

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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Church Mouse

Issue Number
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Date
April 2022

Upcoming Events

Sun., Apr. 3rd – Special congregational meeting immediately following worship service

Wed., Apr. 13th – 5:00 p.m. – Net Dinner - Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church

Wed., April 6th and April 13th – 6:30 p.m. - Lenten Bible study - St. Mark's Fellowship Hall

Sun., Apr. 10th – 10:30 a.m. - Palm Sunday

Thurs., Apr. 14th – 6:00 p.m. - Maundy Thursday Passover Meal (Seder) - Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church (see Holy Week insert for details)

Fri., Apr. 15th – 12:00 noon – Good Friday Stations of the Cross (see Holy Week insert for details)

Fri., Apr. 15th – 7:00 p.m. – Good Friday Service - Christian Community Church in Richmondville

Sat., Apr. 16th – 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. – Saturday Vigil (see Holy Week insert for details)

Sun., Apr. 17th – 6:30 a.m. – Easter Sunrise Service - Coltrain's Funeral Home parking lot

Sun., Apr. 17th – 10:30 a.m. – Easter Worship Service

Sat., Apr. 23rd – serving begins 11:00 a.m. – Chicken Barbecue

Sat., Apr. 23rd – 6:00 p.m. – Movie night – additional information will be forthcoming

Upcoming Events (Cont'd)

Sun., Apr. 24th – 12:00 p.m. – Church Council Meeting

Wed., Apr. 27th – 5:00 p.m. – Net Dinner at St. Mark's Church.

NOTE: Since Easter is on the third Sunday of the month, our Council meeting will be held on April 24th at 12:00 noon.

Prayer Chain Requests In March

Family of Marge Nesbitt
Family of Anna Layaou
Family of Brenda Livingston
Family of Sue Rumph
Family of Kristy Dedrick

People of Ukraine
Skeeter Coons
Christine
Hannah Martin
Joe Wainwright
Brenda Varella
Linda Zaqzouq
Steve Kulesa
Louise Lagone
Joe
Aiden
Ed Crowell
Lisa Bellinger & Children
Nate Shoemaker

The Sounds of Silence

In 1964 Paul Simon wrote the words to this popular song which later became known as "The Sound of Silence". The meaning of the lyrics were never defined exactly. Paul Simon stated that he enjoyed being closed in a small room with no lights on and only the sound of the running water from a faucet which he found soothing. In that darkness he would play his guitar and dream, which led to him composing this song. At a concert in 1966, Art Garfunkel, the other half of the duo, introduced the song by stating the song is about "the inability of people to communicate with each other, not particularly intentionally but especially emotionally, so what you see around you are people unable to love each other."

This song came to mind as I was shoveling snow from the storm we had in the beginning of March. At one point I stopped, stood still, and took in the sight and sounds around me. I was in a moment of silence from all "man-made sounds". No vehicle sounds from nearby roadways, no planes flying overhead, no mechanical sounds, no voices of others. It was in the silence from man-made sounds that I heard the sounds of creation. The sound of water flowing in a nearby creek, four different sounding chirps and cheeps from birds coming out from their hiding places. The sound of snow falling to the ground from its perch on tree branches as the sun rose in a brilliant blue, cloudless sky and warmed the air around them. It truly reminded me to "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!" (Psalm 46:10).

When we are blessed enough to find a place, a time, a moment when we are free from the distraction of man-made noise, we can feel the presence of God in those sounds of silence. Silence from the noise that is created by us creatures with the "higher" level of intelligence. Then we may be able to find ourselves in the sounds of the creator through His creations.

In that moment of solitude, I like Paul Simon was free from distractions where I could dream, where I could create.

Hello Creator, my lifelong friend,
I've come to speak with you again.
Sounds floating gently through the air,
Remind me that You are everywhere.
Reminders, that in my heart You remain,
To ease my pain.
I'm grateful, for the sounds of silence.

Billy Graham once made this statement at one of his crusades: "Can you see God? Have you ever seen him? I've never seen the wind. I've seen the effects of the wind, but I've never seen the wind. There's a mystery to it." May we learn to take the time, to make the time, to be still and know that God is near. When we are still enough and silent enough, we just might hear God in the beautiful sounds from God's creation and see the effects of God in everything around us. May we always give thanks and praise to God for the Love, Grace, and Mercy that He has given to us.

In God We Trust / Love and Prayers, Pastor Dave and Melody

REMINDER

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, April 3, 2022

There will be a special congregational meeting immediately following our worship service on Sunday, April 3, 2022. The meeting has been called to discuss a proposed amendment to St. Mark's Constitution, Chapter 12, Section 12.05c.

Chapter 12 provides information regarding the members of our Church Council and their responsibilities as our governing body. Section 12.05 gives specifics regarding their responsibility for financial and property matters.

12.05c currently reads as follows:

*The Church Council may enter into contracts of up to **5%** of the annual budget for items not included in the budget.*

Our budget for 2022 is \$52,100. As it currently reads, at 5% our Council may enter into contracts no more than \$2,605.

The proposed amendment is to change from a percentage to a flat dollar amount. It reads:

*The Church Council may enter into contracts for up to **\$10,000** for items not included in the budget.*

As in the past, the congregation will continue to be kept apprised of Council's decisions regarding finances and property.

Please plan to attend this important meeting.

Holy Week Events

Palm Sunday

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

Lenten Bible Study

Wednesday, April 13th – 6:30 p.m. at St. Mark's

Maundy Thursday Passover Meal (Seder)

Thursday, April 14th – 6:00 p.m. at Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church

Dinner is free; please call 518-827-3301 to confirm attendance

Good Friday Stations of the Cross

Friday, April 15th – 12:00 noon starting at corner of Wells and Main Street
at Catholic Church parking lot across from Methodist Church

Good Friday Service

Friday, April 15th – 7:00 p.m. at Christian Community Church in Richmondville

Saturday Vigil

Saturday, April 16th – 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at St. Mark's

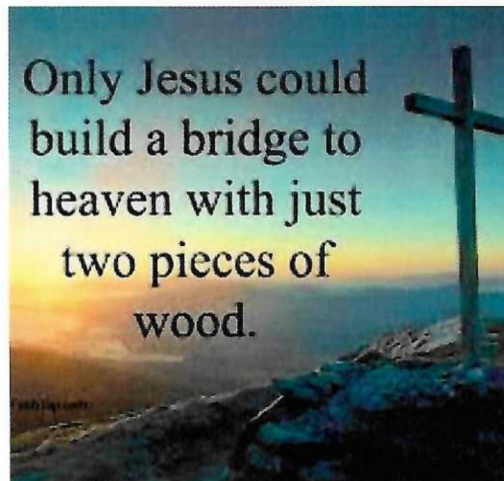
Church will be open so come at any time, stay as long as you would like to spend quiet time with our Lord

Easter Sunrise Service

Sunday, April 17th – 6:30 a.m. at Coltrain's Funeral Home parking lot

Easter Sunday Worship Service

Sunday, April 17th – 10:30 a.m. at St. Mark's



St. Mark's Lutheran Church

To say a prayer for someone is a good way to be there for them without moving anything but your heart.

To all Prayer Warriors.... We are being called into battle using our most powerful weapon provided for us by our Lord – **prayer**. Please continue praying for all men, women and children whose lives have been disrupted and affected by conflicts in Eastern Europe and in other parts of the world. Please also pray for the protection of those serving in the U.S. armed forces who are being deployed to those areas. Remember, the battle belongs to the Lord and as His prayer warriors, we do our best fighting on our knees.



Soldiers' Prayer

Dear Lord, please bless our soldiers
Protectors of our land.
Servants called to battle
When our country takes a stand.

Our country's prayers are with them
No matter where they roam.
Please listen when they are lonely
And return them safely home.



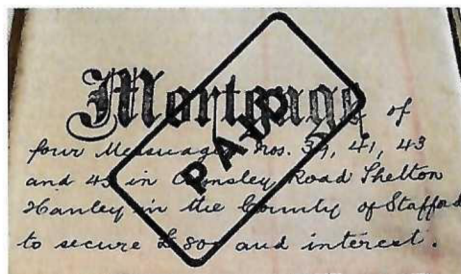
St. Mark's Lutheran Church



Angels Among Us

When God gives you a vision, you never know exactly where He will take you. You only take a step of faith, follow His lead and move forward. In 2008 St. Mark's took a very large step of faith by starting construction to replace an older addition to our church building and by financing the project through a mortgage. In 2011 we joyfully celebrated the completion of the project with a dedication ceremony. While the building was finished, our mortgage was not until... NOW. We have great news... some very special "angels" have blessed us by paying the balance we owed on our mortgage.

A huge thank you, Special "Angels", for your generosity. May God richly bless you!



200th Anniversary in 2024

It is difficult to believe that our St. Mark's Lutheran Church congregation was formed in 1824 and is still in existence today. With so many churches closing, we have been truly blessed by God as we continue to serve Him and others.

We would like to have a celebration that will honor and glorify God for the opportunity and the privilege of being able to serve Him these many years. However, a celebration like this will take much planning and sharing of ideas as well as organizing the event. If you would like to help in this endeavor, please contact Diane France or Georgia VanDyke.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Flowers for Easter

This year, for Easter, our Altar Guild will decorate our beautiful sanctuary with:



daffodils



hyacinths



lilies



and tulips

Easter is not only a time when we remember the resurrection of our Lord, but also a time to think of our loved ones who have been called to God's kingdom. Purchasing flowers in their name is a wonderful way to share their memory with our congregation. If this is something you would like to do or if you would like to purchase flowers just to beautify our sanctuary, please contact Georgia VanDyke. We are asking for a donation of \$10 to offset the cost for the flowers.



Lenten Bible Study

Would you like to learn more about our Lord?

Would you like to spend more time in God's Word?

Would you like to spend time with brothers and sisters in Christ?

....Then consider joining us on Wednesday evenings during Lent as Pastor Dave leads a devotional Bible study. His classes consist of Bible verses, a short meditation, and prayer.

All are welcome and we look forward to seeing you on April 6th and 13th at 6:30 p.m. in our fellowship hall.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Altar Guild Takes A Step of Faith

Believing that somehow God will provide a way, our Altar Guild took a step of faith and has placed an order for five sets of new altar paraments. What an encouragement when you, our congregation, generously responded to our request by making donations totalling \$1,350 (through 3/21/22). However, we are a little short and in need of an additional \$500. Please prayerfully consider helping us. Thank you to all who have and will make a donation. Blessings!



NET Dinner

On March 23rd, St. Mark's hosted a NET dinner where everyone enjoyed a delicious meal of macaroni and cheese, hot dogs and a variety of desserts. What a joy to see so many people gathering together talking, laughing and sharing this special time with each other.



Steeple Repair Project

In 2021 we had planned to have our church steeple repaired / painted; however, we realized the basement repair project had to become our first priority so the steeple project was place on hold. With God's help, the basement project is complete. With the onset of warmer weather, our focus is now on the steeple repair project.

Estimate to repair steeple	\$9,550
Donations received	\$4,257
(through March 21 st)	
Balance	\$5,293

Fundraisers are currently being planned to help offset this outstanding balance. However, if you would like to make a donation to help fund our steeple repair project, please contact Diane France.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Servers for April

April 3rd:

Reader – Alyssa
Prayer – Ron
Ushers – Dennis / Diane
Counter – Sharon N.

April 10th:

Reader – Marie
Prayer – Carolyn
Ushers – Denise / Ron
Counter – Diane

April 17th:

Reader – Nannette
Prayer – Georgia
Ushers – Dean / Lori
Counter – Carrie

April 24th:

Reader – Sharon N.
Prayer – Cheryl
Ushers – Deb P. / Barb
Counter – Deb P.

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**Happy
Easter!**

April Birthdays:

Pat Becker	Apr. 1
Diane France	Apr. 19
Sandi Johnson	Apr. 23
Maurice VanDyke	Apr. 24
Amanda Howland	Apr. 28
Virgil Cater	Apr. 30

April Anniversaries:

N/A

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Triplets???

Thought for the Day:

Christ chose to be broken so
that we could be made whole.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church



Brenda Varella Begins a New Adventure

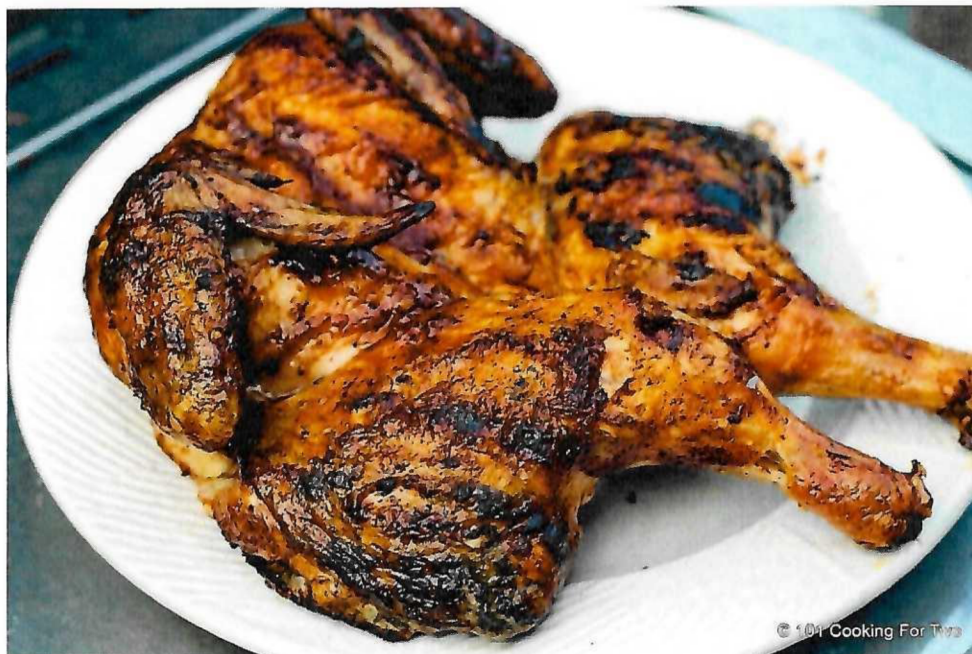
Brenda Varella has been a long-time member of St. Mark's and resident in Middleburgh. However, on Sunday, March 13th, it was with mixed feelings we joyfully celebrated with Brenda as she begins a new chapter in her life, yet sad that it required her moving away to a new home in Cooperstown. Our prayer is for God's blessing to be upon her and her new home. Brenda's address is:

Brenda Varella
Room 155B
Cooperstown Center
128 Phoenix Mills Road
Cooperstown, NY 13326

Four Chaplains Service

Every year in the month of February, the American Legion is invited to churches in our area to share the story of four Army chaplains who made the ultimate sacrifice. Those chaplains were Father John P. Washington, Rabbi Alexander D. Goode, and the Revs. George L. Fox and Clark V. Poling – all who gave up their life jackets on a sinking Army transport in the North Atlantic so that others might live. On February 20th we had the privilege of hosting the American Legion and honoring the memory of these brave men. As men of God, they truly showed their love of Christ and man through their selfless act.





CHICKEN BARBECUE

(Halves Only)

Date: April 23, 2022

Serving begins: 11:00 a.m. until sold out

Price: \$8.00 / half

St. Mark's Lutheran Church front lawn

Benefit – Church Steeple Repair Project