



# THE LION OF ST. MARK'S

NOVEMBER 2017

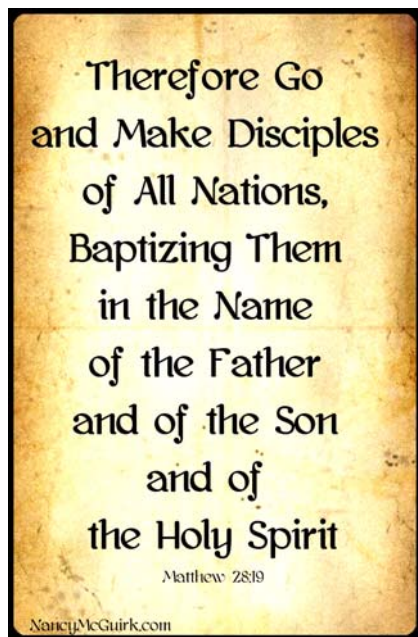
## All Saints Day November 5, 2017

At both services on All Saints Sunday, November 5, 2017:

*We recognize and rejoice in those who  
joined the Church Militant by Holy Baptism.*

*We honor and remember those who have  
moved on to the Church Triumphant.*

† Jayden Roberts, son of Jay D Roberts  
November 20, 2016



† Larue Dieter	January 24, 2017
† James Doane	January 28, 2017
† Doris Griggs	February 5, 2017
† Shirley Dieffenbach	March 27, 2017
† Hugh Byerly	May 5, 2017
† William Waldeisen	June 9, 2017
† Robert Swartz	June 24, 2017
† Theodore Larson, Jr.	August 25, 2017
† Lucille Weaver	October 15, 2017



This year, LSM's *School of Religion* brought Lutherans and Catholics together in dialogue regarding the agreements reached between them in the past 500 years and what remains to be discussed

The sessions on the first three Wednesdays of the month were led by Fr. Brian VanFossen, Pr. David Byerly, and Pr. Elizabeth Aurand. Discussion covered (one topic per week) Church, Ministry, and Eucharist. About 50 people attended: Catholics, St. Mark's folk, and other Lutheran congregations each made up one third of the class. Thank you to all those from here who supported

the program.

At the Joint Catholic-Lutheran Commemoration of the Reformation, on Oct. 25, almost 80 Lutherans and Catholics joined in prayer. Afterwards, almost everyone enjoyed fellowship and food in Fellowship Hall.

The next ecumenical study group will meet at Perkins, near Kohl's and Wegman's, beginning Wednesday, January 3, 2018, at 7:00 pm. The group will study the document *From Conflict to Communion*. For more information, contact Audrey Comerford, [argraft@live.com](mailto:argraft@live.com)

For more info see p. 9

**Freed & RENEWED**  
**in Christ** 500 YEARS OF GOD'S GRACE IN ACTION

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### COUNCIL NOTES DUE DEC. 10 NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE DECEMBER 12

### 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.

### Council Notes

*The congregational council met on Monday, October 16, 2017, and determined the following:*

- ♦ Joyce Hershberger updated council on the progress of the transition team and presented the Ministry Site Profile.
- ♦ Council voted to approve the Ministry Site Profile as presented.
- ♦ Treasurer Jackie Kinney updated council on progress with the 2018 budget.
- ♦ The Personnel Committee reported that staff evaluations have been completed. Wage adjustments were discussed and sent to the Finance Committee for approval. An employee goal setting plan will be incorporated into the evaluation process next year.
- ♦ Council voted to approve the proposed wage packages as presented by the Finance Committee.
- ♦ Council voted to continue Pastor West's term as intentional interim on a month-to-month basis should our next called pastor not be procured by January 31, 2018.

### Parish Register

- ✦ Jonathan Bower and Tanya Sheets were married on September 23, 2017, Pr. West presiding.
- ✦ Lucille Weaver died on October 16, 2017. Pr. West presided at her funeral on October 22, 2017
- ✦ Received Ruth Ann Bigelow into our congregation by Affirmation of Faith
- ✦ Received Vince and Diane Bardsley into our congregation by Letter of Transfer from Messiah S. Wmspt

**Church Office 323-4619      Fax 323-2452**

**Website: [stmarkswilliamsport.org](http://stmarkswilliamsport.org)**

**Main e-mail: [stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto:stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org)**

Rev. James West, Pastor	jwest@stmarkswilliamsport.org 949-212-8644
Christian Humcke, Dir. of Music	chumcke@stmarkswilliamsport.org
Bernadette Jones, Youth & Fam.	bjones@stmarkswilliamsport.org
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
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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

## Lunch 'N Fellowship E-X-P-A-N-D-S!

For the past several months the Parish Life Committee has been brainstorming ways in which the monthly attendance at Lunch-N-Fellowship could increase. They tried several different options from speakers to movies. Nothing seemed to work until Janet Jones learned that a free senior citizen luncheon had ceased operation. That is when the best idea of all became apparent; make our Lunch 'N Fellowship a free community meal open to all who come through our doors.

With some modest help from the Outreach Committee our first free community luncheon occurred on September 20th. We were overjoyed to greet thirteen new faces from the community along with our usual crowd. Good food and good conversation were enjoyed by all. In October, almost 40 attended.

The Parish Life and Outreach Committees are excited with the possibility of this event growing to serve even more of our neighbors. There is a need for this food ministry and we are blessed to be able to share our time, talents and faith with others. We are God's hands in action.

Our Lunch 'N Fellowship is every 3rd Wednesday of the month at noon—this month, the 16<sup>th</sup>. The entrée this month is lasagna. Won't you join us as we break bread together?



\*\*\*\*\*

*Dear Members of St. Mark's Church,*

*Dr. Ted Larson died August 25, 2017 after a lengthy struggle with congestive heart failure. Ted was a life-long member of St. Mark's.*

*During his illness you prayed for his comfort and peace. You visited him and sent him cards of encouragement. Pastor West frequently visited and brought Communion.*

*You honored him with your presence at his funeral. It was a beautiful tribute with choir and splendid organ music. You prepared, delivered, served, and cleaned up the most delicious lunch for our guests.*

*It is with much love that I thank you.*

**Thank You**

*Jane*



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

November is when we focus on being grateful. Officially, it takes a presidential proclamation to declare that Thanksgiving Day will be observed on Thursday the 23<sup>rd</sup> this month. You may have noticed that it's already written on most calendars ahead of time. This is merely one of those tidbits I learned while serving as a chaplain in the Navy. President George Washington made the first thanksgiving proclamation on October 3, 1789 in New York City.

As Christians, the spirit of gratitude is our response to the grace of God. Hebrews 12:28 summarizes this truth. *Therefore, let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe.* I don't quote Hebrews often because it speaks to the fear, awe and reverence we are to have before God. That quote finishes with verse 29, *for our God is a consuming fire.*

Yes, I am even grateful for God's consuming fire, because it burns up all my shortcomings, also known as sin. I thank God for all of you for our partnership in God's mission of making Christ known. I am better than I was for knowing you and meeting Christ through you. I pray that this experience of grace is mutual. If not, tell me, please.

Pray for me as I pray for you, always,

In Christ Jesus,

Pastor James West

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## **CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

In mid November, 75 year member Alona (Zaner) Hopler will be moving to the Allentown home of her daughter, Alona Pike. Her new address will be:

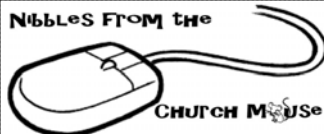
2114 Riverbend Rd.  
Allentown, PA 18103



*You are not only responsible for what you say, but for what you do not say.*

*~ Martin Luther*





How do you like my new title—it was time for a change and what better time than now?

I tell you that Ben Haussmann cuts a handsome figure on the field as drum major of the WAHS band—it was dusk in the picture so the effect was really dynamic!

Our two star soccer young women, Gracie Schreckengast and Makens Doebl, have been very busy with the Loyalsock Lancers' Girls team. Their team currently has ten wins (9 shut-outs!) and has already qualified for playoffs. Makensi scored the first goal against the dreaded Southern Columbia team and Gracie is ranked third in Pennsylvania among goalies allowing the fewest points per game.

Pastor Elkin shared his news—he recently walked the 500 miles of the Camino Santiago in Spain in a period of 30 days. He enjoyed meeting people from 15 states and more than 20 other countries and reports only one blister in all of that walking, and using only one pair of shoes—that is quite a record!

Pastor was joined by Donna in Barcelona where they welcomed grandchild #5, Oliver, son of Esteban and Katy Elkin Mazer. He was 10 pounds at birth and has gained four more pounds!

Pastor also addressed the annual meeting of the national Spanish English bilingual ministry leadership conference on October 17-18 in Chicago and also addressed a local Chicago bilingual parish on October 19<sup>th</sup> on the subject of pilgrimage, and the Camino Santiago in particular.

If you would like to see photos and hear stories of Ken's latest adventure in Spain he will be speaking to the ecumenical luncheon at Pine Street Church on Wednesday, November 1 at noon. It is good to know he is keeping busy (who would expect anything else?)

Taylor Wentzel was awarded the good choices award at Loyalsock High School—the award is given for making good choices both academically and socially. Congratulations to her!

Our new Director of Music, Christian, seems to be settling in nicely—getting Mormon Tabernacle results from our much smaller choir and sharing some of his own compositions with all of us. Welcome to Christian!

Keep in touch or the church mouse may resort to his own memoirs! (or maybe hers!)

*Joyce Hershberger*

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



November brings much excitement for Operation Christmas Child ~ it is time to pack our shoeboxes! We have been collecting all sorts of items over the past 10 months, and it is now time to pull everything together! We will be packing our shoeboxes on Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, after our late service. Please join us for a light lunch before we begin the packing process. This promises to be a fun afternoon with the goal of packing 30+ boxes to be sent out to those in need.

In addition to our packaging event, we will be collecting monetary donations during the month of November. Samaritan's Purse asks for a \$9.00 donation to help cover the cost of shipping each shoebox. This \$9.00 donation also helps Samaritan's Purse train and equip local churches to use our Ministry Partner Guide. This resource shows churches how to share the Good News of the Lord Jesus Christ in a child-friendly way. Your donation also provides The Greatest Gift Gospel Booklets, which are written in the children's language and distributed along with shoebox gifts.

Thank you for your continued support of Operation Christmas Child. How exciting that we at St. Mark's are able to share the Good News around the World!

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Thank you to all who walked and donated for the CROP Walk on October 8<sup>th</sup>. Together we raised \$682.00, which is enough to give seeds and gardening supplies for a community garden and give training to 25 farmers! We made one more step to help stop hunger. We hope you can walk with us next year.

~ Brenda Gair

*From United Churches: About 150 gathered throughout the county to participate in CROP Walk. Almost 100 walked the River Walk in Williamsport. The need to feed hungry people in war torn countries, in places where there are droughts, floods and hurricanes, to help refugees and people who must walk for water or food in our country or in other countries is in our news every day.*

## Thank You for the Treats

The Newberry Branch of NGA (Needlework Guild of America) thanks the Congregation for their participation in "Trick or Treat for NGA." Your donations of toothbrushes, toothpaste and dish detergent along with other church's donations of hygiene items will be distributed to the Shepherd of the Streets, Expectations / Pregnancy Care Center, Liberty House and other agencies serving women and children. The Parent-Child Home Program of STEP Head Start is not in operation at this time due to a total lack of funding.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Fall Blessings

The Outreach Committee thanks the Christian Education Committee and the congregation for their assistance with the fall visit to our Special Concern folks and others we do not see as often as we wish. We heard many positive comments relating to the intergenerational Sunday School class where a pumpkin craft, Reformation gift bag and a cheery note were created. Those positive comments continued from folks who had the opportunity to visit with members of our church family. We hope those many visits helped to reinforce our connection with members of our church family.

\*\*\*\*\*

thank  
You

*Dear Church Family,  
Thank you for my NIV Study Bible,  
my two crosses, and my medallion.  
I learned a lot and came closer to  
God during confirmation. Thank you so so  
much for everything.*

*Yours in Christ, Owen Gair*



## Calling St. Mark's Elves

Preparations are already underway for our annual Christmas visit with the 14 ladies of CM-6 at the **Selinsgrove Center**. This year our party will be **Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00 PM**. As is our tradition we tell stories, sing songs and take modest gifts for the ladies and their caregivers.

*Please consider donating an item or two from our list of requests. These items include moisturizing body wash, unscented if possible, non-refrigerated pudding cups in any flavor (The Center only serves vanilla.)*

*Closer to our party we will be asking for donations of apples, clementines, bananas, candy kisses and homemade cookies for a fruit basket and cookie tray for the caregivers.*

Monetary donations are always welcome to fill in any gaps with our gifting. We purchased slipper socks late last winter at bargain prices. Checks may be made payable to St. Mark's with the memo line indicating "Selinsgrove Party." A container will be available in the Narthex for your donations. Thank you in advance for any help you can give to this very meaningful project. Speak with members of the Outreach Committee for additional information.



\*\*\*\*\*

## Christmas Gifts for Danville State Hospital

Once again we have been asked to provide modest gifts to the residents of Danville State Hospital. This year we are providing general gifts that insure every resident has a gift or two to open on Christmas Day. These gifts are especially needed for those folks who are admitted to the hospital in late November and December.

Near the end of November, if you wish to provide a gift, take an ornament from the tree in the Narthex, purchase the listed item and return it unwrapped to the tub in the Narthex.

**All gifts for Danville residents are due by Sunday, December 10, 2017.**

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

## Acolyte Schedule

### DECEMBER SCHEDULE:

December 3	Gabriella & Hannah
December 10	Elizabeth & Evan
December 17	Dylan & Stefan
December 24	9:30am: Lynna & Sean 7:00pm: Grace & Jonah 10:00pm: Gillian, Taylor & Sadie
December 31	Dawson & Owen







## BLOOD DRIVE

St. Mark's will once again be hosting a blood drive on Friday, December 15th, 2017 from 11am—3pm in Fellowship Hall.

Please look for sign-up information in the near future in the narthex or if you have any questions please contact

Michele at [mowen@stmarkswilliamport.org](mailto:mowen@stmarkswilliamport.org) or go to <http://www.redcrossblood.org/>

\*\*\*\*\*

**Start your Christmas shopping early  
...and you don't even have to leave the church!**



Sandy Grier from Along the Way will offer a Book Fair for St. Mark's on  
**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26<sup>th</sup>!**

*"I will have a lot of discounted off holiday books for both Christmas and Easter (since I only come once a year). I will also have Advent calendars, boxed cards, and great adult Christian reads as well as other stuff. So, hopefully the congregation will purchase for their grandchildren, children, spouses and other adult relatives and friends, teachers and themselves. Prices range from \$.10 and up. There is something for everyone.*

*I also hope folks come by just to say HI!!! I always enjoy coming to the church and catching up on how folks are doing and what's happening in their lives.*

*I'll see you November 26<sup>th</sup> if not before!"*  
~ Sandy

10% of all Sales are donated back to St. Mark's.  
**THIS IS A ONE DAY EVENT ONLY – NOV. 26<sup>th</sup> in FELLOWSHIP HALL.** Cash & Checks are accepted.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree.*  
~ Martin Luther

## REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

**Each day you add an item to the box and on Christmas Eve you foodbank**



On the First Sunday of Advent, at the lunch and wreath-making event, we will have boxes available for families to decorate. Why? The idea above came to our attention via...what else? ... Facebook!

The way it works is, instead of opening a door or window each day of Advent and getting a treat, the children place a non-perishable food item in the box that they have prepared. On Christmas Eve, after either the morning or evening services, the filled boxes may be placed on the stage. We'll make sure all the items get to where they will do the most good.

Adult volunteers are welcome to assist with painting to cover product information on the boxes on Saturday, December 2, at 10:00 am.

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## ONGOING COLLECTIONS

**United Churches Food Bank:** Non-perishable food items are always in need.

**Shepherd of the Streets:** Hygiene items in regular sizes including diapers (size 5) and items for infants. The Shepherd's funding has been drastically reduced.

**Bazaar Room:** The Women of St. Mark's need your donations for our 2018 sale. Items need to be clean and in good working order. Boxing your items is preferred. Please do not block the entrance to the Bazaar Room.

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your contributions. God will surely bless you for your generosity. Without you, we could not do what we are doing for the poor.

I hope you know how much we need your help and how much we appreciate each and every donation.

God bless you. You are in my prayers every day.

Sincerely in Christ,  
Sister Henry  
St. Anthony's Center



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## Love is the Thread that Binds Us

The Quilting Ladies are seeking additional people to join in making quilts for Lutheran World Relief. In 2016 they were able to sew 76 quilts. But due to illnesses and surgeries only 57 quilts were sewn this year. There are tasks for every level of sewing skill. If you can tie a knot you can quilt. Speak with Shirley Hill or Becky Miller Pryor to learn more.

\*\*\*\*\*



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 to print. 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](mailto:kathy@kolbnetworks.com), and also the church office at [stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org](mailto: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?

## INSTITUTE OF LITURGICAL STUDIES APPOINTS CO-DIRECTORS

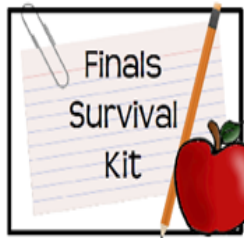


The Institute of Liturgical Studies at Valparaiso University has named Jennifer Baker-Trinity as one of the co-directors of the Institute. In her role as a co-director, Baker-Trinity shares the responsibility to lead, supervise and direct the Institute of Liturgical Studies. She, with her co-worker will be responsible for strategic and tactical planning, oversee day-to-day operations and lead and host the annual conference. Currently under a call by the Upper Susquehanna Synod as a deacon, she leads assembly song at Beaver, Beaver Springs (*Pastor Nathan Baker-Trinity*). Baker-Trinity earned a bachelor's from Valparaiso University and a master of religion and a master of sacred theology from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. She has written widely for the church, and has presented workshops for local and national worship events on language for worship, children in worship and the integral role of music in the liturgy, three of her passions essential to the church's worship. Connected to the Institute for two decades, Baker-Trinity served on the Institute of Liturgical Studies' advisory council from 2006–2012. She has been active for many years in the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians, serving twice previously as conference chair and currently as president for Region 1. Baker-Trinity served congregations in Illinois, Pennsylvania and Minnesota as a church musician, regularly contributing to synod worship events.

"As someone who has been deeply formed and inspired by the work and mission of both the Institute and Valparaiso University, I look forward to sharing in the directorship of the Institute, keeping it a vital source of learning and connection for all who care for the church's worship," Baker-Trinity said. As co-director, Baker-Trinity will work together to educate and renew those who serve the church, continuing the Institute's 70-year endeavor to transform the church through worship.

*Jennifer is the niece of Ray Reams of our congregation and the daughter of Ray's sister Nancy Reams Baker. Nancy "grew up" at St. Mark's.*





## FINALS WEEK SURVIVAL KITS:

We need protein/granola/ snack bars, fruit gushers, trail mix, gum, water flavorings, or any other treats you can think of for our college students!

*Guess what else we need?*

*Addresses for said students!!*

Please email shipping info to Bernadette. Treats will be gratefully accepted in a container across from the Youth & Family offices! Deadline for all this is Sunday, December 3, the first Sunday in Advent.

*We need to mail these by December 4!*

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## ADVENT WREATH MAKING



You...yes, you...and your family are invited to attend the annual Advent Wreath Making on Sunday, December 3, at noon in Fellowship Hall. The children will again decorate their tree in the Hall with the hand-made ornaments donated to the children of St. Mark's by the Burkholders. Please join us for a time of food, fun and fellowship and make an advent wreath for your home! *(see p. 4 for more info)*

THE TREES COME ALIVE THIS ADVENT SEASON; alive with mittens, gloves, hats, and socks! Two trees will be ready to decorate with these items by Sunday, December 3. Please stop in Fellowship Hall and add your gift to the trees. The socks, mittens, gloves, and hats will be given to area families in need.



\*\*\*\*\*

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!



**ADULT COOKIE BAKE  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9  
8:00 A.M. – ???**



**KIDS' NIGHT OUT  
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9  
5:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.**

*Look for sign-up lists in the staff hallway soon!*

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**A LUNCHEON FOLLOWED BY CHRISTMAS CAROLING TO OUR SHUT-INS, WILL BEGIN IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE SECOND SERVICE ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10.**

### 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 Due to Thanksgiving this is one week earlier.**

(Free Seasonal Clothing) on Saturday, Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 – 11:00 AM

*(Donated clothing may be dropped off on Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> from 4:30-6:00 PM)*

**Free Community Supper All Are Welcome**

**Redeemer Lutheran Church Thursday, November 9, 2017 5:30 – 6:30 PM**



**Freed & RENEWED**  
in Christ 500  
YEARS OF GOD'S  
GRACE IN ACTION

Many thanks do out to those on the planning committee: Audrey & Jake Comerford, Cheryl & David Williams, Pr. Aurand, and LSM.

Thanks also to St. Mark's staff for set-up, printed materials, and refreshments.

We would like to especially thank the clergy and lay persons who led and assisted with the October 25<sup>th</sup> service: Monsignor Vincent Grimalia, Diocese of Scranton; Bishop Barbara Collins, USS; Fr. Bert Kozen, Immaculate Conception, Bastress; Pr. David & Deacon Mary Lou Byerly, Trinity Lyching Co. Parish & Williamsport Hospital, respectively; Jim Foran, St. Joseph the Worker; Ray Huff, St. Mark's; Jake & Audrey Comerford, St. Joseph & St. Mark's; Cheryl & David Williams, St. Mark's & St. Joseph; and Christian Humcke, Music Director, St. Mark's.



**Children's Church**

SUNDAY, Nov. 19, at 10:30 a.m.,

in the Chapel, is our next celebration of Children's Church.

The special offering that day is snacks for the Finals Week Survival Kits we'll be sending to our college students or a monetary donation toward the postage.

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**WEDNESDAYS IN ADVENT,  
PLEASE JOIN US FOR MID-DAY PRAYER  
AT 11:30, BEGINNING DECEMBER 6.**

*Service will be followed by lunch at noon.*



**Join Family Promise in the Fight to End Homelessness**

Farrington Place  
416 East Third Street, Williamsport  
November 4, 2017  
6:00 PM to 10:00 PM

**Charity Auction Including:**  
Sports Memorabilia, Specialty Baskets,  
Gift Cards from Eagles Mere Inn &  
Elite Feet just to name a few,  
LuLaRoe, Vera Bradley and so much more...  
**Plus Envelope Raffle**

**Ticket Price Includes:**

Served Buffet  
Beer and Wine  
Photo Booth  
DJ/Dancing

Tickets are \$45.00 per person  
and must be purchased in  
advance by **October 25**.

Premier event sponsor



**American Rescue Workers, Family Promise and Lycoming College  
are hosting a Box City Event**

**November 3, 2017 – November 4, 2017  
6:00pm to 6:00 am**

Individual Registration \$20

Group Participation \$10/person – minimum of 5 participants

Registration fee waived for anyone who raises \$50 in "rent" sponsorships.

For information or to register yourself or your team please call 570-567-7103 or email  
[melissa.magargle@familypromiselycoming.org](mailto:melissa.magargle@familypromiselycoming.org)



Vision Statement: "A nation in which every family has a home, a livelihood and the chance to build a better future together."

**REMEMBER  
THE OCC  
PACK'N'WRAP  
ON SUNDAY,  
NOV. 12, AFTER  
CHURCH!**



## 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.

NOVEMBER's programs:

- 1 **The Rev. Ken Elkin**, Retired Lutheran Pastor, "What Earthly Good Is A Pilgrimage?"
- 8 **Mr. Joseph Shaw**, Retreaded then Retired, "Good Will Brings Good Will"
- 15 **Mrs. Gayle Peters Coates**, RN, American Red Cross Volunteer, "Our First Responses To Disaster"
- 22 **Mrs. Patty Gohrs**, United Churches Staff, "Thanking God for Warm Fuzzies"
- 29 **The Rev. Gwen Bernstine**, United Churches Staff, "Advent Excitement"

Plan to attend! Bring a friend! Make new friends! It's for regular folks like you and me! Join me this week!

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The students are taking mid terms as I write this! Can you believe the semester is already half over?!

September brought "Jesus and Java" to campus. Anyone that has spent time with me since it started is already sick of hearing me talk about how much I love it! We set a table outside the cafeteria on Wednesday mornings, from 8-9. We hand out free coffee, baked goods and a devotion. Each time I leave, I recall an impact filled conversation I had that morning with a student. We plan on continuing this throughout the school year.

I would like to acknowledge the college in approving this...Dining Services allows us to hand coffee out just outside the cafeteria that they sell it in. Amazing! I would like to thank Pastor Stan (Christian Church of Cogan Station) and Pastor Brad (New Covenant United Church of Christ) for leading our Bible Studies in the month of September.

Finally, we continue to be blessed with the love shown to our students. Tom Ask, our previous advisor, shared his recently published book with our students by supplying a copy for each.

*Tammey Aichner, Coordinator, ucm@ucl.org*

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## 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, at the Castellano Center and we will feature the ministry of our Shepherd of the Streets and our Food Pantry.

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## Thanking God for Blessings

Beginning in the late 19<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup>. Offerings should be made out to St. Mark's and clearly marked as "Thankoffering".

Women of the ELCA

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## LECTURE AT BUCKNELL UNIVERSITY NOVEMBER 9 @ 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

"Genuine Love in the Reformation" is the title of a lecture on November 9, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. at Bucknell University. It will be held in the LC Forum and feature Peter Iver Kaufman, George Matthews & Virginia Brinkley Modin Chair in Leadership Studies, Jepson School of Leadership Studies, University of Richmond.



The whole being of any Christian is faith and love. Faith brings the person to God, love brings the person to people.



## 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

**Alona Hopler**  
2114 Riverbend Road  
Allentown, PA 18103

**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  
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**Kay Poliska**  
1100 Allen St.  
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**Ed Richner**  
1900 C Ravine Rd., Apt. 1218  
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**Elizabeth Ruesskamp**  
Rose View Center  
1201 Rural Ave.  
Williamsport, PA 17701

**Carl Weaver**  
424 Wyndham Court  
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

11/12 Pamela Davenport  
11/13 Elizabeth Hausmann  
11/17 Kyle Doeblor  
11/18 Ronald Baker  
11/18 Donna Baker  
11/20 Tracey Heaps  
11/20 Donna Hutchinson  
11/21 Ray Reams  
11/22 Lisa Weaver  
11/23 Sally Bjornstad  
11/23 Robert Jones

11/23 James Newcomer Jr.  
11/23 Ralph Thorne  
11/25 Nancy Bieber  
11/25 Stephen Dewar  
11/25 Ashley Miller  
11/25 Lois Smith  
11/26 Shirley Miller  
11/26 Lucia Walz  
11/27 Shelly Clokey  
11/27 Katlin Jensen  
11/29 Matthew MacGill  
11/30 Harold Hershberger



11/5 Jennifer & Rick  
Robertson  
11/6 Gregg & Kathleen  
Dancho  
11/15 David & Emily Elkin  
11/18 Stephen & Candace Dewar  
11/19 Cheryl & David  
Williams  
11/19 Ralph & Lou Ann Zeigler  
11/20 Robert & Mary  
Clouser  
11/22 David & Nicole Walz  
11/26 Charles & Judith Fortin  
11/30 Melvin & Melinda Wentzel



**Wednesday November 1, 2017****FAMILY PROMISE HOSTING**

9:00am Morning Prayer

9:00am Quilters

11:30am Staff Meeting II

12:00pm Ecumenical Lunch at Pine Street UM

**Thu November 2, 2017****FAMILY PROMISE HOSTING**

9:00am Morning Prayer

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

**Fri November 3, 2017****FAMILY PROMISE HOSTING**

9:00am Morning Prayer

**Sat November 4, 2017****FAMILY PROMISE HOSTING****Sun November 5, 2017****All Saints Sunday****FAMILY PROMISE HOSTING***Thankoffering Sunday*

7:00am Morning Prayer

8:00am Holy Communion

9:15am Sunday School

10:30am Holy Communion New Members received

11:45am Worship and Music

**Mon November 6, 2017**

9:00am Morning Prayer

9:45am Staff Meeting

3:45pm Christian Ed.

7:00pm Civic Chorus Rehearsal

7:00pm Bell Choir

**Tue November 7, 2017**

9:00am Morning Prayer

1:00pm City Pastors' Lunch

6:30pm Outreach

**Wed November 8, 2017**

9:00am Morning Prayer

9:00am Quilters

11:30am Staff Meeting II

12:00pm Ecumenical Lunch at Pine Street UM

**Thu November 9, 2017**

9:00am Morning Prayer

9:30am Stephen Ministry

5:30pm Redeemer Community Meal

6:00pm Property Committee

6:30pm Stephen Ministry

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

**Fri November 10, 2017****Council Agenda Due**

9:00am Morning Prayer

**Sun November 12, 2017**

OCC Pack and Wrap

**Lion Article Deadline**

7:00am Morning Prayer

8:00am Holy Communion

9:15am Sunday School

10:30am Holy Communion

**Mon November 13, 2017**

9:00am Morning Prayer

9:45am Staff Meeting

7:00pm Civic Chorus Rehearsal

7:00pm Bell Choir

**Tue November 14, 2017**

9:00am Morning Prayer

**Wed November 15, 2017**

9:00am Morning Prayer

9:00am Quilters

11:30am Staff Meeting II

12:00pm Ecumenical Lunch at Pine Street UM

12:00pm Lunch 'n' Fellowship

**Thu November 16, 2017**

9:00am Morning Prayer

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

**Fri November 17, 2017**

9:00am Morning Prayer

**Sun November 19, 2017**

7:00am Morning Prayer

8:00am Holy Communion

9:15am Sunday School

10:30am Holy Communion

10:30am Children's Church

**Mon November 20, 2017**

9:00am Morning Prayer

9:45am Staff Meeting

6:00pm Civic Chorus Board Meeting

6:30pm Council Meeting

7:00pm Wmspt. Dog Training Club

7:00pm Civic Chorus Rehearsal

7:00pm Bell Choir

**Tue November 21, 2017**

9:00am Morning Prayer

**Wed November 22, 2017**

9:00am Morning Prayer

9:00am Quilters

11:30am Staff Meeting II

12:00pm Ecumenical Lunch at Pine Street UM

**Thu November 23, 2017**9:00am **THANKSGIVING** - Office Closed

4:00pm Daniel's Closet Drop-Off

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

**Fri November 24, 2017**

9:00am Morning Prayer

**Sat November 25, 2017**

9:00am Daniel's Closet

**Sun November 26, 2017**

7:00am Morning Prayer

8:00am Holy Communion

9:15am Sunday School

10:30am Holy Communion

**Mon November 27, 2017**

9:00am Morning Prayer

9:45am Staff Meeting

7:00pm Civic Chorus Rehearsal

7:00pm Bell Choir

**Tue November 28, 2017**

9:00am Morning Prayer

9:20am **Lion Crew**

6:00pm LSM at St. Luke's

**Wed November 29, 2017**

9:00am Morning Prayer

9:00am Quilters

11:30am Staff Meeting II

12:00pm Ecumenical Lunch at Pine Street UM

**Thu November 30, 2017**

9:00am Morning Prayer

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

