

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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Date
April 2021

Reminder: Masks / face shields are required for everyone's safety.

Please Note: The **second** and **last** Sunday of each month attendees will be required to wear their mask / face shield during the **entire** worship service.

Upcoming Events

Fri., Apr. 2nd – 7:00 p.m. – Good Friday Service at Christian Community Church

Sat., Apr 3rd – 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. – Prayer Vigil

Sun., Apr. 4th – 6:30 a.m. – Sunrise Service

Sun., Apr. 4th – 10:30 a.m. – Easter Worship Service

Sun., Apr. 11th – Special Congregational meeting immediately following worship service

Mon., Apr. 19th - 6:00 p.m. – Church Council Mtg.

Thought for the Day:

Satan gives us the best first;
Jesus gives us the best last!

Prayer List for April

Family of Jim Heiser
Family of Paula Reinhart
Carrie Unser
Noelle Roney
Allison VanDyke McWaters
Andreana Blesser
Michelle McCoy
Pastor "De"
Barb Coons
Roseanne Errante

Holy Week Events

Good Friday Service

Friday, April 2nd - 7:00 p.m. at Christian Community Church in Richmondville

Prayer Vigil

Saturday, April 3rd - 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at St. Mark's. The church will be open so come at any time to spend quiet time with the Lord.

Easter Sunrise Service

Sunday, April 4th - 6:30 a.m. at Coltrain Funeral Home parking lot

Easter Sunday Worship Service

Sunday, April 4th - 10:30 a.m. at St. Mark's

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

DATE: Sunday, April 11, 2021

TIME: Immediately following worship service

PLACE: St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Diane France, Council President, is calling a special congregational meeting to discuss and obtain approval from our congregation for repairs needed on the church building and the proposed NALC constitutional changes.

First item on the agenda is the soffit repair on one side of the building. Council is proposing we hire Lenny's Painting for the sum of \$4,740.00. This price includes labor, materials, and a bucket lift. Funding will be from the church building fund.

The second item is the repairs to the church steeple. Council is again proposing hiring Lenny's Painting for the sum of \$8,890.00 which includes labor, materials, and a bucket lift. Funding will be from the FAM Fund.

NALC proposed changes to their Constitution at their October Convocation. They are requesting each congregation in NALC to review and approve these modifications. Additional explanation of their proposal will be forwarded under a separate cover.

We are planning to use ZOOM for those who are unable to attend the meeting and would like to be a part of the decision-making process. More information about connecting to the meeting will be sent to you prior to April 11th.

Close Encounters of the Third Kind

This title may stir up memories of the 1977 Steven Spielberg film by the same name. It is labeled as a science fiction movie about contact with alien beings from another world. Then as now some wonder how much of such an encounter is fictitious, and what if it is real. I would like to use the theme of this title in a whole new direction, a whole new understanding.

Throughout our history, it is recorded in Scripture of the encounters with God by the people and how in the beginning, as recorded in the book of Genesis, God spoke directly with the people. God had direct conversations with many people in the Bible including Adam, Eve, Cain, Noah, Abram/Abraham, Noah, Moses, Jonah, and many others. Several times during Jesus' ministry the voice of God was heard coming from the heavens and acknowledging "this is my Son, the Beloved".

As time progressed, God spoke to the people through the prophets. Although they were called "prophets" at the time, I wonder how many people questioned "who is this that they feel they can speak for God?" Scripture is filled with times where the people did not heed the word of God as it was relayed by the prophets. Delivering the words of God has never been easy. Some prophets suffered much in life at the hands of rulers or the people they were to deliver the message to.

The time came when God would deliver His own words. John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. Jesus was also rejected by many for the words of God that He came to deliver. His sacrifice wasn't just the result of Him being rejected; it was all part of the plan, the plan for our Salvation.

Before His death, resurrection, and ascension Jesus made these promises:

John 14:15-18 If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

John 15:26 But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.

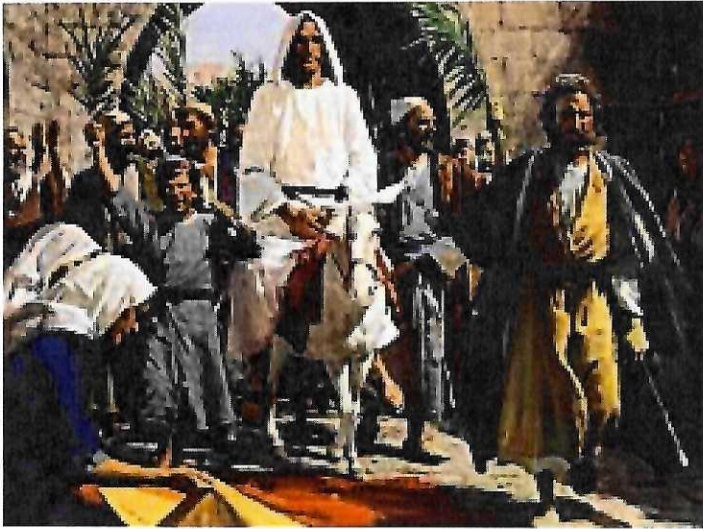
This brings us to the third member of the Trinity, who is the helper, the comforter, the Holy Spirit. We the people, the created of God, have throughout history experienced close encounters with God the Father, God the Son, and with God the Holy Spirit. As it is written, God sits on the throne in the Kingdom of Heaven. God's Son, the word made flesh, has ascended and sits at His right hand. The Holy Spirit, as Jesus promised in John 14:26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

There are many prayers to the Holy Spirit, personal requests for a 'close encounter'. They request for the Holy Spirit to fill the hearts of the faithful, to kindle in us the fire of God's love, to instruct us to be truly wise, and that we may enjoy the consolations of God. It tells us in Genesis 1:1-2 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Darkness has returned, but so has the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit is hovering over the earth, waiting to hear the prayers of the faithful inviting Him in and to be baptized with the Holy Spirit and fire by Jesus so that we have such a close encounter that it is transformational, life changing, God glorifying.

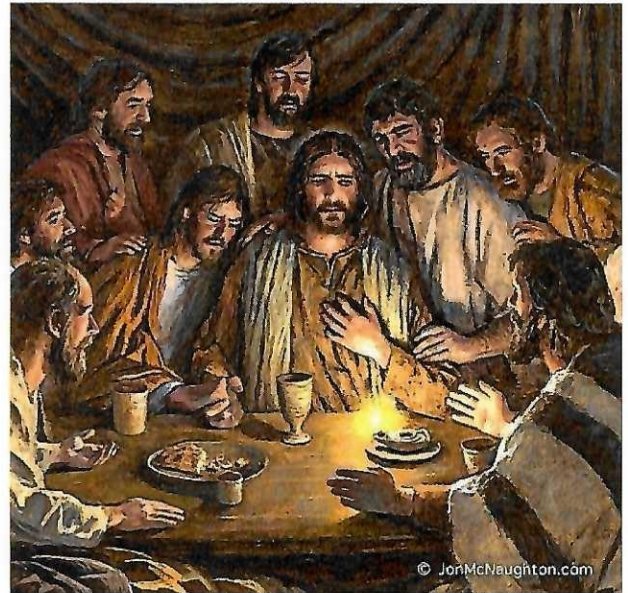
This Easter Season may we look upon the empty cross, remember the empty tomb, and have a close encounter of the third kind. An encounter with God, with Jesus, and with the Holy Spirit whom God sent to remind us that He is not fictitious but is truly real. May we have a close encounter with the three in one, and may it be transformational and life changing for all of us. AMEN.

In God We Trust / Love and Prayers, Pastor Dave

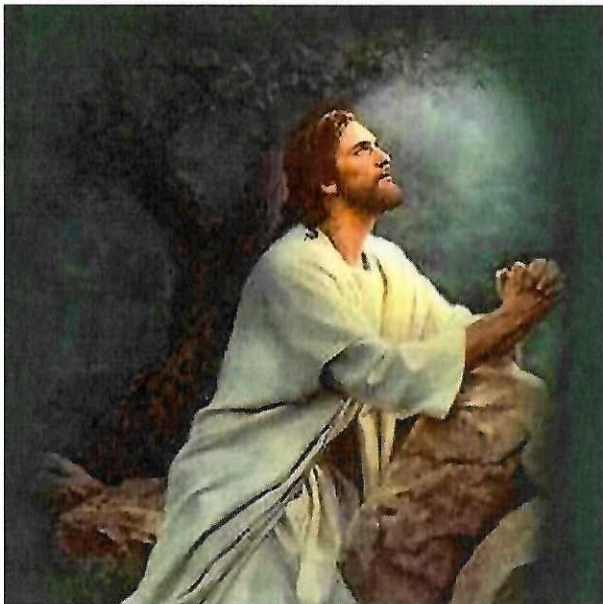
HOLY WEEK (IN PICTURES)



**Triumphant Entry into
Jerusalem**



The Last Supper

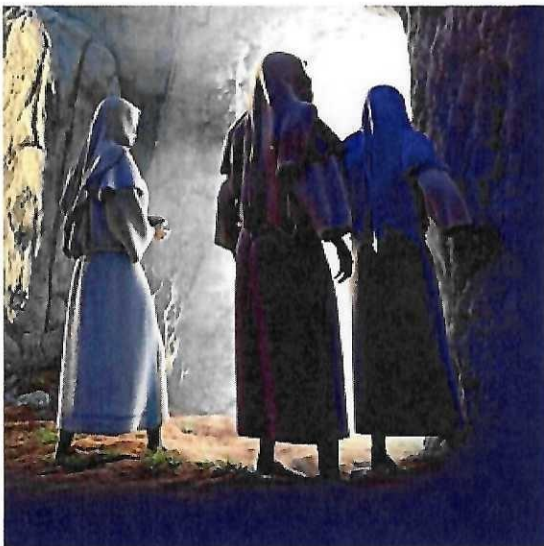
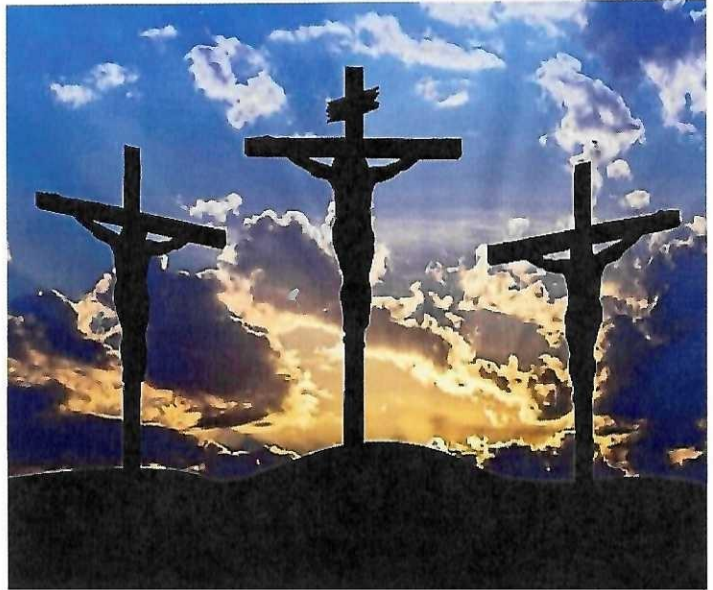
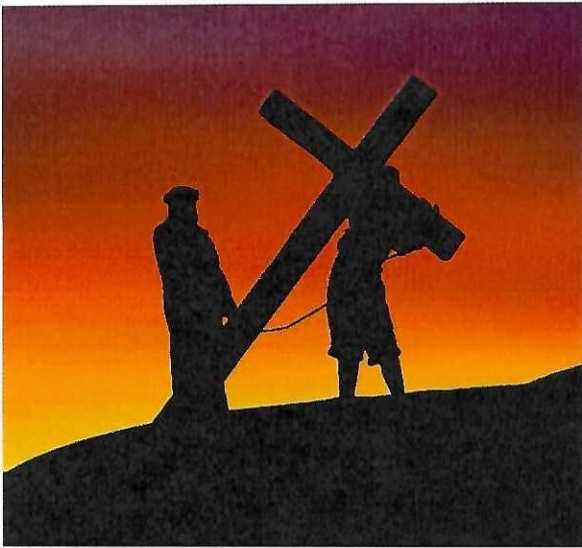


Garden of Gethsemane

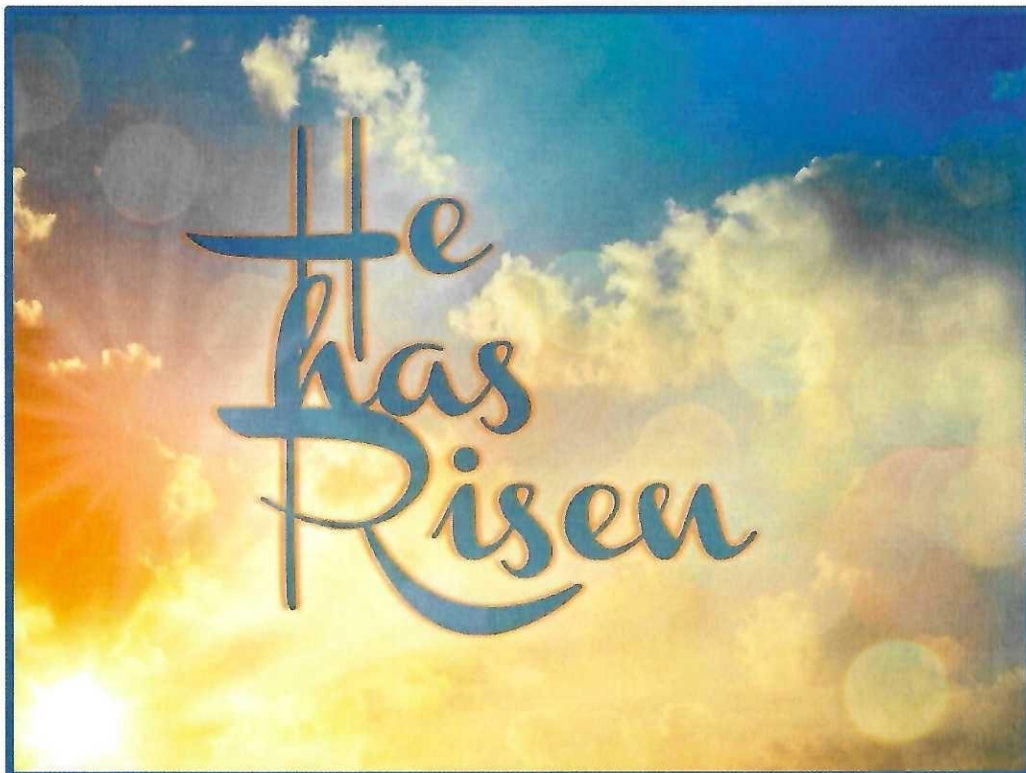
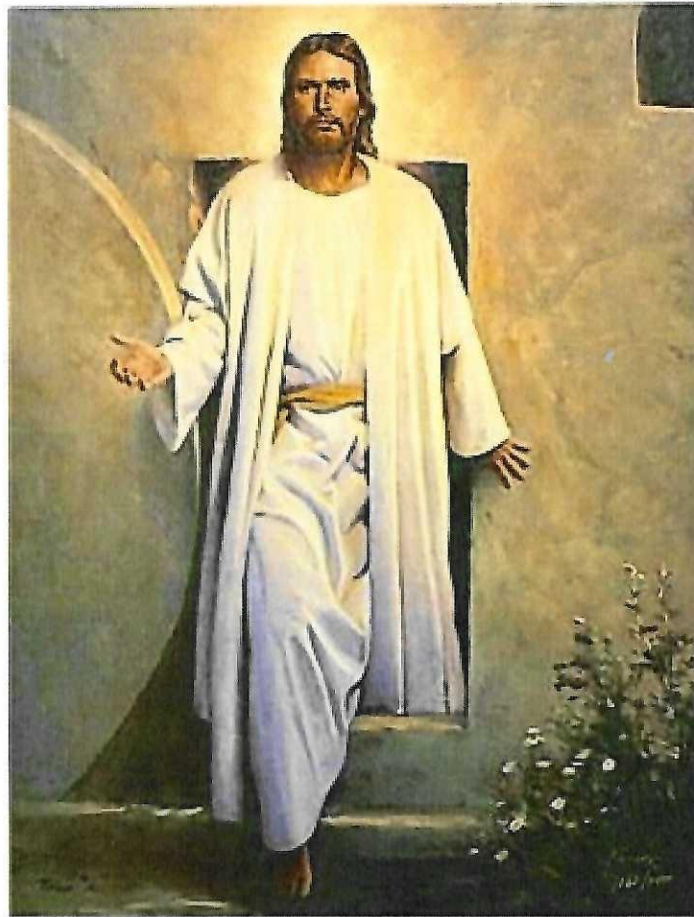


Jesus Arrested

The Crucifixion



Women at the Tomb



St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Servers for April

Apr. 4th:

Reader – Peggi
Prayer – Georgia
Counter – Deb P.

Apr. 11th:

Reader – Sandi
Prayer – Deb B.
Counter – Carrie

Apr. 18th:

Reader – Nannette
Prayer – Ron
Counter – Diane

Apr. 25th:

Reader – Georgia
Prayer – Carolyn
Counter – Deb P.

A Prayer for April

May the glad dawn
Of Easter morn
Bring joy to thee,
May the calm eve
Of Easter leave
A peace divine with thee,
May Easter night,
On thine heart write,
O Christ I live for Thee.

-Author Unknown

April Birthdays:

Pat Becker	Apr. 1
Nikki Gordon	Apr. 5
Jen Brown	Apr. 10
Diane France	Apr. 20
Sandi Johnson	Apr. 23
Maurice VanDyke	Apr. 24
Elizabeth Warnock	Apr. 27
Amanda Stover	Apr. 28

April Anniversaries:

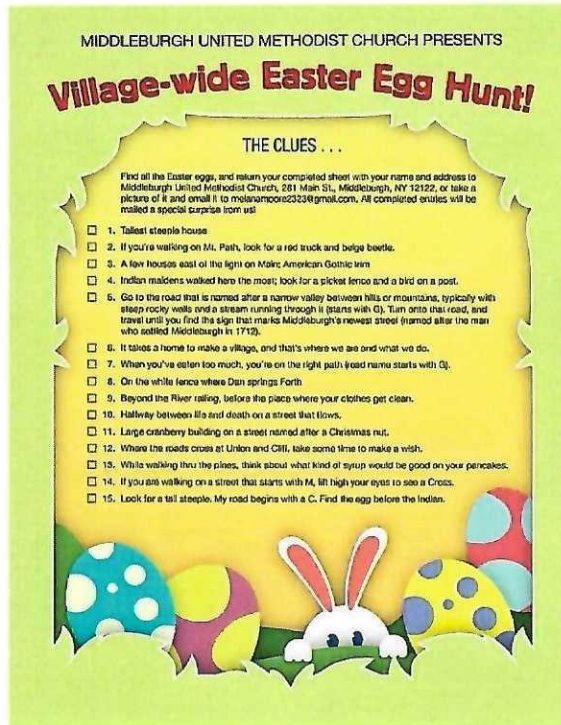
N/A

Where Did You See God This Week?

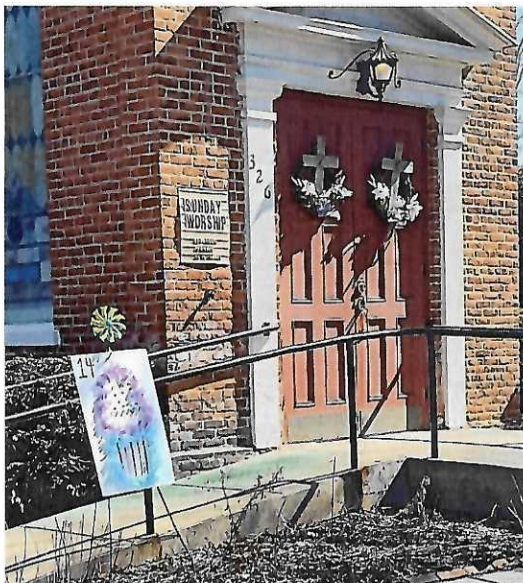


On March 23, food was made available to people in the Middleburgh area through the USDA's Farmers for Families program. Over a 1,000 boxes of food were distributed. Members of St. Mark's were among the "angels" who were sharing the blessing of food to our shut-ins. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church



Here is a hint for #14....



Thank you, Marie, for "laying" our egg. 😊



Palm Sunday preparation by
St. Mark's Altar Guild



Please join us for our
Sunrise / "Son"rise Service
on Sunday, April 4th, at
6:30 a.m. at Coltrain
Funeral Home parking lot.