



THE LION OF ST. MARK'S

OCTOBER 2017



Hello everyone, my name is Christian Humcke and I am the new music director here at St. Mark's Lutheran Church. During my time here so far I have met some wonderful people, and I would love to continue to get to know this community better. If I haven't met you yet, feel free to introduce yourself.

While at St. Mark's, I wish to provide the best music possible for all the services. My basic goals in working with any musical groups are fourfold: one, to inspire; two, to teach; three, to improve; and four, to have some fun too. All of these basic goals stem from the more important goal, which is to get to know Christ better, and to honor Him through the music we create together. I would love if you would join us for choir, which rehearses Thursdays at 7pm, and/or bell choir, which rehearses Monday at 7pm. Let me know if you are at all interested - the more, the merrier with these groups!

I previously studied at Bucknell University for my BM in composition, and then went to Peabody Conservatory where I earned my MM in composition. While at these fantastic schools, I also got to take lessons on organ, piano, participate in a variety of ensembles, and even learn how to tune pianos!

In my free time, I enjoy hiking, swimming, studying geography, learning about cultures, and playing board games such as chess, Scrabble, and Apples to Apples.



Our Community's annual walk to fight hunger, CROP Hunger Walk, is Sunday, October 8th at

1:00 PM, at the River Walk in Williamsport. The walk begins here at St. Mark's and you can walk 3, 6 or 10 miles.

Join the St. Mark's team to walk or donate and help us make this the most successful year. Our goal is \$1,000 (last year we raised \$900!). We walk because they walk for food. By walking on a fall afternoon, you create awareness to these issues, raise funds and have fellowship with members of the St. Mark's congregation as well as other congregations.

25% of the funds we raise support local hunger agencies plus we impact families in more than 35 countries. In partnership CROP walks support self-help programs, assist after disasters and help address root causes of poverty by providing water systems and tools to grow the food they need.

To register to walk or donate to our team, you can speak with volunteers in the Narthex or on-line. www.crophungerwalk.org > Donate > Donate to a Team > enter "St. Mark's Lutheran church Lion" > enter your donation.



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

On Consecration Sunday, October 22, everyone who completes an Estimate of Giving Card, does so voluntarily while attending morning worship on Consecration Sunday, October 22.

Since we will make no follow-up visits to ask people to complete their cards, we will make every effort to inform, inspire, and ask everyone to attend worship on Consecration Sunday, October

22.

On this day, a celebration meal follows each worship service. At all services before then, we'll be asking for your reservation for the breakfast following the 8:00 service or the lunch following the 10:30 service. It is important that every member take part.

Stewardship 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 so that we may continue to know Christ, and to make Christ known.

INDEX & UPDATE

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Council Notes

The congregational council met on Monday, September 18, 2017, and determined the following:

- ♦ Approved the Reformation Committee's recommendation that the loose plate offering on Reformation Sunday, October 29, be designated to the Fund for Leaders, which is the Synod Seminary Scholarship Fund
- ♦ Agreed to recommend to Lutheran Shared Ministry that the loose plate offering at the joint Reformation service on Wednesday, October 25 be designated to hurricane relief
- ♦ Celebrate bulletin inserts, which are commonly used by ELCA congregations, will be purchased from Augsburg Press on a trial basis for three months.
- ♦ Session 4 of the Healthy Congregations Workshops will be held at St. Mark's on October 28.
- ♦ Affirmed that Saturday evening services will continue to be held as long as parishioners continue to attend.
- ♦ Morning Prayer will be held at 7 AM on Sundays, in addition to Monday through Thursday at 9 AM.

Parish Register

† Theodore S. Larson, Jr., died on August 25, 2017. His funeral service was held on Saturday, September 9.

Church Office 323-4619 Fax 323-2452

Website: stmarkswilliamsport.org

Main e-mail: stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org

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Michele Owen, Christian Ed.	mowen@stmarkswilliamsport.org
Graydon Yearick, Financial Sec.	gyearick@stmarkswilliamsport.org
Lou DeSeau, Environmental Serv.	
Laura Schreckengast, Parish Sec.	stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org
Harold Hershberger, Council President	deermountain2@comcast.net home 570-322-0410
Mel Wentzel, Vice-President	home 570-327-8286
Karen Boone, Secretary	570-995-5107
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Michele Fredericks, Parish Life	michele.l.fredericks@gmail.com
Deb Maggs, Family Promise	tfdjmaggs@aol.com or 570-322-8109
Donna Elkin, Family Promise	donnaelkin@gmail.com or 570-323-7367 (home) or 570-419-2949 (cell)
Kathy Kolb, Prayer Chain	kathykolb@kolbnetworks.net
Sally Bjornstad, Altar Flowers	570-494-6637

STAFF OFFICE HOURS

Pastor: The Rev. James West
Sun-Wed 8 a.m.-1 p.m. & by appointment

Sexton: Lou DeSeau
Sun - Thurs 5:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Parish Musician: Christian Humcke
Sun/Mon/Wed mornings; Mon/Thu evenings

Financial Secretary: Graydon Yearick
Mon & Wed 8:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m.

Youth & Family: Bernadette Jones
Mon., Wed., Thur., Fri 10 a.m.—1 p.m.,
Sun. 8 a.m.—1p.m. & by arrangement

Youth & Family: Michele Owen
Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri 10 a.m.—2 p.m.

Secretary: Laura Schreckengast
Mon-Fri 9 a.m.—1 p.m.

Dear Friends and Members of St. Mark's,
Grace to you and peace.



Have you noticed that if it weren't for the last minute, a lot of things would never get done?

I have that sense about church history. It's been 500 years since Martin Luther published the Ninety-Five Theses. Now in this five hundredth year, Roman Catholics and Lutherans are having profound conversations about what we hold in common and at the same time where the differences remain.

Check out the scheduled events for this month, as we mark this milestone in church history. Invite yourselves and your friends to the School for Religion on Wednesdays from 7-8:30 p.m. at St. Mark's. The last Wednesday of the month, Oct. 25, we will host a joint service of Catholics and Lutherans at 7:00 p.m. to commemorate our shared history.

I invite you also to consider this historical note. St. Mark's has been active in the Reformation for 165 years. 165years/500 years works out to 33% of the Reformation. We have members who have lived through 20% of the Reformation in this place. Call the church office if you'd like to meet with and learn from our elders about Lutheranism in the Susquehanna River Valley (West Branch) through their life stories.

Here's to the last minute, may it be the prelude to the next era that God has in store for us.

Pray for me, as I pray for you, always in Christ Jesus.

~ Pr. James



FAMILY PROMISE TRANSITION

For the past four years Donna Elkin and I have served as the coordinators for St. Mark's Family Promise Program. Many volunteers from St. Mark's assisted as well as folks from First Presbyterian Church and Bethel Presbyterian Church.

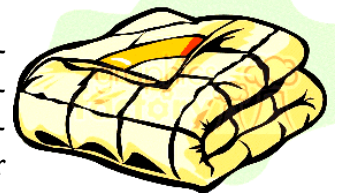
However, it is time for two new coordinators to take over the helm.

Michele Owen and Deb Buckman have graciously agreed to assume the responsibilities of coordinators. Vicki Haussmann and Phil Thomas have agreed to continue in their roles of scheduling evening hosts and transportation, respectively.

We begin another week of hosting on October 29th through November 5th. Donna and I will be assisting the new coordinators with this transition. You may be receiving calls from anyone of us. If you would like to volunteer please contact us. It has been a privilege to serve in this capacity and we look forward to continued support from all of you.
~ Debbie Maggs

COMFORT & WARMTH

Blanket Sunday is October 1st. That is the Sunday when all the beautiful quilts made by our quilting ladies are on display. The following week the quilts, along with your donated kits and soap bars, will be on their way to where they are needed. Thank you to everyone who brought in these items or quilt supplies. Your response was wonderful.



If you did not participate in the kit or quilt projects you can still help. You can make a monetary donation to St. Mark's with a designation for "BLANKETS". Blanket Sunday is a synod-wide collection which purchases blankets at bulk prices for distribution by Lutheran World Relief.

While blankets and quilts are usually meant to protect against cold, desperate people find other uses for them. A simple tent, a floor covering, a wrap for a mother to carry her baby, or any basic form of comfort can help. How fortunate we are in our warm homes!!

.....
I cannot and will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. Here I stand, I can do no other, so help me God. Amen.

~ Martin Luther



From my vantage point in the choir section I get a good view of the congregation – makes me somewhat of a church mouse – and it gives me a good opportunity to see who is in the pews and who I have not seen in the pews for some time.

One of those couples is certainly Carl and Lucille Weaver – every week I could spot them in the same place without fail. For some time they both have had health issues which have kept them homebound. Checking with their caregiver and their daughter Cynthia, I learned they have been managing with caregivers to stay in their Faxon home and with a few bumps in the road are doing reasonably well. Lucille had a spell of pneumonia which put her in the hospital but she was hoping to be back at home soon.

Ruth Pile, who sat in the same church area, had a back injury which has required her to spend some time in Ravine Ridge, the rehab section of the Williamsport Home, but she also hopes to be back in her apartment soon. Her driving companion Art Decker also had a fall and a hip injury and is in the rehab area waiting to go back to his apartment very quickly.

Judy Fortin has had a series of medical problems beginning with a fall and resulting in some surgeries, complications, etc. She too is hoping to go home soon but as of this writing she was still in the hospital.

These folks need to know they are missed even if it is just by the lowly church mouse and our prayers are always with them for a speedy return to health.

Some happier news – Gracie Schreckengast is beginning her fourth year as starting goalie for the Loyalsock High School soccer team . The team has an enviable record – three wins and two shutouts- I am sure lots of that is due to Gracie's extraordinary ability!

The Wentzel young ladies continue their adventures in drama. Sadie had a major part in an adaptation of Anne of Green Gables, playing Anne's "bosom buddy" and Taylor was the the stage manager for the production.

Next month I hope to have updates on the beginning of the school year so parents- send me your information!

– *Joyce Hershberger*

Harvest Home Sunday, October 15, 2017

Our church family will be celebrating a "Day of Thanksgiving" by bringing nonperishable items for the local food pantry.

Bags will be handed out Sunday October 1 and 8. Items should be brought to the church in the bag provided or plastic bags Sunday October 8 or 15. Your generosity helps give people in need a three day supply of food. We hope you and your family will be part of this annual celebration as we thank God for what He has given us.
~ *Worship and Music Committee*

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



Thanks to your continued generosity, our OCC shoeboxes are just about complete. In fact, they are just about bursting at the seams ~ a great "problem" to have! For the month of October, we will be collecting "Odds N Ends" ~ things that will help us finish each of the 30 (or more) boxes that we will be donating to Samaritan's Purse. Items such as soap boxes, toothbrush caps, chap stick, scissors, pencil sharpeners ~ all which can easily be found at the Dollar Tree. Please take a tag from the OCC bin in the Narthex and bring back the item(s) listed. This will help us to not duplicate too many things. As always, if you find something fun you would like to include in a shoebox, place it in the red OCC bin in the Narthex. Thank you again for your continued support of this outreach project. We are excited to see our boxes come together in November!

DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSIONS TO:

Please observe these deadlines.
Any entries received after these dates, without prior arrangement, will not be included.



...**Tuesday, Oct. 10th**



...**Thursday, Oct. 12th**

Reformation Sunday: the 500th Anniversary October 29, 2017

Please note that we will gather for a **single service of Holy Communion at 9:30 AM** on Reformation Sunday. Plan to join us afterwards for extended hospitality in Fellowship Hall.

“A Christian is lord of all, completely free of everything; a Christian is a servant, completely attentive to the needs of all.”
– Martin Luther (1520)



St. Mark's Lutheran Church,

Thank You!

We don't know how to thank you enough! The service was absolutely beautiful—truly reminded us of "Pop." The music was fabulous. It was very apparent to us that a lot of time, energy, and love went into the planning of Pop's service.

But it didn't stop there—your generosity spilled over into the luncheon. We could not be more thankful for the attentions you so lovingly gave to Jane during this time. A time when her family could not be by her side.

We are grateful in every way and thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Respectfully, Barb, Ted, & Aric Larson

An Invitation!

FROM: SAINT JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
2575 OLD BERWICK RD, BLOOMSBURG, PA
Phone: (570) 784-7342

At noon on October 22, 2017, St. John will be celebrating Pastor Kenneth Elkin's forty years of faithful service. This meal will be a pot luck supper to which your congregation is invited. Please *RSVP by October 1, 2017*, so we know how many tables to set up; please inform those attending to bring something to share and their own place settings. Our worship begins at 10:30 a.m. and of course you're welcome to attend!



Yours in Christ, ~ Gordon E. Smith, Pastor

Lunch'n'Fellowship:

On Wednesday, October 18, we plan to serve Pork & Sauerkraut! Just the thing as the weather starts to get a little chill!

Following lunch, we plan to view the movie, "The Way." This movie, starring Martin Sheen, is the story of a man who, after learning of his son's death, goes to find him. On the Camino, he finds himself. Please join us and bring a friend!

Cooking Tip: Forget the Spout: We know you've had frustrations with that spout on your box of kosher salt—injuring yourself under your fingernail or struggling to pour the last bit out of that tiny, poorly placed hole. Instead, slice a corner off the box with a serrated knife. Easy, efficient, sanity-saving.

Lutheran Shared Ministry

LSM has been busy with organizing studies and worship during this year of the 500 anniversary of the Reformation. Please join us there! LSM meetings are open to members from our local Lutheran congregations. Their next meeting is Tuesday, September 26, at 6:00 p.m., at St. Luke Lutheran Church.

Magazine Subscriptions:

The ELCA's two monthly magazine publications, *The Living Lutheran* and *Gather*, are available to borrow in the narthex.

Acolyte Schedule

OCTOBER SCHEDULE:

- October 1 Taylor & Dawson
- October 8 Sadie & Gabriella
- October 15 Hannah & Makensi
- October 22 Annika & Elizabeth
- October 29 Stefan, Evan, & Dylan



ONGOING COLLECTIONS

Non-perishable Food Items for the United Churches Food Bank.

Hygiene Items in Regular Sizes for infants to adults for the Shepherd of the Streets.

Both collections are needed now more than ever due to funding cut-backs.

Items may be placed in the tubs in the Narthex.



Trick or Treat for NGA

The Newberry Branch of NGA (Needlework Guild of America) serves needy individuals, primarily children in the Greater Williamsport Area. We have been doing so for 103 years! In 2016 we responded to the needs of more than 625 individuals when they came knocking at NGA's door. Please consider assisting us with our work in providing family hygiene packs to the Parent-Child Home Program. P-CHP is a component of Head Start and provides in-home educational opportunities to pre-school children in rural Lycoming County.

Items being requested are **toothbrushes for adults and children, toothpaste and bottles of dish detergent**. Any items not used in the hygiene packs will be donated to the Shepherd of the Streets. Donations may be placed in the tub in the Narthex.

Speak with Deb Buckman, Vicki Hausmann or Becky Pryor for more information.

Outreach Committee Activity

The Outreach Committee needs bags (up to four) of Hershey Kisses and /or Hugs for a fall project that will be happening with all Sunday School attendees on October 15, 2017 at 9:15 AM in Fellowship Hall. Candy donations can be left in the Outreach Basket in the Narthex. Thank you for any help you can give.



Newberry Branch of NGA Yard Sale

Saturday, October 14, 2017

8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

St. John's-Newberry UMC Fellowship Hall

If you love yard sales you don't want to miss this one. The room is certain to be filled with treasures of all kinds and a ginormous amount of very nice children's clothing. Food will be available. All proceeds are returned to the community in the form of new clothes, coats, shoes, linens and hygiene products. We will set-up on Friday, October 13th beginning at 9:30 am. We are always looking for extra hands for this job so join us if you wish to help for an hour or two.

Outreach Committee Seeking Additional Members

Do you enjoy sending cards? Do you have time to visit folks either in the hospital or on the Special Concerns list? Can you assist with various projects that pop up throughout the year?



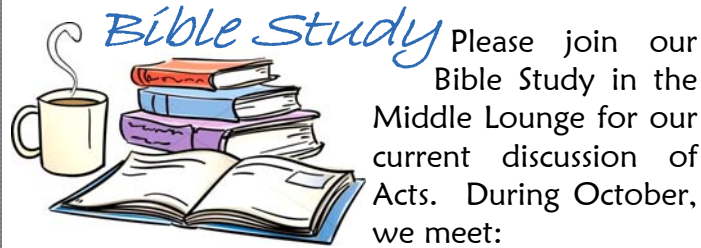
If you can do any or all of these things the Outreach Committee would love to have you on our team. We meet the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM in Middle Lounge. Join us and we can chat. Can't make it that evening? Give Becky Miller Pryor a call at 570-971-4585 to learn more.

Thank You

Thank You,

Many thanks go to Bernadette Jones and her crew for the lovely luncheon honoring our senior single members. The milestone celebrations are a nice way to commemorate significant events in the lives of our St. Mark's families. Still praising God.

~ Shirley Hill



Bible Study Please join our Bible Study in the Middle Lounge for our current discussion of Acts. During October, we meet:

- ◆ Please contact the office for meeting times.

If you would like to join a study group, but daytime is inconvenient for you, please let us know! We are willing to start small group discussions at convenient times or places.



One of the things which we can do as members of the Body of Christ is to support and encourage one another by naming persons and causes in prayer. We do this every Sunday when we are together in worship, and we can do this individually at home as well. We try to have an up to date list of names in the bulletin and the Prayer of the Church, but things happen that don't fit our publication schedule.

Whenever 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. Sometimes a reason for the request for prayer may be given, other times only a name – depending on what is appropriate in a given situation. 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.

Can you spare a few moments for that?

Confirmation

On Sunday, September 17, Owen Gair, Gabriella Gregory, Elizabeth Haussmann, Ashton Ott, Amalie Robertson, and Jonah Schreckengast affirmed their Baptism before the congregation.

At the end of the service, they were presented with study Bibles and three crosses to represent the Lutheran community at large, their church family, and one to carry with them.

Afterward, they enjoyed a lunch with their mentors and their families. The students shared their favorite desserts at the end of the meal. Which were greatly enjoyed by the almost 60 guests in attendance.

COMBINED SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS!

Sunday, October 15

ALL classes will meet in Fellowship Hall at 9:15 AM to join forces with the Outreach Committee

for the creation a special autumn project for those on our special concerns list.

Healthy Congregations

On Saturday, October 28, we will host another Healthy Leaders, Healthy Congregations Workshop in Fellowship Hall from 9:00 AM until 2:00 PM.

The past workshops in this series have been very informative and positive. Please consider joining us on that Saturday morning.



If any of you missed the CELEBration on Sunday morning, September 10, you missed a lot! About five dozen folks met in Fellowship Hall for some tasty treats and conversation. Games were set up out in the courtyard for

the children and youth for which they received tickets for prizes. Our curriculum was also available for perusal for those who were interested.

Most of our committees turned out in force to provide information about what they do and to, hopefully, sign up some new volunteers!

We also got to meet and converse with our new music director, Christian Humcke!

All in all, it was an informative and fun-filled morning—we missed you!



Another Successful Fall Bazaar!

The Women of St. Mark's heartily thank the congregation for their many, many donated items, donations of food for the kitchen, plus their assistance with our annual bazaar.

A special thank you is extended to Deb Holmes for securing the Women's Basketball Team from Lycoming College to assist in bringing all the tables and the many items from the basement to Fellowship Hall. The young ladies' energy seemed boundless.

Then, in the days preceding the sale, several congregation members worked each morning to organize the tables in preparation for the big event.

On the day of the bazaar Fellowship Hall seemed filled to capacity with shoppers. The kitchen, under the direction of the Second Saturday folks, saw many hungry customers in addition to our own folks. Fellowship Hall remained busy throughout the day with steady sales. At the conclusion of the sale, it was inspiring to see several of our members and their children assisting with the clean-up.

A special thank you is given to Carol Johnson from Redeemer Lutheran Church; Kathy Dancho, Pam Jensen, and Vicki Hausmann for creating

our Holiday Shoppe; the Publicity Committee posts advertising our event; our Second Saturday folks for the tasty lunch; and Lou and Linda DeSeau for their invaluable assistance throughout the week.

Items not sold at our sale were donated to Daniel's Closet, Newberry Branch of NGA (Needlework Guild of America), Relay for Life/Lancers Against Cancer, Operation Christmas Child, Parish Life at St. Mark's, Expectations/Pregnancy Care Center, the local SPCA and the American Rescue Workers.

This year we raised more than \$1,200. These funds will be distributed by the Women of St. Mark's in support of charities both locally and globally.

The Bazaar Room is Open!

To get a jump start on next year's event we have the Bazaar Room cleaned and ready to go for your donations of all sorts of treasures that are clean and in working order.

Please double check kitchen gadgets and small electronics before placing them in the Bazaar Room. All items should be packed in smaller boxes for ease of carrying.

Place your boxes as far away from the door as possible. A few boxes and newspaper are available in the Bazaar Room if you need them.

FOOD PANTRY HOURS:

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

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!

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.



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



Daniel's Closet (Free Seasonal Clothing) on Saturday, Sept. 28th from 9:00 – 11:00 AM
(Donated clothing may be dropped off on Sept. 28th from 4:30-6:00 PM)

Free Community Supper All Are Welcome

Redeemer Lutheran Church Thursday, September 12, 2017 5:30 – 6:30 PM



SCHOOL OF RELIGION
 Wednesdays, October 4, 11,
 & 18, 2017
 7:00—8:30 p.m.

at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 142 Market St, Williamsport, PA

Declaration on the Way: Church, Ministry, and Eucharist

Declaration on the Way is a unique ecumenical text that draws on 50 years of Lutheran-Catholic dialogue in preparation for the 500th Reformation anniversary this year. By demonstrating how far Lutherans and Catholics have come together on three crucial topics, the *Declaration* indicates much ground that need not be retraced again, and it offers these Agreements to the churches to be received into their common life. In this way it helps inspire continuing work toward the visible Christian unity, which is Christ's prayer.

On each of these three Wednesdays, both Lutheran and Catholic leaders will lead us in discussion, Week one will center on Agreements and Disagreements on the Church, the following week is discussion regarding the Agreements and Disagreements on Ministry, and the last week, focus is on the Eucharist.

The book *Declaration on the Way* is needed for this class. *call St. Mark's, at 570-323-4619, or email stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org, to register,*

a free PDF of book and study guide is available to download at:

<https://elca500.org/resources/ecumenical-and-interreligious/>



Common Prayer

**From Conflict to Communion:
 Lutheran-Catholic Commemoration of the
 Reformation**

on

Wednesday, October 25, 2017, 7:00 p.m.

at St. Mark's Lutheran Church,
 142 Market St., Williamsport, PA

Refreshments will follow in Fellowship Hall.

"This liturgical order marks a very special moment in the journey from conflict to communion between Lutherans and Catholics. It offers an opportunity to look back in thanksgiving and confession and look ahead, committing ourselves to common witness and continuing our journey together."

*~ Common Prayer From Conflict to Communion:
 Lutheran—Catholic Common Commemoration
 of the Reformation in 2017*



WEDNESDAY ECUMENICAL LUNCHES

Wednesday lunches at Pine St. UM have begun again: they serve 11:45 a.m. Lunch is \$6. 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 the United Churches office 570-322-1110 if you are not a regular attender will help our caterer, Heidi, know how to prepare.

OCTOBER'S programs:

- ⇒ 4th—Ms. Diane Langley, President, Langley Communications Corp. *"Insights of Dealing with Trauma"*
- ⇒ 11th—Ms. Morgan O'Neal and Friends, Family of Therapy Animals, *"Bringing Joy to Residents of Nursing Facilities"*
- ⇒ 18th—Mr. Richard Reitz, A Little League Uncle, *"The Joys of Adopting a Team for Little League"*
- ⇒ 25th—Ms. Ann Dunlap and Mr. Derrick Bryant, Members of New Covenant UCC's summer Mission Team, *"Hurricane Harvey - Irma - no Hurricane Katrina: Long Term Recovery Is Still Happening There!"*

Plan to attend! Bring a friend! Make new friends!



TRYING SMALL

Notes from Pr. Brian Palmer, our missionary in Totota, Liberia

The Lutheran Church in Liberia (LCL) has thirty-some odd parishes. Unlike in the US, a parish in the LCL is typically made up of one large central congregation working in conjunction with many smaller congregations called "preaching points." The Nyor Parish up in Nimba county has nearly 50 preaching points.

The main thing I do is teach. I teach lay ministers for the Lutheran Church in Liberia and I teach soon-to-be pastors for the denominational potpourri of students at the Gbarnga School of Theology. One of the things I love about Liberia is it is an easy place to be helpful and when I'm not teaching that is what I am trying to do.

The LCL students in Totota amaze me. These men and women leave their families and livelihoods for nine weeks (4 times!!) just so they can learn about God and better serve the Church. These folks are lay ministers!!! Their commitment to the Lord and willingness to sacrifice blows me away.

Liberian English: *A chi-chi-pulley is a gossip or person who doesn't know when to keep their*

mouth shut. A chi-chi-pulley bucket is a translucent bucket used by folks who are selling things on the roadside. The bucket can't keep a secret so you can see what it is they're selling.

ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

United Churches 71st Annual Assembly will be held Tuesday, November 14th. Registration will begin at 5:45 with dinner at 6:30. Note the date on your calendar and plan to attend. This year it is in town, and the Castellano Center and we will feature the ministry of our Shepherd of the Streets and our Food Pantry.

Lycoming County Life Chain will be held Sunday, October 1, 2017, on the Golden Strip (E. 3rd St.) of Loyalsock Township at 2:30 p.m. Area churches are invited to participate in this peaceful prayer event. If you are interested, contact the area coordinator listed below.



- Newberry - Larry Stetts - 570-326-0048
- Montoursville - Robert Stein - 570-584-2947
- S. Williamsport - Cheryl Palski - 570-745-7653
- Loyalsock - Cheryl Palski - 570-745-7653
- East Lyco. - K. Vincent Swartz - 570-584-4267
- Williamsport - Kim Corson - 570-745-3121
- W 4th St., Wmspt - Denise Boring 570-745-7185

Thanking God for Blessings

Beginning in the late 19th century, Lutheran women were given small Thankoffering boxes to place in a special location in their homes to remind them of blessings received. They would add coins to those boxes with a prayer each time they would think of a particular blessing. It could be a small thing like a baby's smile or a new flower opening.

Or, it could be safety after a storm or recovery from an illness. Those offerings would be given to God in gratitude. Women today are encouraged to continue this tradition. If you wish, small boxes are available in the Narthex, or you can make your own container.

Thankoffering Sunday this year at St. Mark's will be November 5th. Offerings should be made out to St. Mark's and clearly marked as "Thankoffering".

SPECIAL CONCERNS LIST

Patricia Alexander
Rose View Center
1201 Rural Ave., 223B
Williamsport, PA 17701

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

Jane Angle
Leighton Place Sr. Lvg. Rm 206
1251 Rural Ave.
Williamsport, PA 17701

Dottie Bingaman
Williamsport Home
1900 Ravine Rd.
Williamsport, PA 17701

Marie Byerly
Arista Care Nursing Ctr. Rm 547
1445 Sycamore Rd.
Montoursville, PA 17754

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



Reba Jacobs
c/o Holly Carlson
36 Linden Lane
Danville, PA 17821

Carol McMorris
330 Forest Hills Circle
Prescott, AZ 86303

Ruth Pile
Wmspt Home Care Ctr #508A
1900 Ravine Road
Williamsport, PA 17701

Kay Poliska
1100 Allen St.
Montoursville, PA 17754

Ed Richner
1900 C Ravine Rd.
Room 1218
Williamsport, PA 17701

Elizabeth Ruesskamp
Rose View Center
1201 Rural Ave.
Williamsport, PA 17701

Carl & Lucille Weaver
Ravine Ridge Rehab. Ctr. #9
Williamsport Home
1900 Ravine Road
Williamsport, PA 17701

Elda Zeigler
Leighton Place Sr. Lvg. Apt. 209
1251 Rural Ave.
Williamsport, PA 17701

SPECIAL DAYS FOR SPECIAL PEOPLE!

Birthdays of the Month

10/5 Stephanie Bieber
10/6 Caitlin Butters
10/9 Jane Zimmerer
10/10 Kameera Smith
10/11 Amy Burkholder
10/11 Barbara Doebler
10/11 Gary Goertz
10/11 Patrice Santalucia
10/12 Christine Sauers
10/13 Shirley Vognet
10/14 Gary Chrisman
10/14 Makensi Doebler

10/17 Sean Fenderson
10/18 Marion Larson
10/19 Breanna Chicas
10/20 Ashley Campbell
10/20 Megan Greevy
10/21 Paige Fortin
10/21 Carolyn Wacker
10/23 Ryan Lynn
10/24 Charles Kuntz
10/24 Richard Miller
10/24 Mark Welker
10/26 Hannah Haussmann
10/27 Kathy Eshelman
10/28 Andrew Haussmann
10/28 Tait Thorne
10/29 John Hoffman
10/29 Barbara Thomas

10/30 Lois Goldy
10/30 Deborah Maggs
10/31 Natalie Miller



10/4 Lee & Veronica Doane
10/9 Frank & Mary Lou Doebler
10/9 Lawrence & Norma Lehman
10/16 Tracy & Andrea Gregory
10/18 Ernest and Marion Larson
10/26 Louis & Linda DeSeau
10/26 Robert & Connie Shaible
10/27 Jake & Audrey Comerford
10/30 Romain & Evelyn Bastian

Sun October 1, 2017

Stewardship Talk
7:00am Morning Prayer
8:00am Holy Communion
9:15am Sunday School
10:30am Holy Communion

Mon October 2, 2017

9:00am Morning Prayer
9:45am Staff Meeting
3:45pm Christian Education
7:00pm Civic Chorus Reh
7:00pm Bell Choir

Tue October 3, 2017

9:00am Morning Prayer
6:30pm Outreach

Wed October 4, 2017

9:00am Morning Prayer
9:00am Quilters
11:30am Staff Meeting II
12:00pm Ecum. Lunch/Pine St. UM
7:00pm School of Religion

Thu October 5, 2017

9:00am Morning Prayer
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Fri October 6, 2017

9:00am Morning Prayer

Sat October 7, 2017**Sun October 8, 2017****CROP WALK**

7:00am Morning Prayer
8:00am Holy Communion
9:15am Sunday School
10:30am Holy Communion
1:00pm Crop Walk

Mon October 9, 2017

9:00am Morning Prayer
9:45am Staff Meeting
7:00pm Civic Chorus Reh
7:00pm Bell Choir

Tue October 10, 2017

Council Agenda Due
9:00am Morning Prayer
1:00pm City Pastors' Lunch

Wed October 11, 2017

9:00am Morning Prayer
9:00am Quilters

11:30am Staff Meeting II
12:00pm Ecum. Lunch/Pine St. UM
7:00pm School of Religion

Thu October 12, 2017**Lion Article Deadline**

9:00am Morning Prayer
9:30am Stephen Ministry
5:30pm Redeemer Comm. Meal
6:30pm Property Committee
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Fri October 13, 2017

9:00am Morning Prayer

Sat October 14, 2017**Sun October 15, 2017****Harvest Home**

7:00am Morning Prayer
8:00am Holy Communion
9:15am Sun.Sch.Combined
10:30am Holy Communion

Mon October 16, 2017

9:00am Morning Prayer
9:45am Staff Meeting
6:00pm Civic Chorus Board
6:30pm Council Meeting
7:00pm Wmspt. Dog Training Club
7:00pm Civic Chorus Reh
7:00pm Bell Choir

Tue October 17, 2017

9:00am Morning Prayer

Wed October 18, 2017

9:00am Morning Prayer
9:00am Quilters
11:30am Staff Meeting II
12:00pm Ecum. Lunch/Pine St. UM
12:00pm Lunch 'n' Fellowship
7:00pm School of Religion

Thu October 19, 2017

9:00am Morning Prayer
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Fri October 20, 2017

9:00am Morning Prayer
7:00pm AGO Wmspt. Chap. Mtg.

Sun October 22, 2017**Consecration Sunday**

7:00am Morning Prayer
8:00am Holy Communion

9:15am Consecration Breakfast
10:30am Holy Communion
11:45am Consecration Luncheon
12:00pm Pot Luck @ St. John,
Bloomsburg

Mon October 23, 2017

9:00am Morning Prayer
9:45am Staff Meeting
7:00pm Civic Chorus Reh
7:00pm Bell Choir

Tue October 24, 2017

9:00am Morning Prayer

Wed October 25, 2017

9:00am Morning Prayer
9:00am Quilters
11:30am Staff Meeting II
12:00pm Ecum. Lunch/Pine St. UM
7:00pm 500 Anniversary Joint Lutheran/Catholic Worship

Thu October 26, 2017

9:00am Morning Prayer
4:00pm Daniel's Closet Drop-Off
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Fri October 27, 2017

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

Sat October 28, 2017

9:00am Daniel's Closet
9:00am Healthy Cong.
Workshop til 2:00

Sun October 29, 2017**Reformation Sunday****FAMILY PROMISE HOSTING**

7:00am Morning Prayer
9:30am Joint Service to
Celebrate the Reformation

Mon October 30, 2017**FAMILY PROMISE HOSTING**

9:00am Morning Prayer
9:45am Staff Meeting
7:00pm Civic Chorus Rehearsal
7:00pm Bell Choir

Tue October 31, 2017**FAMILY PROMISE HOSTING**

9:00am Morning Prayer

