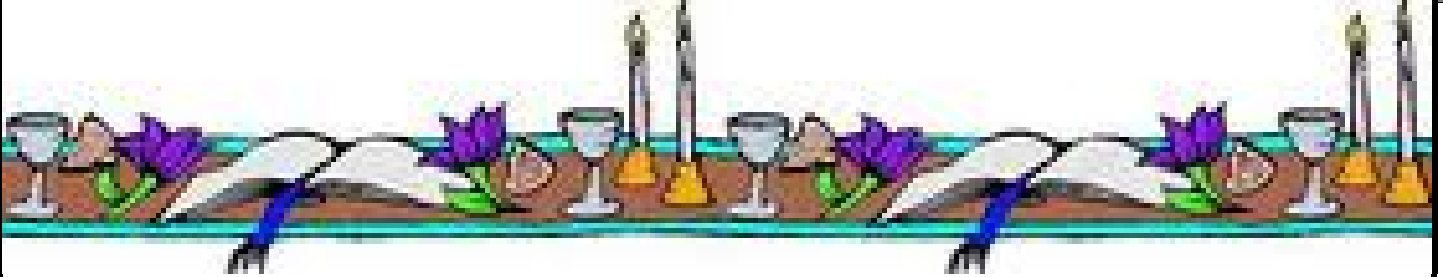




The Lion of St. Mark's

APRIL 2015



We have a full round of worship and activities set for Holy Week:



Palm Sunday, March 29

The **Sunday of the Passion**, beginning with the palm procession, at **8 and 10:30**.

Wednesday, April 1

The **Passover Seder** in Fellowship Hall at **6:15**. Please make reservations for this event, where we remember in food, scripture, prayer, and song all that God has done to rescue his people in the Exodus event.



Thursday, April 2

Maundy Thursday, the day of the mandate of foot-washing and *anamnesis*, that is, the making-present type of remembrance concerning our Lord Jesus at **12 in the chapel and 7 in the nave**.



Good Friday, April 3

The community is invited to gather from **12 – 3 in the Nave** for six portions of the passion story preceded by the prophecy from Isaiah and the Bidding Prayer. Some may wish to join Pr. Elkin in procession around the central blocks of the city as a public witness



as we are remembering Jesus on the way to the cross. We gather again at **7 PM for Good Friday Tenebrae, the Service of Shadows**, where the nave



gets increasingly dark as we move through the passion story until the final light is removed as we hear that Jesus is

buried.

Saturday, April 4

In the morning preparations are made and in the evening we gather for the **Great Vigil of Easter at 8PM**. This is the most significant, color-filled, and wonderful service of the entire year. It brings together all of the topics that we have been exploring, all of the hopes of mankind, and rehearses all the promises of God for his people. Do not let this opportunity get away! Everyone is encouraged to make this service a top priority.



Resurrection Sunday, April 5

The celebration that began last night continues on Easter Day, and indeed throughout the next seven weeks of the season.

Yes, it is a lot, but the investment of your time and energy together with our brothers and sisters in Christ brings great benefit to the whole body of the congregation and to each individual as well. Mark your calendar now.

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Council Update

- 1 The Congregation Council met for its final regular session in
- 2 the program year on Monday, March 16, 2015 in the Libra-
- 2 ry. The Council:
- 3 † Received the regular reports of the pastor, officers, and
- 3 committees.
- 3 † Volunteered some of its members for serving at the
- 4 Seder meal on April 1
- 4 † Noted that the Conference Assembly will be on May 3
- 4 at St. Michaels.
- 5 † Volunteered to sign up for several of the available vases
- 5 of flowers on the upcoming calendar.
- 5 † Approved an entry in the Little League parade.
- 6 † Thanked the various volunteers who help to care for
- 7 property matters.
- 7 † Combined six elements into a single motion regarding
- 8 the church boiler project:
- 8 a. Approving the bid from Billtown for the boiler re-
- 8 placement, in the amount of \$58,550
- 9 b. Noting that there will be an additional cost for Asbes-
- 9 tos abatement, not yet established.
- 10 c. Approving an honorarium to Mr. Charles Enigk,
- 10 consultant
- 11 d. Establishing a 5% contingency fund for the project
- 11 e. Informing the congregation about the proposed pro-
- 12 ject, and soliciting contributions toward reducing the
- 12 amount that would have to be taken from our re-
- 13 serves.
- 13 f. Alerting the congregation that the proposed project
- 14 will be an item of business at the Annual Congrega-
- 14 tion Assembly on May 17, 2015.
- 15 † Reviewed progress on the Reconciliation Report.
- 16 † Prayed the office of Prayer at the Close of the Day.
- 16 † Noted that the next meeting will be May 18, 2015, the
- 17 day after the Congregation Assembly.

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 stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org

Ray Huff, Council President rhuff6@verizon.net

or his home phone 368-1473

Walt Haussmann, Vice-President 525-3283

Shelby Weber, Secretary 322-7149

Wanda Fortin, Treasurer 337-3931

Mel Wentzel, Director, *The Way* 327-8286

Kathy Eshelman, Stephen Ministry 433-0522

Michele Fredericks, Parish Life michele.l.fredericks@gmail.com

Donna Elkin, Family Promise donnaelkin@gmail.com or

323-7367 (home) or 419-2949 (cell)

fdjmaggs@aol.com or 322-8109

Deb Maggs, Family Promise dholmes9@comcast.net

Deb Homes, Altar Flowers 433-3453 or larubd@gmail.com



To keep things warm...



...we need to have a smoothly operating boiler under the Nave. We are still working with the original boiler in that furnace room, installed when the building was new in 1959! The burners were converted from oil to gas in 1998, but the massive steel boiler is still the same. In the past several years we have repaired the boiler's tubes three times, at considerable expense, and it is the judgment of the Property Committee, the Finance Committee and the Council that now is the time to definitively fix the problems by replacing the boilers. Technology has changed greatly in the 56 years since the original installation, and efficiency has increased from 65-80% at best, to more than 90% in new equipment.

The problem has been intensively studied by the committees, and five bids have been solicited. We engaged a consultant to help us evaluate the bids, and his recommendation has worked its way through the committees. The Council will bring the recommendation to the Annual Congregation Assembly on May 17, 2015 that we accept the bid of Billtown Mechanical for the replacement of the boilers with two Weil-McClain 399,000 BTU gas-fired aluminum core boilers, at a cost of \$58,550 installed. There will be an additional cost, still to be determined, for necessary asbestos removal by another firm. More details will be made available soon.

The Council has asked that advance notice of this proposed expenditure be published so that we have a chance to begin to gather a portion of the funds that will be needed. The more that we contribute now, the less will need to be taken from our reserves. It is 15 years since we have had a capital project of this nature. Let's get behind it and get things started! Use the extra line on an offering envelope, or make a special gift to the Boiler Fund.

Easter Egg Hunt & Breakfast



At this time we will be collecting items for our yearly Easter Egg Hunt. Any candy or trinkets that are small enough to fit in a plastic egg would be greatly appreciated. There will be a tub in the narthex for collection or items can be given to Michele or Bernadette. Thank you!!!!

**Our yearly Breakfast with Pastor & Easter Egg Hunt
will be held on Saturday, April 4th at 9 am.**

Breakfast will be cooked and served by our youth
with the Egg Hunt to be held in the courtyard if the weather is nice.

Teachers needed for the month of May

Michele is in need of teachers for the month of May for both classrooms.

If you are interested in donating your time
please email her at mowen@stmarkswilliamsport.org.
The end of May is our last Sunday School class in the classrooms,
with our church picnic being held on June 7th.
Older children that day will help with the picnic
while younger children will watch a movie
and have a snack in the library. Thank you!



Lycoming County Heroin Task Force Needs You!



“County-wide prayer walks are being planned for **Sunday, April 19, 2015**. Sponsored by the Faith-based Initiative Committee of the Lycoming County Heroin Task Force, the walks are being designed to not only create awareness, but to pray specifically for agencies within each community dealing with the effects of the heroin epidemic.” (UCLC Newsletter, March 2015)

Routes will include places such as houses of worship, schools, municipal buildings, hospitals, fire stations, social service agencies and places of ministry such as food banks. A map for each area will be provided.

St. Mark's is the anchor church for the Center City walk beginning at 1:00 PM.

Our church will be open to people wishing to walk and those that prefer to pray in one place. Please join Becky Miller Pryor and members of our church council in praying with walkers at St. Mark's or walking the Center City route. Speak with Becky Miller Pryor for additional information or to join us that day.

Lunches for Habitat for Humanity

Can You Help?

In 2015 the Social Ministry Chairperson (Becky Pryor) hopes to schedule up to four lunches (one per season) to support a Habitat build. For this to be possible I need help from the congregation. We will need various food items and monetary donations to purchase the items not donated. We will also need a few folks to serve lunches at the Habitat site.



Please speak with me if you can assist in any of these ways. I have been in contact with the local Habitat director. She will contact me when their building schedule has been finalized. I am thinking our first luncheon could be in late April or May. I am confident that with planning we can respond in Christ's name to this program that makes home ownership possible.



STOP HUNGER NOW.

Got Change? Help Pack Meals to End Hunger!

Pastor Kerry Aucker of St. John's Lutheran in Jersey Shore is organizing a meal packaging event on Saturday, April 11, 2015 in Jersey Shore. He hopes to receive funds and volunteers to package more than 40,000 meals to be distributed to area food banks. Each meal costs just \$.25 to produce. Please consider donating your loose change to the display in the Narthex. Checks may be made payable to St. Mark's with the memo line indicating "Meal Packaging."

Volunteers from St. Mark's will be packaging meals for this project at 10:00 AM on that day. A sign-up sheet in the Narthex is available if you wish to join us. If you wish to carpool with us, meet in the church parking lot at 9:15 AM on April 11, 2015.

The Bazaar Room is Open!

Finally spring has arrived and with that comes spring housecleaning. If you are finding items you no longer need, the Women of St. Mark's will gladly accept them for their Fall Bazaar.

The Bazaar Room is open for your donations of holiday decorations, housewares, toys in good condition and other treasures you no longer need or want.

Please be sure all donated items are clean, in good condition and working properly.



We are asking anyone who is placing items in the Bazaar Room to pack them securely in a box that we can move easily at the time of the bazaar. Computer paper boxes or similar sized boxes are ones we can move easily. Please place your donations away from the entranceway.

We **cannot** accept cribs, mattresses, car seats, broken or non-working items of any kind, mismatched plastic containers, outdated computers / electronics, TV's, textbooks, encyclopedias or large pieces of exercise equipment. Clothing may be donated to Daniel's Closet.

This year's Fall Bazaar will be Saturday, September 12, 2015.

With your help it will be a success.

Contact Shirley Hill or Becky Miller Pryor with questions.

Thank you for caring!

Many thanks are given to the congregation for their regular donations of non-perishable food items. Gail Burkhart, coordinator of the **United Churches Food Bank** reports that the need for non-perishable food items is greater now than at any time in their past history. One recent week saw nearly 150 people come to their door! With those numbers food comes in and goes out quickly. Please consider regularly donating one or two non-perishable food items to assist with their outreach. Donations may be placed in the bins in the Narthex.

The Shepherd of the Street's office is in great need of family hygiene items, particularly deodorant for men and women, as well as baby care items and disposable diapers in sizes five and six. Is it possible for you to donate an item or two to the Shepherd's outreach? These donations may also be placed in the bins in the Narthex.

Daniel's Closet

Spring is here and so is the need for lighter weight clothing and coats in good condition, accessories and shoes in all sizes from infant to adult are needed. The greatest needs are for children's clothing, plus size clothing for men and women and shoes and sneakers for children and adults. April's outreach is scheduled as follows.

Drop-Off at Redeemer Lutheran Church will be Thursday, April 23rd 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, April 25, 2015 from 9:00 am - 11:00am.

CALLING ALL LUTHERAN YOUTH!

Pages are needed for the 2015 USS Assembly! 6th grade and up! The assembly takes place at Susquehanna University on Friday, June 19, from 7:45-5:00; and Saturday, June 20, from 7:45-4:00. These youth are responsible for handing out papers, bulletins, and other materials during the meetings, as well as serving as ushers for worship and counting votes when asked. Meals will be provided and the youth may stay overnight on campus. Mrs. Jones is giving a workshop on both days of the assembly and will be staying over Thursday and Friday nights...she will chaperone if any choose to go with her. A sign-up is in the office hallway.



SUSQUEHANNA
UNIVERSITY

Lutheran Youth Day

As a university affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Susquehanna University welcomes more than 200 youth in grades 6-12, pastors, and advisors to an annual day of fun, music, and exploration of the faith in large and small group settings. Worship and a concert conclude the day's festivities. This year's Lutheran Youth Day is scheduled for Saturday, April 18, from 9:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person, which includes lunch and concert by Swen & Dean. More information is available at <http://www.susqu.edu/studentlife/8613.asp>.

Camp Mount Luther Open House

Open House Set for April Have you ever wanted to see Mount Luther's site and facilities? Are you interested in coming to camp this summer but want to get more information and see the place first? Well, this is your chance. The Camp Mount Luther Spring Open House will be held on Sunday, April 26, 2015, from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. You can ask questions, get a tour of the camp, and see what it's like to be a camper. First time campers who are not registered for summer but who attend the open house will get a \$25 discount on their summer registration. If you've been to camp before and would like to come and enjoy a nice spring day walking around our grounds, feel free to join us! There is no RSVP necessary for this event.



Camp Mount Luther Spring Work Day

Thursday, May 3: Spring Work Day at CML Practice stewardship through service at Camp Mount Luther at our Annual Spring Work Day on Saturday, May 16, 2015, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. We need your help getting the camp grounds and facilities ready for summer. There will be plenty to do and everyone in the family can help! 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 May 8 if staying for lunch to cml@campmountluther.org or 570-922-1587

Register now for Camp Mount Luther!

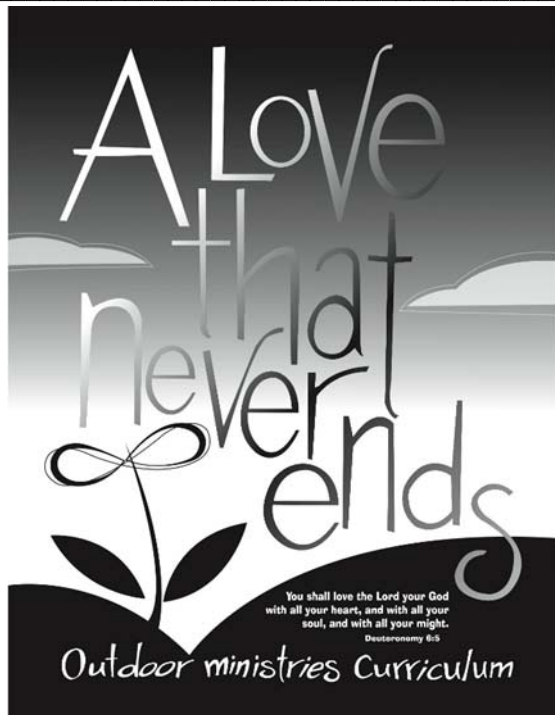


Sign up
for
Church
Camp

Register Now for Camp! We are gearing up for our summer camping season for 2015 and are accepting registrations for all programs until they are filled. Campers who register before April 1st will receive a discount on their camp fee. This year's camping season will begin on June 14, 2015. Resident and Day Camps run until August 16. There are programs for all ages from kindergarten to senior high, adults, and families. Most sessions run for one week, but there are also half-week, day-only, and ten day sessions. New programs this year include Bear Run Backpacking, with time spent hiking on the MidState Trail; Canada Adventure, a week-long trip to the Ottawa River in Canada; Central PA Cycle, a bicycle camp that will feature three days of bicycling;

Classic Camels and Time Travelers, twists on traditional favorites; C.L.A.W.S., which will feature Crafts, Legos, and Wild Sports; Dirt Warrior Weekend, a service opportunity for all ages; Guppies and Minnows, a water camp for those in grades K-2; Nomads, who will sleep in a different place at camp each night; NYC Arts, a trip camp to explore the arts in New York City; Pick Your Days Day Camp, where you select how many days you want to come to camp; Trailblazers, for young campers who want to try camp with a parent; and APPLE/CORPS, a retreat opportunity for adults. For more information on this summer's programs, call the camp office at (570) 922-1587 or visit the camp's website at <http://www.campmountluther.org>

Vacation Bible School



CAMP MOUNT LUTHER

with

TRINITY EPISCOPAL and
ST MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCHES

present

SUMMER BIBLE CAMP 2015

*Open to children aged pre-school to fifth grade
Sixth grade and older welcome as aides*

Sun., June 14 – Thu., June 18

5:30 – 8:30 pm

Sun/Mon at St. Mark's, Tue/Wed at Trinity
Thursday's special event TBA

This year, we have a special treat for Vacation Bible School: we are joining forces with Trinity Episcopal Church to bring in two leaders from Camp Mount Luther for an exciting new experience!

The theme is "A Love that never Ends," during which we will discover how God shows his love for us and how we do or should respond to that never-ending love. We will learn about this by exploring the stories of Abraham, Moses, Jonah, Ruth, and Jeremiah.

We will be two nights here at St. Mark's, then two nights at Trinity. Our fifth night will be at either Susquehanna State Park or Montoursville Park along the river. On our nights, we are responsible for the meals, snacks and crafts—Trinity will provide these when we are there. On the final night, we will share the cost of hotdogs and rolls and ask all families to bring a dish to share.

Ongoing Collections

The Penny Chest in the narthex is always available for donations, we appreciate every cent and the money collected goes to our youth activities.



We are still collecting stamps and they can be placed in the basket in the narthex. The stamps are used in various activities for those in rehabilitation/physical therapy.



Tabs are collected all year round and are donated to the Ronald McDonald House which helps with their cost of maintenance, electricity, etc. Tabs can be dropped off in the narthex or in the clear container in Fellowship Hall.



Annual Church Picnic

WE HAVE IT! MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

We have the same lot as last year for the annual picnic on June 7, 2015! So, we will once again be celebrating "Down by the riverside, down by the riverside..."



Women & Children's Dinner

All women and children to age 12, please join us for our Annual Women's Dinner on Wednesday, May 6, at 6:00 pm. The evening begins with a meal prepared for us by our own men here at St. Mark's. The meal includes applesauce, filled chicken breast, corn, mashed potatoes, and roll, with a delightful dessert. All this costs only \$8.50 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 yet to be decided, but promises, as always, to be enjoyable! Please, be sure to have your reservations in **NO LATER THAN Friday, May 1.**

Children's Church

CHILDREN'S CHURCH will meet Sunday, April 12, at 10:30, in the Chapel. The special offering is snack items for our college students' Finals Week Survival Kits. See you in the Chapel on April 12!



MILESTONE MINISTRY

Blessing of the Keys

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!!***



Recognition of Graduates

...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 10—we're waiting to hear!

Wedding Anniversary Milestone

For those couples who have not yet been recognized, but have celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary will be held on Sunday, May 17th after the congregational assembly. Letter of invitation will be going out soon!



Teen Movie Night



April 26th at 6:00 pm

**Bring a snack! Bring a friend!
Spread the word
—hope to see you there!!**

United Churches of Lycoming County

FOOD PANTRY ITEMS CURRENTLY NEEDED:

Hot Chocolate	Pop tarts
Canned Potatoes	Tea Bags
Oatmeal Packets	Popcorn
Hamburger Helper	Oatmeal
Chicken Noodle Soup	Sugar
Powdered Milk	Saltines
Gelatin/Jello Mix	Mustard
Oodles of Noodles	Canned Fruit
Powdered drink mix	Stuffing Mix
Canned Veggies	Ketchup
Canned Milk	

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

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.

- 1- **Rev. Kevin Brophy**, Pastor, Salladasburg United Methodist Charge, *"The Passion of Christ"*
- 8- **Mrs. Gail Landers**, Trained Facilitator, Samaritan Counseling's Safe Church Program, & Member of New Covenant United Church of Christ, *"Sacred Safety"*
- 15- **Mr. Phil Landers**, Retired Accounting Professor, Penn College, and Enrolled Agent - IRS, *"Sex, Sin and the IRS, Part II"*
- 22- **Mrs. Patty Gohrs** and **Rev. Gwen Bernstine**, Staff, United Churches, *"Pennsylvania Bingo"*
- 29- **Rev. Walter Everett**, retired United Methodist Pastor, New York Annual Conference, *"Forgiveness, the Path to Healing"*



Our 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!

May Lion Article Deadline

All articles for May issue of the Lion are due

NO LATER than 9 A.M. Wednesday, April 15th

The Nursery is Open!



It's true!

Seder Meal



April 1st at 6:15 PM is the Seder Meal!
Please call the office to let us know you're attending!

The News in Our Pews

"If winter comes, can spring be far behind? Somehow this February felt like spring would never come but lo and behold the snow is finally melting and if you look closely you will see tiny sprouts of daffodils coming up.

This month our young people are doing wonderful things in scholarship, sports and music - they make us all very proud.

A group taking part in Odessey of the Mind coached by **April Hartzel-Lewis**, daughter of **Cindy Hartzel**, took third place in competition in Berwick recently - the team included April's son **Gabe and Hannah Haussmann** - excellent work!

Grace Schreckengast was named to the high honor roll at Loyalsock Township High School- she also was a part of district band.

Lynna Robertson and **Hannah Haussmann** were named to the Distinguished honor at the Williamsport Area Middle School -there are now three honor rolls, distinguished, high and regular - quite a departure from years ago but a great achievement for those young ladies!

Laura and Anna Ziegler and **Jared Barone** qualified for PIAA District II AAA swimming with the WAHS Swim team at an event in Wilkes-Barre in February. The girls placed fourth and the boys won first place.

Jared also participated in an experiment with a robot in an automation class at WAHS - picture misidentified Jerod but he was quoted describing the work.

In the love and marriage department **Caitlin Butters** announced her engagement to Steven Requena - the wedding is planned for April.

Donna & Gary Clark celebrated fifty years of marriage with a trip to Florida - a wonderful trip but unfortunately Gary became ill shortly after getting home - warm get well wishes for him.

Evan Barone was a member of the 9th grade basketball cherry team at WAHS- they were second place winners! **Sean Jensen** is also burning up the basketball court with a first place finish at Susquehanna University.

Couldn't finish without commenting on the almost half page photograph of **Pastor Elkin** and **Pastor Aufer** getting ready to face off in the Iron Chef Competition which resulted in a sixth win for St. Mark's! Congratulations!

Also a lovely photo of **Shelby Weber** in her shirt as Geek of the Week at the Brown Library!

And finally couldn't pass by the highlight of one Sunday's service when a large bat swooped down over the congregation and had members bending and ducking and the Pastor stepping down from the pulpit to try to get him to go out into the courtyard. **Deb Buckman** got a large cardboard box and tried unsuccessfully to persuade him to get in- eventually he flew back up into the "belfry" and wasn't heard from again until later when **Donna Elkin** was giving a tuba lesson and the bat returned to swoop around in the area outside the chapel. The tuba student, whose last name was Fox, playing a Russian tuba, was too much for the bat who disappeared not to be seen again.

The moral of the story is next time a bat appears -get that student Fox with his Russian tuba and it will be just like the pied piper - the bat will be no more!

~Joyce Anne Hershberger

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

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

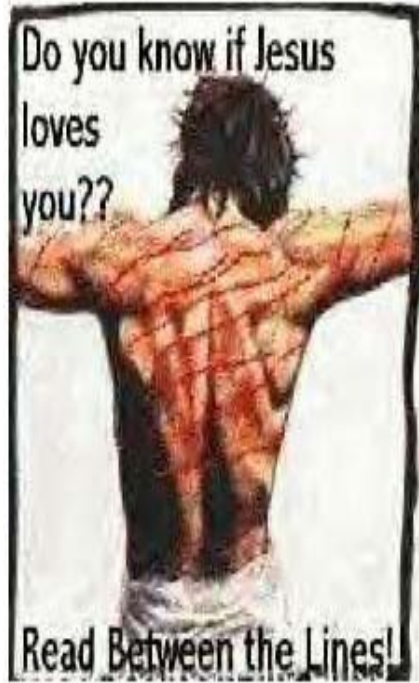
Larry Bair
The Meadows
2160 Warrensville Rd.
Montoursville, PA 17754

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
c/o Holly Carlson
524 Locust Dr.
Danville, PA 17821

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

Civic Chorus Concert

Civic Chorus Concert: A Cloud of Witnesses will be held Sunday April 26 at 3 pm at St. Mark's Lutheran Church. Comprising a requiem of sorts, the concert's musical styles range from folk to classical, ancient to modern, sacred to secular, with arrangements and original compositions by Music Director Ned Wetherald in his final performance with the Williamsport Civic Chorus. Tickets are \$12 general admission/\$10 senior/student, Children under 12 free when accompanied by a paid admission.

Iron Chef Williamsport 2015

Another successful event! Our best one ever. A HUGE thank you goes out to all those involved; from cooks and contestants, audience and aides, patrons and P.A.'s, to servers and supporters!!!

St. Mark's edged out St. John's by 8.5 points. New addition to the competition was Mae Thaljih as referee. She did a great job and had fun talking with Gary Chrisman as the two teams ran around trying to remember what they were supposed to be doing next! Pr. Kerry Aucker and his team of Christine Bamer and Marilyn Wehler created a beautiful service utilizing their cod, green beans, and sweet potatoes for the entrée, and the required peanut butter in the appetizer. Pr. Kenneth Elkin, Todd Smith, and Bernadette Haas Jones had fun with the same required ingredients...except for tuna instead of cod. Judges Chef Peter Zerbe, Commissioner Tony Mussare, and Valerie Lucasi were gracious in their role. St. Mark's own Wanda Fortin won the fourth seat at the judges' table and was able to enjoy the event up-close and personal...including tasting all that was prepared!

The Penn College Student Diner's Club prepared the public meal, led by Chef Todd Keeley and student Rachel Mertz. Our guests enjoyed chipotle sweet potato soup, garlic green beans, risotto, and sautéed chicken breast with apple leek chutney. The dessert was chocolate truffle cake. The group was a welcome addition to the event and very much appreciated by Sara Jones, dining room manager. Additional help was supplied at the end of the evening by Joe Walter, of Kohl's Dept. Store.

First Contact Productions, led by Carlos Saldivia, once again videoed the event for us. Ed Ploy (PC Handyman) oversaw the streaming, timing, and all things computer. Sound was run by Trey Phillips, who also provided the equipment. While Gary held down things in the kitchen, Mike Caschera joined us again as audience host, engaging diners

as they viewed the event—often on camera!

Coordinating all these separate areas and keeping us on schedule was Nick Buckman...in the newly added and greatly needed position of stage manager. As he and Sara said at some point in the afternoon, "You can tell how much someone is in charge of by how badly they're out of breath!"

Sara's crew, aided by Nick and Ben Hartman, included Jacob Schreckengast, Evan Barone, Claire Brassard, Grace Schreckengast, Jerod Barone, Ben Hausmann, Taylor Wentzel, Makensi Doebler, Hannah Hausmann, Sadie Wentzel, Jonah Schreckengast, Gillian Buckman, Daisy LeBlanc (of St. Michael) and Dylan Ott. St. John's sent along a group of their youth to lend a greatly appreciated hand: Cheyenne Mitchell, Dylan Lundy, Allie Waldman, Jillian Waldman, Mikayla Edler, Cora Stackhouse, Carter Stackhouse, Riley Welshans, and Grace Welshans. Many thanks to Molly for rounding them up and transporting them. In their own addition to the fundraiser, "Tips for a Promise," all these youth raised \$699.25!!!

Behind the scenes, Deb Buckman took over as publicist for ICW and did an amazing job! Melinda Saldivia was masterful in the editing of the challenge video. ENORMOUS thanks go to Joyce Braucht, of St. John...the best opposing coordinator we've worked with to date! With her enthusiasm and willpower, St. John was responsible for filling 68 of the 112 seats and raised approximately \$2,500 in patronage!! We can't even begin to express our thanks to her!

Now for the part for which you've all been waiting, "How much did we raise??" With some items outstanding as we go to print, we brought in over \$9000 and cleared \$8000 after expenses. Congratulations to all those involved. God bless you for your efforts and God give strength to those with Family Promise of Lycoming County!

HOBBY EXPO 2015

On Sunday February 8, we held our second bi-annual Hobby Expo. There were 13 displays, from stamps to airsoft, from plants to animals, from cast banks, to classic photographs. Between forty and fifty folks attended, several sitting down to a checkers contest. Refreshments were plentiful and delicious!

Our exhibitors were (starting in the southwest corner and working around the room) were Donna Elkin with photos of her dogs, awards they've won, and training tips. Frank & Bud Doebler were next with unique cast iron and aluminum banks, a history of the process, and a grinding demo. The sport of airsoft followed with Declan Jones explaining his equipment, then Annika Waffenschmidt's equestrian display with awards and video. Jonah Schreckengast exhibition of sculptures made out of rubber bands on a special loom was alongside Michael Ochs, a philatelist, explaining years of stamps from various countries. Rounding the corner, Shelby Weber had a beautiful display of framed photographs by Wallace Nutting. Next up was Pr. Elkin with his seed catalogues and diagrams plotting out his gardens for this year. He shared his table with Devin Owen, who had special binders presenting his collection of Little League pins. Hannah Hausmann, Taylor Wentzel, and Bernadette Jones discovered a common infatuations with owls and shared the center table with their collections. Taylor also had a large checkerboard at which she met all challengers.

All in all, it was a great way to relieve the mid-winter blues. What do YOU have to interest others in 2017?

Youth quakes + zones

Ezra, Gillian, Sadie, and Hannah had a wonderful time at the Youth Quake/Zone in January. We met up with youth from Messiah and St. John, Jersey Shore, and had a wonderful time!

In regard to this weekend full of faith, fellowship, and fun, our youth responded to the following questions (in no particular order:)

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

- † I learned that even though I'm young, I can spread God's word.
- † I learned new things about God and what it would mean to people to share the word of God.
- † Just because I am young I still have things that I can give and I can spread God's word.
- † One thing I learned is that I didn't know that so many people take this religion more than I thought. I realized I need to spread God's word more, so that more people can hear. I learned so much in those three days.

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

- † It meant that I think people should learn BOUT God, Jesus, and how important my religion is to me.
- † It meant a lot to me to spend a weekend praising God and meeting friends and having fun.
- † To have fun and learn new things about God. It meant to have fun, meet new people and learn new things.
- † It meant a lot and I didn't feel like I was there because I had to be. I was there to learn more about God and meet new people.

Our kids 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.

Children's Church Sermon

How many of you are aware that every other year, our confirmation students plan, write and lead Children's Church in March or April? They choose the reading or gospel and the psalm from the lectionary, pick hymns to strengthen the message, write prayers (again, with reinforcement in mind), and discuss what points they want to bring out in the sermon.

It begins with their February meeting with their mentors, at which time they decide on the readings, choose the hymns, and begin to write the prayers. They are responsible for asking someone to provide accompaniment and picking or creating the cover art for the bulletin. Over the next couple of weeks, during Sunday School is when they hashed out ideas for the sermon, chose the verses for the psalm, finished writing the prayers, and, on the day of, rehearsed who was going to do what and the presentation of the sermon itself.

What follows is this year's sermon. While formatted by their instructor, all of the ideas were arrived at by these young people during the course of their discussions.

Gillian: Okay. The 10 Commandments. There they are. Are we done now?

Hannah: I don't think so...maybe everyone doesn't understand what they really mean.

Sean: Wait...so you're saying WE have to explain them?

Dylan: I don't think I agreed to sign on for this...

Lynna: Well, we're here now...and Mrs. Jones is back there waiting for us to start.

Gillian: Okay. The 10 Commandments. There they are.

Hannah: They don't start off with a command...they start with a statement, "I am the Lord your God."

Sean: That's very definite...so is the next one. "You shall

have no other gods."

Dylan: You're right. God is God...there is no other.

Lynna: But some people put so much before God—like things they own or want...or even other people.

Gillian: Oh...you mean don't put anyone or anything higher than God. He's number one.

Hannah: Exactly.

Sean: What about the next one. "Don't swear in God's name."

Dylan: Wow. I hear that a lot...it seems like everyone does it.

Lynna: You're right...OMG this and OMG that...on TV, in school, everywhere...

Gillian: So that means that we should only use His name in prayer and praise and thanks.

Hannah: Okay...next is "Keep the Lord's day holy."

Sean: I go to church every Sunday.

Dylan: Something tells me it's not that easy.

Lynna: Yeah...it's seems like it means more than that.

Gillian: I think we should love God so much that we should do more than just go to church...

Hannah: Yes. We should talk about God more and read the Bible.

Sean: Or even teach others about Him...lead by example.

Dylan: I was right! It wasn't that easy! But the next one is. "Respect your mother and father,"

Lynna: That's hard to do...sometimes I just get so mad.

Gillian: I think we all do...but we should honor and love God and our parents so much that we get over it and listen to them.

Hannah: ...and not just them, but everyone in authority: our pastor, teachers, and coaches, too.

Children's Church Sermon Con't



Sean: I think that's one we all need to work on.
Dylan: Next is "You shall not kill."
Lynna: That sounds easy...just don't kill. But I think it means we should also help others so they aren't endangered.
Gillian: Yes, with food, clothing, or shelter...and even protect them from harm—like firefighters and the police.
Hannah: "Stay true to your spouse."
Sean: What's a spouse?
Dylan: Yeah...it sounds like some new type of dog...
Lynna: Guys, it means your husband or wife.
Gillian: There's one we don't have to worry about yet!
Hannah: I think we do. We should stay faithful to our friends and family, too, and boyfriends or girlfriends if we have one.
Sean: I've heard some girls say to others at school that they can't be their friend anymore because they want to be somebody else's friend.
Dylan: That's just wrong.
Lynna: You betcha. The next one is "You shall not steal."
Gillian: Everyone knows that.
Hannah: Mrs. Jones says, "If it's not yours, don't touch it."
Sean: I think every mom or teacher says some version of that!
Dylan: Couldn't it mean that we should help others protect their things?
Lynna: I think you're right...it's not about just not taking some-

thing, but about helping others.

Hannah: "Don't lie."

Sean: I wasn't! Oh, you mean the next commandment. Well, obviously that means we should always make an effort to tell the truth...even when it might be easier to not say anything.

Dylan: Also, to not let others get away with lying.

Lynna: Especially with gossip and rumors. We all hear it in school and we should speak up more when we know it's not right.

Gillian: Don't be jealous of others' things.

Hannah: Wow, I think we all do that...like a really pretty dress, or a nice car, or neat toy.

Sean: I think it's okay to wish we had some of those things...

Dylan: ...but not to want to have them instead of the other person.

Lynna: That would be wishing them harm or bad luck.

Gillian: We can want to work for those things or buy them for ourselves, but not take theirs.

Hannah: Hey! Only one more!

Sean: "Don't be jealous of others' relationships."

Dylan: Wouldn't that work the same way as number nine?

Lynna: Yes, but in regard to friends, parents, other family members.

Gillian: We should want them to be happy with their relationships.

Hannah: ...and we should work on our own if we want better ones.

Sean: But shouldn't we remember something in all this?

Dylan: What?

Lynna: That we should love God so much that we should want to do all these things?

Gillian: ...and not just because we're commanded?

Hannah: Yes. It's pretty easy to follow the commandments as they're written.

Sean: But we have to remember to support our neighbors in all they are and do...

Dylan: ...help them protect and take care of what they have...

Lynna: ...and treat them as we want to be treated.

ALL: ...and do it all in God's name!

Over the next few months, we will include artwork and sermons from past classes.

April Sunday School Teachers

We want to say thank you to our April Sunday School Teachers!

Pre-K thru 2nd: Sally Bjornstad

3rd thru 5th: Shelby Weber



All Annual Reports are due by 9:00 A.M. Wednesday, April 22nd

If possible please email your report to

stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org Thank you! Susan

Happy Birthday!

04/02 Jenna Eyer
 04/02 Jon Huff
 04/02 Bernadette Jones
 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 Sadie Wentzel
 04/10 Taylor Wentzel
 04/11 Robert Clouser
 04/13 Geoffrey MacGill
 04/13 Michael Ochs
 04/14 Ezra Buckman

04/14 Veronica Doane
 04/14 Johnny Hind
 04/15 Steven Bieber Jr.



04/15 Jami Larson
 04/17 David Hughes
 04/17 Sara Neal

04/18 Beverly Best
 04/18 Beverly Schmitt
 04/18 Diana Zeigler
 04/19 Cynthia Hartzel
 04/20 Jeffrey Byerly
 04/20 Doris Griggs
 04/20 Karen Pelleschi
 04/21 Catherine Kneeder
 04/23 Marc Fish
 04/23 Benjamin Hausmann
 04/26 Karen Burd
 04/27 Lisa Welker
 04/28 Audrey Comerford
 04/29 Ruth Ditchfield
 04/30 Dorothy Bingaman

Happy Anniversary!

04/03 Matthew & Wanda Fortin
 04/08 Robert & Bernadette Jones
 04/08 Louis & Kathy Kolb



04/21 Theodore & Jane Larson
 04/23 Carl & Audrey Albright
 04/23 Randy & Jeannette Lukens

Please Join us for Lunch 'N' Fellowship!

Wednesday, April 15th at Noon
Serving Baked Chicken
Please bring a side dish or desert to share.
Why not invite a friend?



Community Opportunities

End of Life Issues & Concerns Presentation

will be held on Thursday, April 9th at 7:00 PM
 St. Joseph the Worker Fleming Center, 740 W. 4th St., Williamsport

The Williamsport Chamber Choir & Orchestra

will perform on Friday, April 10th at 7:30 PM at St. Mark's

Holocaust Days of Remembrance Ceremony

will be held on Sunday, April 19th at 1:30 PM
 Temple Beth HaShalom, 425 Center St. Williamsport

St. Mark's April Calendar of Events

01 Wednesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
 9:20 AM Staff Mtg. & Quilting
 6:15 PM Seder Meal



2 Maundy Thursday

6:31 AM Men's Ministry
 9:00 AM Morning Prayer
 12:00 PM Holy Communion
 7:00 PM Foot Washing Service
 8:00 PM Senior Choir



3 Good Friday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
 12:00 PM Ecumenical Service
 7:00 PM Tenebrae Service



4 Saturday

9:00 AM Decorating the Nave
 9:45 AM Breakfast & Egg Hunt
 2:00 PM Justin Burkholder Funeral
 8:00 PM Vigil of Easter

5 Easter Sunday

8:00 AM Holy Communion
 9:15 AM Easter Celebration
 in Fellowship Hall
 10:30 AM Holy Communion



6 Monday

Office Closed

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
 6:00 PM Civic Chorus Board
 7:00 PM Civic Chorus Rehearsal

7 Tuesday

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

8 Wednesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
 9:20 AM Staff Mtg. & Quilting
 11:45 AM Bible Study
 1:15 PM Pericope study
 6:30 PM Personnel Committee
 7:00 PM WCCO Rehearsal in Nave

9 Thursday

6:31 AM Men's Ministry
 9:00 AM Morning Prayer
 9:20 AM Stephen Ministry
 7:00 PM WCCO Rehearsal in Nave



10 Friday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
 7:30 PM WCCO Concert in Nave

11 Saturday

6:00 AM Catechetical Trip
 9:00 AM Food Packaging at St. John's
 Jersey Shore
 10:00 AM 2nd Saturday



12 Sunday ~ Easter II

8:00 AM Holy Communion
 9:15 AM Sunday School
 10:30 AM Holy Communion
 10:30 AM Children's Church

13 Monday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
 7:00 PM Handbells

14 Tuesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
 6:30 PM Stephen Ministry Training

April Calendar of Events continued

15 Wednesday

Lion Article Deadline

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
 9:20 AM Staff Mtg. & Quilting
 12:00 PM Lunch N' Fellowship
 1:15 PM Pericope study



16 Thursday

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

17 Friday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

18 Saturday

19 Sunday ~ Easter III

8:00 AM Holy Communion
 9:15 AM Sunday School
 10:30 AM Holy Communion
 1:00 PM Heroin Task Force Peace
 Walk from St. Mark's
 6:00 PM Confirmands Mtg./Meal

20 Monday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
 7:00 PM Handbells

21 Tuesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
 6:30 PM Stephen Ministry Training

22 Wednesday

Annual Reports Due

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
 9:20 AM Quilting
 11:45 AM Bible Study
 1:15 PM Pericope study

23 Thursday

6:31 AM Men's Ministry
 9:00 AM Morning Prayer
 8:00 PM Daniel's Closet Drop Off
 7:00 PM Senior Choir

24 Friday

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

25 Saturday

9:00 AM Daniel's Closet
 9:00 AM Civic Chorus Rehearsal



26 Sunday ~ Easter IV

8:00 AM Holy Communion
 9:15 AM Sunday School
 10:30 AM Holy Communion
 3:00 PM Civic Chorus Concert
 6:00 PM Teen Movie Night

27 Monday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
 7:00 PM Handbells

28 Tuesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer

29 Wednesday

9:00 AM Morning Prayer
 9:20 AM Quilting
 11:45 AM Bible Study
 1:15 PM Pericope study

30 Thursday

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