



# THE LION OF ST. MARK'S

JANUARY 2018

*At this beginning of the new year, we take time to reflect on our blessings and how we can be a blessing to others. We use our Time, Talents, and Treasure in so many ways through the congregation as well as in the rest of our daily lives. We need to acknowledge and encourage each other in all of these areas. It is quite a list of responsibilities that we share. So THANK YOU to those who have been a blessing to St. Mark's and our community by serving as...*

- † Acolytes
- † Ushers
- † Greeters
- † Altar guild
- † Lectors
- † Singers and instrumentalists
- † Handbell ringers
- † Assisting Ministers
- † Nursery attendants
- † Communion servers
- † Home communion visitors
- † Flower deliverers
- † Hospitality hosts
- † Sunday School teachers
- † Sunday School staff
- † Stephen Ministers
- † Committee members
- † Council members
- † Officers
- † Family Promise coordinators
- † Family Promise volunteers evening hosts, drivers, meal preparers, overnight hosts, laundry, day center volunteers, board members
- † Money counters
- † Card senders
- † Quilters
- † Kitchen chefs and helpers
- † Our paid staff members who offer additional time
- † Thespians
- † Wait staff
- † Visitors to Selinsgrove Center
- † Bazaar staff ...and many more!



**What was happening this December?** If you weren't around for any of the following, you missed some fun times!

- \* Advent Wreath-making & luncheon (always fun)
  - \* Mid-week Advent services & luncheons
  - \* Advent vespers Monday-Wednesday
  - \* General cleaning and decorating of the office/lounge areas
  - \* Packed & sent Finals Survival Kits for our college-age members
  - \* Selinsgrove caroling (join us next year)
  - \* Kids' Night Out (7 kids, 7 helpers, gifts, cookies, cards!)
  - \* Adult Cookie Bake (flour was flying everywhere!)
  - \* Children's Church (presented cards for our shut-ins)
  - \* Christmas caroling to our homebound (with cookies & cards)
  - \* Gift collection for Danville residents (thanks to all who gave)
  - \* Christmas preparations everywhere & everywhere!!
    - \*\*Choir practices!
    - \*\*Hand bell rehearsals!
    - \*\*Youth vocalists and instrumentalists
  - \* Blood Drive
  - \* Remembrance Service
  - \* Lunch-n-Fellowship (with Christmas carols & holiday movie!)
  - \* Youth Lock-in & preparation for Christmas Eve
  - \* Decorating the Nave!! (and lunch!)
  - \* Christmas Eve!
    - \*\*Family service
    - \*\*Late service
  - \* Counting & packing scarves, mittens & teddy bears (whew!)
  - \* Catching our breath as the New Year begins!
- Check out what's happening in January for opportunities to chase away the winter doldrums and cabin fever! Remember: if you need transportation, just call!

# INDEX & UPDATE

## Inside This Issue:

Reflection and Thanks .....	1
What Happened in December?.....	1
Council Highlights .....	2
Parish Register .....	2
Staff & Officers Contact Information .....	2
Staff Office Hours .....	2
From Pr. West.....	3
6 Week Ecumenical Study .....	3
Thank you from Civic Chorus.....	3
Family Promise 2018 .....	3
Nibbles from the Church Mouse .....	4
Office Angels Needed for FPLC .....	4
Operation Christmas Child.....	4
Enjoy a Meal and Earn Money for UCLC.....	4
FPLC Day Center Needs .....	4
Thank You for the Christmas Gifts.....	5
Go Green for Gifting .....	5
Sharing in the Caring .....	5
Save the Date: Meal Packaging.....	5
UCLC News .....	6
SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY .....	6
More UCLC News .....	7
Thank You .....	7
Camp Mount Luther Events .....	7
Lunch'n'Fellowship .....	8
From the Editor .....	8
Christmas Preparations Collage .....	8
DEADLINES FOR LION & COUNCIL ITEMS .....	8
With Great Appreciation.....	9
Hurricane Rebuilding Mission .....	9
Food Pantry/Devotion Line/Stamps & Tabs.....	9
Redeemer's Daniel's Closet & Comm. Supper.....	9
Children's' Church.....	10
College Survival Kit Thank You .....	10
More Thank Yous .....	10
Council Highlights (continued) .....	10
Special Concerns/Birthdays/Anniversaries .....	11
CALENDAR .....	12

## Council Notes

The congregational council met on Monday, November 20, 2017, and determined the following:

- ♦ That the proposed budget be amended to reflect that \$500 is allotted to Outreach Ministries under "Expenses for Benevolence and Charity"
- ♦ The approval of the proposed budget, as amended
- ♦ To support Dawson Owen in his senior project to collect snacks for Sojourner Truth Ministries; he will place a collection tub in the Narthex
- ♦ The expanding of the Personnel committee by two members for better congregational representation; the additional members will be non-council members, one of which will be appointed by the Pastor and one by the council president
- ♦ Discussed church security in active shooter situations

A congregational meeting was held in two sessions on Sunday, December 17. The budget presented by the finance committee and the council was approved.

*(Council Notes continued on page 10)*

## Parish Register

- † Ralph Thorne died on November 30, 2017. Pr. West presided at his funeral on December 5, 2017
- † Edith Anderson died on December 4, 2017. Pr West presided at her funeral on December 7, 2017.
- † Bobbie Yetsko died on December 11, 2017.

**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
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
Jackie Kinney, Treasurer	jskinney1@yahoo.com
Todd Smith, Director, <i>The Way</i>	tsmith@southernitioga.org
Kathy Eshelman, Stephen Ministry	570-433-0522
Janet Jones, Parish Life	jgmacookie@comcast.net
Debra Buckman	dbuckman@pct.edu or dabuckman65@gmail.com
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.

### Six Week Ecumenical Study and Discussion: From Conflict to Communion

You are invited to be part of this discussion that meets on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm, January 3 thru February 7, at Perkins on Via Bella . The resource, "From Conflict to Communion," was generated by the Lutheran-Roman Catholic Commission on Unity, taking seriously the words of Pope John XXIII: "The things that unite us are greater than those that divide us."

The 500th anniversary of the Reformation was commemorated this fall in many ways. Among which was a month long conversation in our area with many Lutherans and Roman Catholics.



*"We invite all Christians to study the report of our Commission both open-mindedly and critically, and to come with us along the way to a deeper communion of all Christians."* ~ from the Forward.

Contact Audrey at [argraft@live.com](mailto:argraft@live.com) with questions or for more information.

\*\*\*\*\*

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



We are in our twelfth month together as pastor and congregation. It's been quite journey. Thinking back to January when I made the quantum of leap of leaving Colorado for a transitional call to Pennsylvania, I remember being fearful. It did feel like the end of the world. I was correct. Worlds End State Park is only a fifty-minute drive from church. Joking aside, though, it was the end of the world in the same way that 2017 has ended and 2018 has begun.

We now begin the Year of Our Lord 2018. Each year is named for the One who saved us from sin, death and the devil, and saved us for proclaiming the year of the Lord's favor. (See Luke 4: 19.) My role among *you* really turns into that of John the Baptist preparing the way for you to begin your work with the next pastor. In keeping with the John the Baptist theme, my role among will decrease to make room for the arrival of St. Mark's next pastor. (See John 3:30.)

Keep in mind that your next pastor is not the Messiah. The Messiah has already come. That's the message of Christmas. Jesus, the Messiah has promised to be here to the end of the age. See Matthew 28: 20, the last line of Matthew's gospel. However,

Jesus continues to use people like us to keep the dream of the messianic age alive. That age is what God leads us toward, day by day.

Pray for me as I pray for you, always,  
In Christ Jesus,  
Pastor James West

\*\*\*\*\*



The Williamsport Civic Chorus thanks St. Mark's for hosting our Christmas concert. The nave looked very lovely in the candle-light. A special thanks to the St. Mark's bell ringers for tolling in the new year. A huge thanks to the St. Mark's elves who transformed Fellowship Hall from a children's play area into a beautiful location for our reception. Elves were Grace Schreckengast, Ben Hausmann, Sadie and Taylor Wentzel, Hannah Hausmann, and Sean Jensen – what a great crew. And a big thanks to Lou DeSeau for all his work that he does for the Chorus with setting up the chairs weekly for the rehearsals.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Family Promise 2018

As you all read last month, I am taking over for Donna Elkin as one of the St. Mark's Family Promise coordinators. I am so lucky to still have Vicki Hausmann, Phil Thomas, and Sally Bjornstad to work with. I am looking for a partner coordinator. Please pray about this and see if the Spirit leads you to help with keeping homeless families together in their time of need.

Thanks to all the many volunteers who filled the roles of setup, take down, providing meals, providing companionship in the evenings, and a special thanks to the overnight hosts.

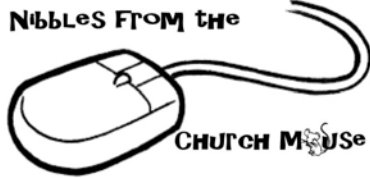
For 2018, St. Mark's is scheduled to host Family Promise four times. Please keep these dates open so you can volunteer: Feb. 4-11, May 6-13, Sept. 16-23, and Dec. 9-16.

I will be setting up a training session for all current and new volunteers for a Sunday afternoon in January. This will be a good time to come with those little questions you have been meaning to ask.

May God bless you all for your past and future work,

~ Deb Buckman





Christmas is just around the corner and the strains of holiday music are everywhere: we have been privileged to had two concerts at St. Mark's, both the Civic Chorus and Williamsport Chamber Choir and Orchestra presented their music in the nave. Spotted a few of our members singing in the Civic Chorus: Nancy Moff and Deb Buckman. Donna Elkin and Nick Buckman played percussion for some of the offerings.

The Repasz Band is always a popular concert and this year was no exception. They boast our own Laura Schreckengast, Donna and Ken Elkin and Nancy Moff among their performers.

And last of all are all the high school choral concerts which bring a special blessing to all of us. This year the WAHS choirs sang with the Williamsport Symphony Orchestra in their holiday concert.

One of our members, Brian Jackson, officiated at the PIAA/AAAA state championship game between Imhotep Charter and Erie Cathedral Prep. Quite impressive!

Another honor for Gracie Schreckengast – she was recognized by the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce for being chosen as the student of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter for their high school and for their hard work and achievements! She is a student of Loyalsock High School. She had the opportunity to perform in the Philadelphia Thanksgiving Parade with the Tournament of Bands All-Star Band, and was named to the Girls' first team all-stars by the Sun-Gazette – great job, Gracie!

Heard through the grapevine that Stefan Weber had been elected Mr. Millionaire by his fellow students – congratulations, Stefan!

Last of all we have our usual group of honor students who seem to appear each quarter – Even Barone, Hannah Haussmann, Gracie and Jonah Schreckengast, and Sean Jensen – have spotted both Sadie and Taylor Wentzel as well!

If I missed you it is because my failing eyesight did not catch it and your folks did not send it – shame on them!

The mouse puts on his Santa hat and wished you all a blessed Christmas and a healthy and Happy New Year!

*Joyce Hershberger*



## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



Thanks to your generous support, St. Mark's was able to pack 36 shoeboxes in 2017 which were then sent to children throughout the world. This year, the Christian Education Committee and Outreach Committee would like to challenge our congregation to pack at least 40 shoeboxes for OCC! It can easily (and dare I say painlessly) be done with our simple, monthly collections.

In January, we are collecting:

### Purse Pack Tissues & Fun Pads (small, activity pads)

These items may be placed in our red, OCC bin located in the narthex. Thank you in advance for your generosity in helping spread God's love.

\*\*\*\*\*



If your New Year resolution includes a new volunteering opportunity, consider being an Office Angel for Family Promise. Office Angles answer phones,

take messages and answer the door. Work as often or as little as you wish.

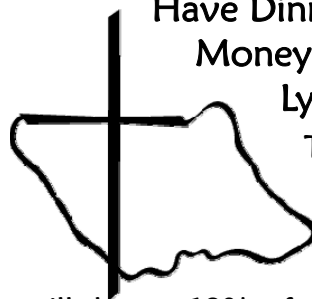
If interested, please contact:

Jenny Hull 570-567-7103

[jenny.hull@familypromiselycoming.org](mailto:jenny.hull@familypromiselycoming.org)

\*\*\*\*\*

### Have Dinner at Wendy's and Earn Money for United Churches of Lycoming County!



This event is at the Maynard Street Wendy's only, and will be held January 23rd.

Wendy's at Maynard Street will donate 10% of all their sales from 5 - 8 pm.

Great Food - Great Cause! Enjoy!

\*\*\*\*\*

### FPLC Day Center Needs

- |                        |                |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Twin Blankets          | Carpet cleaner |
| Liquid Fabric Softener | Pillows        |
| Paper Towels           | Q-Tips         |
| Size 3 & 5 diapers     |                |

**Thank You for the Christmas Gifts**

The Outreach Committee thanks the congregation for their support of their many December projects.

- \* On December 3, 2017 five elves traveled to the Selinsgrove Center to once again share stories, songs and gifts with the fourteen ladies of CM-6 and their caregivers. It was a very special afternoon for the ladies and our elves. Heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the congregation for their generous donations of money, body wash and pudding to fill in with the gifting. We were blessed to receive more from the ladies and their caregivers than we gave.
- \* With assistance from congregation members the residents of the Danville State Hospital received everything from batteries to packages of socks, hats, gloves, watches and wallets. These many and varied items were used where they were most needed. A member of Redeemer Lutheran Church graciously delivered our donations to the hospital with those of Redeemer. The committee thanks all who participated in this outreach.
- \* On December 10, 2017 five carloads of carolers visited with our Special Concern folks and others. Thank you Bernadette Jones for making soup for our luncheon that day. To the folks, particularly our young people, who sang carols and delivered cookies thank you for taking time from your busy schedules to bring cheer to others.
- \* We are certain Jacob Schreckengast enjoyed the many cards congregation members signed just in time to reach him in Japan this Christmas. Thank you for making a difference in his first Christmas away from home and family. If you would like to stay in touch with Jacob his address is as follows.



SCHRECKENGAST, JACOB E3  
PSC 475 BOX 1913  
FPO AP 96350 - 9998

- \* Thank you to all the members of the congregation, who also took Christmas cards from our trees in the Narthex, added a cheery message and mailed them to our Special Concerns folks and others we do not see as often as we would like.

These gestures of Christmas spirit given by our congregation were sure to comfort the individuals receiving them in Christ's name.

**Go Green for Gifting**

Have more Christmas gift bags, new greeting cards and tissue paper than you can use? Donate them to the Outreach Committee for gifting the ladies of CM-6 and others in 2018. Donated items can be placed in the tub in the Narthex. We are also in need of slipper socks that are now at clearance prices. They too may go in the tub in the Narthex.



\* \* \* \* \*

**Sharing in the Caring**

**Ongoing Collections at St. Mark's:**

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

Shepherd of the Streets: Hygiene items in regular sizes including diapers and hygiene items for infants.

Bazaar Room: The Women of St. Mark's need your items for our 2018 sale. It is a great time to sort through holiday decorations and make a donation.

**Ongoing Activities at Redeemer Lutheran:**

Free Community Dinner: Thursday, January 11, 2018 from 5:30-6:30. All are welcome.

Daniel's Closet: Making room for the new Christmas clothing your family and you received? Donate your no longer needed clothing to Daniel's Closet. Free seasonal clothing on Saturday, January 27, 2018 from 9:00 – 11:00 AM. Donated clothing may be dropped off on January 25th from 4:00 – 6:00 PM.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Save The Date!**

**Meal Packaging Event at St. Mark's Lutheran**

Saturday, April 21, 2018

Volunteers Needed: All Ages and Abilities

Watch for future details on how you can be involved with this Outreach Committee project.

Ending Hunger. Enriching Lives

# SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS

## He Has Looked Upon His Handmaid's Lowliness

A poor hill country maiden of no noble class,  
 yet, full of grace,  
 because she would give life to the light of Life.  
 A poor young girl in a male dominated culture,  
 yet, highly favored by God,  
 to conceive the Son of the Most High.  
 A poor virgin found to be with child,  
 and was subject to public shame,  
 but, the babe was Emmanuel, God is with us.  
 A poor person of little importance to her time,  
 yet was sought by the angel of the Lord,  
 to be called blessed for all generations,  
 Her poverty gave her no special consideration,  
 so she delivered Him in a sheep's grotto,  
 yet, was called the mother of God.

During this holy season, remember the true reason, and honor Mother and Child with gifts of mercy.

Merry Christmas ~ *Shepherd of the Streets*,  
*J. Morris Smith, Th.D., 570-322-6538*,  
[shepherd@ucl.org](mailto:shepherd@ucl.org)

We also thank all of you who collect hygiene items, bedding, and baby needs for us. The list of hygiene items we use follows: (Bring regular sizes please) Deodorant Soap Combs Shaving Cream and Razors Tissues and Toilet Paper Toothpaste and Toothbrushes Shampoo and Conditioner Towels and Wash Cloths Women's Hygiene Products Baby Needs: Diapers, Shampoo, Powder, Oil, Q-Tips, Wipes

\*\*\*\*\*

## 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 attendee will help our caterer, Heidi, know how to prepare.



## JANUARY's programs:

3<sup>rd</sup>—Ms. Melissa Lundy, Coord. IF Gathering, First United Methodist Church, Wmspt., *"Helping Women Live Knowing God Is Real"*

10<sup>th</sup>—Mr. Bruce Hoffman, Historical Investigator, *"A Few of Williamsport's First Missions of Charity"*

17<sup>th</sup>—Mr. John Hunsinger, Area Historian, *"A History of Bands In Lycoming County"* 24- Celebrating the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2018.

31<sup>st</sup>—To be announced

\*\*\*\*\*



As we close out our Fall semester, I would like to extend the following thank yous...Thank you to Father John Victoria (St. Ann's) for providing German Chocolate Truffles for Jesus and Java...Thank you to Trinity Episcopal Church for providing Study Bags for Finals Week. Thank you to Pastor Stan (Cogan Station Christian Church), Pastor Jim Pentz (New Covenant Assembly of God) and Pastor Tim Hartzell (Faith Wesleyan) for our November Faith Talks. Over this short winter break, we will be putting together our line up of Spring pastors. Look for information soon about our annual Soup Sale. If you would like to be part of either of these opportunities, please contact me at:

Tammey Aichner, Coordinator, [ucm@ucl.org](mailto:ucm@ucl.org)

\*\*\*\*\*

Souper Bowl Sunday is one way to help a ministry to assist people in need. It is an effort, led by teens, to glorify God and care for "the least of these" by each worshiper giving a can of food or the cost of a can of food (\$1), beginning three weeks before and ending on Super Bowl Sunday, February 4.

In 2017, this drive generated a grand total of \$10,115,253 in cash and food items by 6,538 groups. Monies collected go directly to Shepherd of the Streets; cans of soup or other food goes to our local food bank.



Souper Bowl of Caring began in 1990 and since then they have received reports of over \$130 Million in cash and food items being donated around the country.

\*\*\*\*\*

***THIS JUST IN:  
 FAMILY PROMISE TRAINING  
 SCHEDULED FOR***

***12:30 pm, Sunday, January 28!***

Training for new hosts/refresher for veterans



## Shoe Express

The West End Christian Community Center (WECCC) Shoe Express is a program that gives free new sneakers and socks to children from birth to 18 who live in the Williamsport area. To qualify, children need to come with a parent or guardian. They must also have a CHIP or Access card or a referral letter from a social service agency or church. The program is open the first and third Saturdays of each month, excluding July, from 10 - noon. The program cannot run without support from volunteers and donations. Last year alone the Shoe Express gave sneakers and socks to almost 750 children! If you are interested in helping or have any questions, please contact Nancy or Rick Jacobs at 570-323-4627. We are also willing to speak about the Shoe Express or show it to your group. "A new pair of shoes can change a life!"

\* \* \* \* \*

## Pet Pantry

Recently, a group of community volunteers created Pet Pantry of Lycoming County, a 501c3 program of Animal Care Sanctuary and collaboration with Beckoning Cat Project. The mission is to provide pet food to families experiencing a challenging financial time, rather than having to place their beloved pet into the already overburdened shelter system. The opening for the pantry was slated for December, and is housed at the Beckoning Cat Project, 1417 East Third St., Wmspt.

\* \* \* \* \*



*As the new year begins, we would like to thank all of you who have supported the Youth & Family Ministry and Christian Education in one way or another throughout 2017. This ministry*

*cannot happen without involvement of the congregation. During this time of transition, your encouragement and prayers, as well as physical assistance, are highly valued. We are truly blessed with our church family at St. Mark's!*

*We wish all of you a happy, healthy, & blessed New Year!*  
 ~ Michele and Bernadette

\* \* \* \* \*

*"Be a sinner and sin boldly, but believe and rejoice in Christ even more boldly."*

~ Martin Luther

# MOUNT LUTHER Camperson Event



Sunday, January 21, 2018  
 3:00 p.m. ~ Evergreen Center at Mount Luther

The camp is an extension of local congregational ministry. We want every member of the Upper Susquehanna Synod to know what is happening with this important ministry.

To do that, we have CAMPERSONS! A camperson is a liaison between CAMP and your CONGREGATION, who is interested in camp and wants to regularly share our news with others. Parents of campers, past campers or staff, or someone with a genuine interest in outdoor ministry makes a great camperson.

Campersons are ambassadors and promote camping ministry in your congregation. Each synod congregation is asked to send a representative to this event to learn more. Campersons will

- Share Information
- Plan and Coordinate a Camp Sunday
- Recognize Campers
- Reach Out to promote outdoor ministries
- Support camp fundraising efforts

Each congregation who sends a camperson to this event will receive Camel Bucks for the camp store for each camper.

For more information, visit <http://wp.me/P7aFC9-y2>

# MOUNT LUTHER



Turkey Benefit Dinner  
 Celebrating  
 Ben Franklin's Birthday

Ben Franklin wanted the turkey to be the national bird of our country. We thought it would be fitting to have a turkey dinner to honor his January birthday! You are invited to come to his birthday party and enjoy a winter evening at camp!

Sunday, January 21, 2018

4:00-6:00 p.m.

Evergreen Center at Mount Luther

**MENU:** Turkey and all the trimmings.

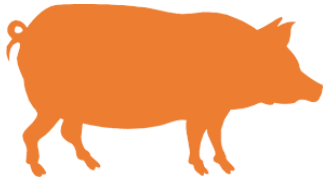
**PRICE:** Cost for the meal is \$15 per person.

**TO ORDER TICKETS:** Reservations are required and can be made by contacting the camp office at (570) 922-1587 or [cml@campmountluther.org](mailto:cml@campmountluther.org). Deadline for ordering is Tuesday, January 16, 2018, at 9:00 a.m.

Proceeds benefit the 2018 Annual Fund Appeal

### Lunch 'N Fellowship!

This month, we continue to invite others to share in a meal and Fellowship. Ham is the entrée of choice for this first meal of the new year.



Our Lunch 'N Fellowship is every 3rd Wednesday of the month at noon—this month, January 17. The entrée this month is ham, yum!. Won't you join us as we break bread together?

\* \* \* \* \*

*From the editor:*

*As we go to press, the church is a hive of activity. The Chancel Choir and Bell Choir are hard at work, preparing for the Christmas services.*

*Our youth are hard at work, too! For the Family Service this year, they are acting as assisting minister, acolytes, cantors, lectors, ushers, greeters, instrumentalists, and vocalists. But, it's not all work and no play! They are having a lock-in Dec. 22-23, at which they will rehearse, eat pizza, watch a holiday movie, have a scavenger hunt and more! Hopefully, next month, we will have pictures of this event for you to enjoy.*

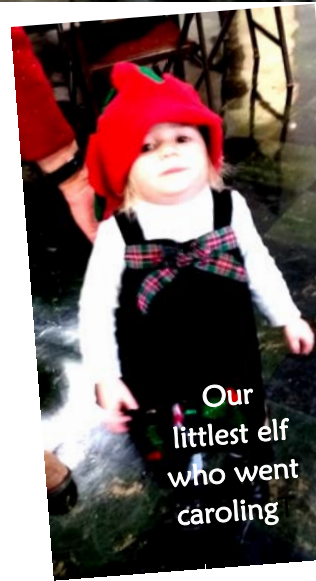
*Meanwhile, we hope you enjoy these photos of some of December's activities.*



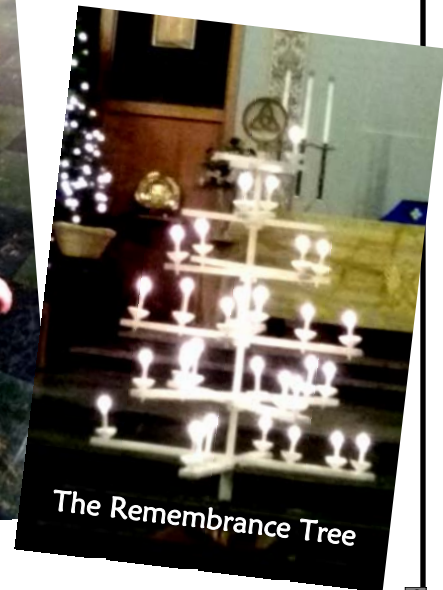
"Hand" made cards from Kids' Night Out



The blood drive



Our littlest elf who went caroling



The Remembrance Tree



Our Bakers and their cookies



### DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSIONS TO:

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



...Tuesday, Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>



...Thursday, Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>



**With Great Appreciation**

*I can never say it enough, how blessed we are to have volunteers who offer so many hours of their time and talent in helping with the vital logistical work of getting the Lion to you every month. Shirley Vognet, Ruth Sherlinski, Connie Shaible, Elsie Sechler, Bob Miller, Lou DeSeau, Linda DeSeau, and Pat Almwood work tirelessly to hand collate, staple, fold, tuck & seal in envelopes, organize & sort, and then send hundreds of mailings on their way to our members and friends.*

*I also am grateful to Linda DeSeau for all her efforts when we had bulletins to collate and staple, and Jonah Schreckengast for his almost weekly assistance with bulletins and hymn-filing...their countless hours and efforts have made my job so much easier while I've been Parish Secretary **ThAnk You** the past twenty six months.*

*These tasks never could happen without these generous individuals—  
Thank You for serving us all!*

*~ Laura Schreckengast*



\*\*\*\*\*

“Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise. The gift of language combined with the gift of song was given to man that he should proclaim the Word of God through Music.” ~ ML

**Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria** were pretty bad, but the damage is all cleaned up now, Right?

**WRONG!**

It will take several years and thousands of volunteers to repair and rebuild the devastated areas of Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico.

Only people with strong building skills are needed, Right?

**WRONG!**

People from all age groups and all kinds of background experience are needed. You don't need to be a skilled master worker to help.

I can't go alone and there isn't anyone from my area forming groups to help, Right?

**WRONG!**

Several denominations are organizing together in this area to form groups that will work together to help in rebuilding.

But everything is all organized, I'm too late, Right?

**WRONG!**

**Organizational Meeting for Hurricane Rebuilding  
First Presbyterian Church  
47 Walnut Street  
Milton, PA  
Saturday, January 6, 2018 10:00 am  
All are welcome, all help is needed.**

**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.



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.



**Daniel's Closet this is one week earlier Due to Christmas .**

(Free Seasonal Clothing) on Saturday, January. 27<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 – 11:00 AM  
(Donated clothing may be dropped off on January 25<sup>th</sup> from 4:30-6:00 PM)

***Free Community Supper All Are Welcome***

**Redeemer Lutheran Church Thursday, January 11, 2017 5:30 – 6:30 PM**



*This month, Children's Church is on Sunday, January 21.*

*Please join us in the chapel for a simple service where the children can ask questions and sing kid-friendly songs.*

*The children join their parents in the nave at Offertory. Our special offering this month is Purse Pack Tissues & Fun Pads (small, activity pads) for next year's Operation Christmas Child boxes.*

\* \* \* \* \*

### College Survival Kit Thank You

When we send out these packages each year, we include both inspirational, encouraging, or humorous cards. We've known of some that are posted on desk memo boards, to bolster a student as they study. Some are used as bookmarks. But, this year, apparently, we were omniscient.

We often include a "meme" (a picture with a witty caption...a cartoon if you will). This is usually meant to be funny. But, this year it hit home.

The quote was, "I noticed you started a new TV series on Netflix during finals week—I, too, like to live dangerously." For those unaware of Netflix, it's a service with which you can watch every episode of a series, one right after another...a binge, if you will.

Here is a thank you we received via text:

*"Thank you guys so much for the finals week kit. It made my day. Also, I did in fact start a new series and finished it in two days. My roommate was confused as to how you know I started a new series during finals week. 😂 And I've been craving hot chocolate and didn't want to pay for it so thank you very much. ❤️"*

"Our kids" are great and can always make us laugh...even from a distance!

\* \* \* \* \*

Dear St. Mark's,

You are simply wonderful. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all you did for our special day.

Jonathan & Tanya Bower

Dear Janet, Bob, and all the others,

I'm not sure where to begin in thanking all of you for the roles you played in making Gladys's 90th birthday party such a wonderful event!

I had no idea that from the first time I spoke with Janet that the party would evolve as it did. The room looked beautiful—as did the centerpieces (thank you, Becky, for all your time and creativity).

Janet and Bob took time out of their weekend to meet with myself, Katrina, and Jim the day before the setup and worked out the details. I'm sorry I don't know all the names of all who served and cleaned up, but know that we are so thankful! Bob and Janet, you did so much to get the food ready and Lou had a lot of cleaning up to do—thank you all!

Thank you also to the church family as a whole for the many ways you look after Gladys. You truly are the hands and feet of Christ!

Thank you again from the bottom of our hearts!

In His love, Randy & Tracey Knauss

\* \* \* \* \*

### Council Notes (cont.)

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

- ◆ Authorized Pastor West to assemble an ad hoc committee to meet at some point in January to review constitutional updates and work on continuing resolutions
- ◆ Authorized Pastor West to direct church staff not to perform additional duties for events held at St. Mark's by outside groups, unless requests for such duties are approved by Council
- ◆ Approved the Personnel committee's recommendation to retain Christian Humcke as Director of Music, as he has successfully completed the 90-day probationary period
- ◆ Approved Worship & Music committee's recommendation that a single service be held on Sunday, December 31 at 9:30 AM

\* \* \* \* \*

**PLEASE RETURN ALL ADVENT WREATH MATERIALS ASAP**

*(so we are able to put things away quickly, thank you!)*

**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

**Dottie Burd**  
 Room 17, Ravine Ridge  
 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  
 1900 Ravine Road  
 Williamsport, PA 17701

**Kay Poliska**  
 1100 Allen St.  
 Montoursville, PA 17754

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

**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

**Marion Waldeisen**  
 Williamsport Home  
 1900 Ravine Rd. Bldg C Apt. 1213  
 Williamsport, PA 17701



**SPECIAL DAYS FOR SPECIAL PEOPLE!**



Shelby Weber 01/01  
 Cecil Calvert 01/02  
 Ashley Ciesielski 01/02  
 Jeremy Hinds 01/02  
 Robert Shaible 01/03  
 Gregory Calvert 01/04  
 James Newcomer Sr. 01/04  
 Mary Lou Doebler 01/06  
 Susan Baker 01/10  
 Andrew Zeigler 01/10

Peter Zeigler 01/10  
 Toby Zimmerman 01/10  
 Suzanne Hutchins 01/11  
 Kathy Kolb 01/12  
 Jackie Kinney 01/13  
 Riley Weber 01/14  
 Anna Zeigler 01/15  
 Laura Zeigler 01/15  
 David Butters 01/16  
 Lee Doane 01/16  
 Donna Boston 01/17  
 Nathan Kimble 01/17  
 Ruth Lamade 01/17  
 Beth Miller 01/17  
 Ruth Rees 01/17  
 Herbert Poff 01/21  
 Elizabeth Ruesskamp 01/22

Scarlett Lynch 01/23  
 Christina Macgill 01/23  
 Tara Thorne 01/23  
 Neil Eshelman 01/24  
 Walter Doebler 01/25  
 Bonnie Eyer 01/26  
 David Heaps 01/26  
 Marc Kinney 01/26  
 Ruth Burkholder 01/27  
 Dustin Kimble 01/27  
 Sean Buckman 01/28  
 Kristopher Caster 01/28  
 Zachary Jarrett 01/29  
 Linda Deseau 01/30  
 Devin Owen 01/30  
 Travis Thorne 01/30  
 Kathleen Caster 01/31

**Monday January 1, 2018**  
Happy New Year - Office Closed

**Tue January 2, 2018**  
9:00am Morning Prayer  
10:03am Staff Meeting  
6:30pm Outreach

**Wed January 3, 2018**  
9:00am Morning Prayer  
11:29am Staff Meeting II  
12:00pm Ecum. Lunch @ Pine St  
7:00pm From Conflict to Communion

**Thu January 4, 2018**  
9:00am Morning Prayer

**Fri January 5, 2018**  
9:00am Morning Prayer

**Sat January 6, 2018**  
6:00pm Evening Service-Chapel

**Sun January 7, 2018**  
7:00am Morning Prayer  
8:00am Holy Communion  
9:15am Sunday School  
10:30am Holy Communion

**Mon January 8, 2018**  
9:00am Morning Prayer  
10:03am Staff Meeting  
7:00pm Civic Chorus Rehearsal

**Tue January 9, 2018**  
9:00am Morning Prayer  
1:00pm City Pastors' Lunch

**Wed January 10, 2018**  
**Council Agenda Due**  
9:00am Morning Prayer  
9:00am Quilters  
11:29am Staff Meeting II  
12:00pm Ecum. Lunch @ Pine St  
7:00pm From Conflict to Communion

**Thu January 11, 2018**  
9:00am Morning Prayer  
9:30am Stephen Ministry  
5:30pm Redeemer Community Meal  
6:30pm Stephen Ministry

**Fri January 12, 2018**  
**Lion Article Deadline**  
9:00am Morning Prayer

**Sat January 13, 2018**  
6:00pm Evening Service-Chapel

**Sun January 14, 2018**  
7:00am Morning Prayer  
8:00am Holy Communion  
9:15am Sunday School  
10:30am Holy Communion

**Mon January 15, 2018**  
9:00am Morning Prayer  
10:03am Staff Meeting  
6:00pm Civic Chorus Board Meeting  
6:30pm Council Meeting  
7:00pm Wmspt. Dog Training Club  
7:00pm Civic Chorus Rehearsal

**Tue January 16, 2018**  
9:00am Morning Prayer

**Wed January 17, 2018**  
9:00am Morning Prayer  
9:00am Quilters  
11:00am Little Lambs Liaison  
11:29am Staff Meeting II  
12:00pm Ecum. Lunch @ Pine St  
12:00pm Lunch 'n' Fellowship  
1:15pm Pericope  
7:00pm From Conflict to Communion

**Thu January 18, 2018**  
**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins (Confession of Peter)**  
9:00am Morning Prayer  
6:00pm Worship & Music Committee  
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

**Fri January 19, 2018**  
9:00am Morning Prayer

**Sat January 20, 2018**  
6:00pm Evening Service-Chapel

**Sun January 21, 2018**  
7:00am Morning Prayer  
8:00am Holy Communion  
9:15am Sunday School  
10:30am Holy Communion  
10:30am Children's Church

**Mon January 22, 2018**  
9:00am Morning Prayer  
10:03am Staff Meeting  
7:00pm Civic Chorus Rehearsal

**Tue January 23, 2018**  
9:00am Morning Prayer  
6:00pm LSM at St. Luke's

**Wed January 24, 2018**  
9:00am Morning Prayer  
9:00am Quilters  
11:29am Staff Meeting II  
12:00pm Ecum. Lunch @ Pine St  
1:15pm Pericope  
7:00pm From Conflict to Communion

**Thu January 25, 2018**  
**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity ends (Conversion of Paul)**  
9:00am Morning Prayer  
4:00pm Daniel's Closet Drop-Off  
6:00pm Bell Choir Rehearsal  
7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

**Fri January 26, 2018**  
9:00am Morning Prayer  
9:20am Lion Crew

**Sat January 27, 2018**  
9:00am Daniel's Closet  
6:00pm Evening Service-Chapel

**Sun January 28, 2018**  
7:00am Morning Prayer  
8:00am Holy Communion  
9:15am Sunday School  
10:30am Holy Communion  
12:30pm Family Promise Training

**Mon January 29, 2018**  
9:00am Morning Prayer  
10:03am Staff Meeting  
7:00pm Civic Chorus Rehearsal

**Tue January 30, 2018**  
9:00am Morning Prayer

**Wed January 31, 2018**  
9:00am Morning Prayer  
9:00am Quilters  
11:29am Staff Meeting II  
12:00pm Ecum. Lunch @ Pine St  
1:15pm Pericope  
7:00pm From Conflict to Communion

