



The Lion of St. Mark's

DECEMBER 2016

How do we summarize

20+ years of life together in St. Marks? Let's use the image of "milestones." On some sections of the Camino Santiago there are stone markers every few kilometers that list where we are on the journey, how much further it is to Santiago, and point the direction for the next portion of the trip. They are there for information and for encouragement to keep going despite the aches and pains of the pilgrimage. The "Milestones" that we celebrate in the congregation function in the same way. We mark the beginning of the journey with a gift of a receiving blanket for newborns, and the subsequent Sacrament of Holy Baptism. We encourage growth in the faith with the Prayer Pillow, All the Gifts of Good News, participate in Sunday School and First Communion instruction, engage in Catechetical instruction and work with parents and mentors, mark progress with Confirmation, expand relationships with Marriage, celebrate anniversaries and other accomplishments, come again and again to celebrate the Holy Communion until our birthday into heaven in the funeral service, and at various times remember all the saints and especially those near and dear to us. So many milestones, so many different ways of encouraging one another in trust of the Lord Jesus and his promises to us! We have lived together using all of these and more; what a blessing it has been. May the patterns that we have established continue, and expand in new directions as well, to the glory of God the Father.

One of my walking companions on the Camino this fall was a person who has significant heartaches, beginning with an alcoholic father and a painful divorce of parents, a disastrous marriage of her own with a domineering spouse, difficult and deadly illnesses of close relatives, and several co-workers with inappropriate expectations. As we talked through all these things in many kilometers together, we noted that life is filled with "goodbyes" and grieving for all of the imperfections of human community.

That is simply the way it is. But we also noted that what makes it bearable is that God gives us even more "hellos" along the way, fresh presents of his grace and enduring mercy through those whom he sends to us in his name and bearing his promise. These are our special gifts to each other, the things that we have experienced together in the congregation of St. Mark's in the name of Jesus.

Some of these gifts of God's grace have been mediated through several different approaches in St. Mark's. One is *The Way*, our process of encouraging and mentoring new and renewing members. Information is shared, but more importantly, personal relationships are nurtured as we gently explore the Good News together over a period of nine months each year. It has been a blessing to so many in the congregation. I hope that this process is now woven deeply into the fabric of the identity of the congregation. Another is

MILESTONES

Stephen Ministry, our process of one to one caring and listening ministry. Nearly twenty

persons have trained and served as Stephen Ministers, and dozens of persons have personally benefited from their ministry. Further, the Stephen Ministers have discovered that the skills they acquire are applicable in many other relationships as well: at home, at work, and in other social settings. What a profound effect it has on countless lives!

The chief milestone is the one that occurs with weekly regularity, our gathering around Word and Sacrament Sunday after Sunday. It was painfully difficult for me to be in worship in Spain this fall and not be able to participate fully in the event; to be an observer is not the same as being a participant. May St. Mark's congregation recognize what a powerful tradition has been established among us and guard it, rejoice in it, and continue to warmly invite others to be a part of it.

To accomplish all that we can, we have been blessed with a number of beautiful and useful tools, the things we call "property." Even before meeting the people, the minute I stepped into the nave I knew that this would be a wonderful place to work and worship. Over the years we have made improvements to the nave so that it can point ever more clearly to the Word of God, and we have completely renovated the chapel so that it can function in a variety of appropriate ways for worship, visitation, meetings, and devotions. All of the buildings and grounds get regular and detailed care and attention to the end that they can all serve as tools to invite others to Jesus. As long as they do that, they are good things; may they never become ends in themselves, a museum to a dead faith, but rather remain a living laboratory for a vibrant, living faith.

There are so many things that could be said, but perhaps this is enough for the moment. There will be many twists and turns in the process which now faces the congregation. You must discern what is vital, what is the center of congregational life, and search for leadership that will eagerly grasp that core and lead you to fresh expressions of the faith once delivered to the saints. May you be blessed by the continuing gifts of the Father, for the sake of the Son, in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Farewell, dear friends.



The Rev. Kenneth R. Elkin, STS, Pastor

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Council Notes

The Congregation Council met in regular session on Monday, November 21 in the Crossways Room.

The Council:

--approved a motion accepting the resignation of Jungwha Kim as Music Director, effective January 1, 2017.

--approved the recommendation of the Personnel Committee to hire Donna Zierdt Elkin as Interim Music Director, beginning January 2, 2017, with a stipend of \$400 per week.

--approved the recommendation of the Personnel Committee to establish a temporary committee for the purpose of developing a vision for the music ministry of St. Mark's. The membership will be Karen Boone, chair; Walt Haussmann, Joyce Hershberger, and Donna Zierdt Elkin. The committee first meets on December 4.

--accepted the Finance Committee's proposal for the budget for 2017, for presentation to the Congregation Special Assembly to be held on Sunday, December 11 following each service.

--approved a Letter of Transfer for Pr. Kenneth Elkin to St. John Lutheran Church, Bloomsburg, effective January 1, 2017.

--approved the recommendation of the Mutual Ministry Committee to adopt the revised description of Committee functions.

--prayed together *Prayer at the Close of the Day*, as it is the Council's regular custom.

--met in executive session to hear information about a proposed candidate for Intentional Interim Pastor, who will be interviewed by the Council in the near future.

DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSIONS TO:



*Church
Council*

... Tuesday



Newsletter

...Monday,
DEC. 12th

Parish Register

Pastor Elkin presided at the Holy Baptism for Jayden Roberts, son of JD Roberts, on November 20, 2016. Owen Gair serves as the sponsor.

Advent Mid-Day Prayers

What if you were a world-renowned theologian and grandfather to a precocious eight-year old granddaughter with a thousand questions? How would you reduce the content of your multi-volume systematic theology to its essence so that your granddaughter can help you look at the important things in a fresh way? This is the story behind a little book titled *Conversation with Poppi about God* by Dr. Robert Jensen and his granddaughter Solveig Gold. Their intimate and interesting conversations on a number of topics were recorded and transcribed, and provide a fascinating peek into two brilliant minds wrestling with the big questions of life.



We will share some of those conversations at Mid-Day Prayers on the four Wednesdays in Advent, beginning on **November 30 at 11:30** in the chapel.

Come, listen in, and be captivated by their insights and the twists and turns of conversation with an eight-year old. Prayers will be followed by a soup and sandwich lunch in Fellowship Hall at noon each Wednesday.

One More Travelogue



Pastor Elkin has returned from another hike on the Camino Santiago in Spain. This year it was a hundred-mile section in the middle of the country, on the high plains called the *meseta*. The landscape is not as exciting as in other parts of the Camino, but the people are just as interesting. Stop in on **Wednesday December 14 at 6:30 PM** and hear about the colorful fellow travelers from four different nations with whom Pr. Elkin walked, as well as his other adventures with daughter Katy and family, and his assistance with the performance of Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. Great fun for all.

Special Notice of Congregational Assembly on Sunday, December 11, 2016 after Both Services

All voting members present will have opportunity to comment, amend and vote on the proposed budget immediately following each service.

Copies of the budget will be available on the table in the Narthex on December 4th and 11th. Questions may be addressed to our treasurer, Wanda Fortin.

Prayer Chain



When a person or cause needs to be named in prayer, please contact Kathy Kolb at kathy@kolbnetworks.com, and also the church office at stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org. Laura in the office will take care of listing the person or cause in bulletin and elsewhere, if it is appropriate to do so. Kathy will pass the names and causes along to persons who volunteer to serve in the Prayer-Chain.

Please send a note to Kathy to become a Prayer-Chain volunteer. Sometimes we can help one another with physical assistance, but every time we can help one another with prayer.

Staff Office Hours

570-323-4619

Sexton: Lou DeSeau, Sun--Thurs 5:30AM-1PM

Parish Musician: Jungwha Kim

Sun.6:30AM-12noon, Mon-Wed 6:30-10:30AM

Financial Secretary: Graydon Yearick

Mon & Wed 8AM-11 AM

Youth & Family: Bernadette Jones

Tue.10AM-3 PM, Wed.9:20AM-2 PM, Sun 8AM-1PM

Youth & Family: Michele Owen

Wed, 9AM-2 PM, Fri.11AM-2 PM

Secretary: Laura Schreckengast Mon-Fri 9AM-1 PM

Ongoing Collections



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 and 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.

Lutheran Shared Ministry



LSM is Lutherans from congregations in the greater Williamsport area praying, proclaiming, caring, connecting, sharing, and serving in Christ's name. LSM presents

October's School of Religion for adults (25 yrs.), leads the annual Catechetical Retreat for tweens (17 yrs.), and seeks new means of outreach and communication in order to more effectively advance the mission of Christ's church in this community.

LSM meetings are open to leaders and laypersons from our local Lutheran congregations.

Their next meeting is Tuesday, JANUARY 24th at 6:00 p.m., at St. Luke's. Lutheran Church.

Staff & Officers

Church Office 323-4619 Fax 323-2452

Website: stmarkswilliamsport.org

Main e-mail: stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org

Rev. Kenneth Elkin, Pastor

kennethelkin@gmail.com (new) 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

Laura Schreckengast, Parish Sec.

stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org

Ray Huff, Council President

rhuff6@verizon.net home 368-1473

Walt Hausmann, Vice-President

768-4236 (updated!)

Karen Boone, Secretary

995-5107

Wanda Fortin, Treasurer

337-3931

Todd Smith, Director, *The Way*

tsmith@southernitioga.org

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)

Deb Maggs, Family Promise

tdjmaggs@aol.com or 322-8109

Kathy Kolb, Prayer Chain

kathykolb@kolbnetworks.net

Sally Bjornstad, Altar Flowers

494-6637

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY



**ADULT
COOKIE
BAKE**
SAT., DEC. 10,
9:00 am - ?

Look for the sign-up lists!
**X-TREME BAKING & FLOUR
FLINGING!**

Bring a favorite recipe and any special ingredients for it (flour, sugar, eggs and butter are provided). Cookies are shared among the bakers and with those we visit while caroling the next day.

CHRISTMAS EVE HOSPITALITY

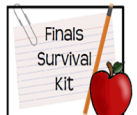
On Christmas Eve, between the Family and Candlelight services, we will have hospitality in Fellowship Hall. Please stay late or arrive early to exchange greetings and good wishes!



THE TREES ARE UP, WAITING TO BE DECORATED! PLEASE BRING IN HATS, GLOVES, SCAVES, MITTENS, & SOCKS* TO FELLOWSHIP HALL. THE TREES ARE READY AND WAITING FOR YOU!

All items will be donated locally to those in need.

FINALS WEEK SURVIVAL KITS: Boxes were handed out to those studying for finals who were around on Sunday, Nov. 27, along with a special prayer. Kits will be mailed to those who had already returned to school.



ACOLYTES

DECEMBER SCHEDULE:

- December 4 Taylor & Laura
- December 11 Sadie & Gillian
- December 18 Ezra & Dawson
- December 24 1st svc: Grace & Jonah
2nd: Sara, Jacob & ?
- December 25 Hannah & Annika

CONFIRMATION

**MEETING THIS MONTH IS
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18!**

Bernadette is making Project Heifer Chili—bring go-withs for the meal!



CAROLING

CHRISTMAS CAROLING TO OUR SHUT-INS IS ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

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

A LUNCHEON BEGINS THE AFTERNOON OF CAROLING TO OUR SHUT-INS. WE WILL BEGIN IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE SECOND SERVICE ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11.



YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY (cont.)



Our biannual Hobby Expo is scheduled for February 12, 2017! It's not too early to consider what you might want to display! For those who wish to exhibit their enthusiasms, contact Bernadette via email or sign up outside her door. All presenters will have up to an 8' table on which to set up their presentation or demonstration.

Children's Church



Children's Church

SUNDAY, Dec. 11, at 10:30 a.m., in the Chapel, is our next celebration of Children's Church.

We'll be preparing Christmas cards to go with our carolers to give to those they visit on that day.



Monday, Dec. 26, 6 pm
Bring a treat and join us!



The LSM Players
present

Charles Dickens's

A
**Christmas
Carol**



Friday & Saturday, December 2 & 3

St. Mark's Fellowship Hall

142 Market Street, East Entrance

Doors open at 6:30,

Performance at 7:00

For tickets, call St. Mark's at 323-4619

Weekdays between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Suggested donation \$8 - \$12

KIDS' NIGHT OUT!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

5:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

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



YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY (cont.)



Each November on Veterans' Day, I am reminded of our visit to Normandy some years ago – looking at those rows and rows of white crosses and joining in the singing of “God Bless America” was so moving and it took me back to eighth grade when Miss McGraw had us memorize “In Flanders Fields”- which says in part “We throw the torch, Be it yours to hold it high, If you break faith with those who died, we will not sleep tho' poppies grow in Flanders Field”. What a debt we owe our veterans, many of whom are St. Mark's members. So we honor them and thank them for their service. Our council president, Ray Huff, put on his uniform and visited students at Loyalsock Valley School- he shared with them his experiences in his wartime service — good job, Ray!

Another thing to remember to be thankful for as we near Thanksgiving is the passage of Title IX which gave equal opportunity to both girls and boys in scholastic sports. That made it possible for our own Gracie Schreckengast to be a dominant force in Loyalsock soccer. I want to share with you what the newspaper said about her “Grace deserves a lot of credit. The defense sin-

gle handedly kept the game scoreless and Schreckengast made seven saves, including a couple of clutch ones. Coach Comfort said “Grace is there for them when they need her and they were there for Grace when she needed them and that's just part of soccer, not just part of being a defender”! Wow, Gracie, what a future you have! Not only that, but her picture making a save was in the newspaper, TWICE!

Another honor for our young folks- Loyalsock Township HS marching band placed first in their group in the Susquehanna Regional Tournament of Bands Championships. Sadie and Taylor Wentzel and Grace Schreckengast are members. Williamsport HS Marching Band placed first in their group at the same competition.

Our students not only take part in band competitions – they are members of the WSO Youth Orchestra and WSO Junior Strings – we attended their fall concert last week and were amazed at their musical skills – also spotted former member, Madelyn Fortin, granddaughter of Charlie and Judy – still has that beautiful red hair! Contributing to the wonderful sound were Taylor Wentzel, Anna Ziegler, and Sean Jensen!

I hope all of you have a blessed Thanksgiving and keep in touch!

– *Joyce Hershberger*

BAPTISM, FIRST COMMUNION & BIBLE MILESTONES



Christ the King Sunday, November 20, was a day to remember!

Jayden Roberts was baptized and, later in the service, received his first communion along with Levi Gair and Hudson & Nolan Ott.

Owen Gair served as Jayden's sponsor. We're very proud of all the boys!

Jayden, Levi, Nolan and Hudson also received their study Bibles.



Hospitality & Celebration

what's cooking

⇒ **Food Service Committee** is always looking for volunteers to assist in the kitchen, bake cakes or cookies for special events, set tables for more involved occasions, or whatever else is needed. Let Janet Jones know of your interest.



⇒ **Second Saturday!** *The Adult Cookie Bake takes place the second Saturday of December! Copy a favorite recipe, bring it along. You will need to bring any special ingredients your recipe needs beyond flour/eggs/butter/sugar. See you there!*



⇒ **Lunch'n'Fellowship!** It's Beef Stroganoff! Enjoy this yummy comfort-food dish with us—something simple during this season of rich food. So, on Wednesday, December 21, bring a dish to share. Bring a friend. Or just bring yourself! We look forward to seeing you!



⇒ **Advent Mid-day Prayer & Luncheon:** *Each Wednesday in Advent, beginning Mid-day Prayer will be held at 11:30 a.m. in the Chapel. Luncheon will follow at noon. Join us as we prepare ourselves to greet our newborn King and then share fellowship and soup.*



On Sunday, December 18, we will be decking out the Nave for Christmas AFTER the Remembrance Service.

All those assisting are invited to share supper with the catechetical students, their mentors, and parents. The students and mentors will join in the task of hanging the Chrismos as soon as they have finished their Bible studies.

Remembrance Service

On Sunday,
December 18, 3:00 pm

We remember those whom we especially miss at this time of year.

Please notify the office of any names you wish to be included.



OUTREACH COMMITTEE NEWS

Daniel's Closet Distribution Day



Saturday, December 17th

(This date is one week earlier due to Christmas.)

9:00 am – 11:00 am — Redeemer Lutheran Church

Clothes, jackets, coats, boots and shoes in good condition for the entire family are needed this month at Daniel's Closet. They are especially in need of children's clothing, plus size clothing for men and women and shoes and boots for children and adults. Gently used blankets, afghans and throws are also needed!

- ◆ Donations may be taken to Redeemer Lutheran Church on Thursday, December 15th from 4:00 p.m. -5:30 p.m.
- ◆ Michele Owen continues to drop off items brought to St. Mark's. Thank you Michele!

Christmas Gifts - Danville State Hospital



Forgot to take a gift tag for a resident? There is still time to provide a modest gift to ensure all residents will have gifts to open on Christmas morning. We supply general gifts that can be used where they are most needed. The need is greatest for those residents who arrive in November or December.

Items being requested for both men and women include socks, gloves, hats and scarves, pajamas, nightgowns, sweat shirts, sweat pants, underwear, shirts and packs of batteries (size AA and AAA.) Sizes for both men and women are large, extra-large and larger. Other gift suggestions are inexpensive wallets and watches.

All donations should be left unwrapped and placed in the tub in the Narthex. Thank you for any assistance you can give to this outreach.

All donations for Danville State Hospital are needed by Sunday, December 11, 2016.

Remembrance Service

Our Remembrance Service will be held on Sunday, December 18th at 3pm. Those attending will receive a wooden ornament in memory of their loved one(s). Light refreshments will be available after the service.



If you have any questions regarding the service, please contact Michele Owen at mowen@stmarkswilliamsport.org.

Sharing in the Caring

As it is written, "He scatters abroad, He gives to the poor; His righteousness endures forever. He who supplies the seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God." II Corinthians 9:9-12.

Despite our recent donations, both the United Churches Food Pantry and the Shepherd of the Streets' office have seen the cost of everything go up and the local economy go down. At the Food Bank the shelves are depleted. The Shepherd of the Streets has ceased some programs and limited others.

During this blessed time of year, please consider donating a non-perishable food item and a personal care item in the bins in the Narthex hallway.

Free Community Supper

***Redeemer Lutheran Church,
Thursday, December 8th, 5:30 – 6:30 PM
ALL ARE WELCOME!***

A free community supper is available the second Thursday of each month at Redeemer Lutheran Church.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE cont'd

Calling St. Mark's Elves



Our annual Christmas party for the 15 ladies of CM-6 at the Selinsgrove Center is only days away! We are still in need of pudding cups in all flavors and a bag of candy kisses. We also gift the caregivers with holiday cookies and fresh fruit for their break room and need those items as well.

Please speak with or call Becky Miller Pryor ASAP (570-971-4585) if you are able to provide homemade cookies, a box of clementines or a bag of apples.

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

All donations for the ladies of CM-6 and their caregivers are needed by December 4!

On **Tuesday, December 6, 2016** we will meet at the church at 6:00 p.m. to carpool to Selinsgrove. Additional "elves" wishing to join the festivities are always welcome.

Pastor Elkin's e-mail



Pastor Elkin's email address is changing. Henceforth he can be reached at:

kennethelkin@gmail.com

Calling All Carolers

Sunday, December 11, 2016

The Outreach Committee needs at least four carloads of carolers on December 11th to visit our Special Concern folks and others who we do not see as often as we would like.



We will be taking fresh baked cookies and sharing a few Christmas carols at each stop.

Please see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex or speak with Becky Pryor, Deb Holmes, Audrey Comerford, Michele Owen or Karen Boone to join us. A light lunch will be served after the late service and then it is off to share some Christmas joy.

Caring and Sharing



Our prayers continue for Pastor Reinsburrow, his son Henry and their young friend Danny Wagner. All three face long recoveries from injuries sustained in an automobile accident. To help offset the many expenses each family face, the Outreach Committee requested monetary donations from the congregation. Donations were received over a three week period.

With great joy we are happy to report that more than \$760.00 was collected. These funds were divided equally between the two families and sent to their respective churches, Messiah Lutheran and Zion Lutheran for further distribution to the families.

The Outreach Committee heartily thanks the congregation for the generosity shown to the Reinburrow and Wagner families.

Please continue to keep them in your prayers as their long recoveries continue.

Happy Birthday!

12/1 Maria Elkin

12/16 Betty Kaufman

12/19 Kurtis Caster

12/1 Sara Jones

12/16 Lucille Weaver

12/19 Martha Hopley

12/2 Rob Ott

12/17 Derek Gilbert

12/19 Gladys Knauss

12/3 Robert Miller

12/17 Marlene Vollmer

12/19 Fred Thayer

12/4 David Elkin

12/22 Daryl Lewis

12/6 David Gilbert

12/23 Edith Anderson

12/7 Laura Schreckengast

12/23 Judith Fortin

12/9 Emma Elkin

12/24 Holly Thorne

12/12 Ernest Larson

12/18 Ryan Clokey

12/26 Hannah Ramsauer

12/15 Richard Hafer

12/18 Michael Jensen

12/30 Amalie Robertson

12/15 Lyndsi Stugart


12/18 William Waldeisen

12/31 Cynthia Huff



Happy Anniversary!


 12/21 Thomas & Becky Miller Pryor

 12/29 Joseph & Rachel Reiter
 

Many Thanks & Caring too

St Mark's Lutheran Church:

Our extended family wish to thank St. Mark's Lutheran Church and the church family for preparing the use of fellowship hall for our family member Gordon Taylor's funeral reception on November 10, 2016. A special thanks to Lou DeSeau, Janet Jones, and Donna Elkin for their help serving during this event.

Sincerely,

The Doebler Family

Dear Friends,

Thank You for the lovely donut holes! They were Delicious!

Thanks, Dear Friends, - I Love You All!

Liz (Ruesskamp)

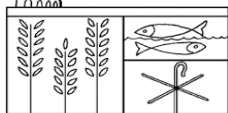


*Norma Lehman wants everyone to know that Larry is safe and under appropriate long term care for dementia in a facility near their daughter Pam. Cards of encouragement for Larry may be sent through Norma at their home address:
2218 Spring Garden St. Williamsport, PA 17701*

United Churches of Lycoming County

FOOD PANTRY ITEMS CURRENTLY NEEDED:

YOU give them
something
to eat. Mt 14:16



Canned Vegetables, Fruit, Canned Meats
Noodles Stuffings Sauces-
Condiments Mixes Pastas
Healthy Snacks Oatmeal Cereal

—The shelves are depleted...
—Please also check expiration dates
—In dire need of volunteers, esp. on
 Thursdays to help clients go t
 hrough and receive items

Our hours of operation are:
Mondays 9-12 Donations/stocking
Tuesdays 10:15 – 2:30 Client distribution
Thursdays 10:15 – 2:30 Client distribution
Rear of the Castellano Center:
320 Park Ave. Williamsport, PA
570-322-1657

WEDNESDAY ECUMENICAL LUNCHES

Join us Wednesdays for lunch and a interesting program! The lunch line opens about 11:45 a.m. and you are always assured of a tasty \$6 lunch, warm ecumenical fellowship and a thoughtful program designed to enrich your life mentally, physically, spiritually and socially.

The parking is free in the Pine Street lot north of the church from 11 to 1:30. No reservations are necessary, but a call to Gwen at the United Churches Office 570-322-1110 if you are not a regular attender will help the caterer know how to prepare.

DEC. 7- Dr. Charles Getchell, Lycoming College Faculty Emeritus, "Carol-Ring"

DEC. 14- "Sharing Your Christmas Traditions"

DEC 21- Rev. Gwen Bernstine, Staff, United Churches, "Twas The Time Before that First Christmas..."

Join us! Bring a friend! Make new friends! When winter weather makes travel difficult on Wednesdays call Gwen at 570-419-1464 or 570-323-5911 to know if Ecumenical lunch has been cancelled.

DIAL - A - DEVOTION



Have you called yet?
The number is 570-322-5762.
It's available 24 hours a day.
Devotions are three minutes or less, change weekdays and once on the weekend, and are

designed to lift your spirits and help you to have "A Closer Walk with God."

The devotionalists this fall are:

11/28-12/4 Mrs. Patty Gohrs

12/5-11 Pastors Jim & Kathy Behrens

12/12-18 Mrs. Dorothy Wagner

Listen today and tell others about this ministry!

A devotion line business card is available from our office as a convenient reminder or to share.

**Listen today and tell others
about this ministry!**

Altar Flowers

- ◆ In January 2017, the price for altar flowers will increase to \$25.00. Please send the flower payments to the church, even with our offering if we choose. When writing checks, please write "Altar Flowers" on the memo line.



- ◆ Please remember to sign up in the book in the Narthex or contact the office to sign up for a date!
- ◆ If you are interested in sponsoring but are flexible regarding the date, there will also be a list for those willing to fill in when we need to fill in weeks where we might not get two sponsors.
- ◆ Please contact Sally Bjornstad or the church office with any questions!

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, C 1004
1900 Ravine Rd.
Williamsport, PA 17701

Marie Byerly
Loyalsock Creek -
Rehabilitation & Nursing Home
- Room 547
1445 Sycamore Rd.
Montoursville, PA 17754

Hugh Byerly
1625 Ritchey St.
Williamsport, PA 17701

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



Larue Dieter
Elmcroft of Loyalsock
2985 Four Mile Dr. (Rm.137)
Montoursville, PA 17754

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

Carol McMorris
330 Forest Hills Circle
Prescott, AZ 86303

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

Carl & Lucille Weaver
424 Wyndham Court
Williamsport, PA 17701

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

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Enclosed with this newsletter is an envelope for ordering Christmas flowers. Flowers may be dedicated in honor of or in memory of a special loved one. You may also give a monetary gift towards relieving local hunger or towards other decorations to be used in the Nave.

These gifts may also be dedicated.
Please have all orders in the church office
by December 14th!



...”Till You Give It Away!”

Ruth Burkholder sent in:

**A bell is no bell till you ring it
A song is no song till you sing it
And love in your heart wasn't
put there to stay
Love isn't love til you give it away**

**From The Sound of Music
“Sixteen Going on Seventeen” reprise**

Special Notice of Congregational Assembly

on Sunday, December 11, 2016 after Both Services

All voting members present will have opportunity to comment, amend and vote on the proposed budget immediately following each service.

Here is a synopsis of the complete budget, which will be available in the Narthex:

St Marks Lutheran Church

Budget for 2017

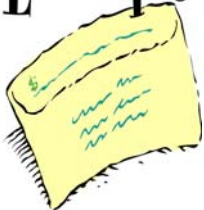
<u>INCOME</u>	<u>2017 Budget</u>	<u>2016 Budget</u>
Envelope pledges	\$ 220,000.00	\$ 220,000.00
Other Religious Income	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Parking Lot & Little Lambs/Rentals	\$ 30,190.00	\$ 28,190.00
Principal & Income transfer from Investment funds	\$ 57,649.00	\$ 61,298.00
Welker/Capital-General	\$ 31,500.00	\$ 31,500.00
Welker/Benevolence-General	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Total Income	<u>\$ 349,339.00</u>	<u>\$ 350,988.00</u>
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Staff	\$ 223,769.00 **	\$ 228,293.00
Administration	\$ 12,900.00	\$ 14,125.00
Worship & Music	\$ 14,095.00	\$ 9,295.00
Christian Ed/Youth	\$ 4,850.00	\$ 4,500.00
Property	\$ 71,650.00	\$ 72,550.00
Benevolence & Charity	\$ 22,075.00	\$ 22,225.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 349,339.00</u>	<u>\$ 350,988.00</u>

**A copy of the detailed budget for 2017 is available in the Narthex.*

*** With the uncertainty of what the exact salary for the positions of Pastor and Organist will be, the Finance Committee has provided their best estimate.*

2017 Offering Envelope Alert

**Offering
Envelopes**



Beginning Sunday, December 11th, offering envelopes for 2017 will be available in the Narthex.

Please help us save postage by taking yours and the envelopes of anyone you know who is a shut-in. Please contact Graydon Yearick at the office or Barb Thomas if you have any questions if you are not receiving envelopes, and would like them.

End of year note: All contributions for 2016 must be in the Church Office by December 31st!



DECEMBER Calendar of Events

Thursday December 1

Organ Tuning
 6:31am Men's Ministry
 9:00am Morning Prayer
 6:30pm Christmas Carol dress reh. in FH
 6:30pm Redeemer Council
 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Fri December 2

9:00am Morning Prayer
 10:30am Christian Ed Meeting
7:00pm Christmas Carol performance

Sat December 3

3:00pm WCCO Concert in Nave
7:00pm Christmas Carol performance

Sun December 4 - Advent 2

8:00am Holy Communion
 9:15am Sunday School
10:30am Holy Communion

Mon December 5

Pastor to STS in Danville
 9:00am Morning Prayer
 7:00pm Bell Choir
 7:00pm Civic Chorus Rehearsal

Tue December 6

8:00am City Pastors Breakfast
 9:00am Morning Prayer
 2:00pm Pastor returns
 6:00pm Christmas Party-Selinsgrove Center

Wed December 7

9:00am Morning Prayer
 9:20am Staff Meeting & Quilting
 10:30am Publicity Committee
 11:30am Mid-Day Prayers & 12pm Advent lunch
 1:15pm Pericope Study
 6:00pm Bible Study
6:30pm Property Committee



Thu December 8

6:31am Men's Ministry
 9:00am Morning Prayer
 5:30pm Redeemer Community Meal
 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal



Fri December 9

9:00am Morning Prayer

Sat December 10

8:00am 2nd Saturday--Cookies!
 2:00pm Merry Tuba Christmas - Lyco Mall
 5:00pm Kid's Night Out

Sun December 11 - Advent 3

Family Promise Hosting Begins
8:00am Holy Communion
9:00am Congregation Special Assembly
 9:15am Sunday School
 10:30am Children's Church
10:30am Holy Communion
11:30am Congregation Special Assembly
 12:00pm Luncheon and Caroling



Mon December 12 - Family Promise Hosting Lion Article Deadline

9:00am Morning Prayer
 7:00pm Bell Choir
 7:00pm Civic Chorus Rehearsal

Tue December 13 - Family Promise Hosting

9:00am Morning Prayer
 11:00am Little Lambs Liaison
 7:00pm Mutual Ministry Committee

Wed December 14 - Family Promise Hosting

9:00am Morning Prayer
 9:20am Staff Meeting & Quilting
 11:30am Mid-Day prayers
 12:00pm Advent Lunch



DECEMBER Calendar of Events - pg. 2

Wed Dec. 14, continued

6:00pm Bible Study
7:00pm Pastor Travelogue Presentation



Thu December 15 - Family Promise Hosting

6:31am Men's Ministry
9:00am Morning Prayer
9:30am Stephen Ministry
11:00am Staff Luncheon
1:00pm Authorized Lay Worship leaders
5:00pm Daniel's Closet drop-off
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Fri December 16 - Family Promise Hosting

9:00am Morning Prayer

Sat December 17 - Family Promise Hosting

9:00am Daniel's Closet

Sun December 18 - Advent 4

Family Promise Hosting Ends

8:00am Holy Communion
9:15am Sunday School
10:30am Holy Communion
12:00pm Special Event
3:00pm Remembrance Service
4:00pm Tree Decorating
6:00pm Catechetical Dinner/Meeting



Mon December 19

9:00am Morning Prayer
10:00am Little Lambs program
7:00pm Bell Choir
7:00pm Wmspt. Dog Training Club

Tue December 20

9:00am Morning Prayer
10:00am Little Lambs program

Wed December 21

9:00am Morning Prayer
9:20am Staff Meeting
11:30am Mid Day prayers

12:00pm Lunch 'n' Fellowship

6:00pm Bible Study

Thu December 22

6:31am Men's Ministry
9:00am Morning Prayer
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Fri December 23

9:00am Morning Prayer

Sat December 24 - Christmas Eve

5:00pm Holy Communion at Redeemer
7:00pm Holy Communion at St. Mark's
10:00pm Holy Communion at St. Mark's

Sun December 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY

9:30am Holy Communion

Mon December 26 - *Office Closed*

Tue December 27

9:00am Morning Prayer
9:30am Flower Delivery

Wed December 28, 2016

9:00am Morning Prayer
6:00pm Bible Study

Thu December 29, 2016

6:31am Men's Ministry
9:00am Morning Prayer
9:20am Lion Crew

Fri December 30, 2016

9:00am Morning Prayer

Sun January 1, 2017

8:00am Holy Communion
9:15am Sunday School
10:30am Holy Communion

Mon January 2, 2017 - *Office Closed*

