



The Lion of St. Mark's

SEPTEMBER 2014



SUNDAY SCHOOL KICK-OFF BREAKFAST SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, AT 9:15 A.M! WHAT A GREAT WAY TO START THE YEAR!

August 31st: Please join us for breakfast & conversation in Fellowship Hall at 9:15
Meet with the teachers of our adult classes...find out what they're doing!
Meet with your child's teacher
Meet and mingle with students of all ages!!

...AND SO IT BEGAN:

On August 24th, the teachers of our elementary classes gathered for an overview of the curriculum for the year, asked questions and "re-grouped" after the summer!

...AND continues:

September 7th: regular classes for all ages resume at 9:15 in the Chapel, then...

Upstairs: Pre-K-2nd and 3rd-5th grades and Middle School
North Lounge: High School discussion group
Front Lounge: Young Adult Bible Study
Middle Lounge: Adult discussion group
Crossways Room: Adult class with Pastor Elkin



...IN addition:

NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS - This fall a new class will be offered for young adults (those just out of high school or adults with young children). This class will be lead by Declan Jones and Audrey Comerford. They will begin the class with a discussion on the Gospel of Luke. It will be held in the Front Lounge and will begin at 9:15am on September 7, 2014. If you have any questions please contact Declan Jones at fighterjock26@gmail.com.

**Michele and Bernadette wish to sincerely thank Sally Bjornstad and
Becky Miller Pryor
who have already volunteered to teach Sunday Church School this
year!**



We have two elementary classes which meet nine months a year.

***Please consider volunteering for one month,
Michele still needs teachers for September!***

INDEX & UPDATE

Inside This Issue:

Sunday School Kick-Off Breakfast & Events
 Index
 Council Update
 Parish Register
 Officer & Staff Contact Information
 Reconciliation Report.....
 Consecration Sunday
 John Bower Basketball League
 Crop Walk
 Operation Shoebox Group Pack 'N' Wrap
 Teen Movie Night.....
 Confirmation Sunday
 A Christmas Carol Auditions.....
 Women's Quilting Resumes.....
 Lunch 'N' Fellowship.....
 News from Around the World.....
 October Lion Article Deadline
 Daniel's Closet.....
 Fall Bazaar & Rummage Sale.....
 2nd Saturday
 Lycoming County Life Chain.....
 Join the Choir!.....
 New Catechetical Class Forming.....
 Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend.....
 The News in our Pews.....
 See you at the Pole
 Youth Encounter Weekend 2015.....
 Wilderness Escape VBS Thank You.....
 UCLC
 Special Concerns List.....
 Where in the world is Jane Kline?.....
 Birthdays & Anniversaries.....
 Stephen Ministry
 September Calendar—Large Print.....
 LSM School Of Religion Registration Insert

- 1
- 2
- 2
- 2
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 4
- 5
- 5
- 5
- 6
- 6
- 7
- 7
- 8
- 8
- 9
- 9
- 10
- 10
- 10
- 10
- 11
- 11
- 12
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 15
- 16
- 16
- 17

Council Update

The Congregation Council met in regular session on August 18 in the Library. The Council:

- † received reports of the pastor, officers, and committees.
- † moved to send a letter to the Council at Church of the Savior expressing condolence on the closing of that congregation, and offering a welcome place for any who might wish to bring their ministries to St. Mark's.
- † moved to send a letter of commendation for Jane Kline to First United Methodist Church of Ft. Smith, Arkansas, with regret.
- † moved to approve five persons for the rite of Affirmation of Baptism—Confirmation, pending completion of their final assignments: Mackenzie Doebler, Annika Waffenschmidt, Taylor Wentzel, Sadie Wentzel, Grace Schreckengast.
- † moved to accept the resignation of Paul Zimmerer as Property Committee chair.
- † heard about progress in several personnel matters, and moved approval of one.
- † moved to amend the Continuing Resolution "Working Description of Committee Functions" by dividing the work of the prior Mutual Ministry Committee into two new committees, Mutual Ministry and Personnel.
- † moved to task the Pastor and President with the joint responsibility to choose members for the Personnel Committee in a manner similar to how members of Mutual Ministry are chosen.

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 or 323-7367
 Jungwha Kim, Director of Music jkim@stmarkswilliamsport.org
 Bernadette Jones, Christian Ed. bjones@stmarkswilliamsport.org
 Michele Owen, Christian Ed. mowen@stmarkswilliamsport.org
 Graydon Yearick, Financial Sec. gyearick@stmarkswilliamsport.org
 Lou DeSeau, Environmental Serv. ldeseau@stmarkswilliamsport.org
 Susan M-Smith, Parish Secretary smsmith@stmarkswilliamsport.org
 Ray Huff, Council President rhuff6@verizon.net or his home phone 368-1473
 Gregg Dancho, Vice-President 435-2716
 Shelby Weber, Secretary 322-7149
 Wanda Fortin, Treasurer 337-3931
 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

Parish Register

- † Pastor Elkin officiated at the funeral service for Jeanette Stuempfle, a member of Messiah Church, on August 2, 2014 in the Noll Funeral Home with burial in Wildwood Cemetery.
- † Pastor Elkin officiated at the memorial service held for Eleanor Whiting on August 8, 2014 in the nave, with interment having taken place earlier that day in Wildwood Cemetery. A meal and conversation took place in Fellowship Hall afterward.
- † The "Progressions" Milestone was celebrated with three high school graduates on August 3: Steve Boone, Riley Weber, Devin Owen; and with Emily Newcomer on August 8.
- † The "70+, Single, and Still Praising God" Milestone was celebrated with a dozen senior members on August 24, with recognition at the 10:30 service and a luncheon following.

Reconciliation Update from your Council President and Pastor

Many in the congregation have been awaiting news of the outcome of the Synod Reconciliation Team's progress and findings. We are grateful to Kenneth Roush, Pastor Cheryl Berner, and Dorothy Anderson for their work on behalf of the members of St. Mark's. The panel was joined by Pastor Elkin, Jane Kline, Lou Kolb, Walt Haussmann, and Ray Huff who heard 48 congregation members over a series of afternoons and evenings. The synod panel then met with the full Synod Reconciliation Team to discuss and formulate their response.

The Congregational Council received the final report in May, and after allowing time to digest the findings, met again a week later. Council addressed the most immediately pressing areas and began work on them. Council adopted the recommendations at July's meeting. Council then decided that it was only proper that the Mutual Ministry committee be next to hear the report, and so it was given to the committee on August 11. Since the two most involved parties of the church have been notified, it is now time to notify the congregation of what the team saw, heard, and recommended.

What the panel saw and heard

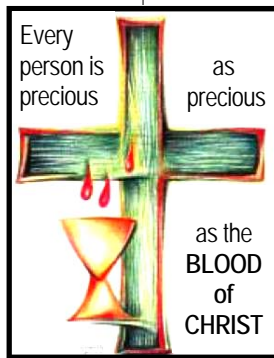
The panel recognized that conflict has been simmering here for some years. They observed "that people have taken sides and have become more interested in winning than acting as Christians to continue the Lord's work" for the church. They remind us that "reconciliation is difficult and will require everyone involved to confirm their willingness to forgive one another." "The test of that statement will be if people love the church enough to let go of their hurt, forgive those who hurt them, and allow Christ to be the center of life at St. Mark's." The panel has said again and again that it is quite evident that the members love the church. The panel also stated that St. Mark's, above all of the other congregations with whom they have worked, shows the most hope and promise for advancement.

The recommendations

The team gave 11 recommendations that were arranged in no particular order. Council decided to work on the most pressing ones first, and then follow through on the others. This process will not be finished overnight. Much work must be done by the church council, staff, and committees to get things done and done rightly.

The recommendations that council addressed first involved personnel matters involving responsibilities, supervision and communication. We must all be mindful that personnel issues are confidential and not for open discussion.

The other findings involved "covenants of how people will interact with each other", "working through conflict", and "developing guidelines on the use of communication". "Face-to-face communications are required." It seems that we are more apt to talk about someone rather than to that person. This can cause problems.



Other recommendations included council and committee structure. Council will need help in establishing goals. We need to "review the committee structure and make sure that they are serving the needs of St. Mark's." The responsibilities of the current Mutual Ministry Committee will be divided into a Mutual Ministry Committee and a Personnel Committee. Both of these new committees will receive written resources to help organize their work. The Mutual Ministry Committee will base its work on the Handbook provided by the Synod, while the Personnel Committee will receive a model from another congregation and use it to develop an expanded personnel handbook and perform the human resources functions. This committee and the Council will also "review the staff evaluation process."

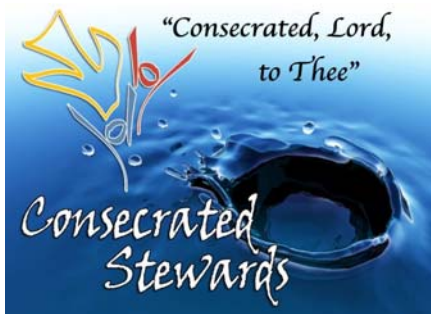
We have much to do. We love St. Mark's and we must keep that in mind. We will not always agree about everything. We are a family, and a family must find ways of working together while still honoring the gifts and varieties of skills, interests, and opinions of individuals within the family. We will be hearing more about our progress as the work continues.

The congregation's leadership will be sitting down with members of the congregation in the front pews of the nave after each worship service on August 31. [You may wish to bring this page as reference.] We will be glad to consider any questions or comments. We will not respond to personnel issues because of the confidential nature of those issues. All voices have been given a chance to be heard. It is now time for us to heed the advice of an "outside eye" which can sometimes see what we don't see. Most of all, we pray that the Holy Spirit will lead us to His goal for St. Mark's.

Ray Huff, Council President
The Rev. Kenneth Elkin, Pastor

CONSECRATION SUNDAY

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



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

It is time to put those words into our hearts and into action. Consecration Sunday is October 19 this year. We understand the concept that, from a biblical perspective, financial stewardship is not money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, we know that financial contributions are a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes. Since this goes against our natural tendencies to want to regard everything as our own possessions, we must continue to think about this and make it a part of our life a bit at a time. Consecration Sunday is a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving. Again, we are responding with joy and thanksgiving.

Every attendee and member, who completes an Estimate of Giving Card, does so voluntarily while attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday, October 19. We urge everyone to attend, even those who are hesitant to complete a card, because the procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and commit everyone to attend worship on Consecration Sunday, October 19. In the coming weeks, please think prayerfully about the blessings God has given to you, and about how you are called to share those blessings.

The other part of the event is the celebration meal that follows each worship service on October 19. At services on October 5 and 12 we'll be asking for your reservation for the breakfast following the 8:30 service or the lunch following the 10:30 service on Consecration Sunday. It is important that every member take part.

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

JOHN BOWER BASKETBALL SIGN-UPS

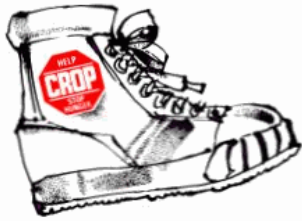
Sign-ups for this league will be in October. At this time we no longer have coaches or enough players to form our own teams.

If you are interested in playing or coaching please contact Michele Owen at 570-323-0610 or email her at mowen@stmarkswilliamsport.org. We will get an application to you if you are a player and make sure you are put on a team for another church.

Please let Michele know by October 8th if you wish to play or are interested in coaching so we know if we have enough players to form our own team(s).



CROPWALK 2014!



Our community's annual walk to fight hunger, the CROP Walk, is scheduled for Sunday, October 12, 2014 at 1:30 P.M. at the River Walk in Williamsport! Registration will begin at 1:00 P.M. in St. Mark's south parking lot! You will select your River Walk route for a 3, 6 or 10 mile walk or anywhere in between. Thank you to all who walked and donated for the CROP Walk in 2013.

Last year's CROP Walk brought over thirty churches, synagogues, and organizations together for this worthy cause—over 250 people walked! 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. Since the Walk began 33 years ago, Lycoming County has earned over \$1-million!

Group Operation Shoebox Pack 'N' Wrap



OUR GROUP PACK 'N' WRAP IS SCHEDULED FOR

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2 AFTER THE 10:30 SERVICE

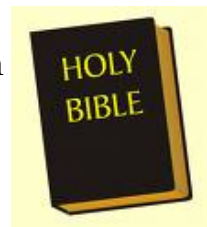
Time's a-wasting! Don't wait until the last minute and miss the sales: start now picking up small boxes of crayons, wash cloths, hair accessories, brushes/combs, tablets, toothpaste/brushes, pencil sharpeners, small toys...you know what we mean...

Mark your calendars now, so you can join us then!!!

Our Bible Studies Continue

Wednesdays Join Pastor Elkin and the gang at 12:00 on Wednesdays for good conversation, song, laughter...and to learn things, too!! Feel free to bring your lunch as you enter into study with us. This year, we are continuing a study of Psalms.

Thursdays are for the early-birds on Thursday mornings, these men have a 30-minute study at 6:31 A.M. each week. This fall we are continuing with the book *Paul for Everyone: The Prison Letters* by N. T. Wright. Right now we are halfway through Ephesians. We read scripture and a section from the book, discuss both, and conclude with a hymn related to the theme of the day. It is a lively half-hour early in the morning.



TEEN MOVIE NIGHT

Sunday, Sept 28, 6 pm

Bring a treat! Bring a friend! Just join us!



Confirmation Sunday

SAVE THE DATE!!! MAKENSI DOEBLER, GRACE SCHRECKENGAST, TAYLOR WENTZEL, SADIE WENTZEL, AND ANNIKA WAFFENSCHMITT

are being confirmed on SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2014!

They have successfully finished their two-year course of study and summer Confirmation Camp with Pastor Elkin. Their mentors are Michele Owen, Donna Elkin, Jane Kline, Chele Fredericks, and Diana Zeigler, respectively. Our thanks go out to these ladies for their dedication to these girls and the program; thanks also to the parents for their encouragement and participation.

A Christmas Carol Auditions



On Friday, December 12; Saturday, December 13; and possibly Sunday, Dec. 14, 2014, Lutheran Shared Ministry (LSM) will present *A Christmas Carol* dinner theatre style, in Fellowship Hall at St. Mark's Lutheran Church. All donations will go to UCM of Penn College.

On Sunday, September 28, at 3:00 p.m., and Monday September 19, at 6:30 p.m., auditions and a volunteer sign-up will be held in the Nave at St. Mark's. Willing folk from all the congregations in LSM are welcome to audition and sign up to assist with meal preparation and service, scenic construction and painting, costumes, props and other technical needs.

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

A Christmas Carol is adapted and directed by Bernadette Haas Jones.

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

So, please think about this wonderful opportunity for our churches to get together at this special time of year; pencil us in on your calendars; and join us for Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*.

Come to St. Mark's on September 28th or 29th to find out more!!!



The Women are kicking off another year of quilting & collecting!

Quilts

We are recruiting new quilters! We begin on Wednesday, September 3, at 9:15 a.m. If you wish to join in Morning Prayer or just have a cup of coffee, come at 9 a.m. Those who prefer to tie knots meet in the Middle Lounge. Another group assembles and bastes the quilt layers together in Fellowship Hall. Just bring a pair of scissors and a smile. Parts of the quilting process are done by machines in homes, including the fashioning of the quilt tops. **URGENTLY NEEDED AT THIS TIME is an additional person to help with the final step - binding the edges of the quilts.** Please contact Shirley Hill or any of the quilters if you are interested in any of the above.



Quilting Materials Always Needed

Many thanks to everyone who responded to our request several months ago for quilting materials. Your great cooperation was very much appreciated! Please keep them coming. Particularly needed are large pieces of fabric for quilt tops, gently used sheets for backings, and old flannel sheets and blankets for fillers.

Kits and Soap Due

All kits and soap bars should be handed in by September 14th. God has commissioned us to be His face and hands to help those in need.

Many Opportunities To Assist:

Wednesday September 3
Quilting starts - 9:15 a.m.

Tuesday September 9
Bring up rummage from basement - 7 p.m.

Wednesday September 10
Set-up for Bazaar - 9 a.m. to noon

Thursday September 11
Set-up for Bazaar - 9 a.m. to noon

Friday September 12
Set-up for Bazaar - 9 a.m. to noon



Saturday, September 13 - 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
BAZAAR & RUMMAGE SALE
Extra help to pack & clean up after 1 p.m.

Sunday September 28
Bring up quilts from basement - 9:15 a.m.

Wednesday October 1
Decorate Nave with quilts - 9 to 10 a.m.

Sunday October 5 - Blanket Sunday

Wednesday October 8 - 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Pack quilts and kits for shipping

Lunch 'N' Fellowship

Wednesday, September 17th at Noon

Serving Soup & Sandwiches

Bring a dish to share and a friend!



Daniel's Closet

Saturday, September 27th 9:00 am – 11:00 am Redeemer Lutheran Church

It is Back-To-School time. As you prepare for your children and grandchildren to return to school, please consider donating their no longer needed clothing to the children who visit Daniel's Closet. Socks and underwear are always in short supply. Backpacks, lightweight jackets and school supplies are also distributed at this time. The greatest needs are for infant and children's clothing and plus-size clothing for men and women. Shoes and sneakers in good condition for all family members are always needed. September's outreach is scheduled as follows.

- † Drop-Off at Redeemer Lutheran Church will be Thursday, September 25, 2014 from 5:00 pm – 6:00pm.
- † Other times for drop off may be arranged by calling Redeemer's office at 570-322-2333. Michele Owen has also offered to take any clothing brought to St. Mark's to Redeemer.
- † Distribution will be Saturday, September 27, 2014 from 9:00 am – 11:00am.



Got Stuff? We Can Sell It At The Fall

Saturday, September 13, 2014 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Set-Up Times ~ Please mark your calendars and plan to help:

"Great Grab and Go" Tuesday, September 9, 2014 @ 6:30 PM

Wednesday 9/10, Thursday 9/11, Friday 9/12

from 9:15 AM - Noon daily



The Women of St. Mark's need your no-longer-needed items for our annual bazaar.

Habitat Luncheon Thank You!

Becky Miller Pryor extends both thanks and appreciation to the members of the congregation who donated food items or money for our outreach to Habitat for Humanity. On July 25, 2014 we served a delicious picnic lunch complete with grilled hotdogs at Habitat's current build in Newberry. Fifteen volunteers from Faith UMC, a Habitat building supervisor and the soon-to-be new owner were thankful for our outreach. Special thanks go to Donna Elkin, Todd Smith and Barb Thomas for their assistance onsite.



News From Around The World...

Holy Land: ELCA presiding bishop joins call for peace

Amid the recent conflict between Israel and Hamas, the Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, ELCA presiding bishop, called for a just resolution in a letter to the bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. Visit www.ELCA.org/News-and-Events/7681.

Border crisis: learn more about the unaccompanied children

"It was either this or be murdered," said young Javier, referring to his recent flight from the violence in Central America to the U.S. border. Bishop Michael Rinehart of the ELCA Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod recently talked with children at a Texas transitional facility. Visit <http://www.ELCA.org/Living-Lutheran/Blogs/2014/07/140729-A-visit-with-children-at-the-border>. ELCA leaders have also called for treating the children with dignity and compassion. Visit www.ELCA.org/News-and-Events/7688.

Central African Republic: Lutheran church leader speaks about the war

"Muslims and Christians have lived side-by-side peacefully in our country for years; this conflict is not a religious war," says the Rev. André Golike, president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Central African Republic. Visit www.ELCA.org/News-and-Events/blogs/ELCALutheranDisasterResponse/262.

Japan: Greetings from Tokyo!

For an update from ELCA missionaries Timothy and Mari McKenzie on their ministry in Tokyo, including their worship at a nearly century-old Lutheran church that survived the rain of bombs during World War II, visit www.ELCA.org/News-and-Events/blogs/HandInHand/435.

Middle East and North Africa: strengthening Arab-Christian evangelical witness

Arab Christians have requested our help to strengthen their evangelical witness by training lay preachers and developing Christian educational and confirmation materials. Make an online gift at <https://community.ELCA.org/jordanholyland> or request more information by contacting global-church@elca.org.

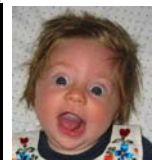
Thank you to the Women of the ELCA

At the closing worship service at the Ninth Triennial Gathering July 24-27 in Charlotte, N.C., the offering provided \$20,824.53 for scholarships for international women leaders, a program of ELCA Global Church Sponsorship. As part of *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*, our church has committed to raising up 200 global women through educational opportunities. Learn more at www.ELCA.org/InternationalLeaders.

October Lion Article Deadline

**All articles for the October issue of the Lion are due
No later than Friday, September 12th. Thank You!**

The Nursery is Open!



It's true! The nursery is now open and staffed during the 10:30 service!

We're STILL making Pizza!!!



We had to cancel our August date due to a funeral and in September due to the Women's Bazaar.
We will be making PIZZA on Saturday, October 11th starting at 10 AM.
 We will eat what we make for lunch that day.
Please call Janet (570-772-1184) to sign up!
We hope to see you in the kitchen with Janet!



Lycoming County Life Chain



Lycoming County Life Chain will be held Sunday, October 5, 2014, on the Golden Strip (East Third Street) of Loyalsock Township at 2:30 p.m. Area churches are invited to participate in this peaceful prayer event. This is the 23rd year. Please see Pastor Elkin if you are interested in this event.

NEW CATECHETICAL CLASS FORMING!

Letters inviting students to become a part of the confirmation process have been sent. If you have a student in sixth or seventh grade and have not received one of these letters, PLEASE LET US KNOW. Sometimes we miss things in the computer system. If you have an older child who has not been confirmed, please contact us. We can include anyone who wishes to become a part of the process. If a youth is a lot older than the other students, he or she is also welcome to participate in the Way. Please call Pastor Elkin or Bernadette at 323-4619, email (addresses in the front of the newsletter), or Facebook. Those who have received letters, please notify us of your intent immediately! Mentors have to be notified and supplies and resources have to be ordered and prepared.
Special note: we may have a couple of students joining us from St. Michael Lutheran church this year. Please make them feel welcome at St. Mark's!

Invitation to Join Our Choir?!

Now it is time to bring people to the chancel to sing with Senior Choir. Doubtlessly St. Mark's is the church filled with people who love music and sing, play instruments along. It has been our tradition to keep up manifestation of our musical gifts through worship regardless of ages. If you are able to stand, you are qualified to join. No restrictions from infants to any ages. If you can make time Thursday night between 7 - 8 pm, you are one of us.

It is time to consider senior choir as "intergenerational choir," because we need help from any ages!!!

It frustrates that some of choir members don't join us regularly due to job, health, and more, but we hold fast to glorify God through our voice as Paul wrote in Philippians 3:13 ~ *"This one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."*



Are you one of us who love music and participate? Do you imagine worship without choir soon?
 Anxiously, Jungwha

Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend

ATTENTION MARRIED COUPLES!

Fall is the perfect time to fall in love with your spouse all over again!



That is what couples overwhelmingly report is the result of attending a Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend, whether you have been married a year or 50 years! Weekends run from Friday at 8 PM to Sunday around 4 PM, and you can reserve your spot by paying a \$45 per couple registration fee. Toward the end of the weekend, you will then be given an opportunity to make a confidential contribution of whatever amount you wish toward continuation of the program. Two nights lodging, 5 meals for each of you, and all supplies are included. Sign up **now** to get the Fall 2014 Weekend of your choice:

- † September 12-14 at Spruce Lake Retreat Center, Canadensis, PA--brand-new, beautiful, hotel-style building on Spruce Lake in the heart of the Poconos, an hour north of Allentown.
- † September 26-28 at the Olmsted Retreat Center in Ludlow, PA--lovely, hotel-style retreat center perched on a hillside in the Allegheny National Forest, an hour north of DuBois.

To sign up for a Weekend, simply go to the website: **www.GodLovesMarriage.org**, fill out the form, and pay the registration fee with a credit card, or select the option to mail a check.

For questions, or if you would like a brochure with registration form mailed to you, contact PA Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber, at: **fjschamber@comcast.net** or **724-325-3166**.

The News in Our Pews

Wow! It seems like only yesterday when we were awaiting the first robins of spring and now here we are almost time to get the lunch boxes and back packs for the first day of school! Every year the days seems to go much faster- Harold remarked that he had to use the awning in the kitchen because the angle of the sun had already shifted.

There was a nice feature in the Sun Gazette about the retirement of **Rick Coulter**, curriculum supervisor of the Williamsport Area School District. Rick was pictured in alpine gear mountain climbing in Colorado. He recently retired after 25 years with the district in a variety of roles, beginning with music, then growing to K-12 art, gifted, health and physical education and grades seven through 12 curriculum areas of social studies, science and world languages. No wonder he was ready to retire! He is planning to spend time perfecting his trumpet technique so we will look forward to those wonderful trumpet accompaniments at Easter and other festivals!

A nice picture of **James Newcomer** at Hope's Community Employment Services program. The group was working to help open Pizza Hut to improve their job and life skills!

A budding composer in our midst – **Max Hospes**, a member of the new Cutters drum line which performs at pregame and the bottom of the fourth and seventh innings, composed a new piece called "Foul Ball." The director calls it a "very cool piece" and had it performed by the group.

Sadie Wentzel, one of our Wentzel twins, was part of the cast for CTL's production of "The King and I" and is also performing in "The Little Mermaid." Good job, Sadie!

Sean Jensen continues to accumulate lots of trophies in his weeks of basketball camps – soon he will need a case to display them all!

Enjoy what is left of your summer and keep in touch!

~Joyce Anne Hershberger

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

See You At The Pole 2014!



***“NEVER STOP PRAYING,
ESPECIALLY FOR OTHERS.”***

~ EPHESIANS 6:18a CEV

The 2014 theme verse follows Paul’s famous passage on the armor of God, challenging and encouraging Christ followers to stand strong in the Lord and be His representatives to share the Good News of the Gospel.

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

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

One of the amazing aspects of See You at the Pole™ is the spiritual harvest that continues on. After students rally together at their flagpole in September, Bible clubs, prayer groups, and evangelism takes place all year long. Many churches work together to sponsor before and after the Pole rallies for students. Whether a single student standing alone, two or three huddled together in unity, or hundreds gathered in front of the school, See You at the Pole™ is about students praying for awakening on campuses all over the world.

Wednesday, September 24 7:00a.m. AWAKEN AND PRAY!

Youth Encounter Weekend 2015



“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.”

A transformational weekend for grades 6-12 where lives will be renewed and

January 23-25, 2015 Pittsburgh, PA
 Early Bird registration November 6, 2014
 \$144 (\$159 then 'til 12/18, \$174 after that)
\$60 due by above date

Interest meeting Sept. 14, after 10:30 service

THE JUNKER GEORGES

They are an acoustic-based rock/folk duo/trio/quartet, depending on who actually shows up. Founding members Ryan and Todd have been playing music coast to coast since 2003. As primary songwriter and guitarist, Todd is a Level-12 Disney trivia master, coffee connoisseur, and was voted “Most Likely to be killed by a Pirate.” Ryan (drums/muscle) would much rather be playing for the Flyers, Eagles, or Phillies. He is serving a record 23rd consecutive term as President of the West Roebling Aerosmith fan club. They love Jesus, eating, and hanging out. What else is there?

MISSION/SERVICE

Connecting our weekend of worship with the mission of the church, this event will include meal packaging sessions in partnership with Harvest Pack. Session participants will have a chance to help in the packaging line, and learn more about the issue of hunger in the world, as we work together to “Share the Harvest”.

Wilderness Escape Thank You

WILDERNESS ESCAPE Vacation Bible School was held Monday, July 21, through Friday, July 25. We had a great time! Most of the children were from outside of St. Mark's, when asked how they found out about us, they answered "the billboard!" One family responded to the banner on Via Bella.

Youth newly stepping into leadership roles were Taylor Wentzel (in one of the craft booths, after the Jones family became disabled), Jacob Schreckengast (crafts), Stefan Weber and Evan Barro-ne (games).

Bernadette would like to extend special thanks to her own, Schreckengast and Zeigler families, without whom VBS would have been seriously hindered.

Makensie Doebler, Grace Schreckengast, Sara Jones, Jacob Schreckengast, and Hayley Springer worked hard during the June workday/overnight.

Dan Zeigler (Moses) and Bob Jones (Whiner) creatively told the story of how God helped the Israelites to escape Egypt and survive through the wilderness. The many props for this were, thankfully, collected by Kathy Eshelman The VBS coordinator from Calvary Baptist Church, Elizabeth Paulhamus, created wonderful palm trees for the Israelite camp's oasis, helped us paint, and loaned us a realistic" fire" for Moses ' tent. At the end of the week, many of our things went with her for their VBS the 3rd week of August. Great cooperative efforts!

We renewed acquaintances with old friends, made some new friends, and got to know our church family better! Two dozen children and over a dozen youth were involved. The mission of-ferings were again for Heifer International (we're awaiting an official count). It was a week full of fun and love.

**THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!
How many times can we say it? THANKYOU!!!**

The following people were just amazing
and we couldn't have had such a successful VBS without them:

| | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Bob Miller | Connie Shaible | Taylor Wentzel |
| Janet Jones | Hayley Springer | Ben Haussmann |
| Vicki Haussmann | Laura Schreckengast | Hannah Haussmann |
| Jonah Schreckengast | Sara Jones | Brandon Fortin |
| Sadie Wentzel | Evan Barone | Melanie Santo |
| Anna Zeigler | Laura Zeigler | Brenda Gair |
| Stefan Weber | Michele Owen | Bob Jones |
| Grace Schreckengast | Dan Zeigler | Matt Fortin |
| Makensie Doebler | Declan Jones | Kathy Eshelman |
| Shirley Hill | Jungwha Kim | Bob Jones |
| Lucille Weaver | Wanda Fortin | Jacob Schreckengast |
| Gillian Buckman | Ben Haussmann | Mel & Mindy Wentzel |
| Dylan Ott | Bob Jones | Donna Elkin |
| Pr. Elkin | Ken Schreckengast | Deb Buckman |
| Linda DeSeau | Lou DeSeau | Diana Zeigler |

THANK YOU ONE AND ALL!!

United Churches of Lycoming County

FOOD PANTRY ITEMS CURRENTLY NEEDED:

Oodles of Noodles
 Tomato Soup
 Canned Fruits
 Powdered Drinks
 Coffee Creamer (powdered)

Mac-n-cheese
 Chicken Noodle Soup
 Tea Bags
 Ketchup & Mustard
 Hamburger Helper (any flavor)

Granola Bars
 Chunky Soup
 Spaghetti Sauce
 Saltine Crackers
 Pasta

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

**Tuesdays/Thursdays from 10-3 clients by appointment only 570-322-1657
 Castellano Center, 320 Park Ave., Williamsport, PA**



 **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!**

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.
SEPTEMBER:
 10 - **Rev. Larry K. Waltz**, President, Blooming Grove Historical Society, **"The Underground Railroad and Blooming Grove"**
 17 - **Rev. Gwen N. Bernstine**, Executive Director, United Churches, **"What It Means To Be Ecumenical"**
 24 - **Mrs. Pam Markle Hansen**, Thrivent Financial Associate, **"Protecting Yourself From Identity Theft"**

Volunteers for Heartworks the children's grief support program of Susquehanna Health Home Care & Hospice are needed.

A 20+ hour volunteer training program is scheduled for later August. Our comprehensive training program provides volunteers with the tools they need to give loving and compassionate support to grieving children, teens, and their families. Volunteering requires a one year commitment to our bi-monthly Tuesday evening meetings throughout the school year.

You can check out the Heartworks website at www.SusquehannaHealth.org/Heartworks to learn more about the program. We are especially in need of more male volunteers (though we would very much welcome new female volunteers too).

For more information on volunteering, call Linda Bryant, Heartworks coordinator or Cherrie Serra, Bereavement Liason at 570-320-7691 or 888-499-3177.

The 9/11 Memorial Bike Ride

will be held again this year. The ride begins in Montgomery at the Clinton Township Fire Hall. There will be a blessing of the Fallen Warrior Cards and Sending Forth during the brief opening ceremony at 4:45 p.m. Area pastors will be participating. The congregational and individual support our community provides for this ride is one of the reasons it is so successful. Hearing the church bells ringing, a bell choir or two playing at curbside, seeing flags displayed and reading encouraging posters as they ride along the route of the ride is so impressive it often moves bikers and spectators to tears.

Fun Day In Brandon Park: "Be Cool, Stay In School"

You are invited to join in a day of family fun, drug awareness and health education on Saturday, September 6 (rain date September 13th) from 10 a.m.—2 p.m. There will be a petting zoo - pony rides, clown and balloons, horse & buggy rides, a visit with our police dog, fire trucks, face painting, and table games. You'll be able to get acquainted with the school police officer Jason Bolt. Parents will find lots of pamphlets available with valuable information. There will also be hot dogs, soda, water and snacks. This event is sponsored by Williamsport Hospital, County officials, City officials, Individuals and all Neighborhood Watches in Williamsport.

Special Concerns List

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

Edith Anderson
Rose View Center
1201 Rural Ave.
Williamsport, PA 17701

Jane Angle
Rose View Court, Room 206
1251 Rural Ave.
Williamsport, PA 17701

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

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

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 1782



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

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
1201 Rural Ave.
Williamsport, PA 17701

Robert Swartz
1522 Country Club Lane
Williamsport, PA 17701

Henrietta Tyson
Valley View Nursing Ctr. Rm. 601
2140 Warrensville Rd.
Montoursville, PA 17754

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

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

Greeters Needed!

Can you smile? Can you say "Welcome to St. Mark's"? Can you shake someone's hand?

Then you have the skills needed to be a Sunday Morning greeter!

Anyone can be a greeter. Any age can greet.

Even if you attend the early service you can still be a second service greeter.

Shirley Vognet has graciously volunteered to schedule greeters.

Please call her (323-0335) and let her know which Sunday you are available.



Where in the world is Jane Kline? We know!

Ms. Jane Kline's new home address:
9120 Brooken Oaks, Ft Smith, AR 72908

Jane Kline's new email address:
janart1954@gmail.com

Happy Birthday!

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

09/12 Theodore Larson Jr.
 09/12 Beth Shafranko
 09/12 Mary Ann Stiller
 09/12 Marion Waldeisen



09/13 Timothy Maggs
 09/13 Stefan Weber
 09/15 Shirley MacGill
 09/15 Andrea Welker
 09/16 Luella Bair
 09/17 Tammy Fitzpatrick
 09/18 Abreanna Doane
 09/19 Audrey Bower

09/19 Deborah Holmes
 09/20 Richard Harris
 09/22 Ronald Arner
 09/22 Brittany Dewar
 09/24 Aeris Powley
 09/26 Blanche Doebler
 09/26 Abbigail Robertson
 09/27 Michael Elliott
 09/27 Jonathan Lynch
 09/28 Lawrence Satifka
 09/28 Bailey Sims
 09/28 David Williams
 09/30 Pamela Fink

Happy Anniversary!

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



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

STEPHEN MINISTRY: GOD GIVES THE GROWTH

PLANT THE SEED: Stephen Ministry is our congregation's one-to-one care-giving ministry. God works through Stephen Ministers to plant a seed of hope and healing in a person whose life seems barren and forlorn because of some crisis or tragedy.

WHAT DO STEPHEN MINISTERS DO? Stephen Ministers:

- † Listen
- † Explore feelings
- † Pray
- † Share Christ's love
- † Maintain confidentiality
- † Attend to the care-giving process and leave the results to God



WATER THE SEED: Stephen Ministry training will equip you and our congregation will support you, so that you can show God's mercy, care and compassion to another who is hurting. You will walk beside your care receiver, pray for him or her, and help him and her through life's difficulties.

GOD WILL MAKE IT GROW: Through this ministry God will bring forth new life and renewed faith in both your care receiver and in you as a Stephen Minister.

IS GOD CALLING YOU TO SERVE IN THIS WAY?

To learn more about becoming a Stephen Minister contact
 Kathy Eshelman (220-0774) or Pastor Elkin (323-4619)

A NEW TRAINING CLASS IS STARTING SOON!

St. Mark's September Calendar of Events

1 Monday

Labor Day - Office Closed



2 Tuesday

8:00 AM City Pastor's @ SM

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

10:00 AM Staff Reviews

3 Wednesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

9:20 AM Staff Mtg & Quilting

10:00 AM Staff Reviews

12:00 PM Bible Study

1:00 PM Pericope Study Group

4 Thursday

6:31 AM Men's Ministry

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

5 Friday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

6 Saturday

10:00 AM "Be Cool, Stay In School"
Fun Day in Brandon Park

7 Sunday ~ Pentecost XIII

8:00 AM Holy Communion

9:15 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Confirmation

10:30 AM Holy Communion

8 Monday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

7:00 PM Civic Chorus Rehearsal

9 Tuesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

6:30 PM "Great Grab & Go"

bring up bazaar items from basement

10 Wednesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

9:00 AM Set up for Bazaar

9:20 AM Staff Meeting

12:00 PM Bible Study

1:00 PM Pericope Study Group

11 Thursday

6:31 AM Men's Ministry

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

9:00 AM Set up for Bazaar

7:00 PM Senior Choir

12 Friday Lion Article Deadline

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

9:00 AM Set up for Bazaar

13 Saturday

9:00 AM Bazaar

14 Sunday ~ Pentecost XIV

Kits & soap due

8:00 AM Holy Communion

9:15 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Children's Church

10:30 AM Holy Communion

11:45 AM YouthQuake Info. Mtg.

5:30 PM JOY @ Messiah

15 Monday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

6:00 PM Civic Chorus Board

6:30 PM Council Mtg.

7:00 PM Civic Chorus Rehearsal

7:00 PM Dog Club

September Calendar of Events continued

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

1:00 PM Pericope Study Group

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

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

9:20 AM Lion Crew

21 Sunday ~ Pentecost XV

8:00 AM Holy Communion

9:15 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Holy Communion

6:00 PM Confirmands meal & mtg

22 Monday

Pastor @ STS Retreat in Chicago

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

6:00 PM LSM Mtg. @ St. Mark's

7:00 PM Civic Chorus Rehearsal

23 Tuesday Pastor @ Chicago

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

24 Wednesday Pastor @ Chicago

7:00 AM See You @ The Pole

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

9:20 AM Quilting

12:00 PM Bible Study

1:00 PM Pericope Study Group

25 Thursday Pastor @ Chicago

6:31 AM Men's Ministry

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

5:00 PM Daniel's Closet Drop Off

7:00 PM Senior Choir

26 Friday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

27 Saturday

9:00 AM Daniel's Closet

@ Redeemer Lutheran

28 Sunday ~ Pentecost XVI

8:00 AM Holy Communion

9:15 AM Sunday School

10:30 AM Holy Communion

2:30 PM Therapy Dog Trials

3:00 PM Auditions for Christmas Carol LSM Fundraiser

6:00 PM Teen Movie Night



29 Monday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

6:30 PM Auditions for Christmas Carol LSM Fundraiser

6:30 PM Personnel Committee Mtg

7:00 PM Civic Chorus Rehearsal

30 Tuesday

Safe Serve Food Handling Training for Pastor & Bob Jones

9:00 AM Morning Prayer