniff and wagging tails always bring a smile to the faces of residents, staff, and visitors alike. The value of "pet therapy" has been shown again and again in reducing blood pressure, improving mood, and stirring interest in activities and surroundings.

Not just any dog can serve in this way. They have to be the right temperament and be trained in appropriate behavior. There is an organization which gives guidelines and then tests and insures dogs for pet therapy work, Therapy Dog International (TDI). With the permission of our Council, TDI has tested dogs on two occasions here at St. Mark's for service locally. The tests are rigorous and the process takes several hours. Not all of the dogs who apply will pass the test; some need more training, and others may never pass because of a temperament problem. Luncheon Fellowship attendees may remember the black dog Jessie who came with Jane Kline occasionally. This dog has now passed the test and is ready for service.

For more information about TDI, therapy dogs, or other service dogs at work, contact Donna Zierdt Elkin at 570-323-7367.

FAMILY ADVENT WREATH MAKING

**Please join us for Family Advent Wreath Making
on Sunday, December 1st at noon in Fellowship Hall.**

The children will again decorate their tree in the Hall with the hand-made ornaments donated to the children of St. Mark's by the Burkholder's.

Please join us for a time of food, fun and fellowship
and make an advent wreath for your home!



LSM 16th Annual Catechetical Retreat

JANUARY 4, 2014
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

LSM's Catechetical Retreat for our middle school students has been in successful operation for sixteen years now! Held on an early Saturday in January, Pr. Elkin has led St. Mark's in organizing this event the entire time, even though, in the beginning, it was held at Messiah. An average of 100 students, parents, and worship leaders gather for a day of instruction and fellowship.

Pr. Elkin will be teaching one of his popular "hands-on" classes and Keith Wood will lead a seminar on Parents, Teens & Money Matters again this year. Information regarding other class offerings is on its way in from other pastors as this goes to press. Look for brochures *soon!*

**ALWAYS BE
 PREPARED
 TO GIVE AN ANSWER
 TO EVERYONE WHO ASKS YOU
 TO GIVE THE REASON
 FOR THE HOPE THAT YOU
 HAVE
 BUT DO THIS WITH
 GENTLENESS
 & RESPECT
 1 PETER 3:15**

"JOY" Youth Group: Just Older Youth



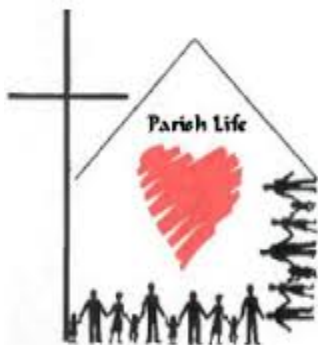
St. Mark's high school students (grades 9-12) are invited to join Messiah's youth on the 2nd Sunday of each month, from 5:30-7:30 p.m., for a time of Faith-building/Learning, Team-building Activities, Conversation, Games, and Prayers in a Relaxed, faith-based, judgment-free atmosphere

Messiah Lutheran Church
 Corner of West Southern Avenue and Howard Street
 South Williamsport

December 8, 2013
 January 12, 2014
 February 9, 2014

March 9, 2014
 April 13, 2014
 May 18, 2014

Parish Life Committee reorganizing



Persons who would like to serve on the Parish Life Committee, which has responsibility for the various facets of hospitality in the life of the parish, are asked to indicate their interest by email to the Chair, Michele Fredericks at michele.l.fredericks@gmail.com or by telephone message through the church office at 323-4619 in advance of a reorganizational meeting to be held on Wednesday, December 4 at 6:30 P.M. in Middle Lounge.

There are tasks for many hands!

And yet another issue on the horizon!

*A guest article from the pen of the
Rev. Keith Eslinger of St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Camp Hill PA. He writes:*

It has become increasingly popular these days for some churches to commune people who are not baptized. These are, for the most part, churches that might be termed “generic protestant”, meaning that such a body defines their Church, or Christianity, or even all who believe *something*, to be basically on the same page—one happy family, so to speak. The problem with this is that any distinctiveness—and sometimes the Christian faith—goes right out the window in an effort to seek the lowest common denominator. This is what some have called the faith of the “Great Pumpkin.” It is an unshaped, indiscriminate, unthinking mess, which adapts itself to anything and everything—as long as it conforms to the “radical inclusivity of the gospel”. This is how the idea of communing the un-baptized came about.

From the beginning, the Christian tradition has communed only those who have first been baptized. In a 2nd Century writing, *The Didache*—accepted by nearly all Christians as formative for our tradition—in the section concerning the Eucharist, the following is clearly stated:

9:5 *Allow no one to eat or drink of your Eucharist, unless they have been baptized in the name of the Lord. For concerning this, the Lord has said, "Do not give what is holy to dogs."*

In the quote above, from the Gospel of Matthew 7:6, Jesus refers to the “dogs”; meaning in Scripture either gentiles (un-believing non-Jews), or the sexually immoral. Both are possible uses of the term. In any event, indiscriminate Communion of those who simply want it is prohibited. If they wish to be included in the Christian celebration of the Sacrament of the Altar, why not be examined and baptized first? What reason could they have for not being bap-

tized, other than not wishing actually to *be* Christian? If a person believes, there is no reason not to baptize! (*Acts 8:26-40 & Acts 16:25-34*)

The rationale among those who worship the “Great Pumpkin” is that they wish to include everyone equally, making no distinction, citing the radical inclusivity of the gospel. Fine, but we already *do* that in admitting all people who have been instructed to the rite of baptism. For children under the age of consent, we teach the parents. Lutherans baptize infants, toddlers, young children, teens, and adults, of both genders, all races, and all nationalities, into the Christian Faith. We are already *completely inclusive* of those who truly wish to be Christian.

You might ask why we’re talking about this topic. Simple answer: Because some pressure will likely come to us to do this. We may very well get children who have been admitted to Communion in other traditions but have not yet been baptized. It’s important that we all know the basic Christian tradition we’ve received, especially since the ELCA is seriously beginning to consider the practice of un-baptized Communion, against all evidence of apostolic practice and teaching! [A task-force has been formed to report to the next national Assembly.]

As *theologian loci*—meaning the theologian in residence—it falls to me to begin to sort such things out! Never mind that other pastors will often call us theologians “loco”, which means just what you think it does!

Passing on Faith: First Communion & Third Grade Bible



On Christ the King Sunday, November 24, Owen Gair, Gabriella Gregory, and Abigail Robertson, after three weeks of study, received the sacrament of Holy Communion at the 10:30 service. Afterwards, there was a luncheon celebrating the children joining the table at Communion and they all received their Bibles for the Third Grade Milestone.

The News in Our Pews

Fall is moving very fast – here we are in the middle of November and before you know it we will be wrapping Christmas presents but I think the somewhat stark colors of November are beautiful in their own special way!

I am impressed to see the number of our young people who are participating in the programs of the church which in the past were only served by the more mature members. We enjoy having the talents of **Gillian Buckman** and **Stephen Boone** in the Senior Choir and it was great to see all three Haussmann's in the bell choir. **Hannah, Ben** and **Elizabeth** were giving their all in this special ministry.

Stephen has other musical talents as well – he is a budding YoYo Ma- recently he gave his senior cello recital including several classics and doing a superb job! He also was named to the honor roll at his school.

Also achieving honor roll status were two of **Jane Kline's** grandchildren, **Micah** and **Kline**. The two are brand new students in Fort Smith, Arkansas which is quite a compliment.

In quite a different vein I was impressed to see **Riley Weber's** new set of wheels pictured on Facebook – be careful, Riley and take it easy!

Hardly a week goes by that we don't see pictures of activities at Little Lambs Preschool – lots of fun things going on!

I like to keep up with the **Campbell twins** – **Lauren's** latest effort is her intent to get a teaching certificate so that she can teach math – quite a talented young lady.

Blessed Thanksgiving to all of you and keep in touch!

~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 CURRENTLY NEEDED:

Green beans or corn	Saltines
Oatmeal Packets	Granola Bars
Oodles of Noodles	Stuffing Mix
Powdered Drink Mix	Popcorn
Hamburger Helper	Tea Bags
Cranberry Sauce	Jams/Jellies
Canned Juices	Poptarts

**Hours are: 9:30 - Noon
on Mondays for delivery.**

**Tuesdays/Thursdays from 10-3
clients by appointment only**

**Mater Dolorosa Social Hall
635 Hepburn St, Wmspt.**

Wednesday Ecumenical Lunches

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

No reservations are necessary.

December:

**4 ~ Rev. Kenneth Elkin, Pastor, St. Mark Lutheran Church,
"Pilgrim Stories: People on the Way to Santiago"**

**11 ~ Mr. Abel Learwellie, Lutheran Church in Liberia,
"Trauma, Healing and Reconciliation"**

**18 ~ Mrs. Lucy Henry and Mrs. Wendy McCormick,
Area Musicians who specialize in Celtic Music and Old
Timey Favorites using hammered dulcimer, flute, Celtic
harp, pennywhistle, accordion, etc.
"Sounds of the Season"**

25 ~ Have a very Merry Christmas! No lunch scheduled.



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 anytime!**

Happy Birthday!

12/01 Maria Elkin
 12/01 Sara Jones
 12/03 Beth Fillnow
 12/03 David McMorris
 12/03 Edgar Miller Jr.
 12/03 Robert Miller
 12/04 David Elkin
 12/06 David Gilbert
 12/07 Brittany Lynch
 12/07 Laura Schreckengast
 12/09 Emma Elkin
 12/11 Orion Snyder
 12/12 Ernest Larson
 12/13 Megan Catino

12/15 Richard Hafer
 12/15 Lyndsi Stugart

12/17 Marlene Vollmer
 12/18 Ryan Clokey

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



12/16 Betty Kaufman
 12/16 Lucille Weaver
 12/17 Derek Gilbert

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

Happy Anniversary!

12/08 Matthew & Cassandra Wellen

12/21 Thomas & Becky Pryor

PLEASE MAKE THESE Directory Updates

Elizabeth Ruesskamp Rose View Center, Rm. 313B, 1201 Rural Ave, Williamsport, Pa 17701

Beulah Wrede Williamsport Home, Rm. #413, 1900 Ravine Rd, Williamsport, Pa 17701

Thank You Notes

To my Church family & friends, I'm still unpacking and putting things away. I think (or maybe I wasn't thinking) that I brought more things with me than I should have. As they say, "Live and Learn." Thank you all for your prayers, your caring, your friendship, the phone calls and your love. Russ and I both thanked the Lord for bringing us to St. Mark's back in 2000. A church where the Gospel is preached every Sunday and during the week: Morning Prayer every day--plus Bible study & Men's Ministry once a week. I've learned so much more about the Gospel during my time at St. Mark's. Thank you Pastor for being our teacher and friend. Things are pretty well settled here and VISITORS ARE WELCOME to come and visit with me. I have an extra bedroom. Love, Lois

I would like to thank St. Mark's for all the help during my recent problems, especially Jane Larson, whom I feel is a true servant of the Lord. ~ Lillian Miler

Pastor Elkin & Congregation, We wish to thank you and the congregation for their prayers every Sunday. To the people who volunteered to go to the nursing home and give Bob communion. The cookies and flowers he received on special occasions. The service the day of the funeral was wonderful. Also for sending me a copy. ~ Marguerite Smith & family

Special thanks to everyone who supported my senior project by coming to the concert and/or donating to Smile Train. I raised almost \$900, nearly enough to provide cleft surgeries for 4 people! It's great to have such a supportive church family. THANK YOU VERY MUCH! ~ Stephen Boone

A sincere thank you to everyone for their kind words, thoughts, prayers, and donations to NGA, St. Mark's or the American Diabetes Association, Our family appreciates all our St. Mark's Family has done. ~ The family of Jim Buckman

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

Carol Confer
241 Country Club Lane
Williamsport, PA 17702

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

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

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

Charlotte Hughes
140 Blueberry Lane
Williamsport, PA 17701

Reba Jacobs
Vintage Knolls, Box 120A
41 Woodbine Lane,
Danville, PA 17821

Irma Logan
Valley View Nursing Ctr.,
Room #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
Rose View Center, Rm. 313B
1201 Rural Ave.
Williamsport, PA 17701

Robert Swartz
1522 Country Club Lane
Williamsport, PA 17701

Beulah Wrede
Williamsport Home, Rm. 413
1900 Ravine Rd.
Williamsport, PA 17701

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

Join us for Christmas Caroling to our Shut-Ins!



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8th

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Celebrate the season with song as we visit those who aren't able to get out to join the festivities!

St. Mark's DECEMBER Calendar of Events

1 Sunday ~ Advent 1

8:00 AM Holy Communion
 9:15 AM Sunday School
 10:30 AM Holy Communion
 12:00 PM Advent Wreath-Making



2 Monday

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

3 Tuesday

8:00 AM City Pastor's @ SM
 9:00 AM Morning Prayer

4 Wednesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
 9:20 AM Staff Mtg. & Quilting
 10:00 AM Music Planning
 12:00 PM Pastor @ Ecumenical Luncheon/Pine St
 6:30 PM Parish Life
 7:00 PM Handbell

5 Thursday

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

6 Friday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

7 Saturday

8:00 AM Adult Cookie Bake
 5:00 PM Kids' Night Out

8 Sunday ~ Advent II

*Deadline for gifts to
 Selinsgrove Ctr. & Danville State*

8:00 AM Holy Communion
 9:00 AM Congregational Assembly
 9:15 AM Sunday School
 10:30 AM Children's Church
 10:30 AM Holy Communion
 11:45 AM Congregational Assembly
 12:15 PM The Way
 2:00 PM Caroling to Shut-Ins
 5:30 PM JOY @ Messiah



9 Monday *Pastor at STS ~ Danville*

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

10 Tuesday *Pastor at STS ~ Danville*

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
 6:00 PM Selinsgrove Ctr. Party

11 Wednesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
 9:20 AM Staff Mtg. & Quilting
 11:45 AM Bible Study
 7:00 PM Handbell

12 Thursday

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

13 Friday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

DECEMBER Calendar of Events continued

15 Sunday ~ Advent III

8:00 AM Holy Communion
 9:15 AM Sunday School
 10:30 AM Holy Communion
 12:00 PM Spaghetti Youth Dinner
 12:15 PM The Way
 3:00 PM WAHS Holiday Hoo~ Ha!
 6:00 PM Confirmands meal & mtg.

16 Monday ~ Lion Article Deadline

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
 6:00 PM Council Christmas Party
 7:00 PM Dog Club

17 Tuesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

18 Wednesday ~

Deadline to order Christmas Flowers

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
 9:20 AM Staff Mtg. & Quilting
 12:00 PM Lunch N' Fellowship
 7:00 PM Handbell

19 Thursday

6:31 AM Men's Ministry
 9:00 AM Morning Prayer
 9:30 AM LL Christmas Tea
 5:00 PM Daniel's Closet Drop Off
 7:00 PM Senior Choir

20 Friday

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

21 Saturday

9:00 AM Daniel's Closet

22 Sunday ~ Advent IV

8:00 AM Holy Communion
 9:15 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Holy Communion
 12:00 PM Decorate Nave
 6:00 PM Teen Movie Night

23 Monday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

24 Tuesday ~ Christmas Eve

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
 7:00 PM Holy Communion
 10:00 PM Holy Communion

25 Merry Christmas!

Our King is Born!



26 Thursday

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

27 Friday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
 9:20 AM Lion Crew
 10:00 AM Holiday Bread Baking

29 Sunday

8:00 AM Holy Communion
 9:15 AM Sunday School
 10:30 AM Holy Communion
 4:00 PM Remembrance Service



20 Friday

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

21 Saturday

9:00 AM Daniel's Closet

22 Sunday ~ Advent IV

8:00 AM Holy Communion
 9:15 AM Sunday School

30 Monday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

31 Tuesday ~ New Year's Eve

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

