



THE LION OF ST. MARK'S

DECEMBER 2019

Dear Members and Friends of St. Mark's,

“Soon and very soon” we will proclaim the coming of our King; Advent 2019 begins Sunday, December 1. This means that “Soon and very soon” our sanctuary will be adorned with wreaths, our nativity, and a Chrismon tree with lights!



These very festive symbols and decorations are more than simply nice to look at. They proclaim the promises of the Gospel:

- * *Blue* symbolizes hope; the hope we possess in Jesus Christ.
- * *Red* reminds us of the blood shed by Jesus at and on the cross.
- * *Greens* symbolize the promises of Jesus which are “ever-living”, evergreen for they are eternal. When these greens are formed into a circle (such as a wreath) they remind us that the love and promises of Jesus are all inclusive.
- * *The Nativity* proclaims in figurine the birth of Christ.
- * *The Chrismon Tree* bears symbols and ornaments that remind us of all that Jesus is and all the promises of life, forgiveness and life eternal that He brings.
- * *The Lights on the tree* proclaim that Jesus is the “Light of the World”; in him there is no darkness.

On Sunday, December 8 we will continue to explore these symbols of the Advent and Christmas Seasons with a “Chrismon Service” (an order of worship for decorating the Christmas Tree). **There will be one worship time on this Sunday at 9:30 am**, and although Sunday School classes will not meet, they will take part in the celebration. Make plans now to join us as we proclaim through word, sacrament, and symbol the One who has come and has promised to come again!

Grace + Peace,
Pastor Brian

JOIN US
Saturday Eucharist, 4 pm
Sunday Eucharist, 8 & 10:30 am
Sunday Church School, 9:15 am
All Are Welcome

THE CHRISMON SERVICE

DECEMBER 8, 2019, 9:30 am

Join us on Sunday, December 8 at 9:30 am, as St. Mark's celebrates and praises God by way of a “Chrismon Service”. The Chrismon Service is an order of worship for decorating the Christmas Tree. Readings, hymns, and explanations as to what our Chrismons represent (Chrismon is an abbreviation for Christian Monogram) will be presented by various readers and then placed on the tree. This promises to be a meaningful and educational worship experience that will add much to the Advent and Christmas Seasons. Plan to join us!

Please note that there will be only one worship time on Sunday, December 8, and that Sunday Church School will not meet.



ADVENT MID-WEEK WORSHIP

Join us for Mid-week Advent Worship every Wednesday at 12:10 pm for Afternoon Prayer and Praise in the chapel. Our time together will be approximately 12:10- 12:50 pm. All are welcome.

WORSHIP TIMES FOR CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24, 2019



Children's
Christmas Eucharist
7:00 pm

Traditional
Christmas Eucharist
10:00 pm

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

Sunday, December 29, 3:00 pm



Acolytes are needed for the 10:00 pm service on Christmas Eve.

Please call the office at 570-323-4619 or email stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org if you are available to help.

INDEX & UPDATE

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STAFF OFFICE HOURS

Pastor: The Rev. Brian Vasey
 Mon—Thu 9am—2pm & by appointment

Sexton: Lou DeSeau
 Sun—Thurs 5:30am—1pm

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

Bookkeeper: Jackie Baysore
 Tue & Thu 8am—12:00pm

Secretary: Bernadette Jones
 Mon—Fri 9am—2pm

Council update from October:

- The council met on October 21, 2019.
- Approved moving to a bi-weekly pay for the St. Mark's staff effective January 1, 2020. First biweekly pay will be January 17, 2020
 - Approved increasing the parking lot rental fee from \$25 to \$30 per month for regular spaces and \$19 to \$25 for Little Lambs spaces, both effective January 1, 2020.
 - Pastor West wrote a very nice letter which was read by Linda Rosini to the council as his final report to St. Mark's
 - Approved adding hot water to the Pastor's Sacristy
 - The Personnel Committee will meet with staff on October 29, 2019 to review the Employee Handbook
 - Approved changing all future council meetings to 6:00 p.m.

Council met on November 18, 2019

- Approved the Plan for Funding Ministry (Budget) for 2020.
- Donations totaling \$9,743 have been raised so far for the organ repair fund.
- The Finance committee and others met with the representatives from Wilmington Trust at M & T Bank on 11-18-19 for the semi-annual review of St. Mark's Lutheran Church investment accounts.
- Approved one service on the Second Sunday in Advent, December 8th at 9:30 a.m. for the Chrismon Service.

Next meeting: January 20, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

Church Office 570-323-4619 Fax 570-323-2452

Website: stmarkswilliamsport.org

Main e-mail: stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org

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Christian Humcke, Dir. of Music	chumcke@stmarkswilliamsport.org
Bernadette Jones, Secretary	stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org
Jackie Baysore, Bookkeeper	jbaysore@stmarkswilliamsport.org
Lou DeSeau, Environmental Serv.	stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org
Linda Rosini, Council President	lr10152@yahoo.com
Becky Miller Pryor, Vice-President	home 570-971-4585
Wanda Fortin, Secretary	570-337-9137
Jackie Kinney, Treasurer	jskinney1@yahoo.com
Kathy Eshelman, Stephen Ministry	570-433-0522
Janet Jones, Parish Life	jgmacookie@comcast.net
Debra Buckman, Family Promise Coordinator	dbuckman@pct.edu or dabuckman65@gmail.com
Kathy Kolb, Prayer Chain	kathykolb@kolbnetworks.net
Sally Bjornstad, Altar Flowers	570-494-6637



FAMILY PROMISE

Greetings for this holiday season! As we approach Christmas, I hope that you will be able to find a little time for Family Promise. Our hosting begins Sunday, December 22, and runs through December 29.

Currently there are four families in the program with several working adults—one of whom may need transportation at 10:00 pm.

Christmas is a hard time to plan as a family may have relatives in the area and might go there for Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. Hopefully, we will know about these activities well in advance.

I am working with Temple Beth El, as they have done the Christmas cooking the past few years.

All this said, please, pray about your how you will answer when either Dave or I call you for a hosting task. Also, Lou will be setting up the bedrooms during the week prior to hosting. Please contact him if you can assist. Sally Bjornstad and I will be completing the setup on Saturday, December 21. If you can help, please let one of us know.

This is a great way to serve the Lord and the families this Christmas.

Deb Buckman

FESTIVAL OF LESSONS & CAROLS



LESSONS
and
CAROLS

Trinity Episcopal Pro-Cathedral, 844 West 4th St, Williamsport, will present a *Festival of Lessons & Carols* on Sunday, December 15 at 4 pm. Modeled on the annual celebration at King's College, Cambridge, this service features nine readings (lessons) interspersed with traditional congregational hymns and carols sung by Trinity's Choir and Choral Scholars under the direction of Dr. Ryan Malone. *This event is free and open to the public.* Doors open at 3:30 pm. Contact the church office at 570.322.0126 for more information.

CROP WALK UPDATE!

The CROP walk was another huge success in October! Thank you to Levi Gair and Michael Ochs for walking and to all who sponsored them by donating. Together we raised \$820.00!! We enjoyed another day of beautiful weather and fellowship, while we stopped along the way and prayed for those we were walking to help. We made one more step to Help Stop Hunger. Next year, we hope you can walk with us!

Brenda Gair

SPECIAL NOTICE OF CONGREGATIONAL ASSEMBLY

On Sunday, December 8, 2019, after the Chrismon Service, all voting members present have the opportunity to comment, amend, and vote on the proposed budget.

Here is a synopsis of the complete budget which will be available in the narthex.

**ST MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
FINANCIAL REPORT
2020 BUDGET**

GENERAL FUND:

	For Comparison	
	2019 BUDGET	2020 BUDGET
INCOME:		
Envelope: Pledges	\$ 220,000.00	\$ 210,000.00
Other Religious Income	\$ 12,700.00	\$ 20,800.00
Parking Lot/Rentals	\$ 28,190.00	\$ 30,090.00
Transfer From Investment Fund	\$ 73,463.00	\$ 79,378.00
Welker/Capital-General	\$ 28,000.00	\$ 28,000.00
Welker/Benevolence-General	\$ -	\$ -
Heat Envelope Income	\$ -	\$ -
Synod Donations	\$ -	\$ -
Bequests	\$ -	\$ -
Total Income	\$ 362,353.00	\$ 368,268.00
EXPENSES:		
Staff	\$ 214,718.00	\$ 218,633.00
Administration	\$ 10,470.00	\$ 10,670.00
Worship & Music	\$ 7,300.00	\$ 8,600.00
Christian Ed/Youth	\$ 3,590.00	\$ 3,440.00
Outreach Ministries	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00
Property	\$ 58,350.00	\$ 58,550.00
Capital Improvements	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 40,000.00
Benevolence & Charity	\$ 27,325.00	\$ 27,775.00
Total Expenses	\$ 362,353.00	\$ 368,268.00
INCOME LESS EXPENSE	\$ -	

2020 OFFERING ENVELOPE ALERT

Beginning Sunday, December 15th, offering envelopes for 2020 will be available in the narthex.

Please help us save postage by taking yours and the envelopes of anyone you know who is homebound. Please contact the church office at 570-323-4619 if you have any questions or if you are not receiving envelopes and would like to have them.

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2019 MUST BE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE BY DECEMBER 31ST.

Nibbles from the Church Mouse

The mouse has been busy shopping Christmas and taking care of family. She asks one thing only for Christmas: that she hears from her friends at church! She hasn't had any news in such a long time, so there is nothing to report!

* * * * *

ADVENT DEVOTIONS

December has arrived and with it the season of Advent! A variety of devotional materials may be found in the Narthex to help prepare our hearts and minds for the birth of Christ Jesus, and we encourage you to take one of these booklets home to use daily during this month of preparation.

- * *His Name is Jesus!* and *Wonders of His Love* are both booklets geared toward families and activities you might use during Advent.
- * *God Bless Us, Every One!* is a devotional using *A Christmas Carol* to guide us through this season.
- * *Lighten Up For Advent* is a devotional for teens and young adults.
- * *Hope of Christmas Past, Present & Yet to Come* is a daily prayer book for Advent.

We pray that these devotions may guide your heart and quiet your soul throughout this crazy, hectic, but most importantly, holy season.

**FREE COMMUNITY
LUNCH 'N' FELLOWSHIP
WEDNESDAY, DEC. 18, AT NOON
Pulled-pork sandwiches—YUM!
COME AND ENJOY!**

The Outreach Committee and the Faith and Fellowship Committee would like to thank you for your support of **Operation Christmas Child** throughout this past year. Due to your generous donations, we were able to pack **45** shoeboxes which will now be sent to children in need all around the world! The impact that these small gifts have on kids is truly miraculous. God is at work!

We ask that in December you will pray for these shoeboxes, asking for God's blessing on the child who receives these gifts. Pray that their heart may be touched by God's love, and that the Good News of Jesus Christ will be planted on their hearts. In December we also continue to collect donations toward the cost of shipping.

Thank you again for your support of this worldwide ministry. We look forward to working with you again in 2020!

December Ecumenical Lunch

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

Parking is free in the lot north of the Pine Street UM 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, to prepare.

DECEMBER:

- 4- **Mrs. Tiffany Haller**, Director of Religious Education, St. Ann's Catholic Church, Williamsport, *"Waiting"*
- 11- **Mrs. Patty Gohrs**, Staff, United Churches, *"Christmas Traditions From Around The World"*
- 18- **Mr. Tom Wetzel**, Pianist, *"Joyous Christmas"*
- 25- **Christmas**

* * * * *

ADVENT BOXES

The Faith and Fellowship and Outreach Committees are once again giving congregation members an alternative to the traditional chocolate Advent calendars. On December 1 please take a holiday bag or box from the Narthex and on each day of Advent place a non-perishable food item or hygiene item in your box. Pray for the person who will receive the item. Return your box of items by Christmas Eve. All donated items will be sorted and given to the United Churches Food Bank and Shepherd of the Streets. Extra boxes will be in the Narthex throughout December for individual donations.

* * * * *

ADVENT WREATH-MAKING

Please join us on Sunday, December 1st for our annual Advent Wreath-Making event. We will gather in Fellowship Hall *during the Sunday School hour** for the opportunity to create an Advent Wreath for your family to use at home during the Advent season. All materials are provided! Come join us!



**This is a change from what was previously scheduled.*

Sharing in the Caring

As it is written, "He scatters abroad, He gives to the poor; His righteousness endures forever. He who supplies the seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God." 2 Corinthians 9: 9-12.

During this time of Advent and Christmas please consider supporting our ongoing collections and projects.

Ongoing Collections at St. Mark's:

- ⇒ **United Churches Food Pantry:** Non-perishable food items and healthy snacks are always needed.
- ⇒ **Shepherd of the Streets:** Hygiene items in regular sizes for infants, kids and adults. Especially needed are disposable diapers and feminine hygiene items. Items for either the Pantry or Shepherd may be placed in the tubs in the Narthex coatroom.



These same items are perfect to use in the Advent boxes!

Ongoing Activities at Redeemer Lutheran:

- ⇒ **Free Community Supper** on Thursday, December 12th from 5:30 PM -6:30 PM. All are welcome.
- ⇒ **Daniel's Closet** (Free Seasonal Clothing) on Saturday, December 21st from 9:00 – 11:00 AM. With cooler weather comes the need for warmer clothing and sturdier shoes.
- ⇒ **Donated Clothing** may be dropped off at Redeemer on Thursday, December 19th from 4:00 – 6:00 PM.

This is one week early due to Christmas.

If you have a large quantity of clothing that cannot wait until the monthly drop off, please contact Barb Horn at 570-974-3744 or Carol Johnson at 570-772-6674 to arrange a time to meet at Redeemer Lutheran.

The Bazaar Room is Open!

To get a jump start on next year's event we have the Bazaar Room in the basement 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 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 newspapers are available in the Bazaar Room if you need them. Thank you!

DECEMBER SERVICE SCHEDULES

USHERS

12/1	Miller/Poff	AlbrightTeam/Cindy H.
12/8	Miller/Poff	MaggsTeam/Sally B.
12/15	Miller/Poff	JensenTeam/Pam J.
12/22	Miller/Poff	Fortin Team/Ruth S.
12/24	Albright Team(7)	Maggs Team (10:00)
12/29	Miller/Poff	Jensen Team/Pam J.

ASSISTING MINISTERS

12/1	Drew Haussmann	Joyce Hershberger
12/8	Walt Haussmann	Donna Clark
12/15	Becky Pryor	Deb Buckman
12/22	Ben Haussmann	Ray Huff
12/24		Lou DeSeau
12/29	Lou DeSeau	Kathy Dancho

LECTORS

12/1	Lou Kolb	Ralph Zeigler
12/8	Walt Haussmann	Phil Thomas
12/15	Ruth Rees	Lou DeSeau
12/22	Dinah Labenburg	Lou Kolb
12/24		Karen Mariano
12/29	Lou DeSeau	Joyce Hershberger



COMMUNION ASSISTANTS (10:30)

12/1	Mel & Mindy Wentzel
12/8	Lou DeSeau & Carl Hieber
12/15	Walt Doebler & Gary Weber
12/22	Carl & Audrey Albright
12/24	Gregg & Kathy Dancho (10:00pm)
12/29	Dan & Diana Zeigler

It's the season of presents, shopping, getting, GIVING.

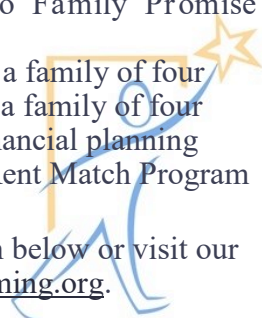
December 3, 2019 marks #GivingTuesday, the global movement to encourage and celebrate giving after Black Friday and Cyber Monday. For 24 hours, folks are encouraged to donate to their favorite non-profits.

This year, Family Promise's goal is to raise \$2,000 for local families in need. In 2019, they took **26 families** into their program, 96% of which went on to find financial stability and housing. With your support, they'd like to help **50 families** break the cycle of homelessness in 2020.

Your #GivingTuesday donations are not just a number. This is what giving to Family Promise looks like:

- \$35 - A day's worth of meals for a family of four
- \$100 - Clothing and bedding for a family of four
- \$200 - Case management and financial planning
- \$350 - One month's rent in our Rent Match Program
- Any amount - HOPE

To donate, please click on the button below or visit our website at www.familypromiselycoming.org.



UNITED CHURCHES NEEDS YOU!

We are getting ready to fill the ministries schedule for **2020**. Both laity and clergy are needed!

Please reply and let them know how you are able to help. *You can email to director@uclc.org or call 570-322-1110*. Be sure to include your name, phone number(s), home address, email address, and church affiliation.

WORSHIP IN NURSING HOMES AND ASSISTED LIVING CENTERS *(Laity and Clergy needed)*

(20-30 minutes that includes time for: Hymn, Opening Prayer, Scripture, Devotional message, Hymn, Prayer, Hymn, Benediction)

- ⇒ Manor Care South (2 pm, Sundays)
- ⇒ Valley View (2 pm, Sundays - if possible 2 services)
- ⇒ AristaCare (2 pm, Sundays)
- ⇒ Elmcroft (2 pm, 2nd Sunday of the month)
- ⇒ Manor Care North (2:15 pm, Sundays - 2 services)
- ⇒ Rose View Center (2:15 pm, Sundays)
- ⇒ Williamsport Home (3 pm, Sundays - 2 services)
- ⇒ Leighton Place (3 pm, 1st Sunday of the Month)
- ⇒ The Meadows (3 pm, 3rd Sunday of the Month)
- ⇒ The Hillside (3pm, 4th Sunday of the Month)

When responding, please note which location you can serve and a schedule preference: once a month, 6 or 7 services during the year, or other frequencies.

DAILY TELEPHONE DEVOTION LINE

These can be recorded from your phone onto an outgoing message of our devotion line answering machine every day for a week.

When responding, please let them know how many weeks a year you are able to do this.

FOOTSTEPS TO FOLLOW EDITORIALS

(Clergy and people in parachurch leadership needed)

Each editorial runs in the Sun Gazette, on the United Churches of Lycoming County website, and is sent in to the NorthcentralPA.com newspaper.

When responding, please let them know if you would like to do one or more editorials throughout the year or if you would like to write one for a specific season, month, or event.

CHRISTMAS FOR FAMILY PROMISE GUESTS

This year we host the Family Promise families during the week of Christmas. Help the Outreach Committee provide stocking stuffer gifts to the children and adults in our care during the holiday. Toothpaste, toothbrushes, brushes, combs, Chap Stick, containers of Play Dough, deodorant are just a few suggestions. A container will be in the Narthex for your donations.



CHRISTMAS PARTY AT THE SELINGSGROVE CENTER, DECEMBER 8

Our annual Christmas party for the 16 ladies of CM-6 at the Selingsgrove Center is only days away! We are in need of pudding cups in all flavors, body wash and money to offset the cost of items not donated. We also gift the caregivers with holiday cookies and fresh fruit for their break room and need those items as well.

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

Monetary donations may be made payable to St. Mark's with the memo line indicating "Selingsgrove Party."

On Sunday, December 8, 2019 we will meet in Fellowship Hall at 1:00 PM to carpool to Selingsgrove. Additional folks wishing to join the festivities are always welcome.



CALLING ALL CAROLERS SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 2020

The Outreach Committee needs three to four carloads of carolers on January 5 to visit our Special Concern folks and others we do not see as often as we would like. We will be taking a small gift and sharing a few Christmas carols at each stop.

Later in December see the sign-up sheet in the Narthex or speak with a member of the Outreach Committee to join us. A light lunch will be served after the late service and then it is off to share some Christmas joy.

GIVING THANKS

The New Love Center at St. John's Lutheran in Jersey Shore reaches out to more than 400 families each month. Pastor Kerry Aucker and his many volunteers work throughout each month to provide food to families, veterans and children both in Lycoming and Clinton counties. *Please help the Outreach Committee provide toothpaste, toothbrushes and boxes of Jell-O in all flavors for their use in their many programs.* A harvest box is in the Narthex for your donations. Thank you.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE AT ST. MARK'S

The Outreach Committee, in collaboration with the Northcentral PA Chapter of the American Red Cross, will hold a blood drive on *Friday, December 13, 2019 from 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM in Fellowship Hall.* Please consider being a donor as the Red Cross experiences critical shortages of blood during the holiday season.

DIAL -A -DEVOTION *

Have you called yet today?

The number is 570-322-5762 and it's available 24/7 Devotions are three minutes or less, change weekdays and once on the weekend, and are designed to lift your spirits and help you to have "A Closer Walk with God."

Gingerbread House Decorating Party

The holidays are upon us already! Take some time off shopping, planning, and cooking to join the Church Ladies at Trinity for our Gingerbread House decorating party.

We will meet on *Saturday, December 7 at 4 pm* in the Trinity Parish Hall. You may bring your own gingerbread house or cookies to decorate, or we can supply you with a pre-assembled house for \$10 (these are the same type of houses we used last year). The houses come with a few decorative items included, but everyone is encouraged to bring a couple of their favorite gingerbread décor items to share.

Kids and men-folk are welcome! Let our office know soon if you are attending, Bernadette will call Trinity with that information.

Michael Ochs and His Creation Corner

Mike Ochs finds common ground between religion and politics in his concern for the environment.

Politically he self-published the first "Greens Bibliography" of the English-language literature on the international Green Party movement (1989), the project for his Master of Liberal Arts in International Studies degree at Lock Haven (PA) University. He also helped plant the seeds for the Green Party of PA at that time, and remains a cyber-activist with it.

For a monthly newsletter of the ecumenical United Churches of Lycoming County (PA), he has written the "Creation Corner Column" since 1997. It became a blog in 2011 at

<http://lutheransrestoringcreationblog.blogspot.com/>

He received a B.A. degree from Gettysburg College in 1965.



Calling all youth who are interested

in participating in the youth service,

7:00pm on Christmas Eve!

Let me know if you are interested so I can get an idea of what music we can do at this service. I would love to do another medley and have the youth play during the hymns, but I just need to have an idea of what to plan for.

Thanks, Christian



Parents' Night Out

Calling All Parents! We invite you to enjoy a little kid-free downtime during this holiday season! Yes, you read that right!

Please drop your kids off at at church **December 21st** from **5-7 PM** where we will play in the nursery, have a light dinner, watch a Christmas video, and just have some holiday fun! All kids are welcome regardless of age. We are excited to see you!

WAHS Holiday Concert!!!

The combined orchestra, chorus and band have been performing a spectacular concert at this time of year for over 30 years! Join these young performers as they celebrate the season on Sunday, December 15, at 3:00 p.m.



West Branch Choral

presents

CHRISTMAS CLASSICS

Sunday, Dec. 1, 3:00pm, Pleasant View Wesleyan

Sunday, Dec. 8, 4:00pm, Pine St. United Methodist
Selected pieces as part of Williamsport Music Club's "Christmas Music by Candlelight"

Sunday, Dec. 15, 3:00pm, Faxon-Kenmar UM Ch.

Pastor Vasey,

Thank you for officiating at our father's burial and remembrance ceremonies at St. Mark's Lutheran church

Also, thank you for the use of Fellowship Hall and the kind service rendered by church members to all in attendance at the luncheon.

God bless,

Joe Ertel

Bill Ertel





November 20, 2019

Dear Friends in Christ,

As your ELCA Bishops in Pennsylvania, we give thanks for you, our congregations and ministries who live out the Gospel by providing food, shelter, care, compassion and hope to those who are poor or vulnerable in our midst. We write to ask you to complement your ministries of service by contributing to our shared ministry of justice: Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania (LAMPa).

LAMPa is a partnership of Pennsylvania synods, agencies and institutions that leads us in shaping public policy to address the root causes of hunger, poverty and injustice.

In 2019, in grateful response to God's love for us in Christ, Lutherans, through LAMPa, have worked together and with partners of many faiths, backgrounds and political stripes across Pennsylvania to support programs that fight hunger and poverty, fund disaster response and mitigate climate change, hold back predatory lending, ensure clean air and safe water, stand for welcome to immigrants and refugees, maintain access to affordable health care and strengthen protections against human trafficking. LAMPa equipped Pennsylvania Lutherans with training and resources to engage in civil discourse and supported their discipleship with opportunities to inform public policy.

We invite you to help us continue to grow this shared ministry by contributing generously to LAMPa through the use of the enclosed envelope, or by giving online at www.lutheranadvocacypa.org.

As we celebrate the national holiday of Thanksgiving, mindful of tensions that divide our country and gaps between tables that are bare and those that are heavy-laden, we read from Deuteronomy of a proper response to the grace of God.

26:8 The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; 26:9 and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey.

26:10 So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me." You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God.

26:11 Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house. 26:12... giving it to the Levites, the aliens, the orphans and the widows, so that they may eat their fill within your towns..."

Deuteronomy 26:8-12

Jesus in his ministry equipped disciples to set a table where all were welcomed and fed, where divisions were healed, and justice and mercy abounded. With your help, LAMPa will work to equip Lutheran disciples to continue in the ministry of Jesus.

Yours in Christ,

The Rev. Michael L. Rhyne, Bishop
Allegheny Synod of the ELCA

The Rev. James S. Dunlop, Bishop
Lower Susquehanna Synod of the ELCA

The Rev. Samuel R. Zeiser, Bishop
Northeastern PA Synod of the ELCA

The Rev. Michael L. Lozano, Bishop
Northwestern PA Synod of the ELCA

The Rev. Patricia A. Davenport, Bishop
Southeastern PA Synod of the ELCA

The Rev. Kurt F. Kusserow, Bishop
Southwestern PA Synod of the ELCA

The Rev. Barbara J. Collins, Bishop
Upper Susquehanna Synod of the ELCA



SPECIAL CONCERNS LIST

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

Catherine Lundy
c/o Carol Butters
123 Aberdeen Road
Williamsport, PA 17701

Elizabeth Ruesskamp
Rose View Center, 222B
1201 Rural Ave.
Williamsport, PA 17701

Dottie Bingaman
Williamsport Home, Rm 309
1900 Ravine Rd.
Williamsport, PA 17701

Carol McMorris
330 Forest Hills Circle
Prescott, AZ 86303

Betty Stroup
Rose View, Room 210
1201 Rural Ave.
Williamsport, PA 17701

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

Ruth Pile
Wmspt Home Care Ctr #105A
1900 Ravine Road
Williamsport, PA 17701

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

Alona Hopler
2114 Riverbend Road
Allentown, PA 18103

Kay Poliska
1100 Allen St.
Montoursville, PA 17754



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Maria Elkin	12/01
Sara Jones	12/01
Rob Ott	12/02
Robert Miller	12/03
Edgar Miller Jr.	12/03
David Elkin	12/04
Brittany Lynch	12/07
Laura Schreckengast	12/07
Emma Elkin	12/09
Ernest Larson	12/12
Alverda Comerford	12/14
Richard Hafer	12/15
Lyndsi Stugart	12/15



Betty Kaufman	12/16
Derek Gilbert	12/17
Marlene Vollmer	12/17
Ryan Clokey	12/18
Michael Jensen	12/18
Martha Hopler	12/19
Gladys Knauss	12/19
Fred Thayer	12/19

Zachery Zimmerman	12/19
Daryl Lewis	12/22
Judith Fortin	12/23
Sarah Young	12/23
Scott McMorris	12/24
Holly Thorne	12/24
Hannah Ramsauer	12/26
Amalie Robertson	12/30
Cynthia Huff	12/31

Happy Anniversary!

Thomas & Becky Miller Pryor	12/21
Joseph & Rachel Reiter	12/29

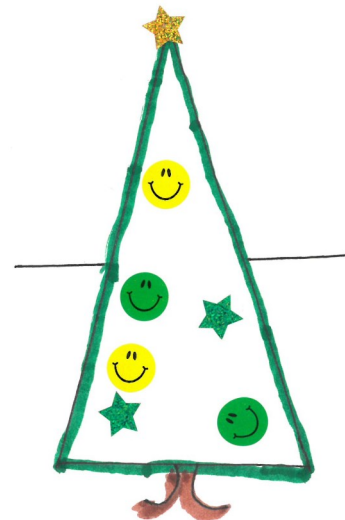
To Our St. Mark's Family ~

Thank you for the many kindnesses shown through the years to our mother, Elda Zeigler. Your thoughtfulness meant so much to her and to us.

St. Mark's was an important part of her life and she lived her faith. Involvement in the life of the congregation brought much enjoyment as she reached out to others and helped in ways that she could. What a wonderful legacy.

To Pastor West, St. Mark's staff, and the many members who have supported our family, especially during the time of her passing, we are forever grateful. Please know that you have been a blessing to each of us,

Sincerely,
Gloria Greevy, Barbara McCullough,
Ralph Zeigler, and families



MERRY
CHRISTMAS
HAPPY
NEW YEAR

Liz

Sunday December 1, 2019

First Sunday of Advent
 8:00am HOLY COMMUNION
9:15am Advent Wreath-making
 10:30am HOLY COMMUNION

Mon December 2, 2019

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

Tue December 3, 2019

#Giving Tuesday
 9:00am Morning Prayer
 11:00am Staff Meeting
 1:00pm City Pastors' Lunch
 6:30pm Outreach Committee

Wed December 4, 2019

9:00am Morning Prayer
 12:00pm Pine St. Ecumenical Lunch
12:00pm Advent Mid-Week Worship

Thu December 5, 2019

9:00am Morning Prayer
 10:45am Faith & Fellowship Comm.

Fri December 6, 2019

Sat December 7, 2019
 4:00pm HOLY COMMUNION

Sun December 8, 2019

Second Sunday of Advent
9:30am THE CHRISMON SERVICE

Mon December 9, 2019

9:00am Morning Prayer
 6:30pm Personnel Committee
 7:00pm Civic Chorus Rehearsal

Tue December 10, 2019

Council Agenda Due
 9:00am Morning Prayer
 11:00am Staff Meeting

Wed December 11, 2019

9:00am Morning Prayer
 12:00pm Pine St. Ecumenical Lunch
12:00pm Advent Mid-Week Worship

Thu December 12, 2019

Lion Article Deadline

9:00am Morning Prayer
 5:30pm Redeemer Community Meal

Fri December 13, 2019

9:00am RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Sat December 14, 2019

DECORATING THE NAVE
 4:00pm HOLY COMMUNION

Sun December 15, 2019

Third Sunday of Advent
DECORATING THE NAVE
 8:00am HOLY COMMUNION
 9:15am SUNDAY SCHOOL
 10:30am HOLY COMMUNION

Mon December 16, 2019

9:00am Morning Prayer
 6:00pm Civic Chorus Board Meeting
6:00pm Council Meeting
 7:00pm Wmspt. Dog Training Club
 7:00pm Civic Chorus Rehearsal

Tue December 17, 2019

9:00am Morning Prayer
 11:00am Staff Meeting

Wed December 18, 2019

9:00am Morning Prayer
 12:00pm Pine St. Ecumenical Lunch
12:00pm Advent Mid-Week Worship
 12:00pm Lunch 'n' Fellowship

Thu December 19, 2019

9:30am Little Lambs Christmas Party
 9:00am Morning Prayer
 4:00pm Daniel's Closet Drop-off

Fri December 20, 2019

9:30am Little Lambs Christmas Party

Sat December 21, 2019

4:00pm HOLY COMMUNION
 9:00am Daniel's Closet

Sun December 22, 2019

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Family Promise Hosting
 8:00am HOLY COMMUNION
 9:15am SUNDAY SCHOOL
 10:30am HOLY COMMUNION

Mon December 23, 2019

Family Promise Hosting
 9:00am Morning Prayer
 7:00pm Civic Chorus Rehearsal

Tue December 24, 2019

Christmas Eve
Family Promise Hosting
 9:00am Morning Prayer
 11:00am Staff Meeting

Wed December 25, 2019

CHRISTMAS EVE
Family Promise Hosting
7:00pm Children's Christmas Eucharist
10:00pm Traditional Christmas Eucharist

Thu December 26, 2019

Family Promise Hosting
 9:00am Morning Prayer

Fri December 27, 2019

Family Promise Hosting
9:20am Lion Crew

Sat December 28, 2019

Family Promise Hosting
 4:00pm HOLY COMMUNION

Sun December 29, 2019

8:00am HOLY COMMUNION
 9:15am SUNDAY SCHOOL
 10:30am HOLY COMMUNION
3:00pm REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

Mon December 30, 2019

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

Tue December 31, 2019

New Year's Eve
 9:00am Morning Prayer
 11:00am Staff Meeting

