

# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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## **Upcoming Events**

Mon., Sept. 13<sup>th</sup> – 5:30 p.m. – Choir rehearsal  
Mon., Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> – 5:30 p.m. –  
Church Council Mtg.

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### **NET Dinners**

The Catholic Church has announced they are going to once again host NET Dinners beginning in October. They are going to hold them on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month.

After prayer and discussion, it was decided that St. Mark's is going to also start hosting NET dinners on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays beginning in October. Our plan is to have meals that are simple to prepare and serve while following sanitary guidelines, i.e. wearing masks and gloves while working in the kitchen and in the dining room.

### **Thought for the Day:**

God will be reliable when our world crumbles, righteous when others fail us, and our solid rock when fear of the unknown grips our heart.

## **Prayer Chain Requests In August**

Family of Tom Tilison  
Family of Tracy Tilison

Samantha Warner  
Russ Ryan  
Billy Smith  
Harry Amendola  
Edna Lower  
Robert Thrivierge  
Jackson Bywater  
Peter John DeBartolo  
Zach DeBartolo  
Dan Pigott  
Kobe Gordon  
Kristen Wagner  
Sandi Johnson  
Henry Thomas  
Nikki Gordon  
Ruth (Zinsman) Simmons

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Instant Potatoes  
Hamburger Helper

## **Collateral Damage or Intentional Destruction**

The current pandemic has touched the lives of every person on the earth, either directly or indirectly. It has affected nearly everything we do in one way or another through how we work, play, shop, socialize, communicate...through how we have been accustomed to living in general. The virus at the center of this pandemic has divided us physically, mentally, and emotionally by what we believe. In the search for truth we are pulled in different directions by voices saying, "this is the way; follow me". Each person must make up their own mind on what path they will take. I have done my best to research what is being said, against the standard of the Bible and to talk with God, the One true God, through His Son, my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Notice I said to talk "with" and not "to" God. I feel that talking to God suggests me having the floor and not yielding it to God and not be still long enough to hear what God has to tell me for times such as these.

I shared a story once about a plan that Satan had to conquer the world. Satan told his army of demons that: "We cannot keep Christians from going to church. We cannot keep them from reading their Bibles and knowing the truth. The important thing we must do is to keep them from forming an intimate relationship with their savior. Once they gain that connection with Jesus, our power over them is broken". This led to a list of innumerable schemes to occupy the minds of people and steal any time they might use to invest in time with Jesus.

History has shown that Satan's plan has been working very well so far. It is evidenced by the diminished attendance and number of churches in our country. (In other parts of the world the Christian Church is still rapidly growing.) I am wondering if Satan's plan now is to rewrite his opening statement of not being able to keep people from going to church or from reading their Bibles? I cannot and will not guess at where this pestilence, this virus, came from and why. I do wonder if how people react to it and deal with it, is another seed of fear and doubt planted by Satan; if one of the collateral damages caused by this pandemic is to keep people from gathering in Christ's name and from attending worship altogether. Will the absence of communal worship in our society lead to the further reduction in the number of faithful congregants? Will the absence of communal worship lead to a reduction in the time spent reading and studying of the word of God, in prayer, and in supporting the missions and ministries we are called to do in Christ? Are the temptations of and the damage caused by the evil one leading to his intentional destruction of God's people? Are they an attack on and undermining the Church, the body of Christ, through the disruption of the churches where the faithful gather in His name?

We must be responsible, caring, and accountable in how we live our lives for which there are several scripture verses to guide us. We have methods and ways for safely continuing on in the face of adversity and challenge. The issue has become the collateral damage of the divisions caused by what and in whom we can trust as we choose the paths we will take in life and in our current situation. Some congregations are doing well in enduring this time of trial. We should all be evaluating how it is where we gather to worship. How is it with those who gather in other places to worship? How is it with those we know, or may even be related to, who do not participate in a faith community? Let us look at what we have done or failed to do that may have contributed to this current crisis. How can each of us be a role model to others so that they may feel safe and secure enough to help us keep the candles burning? Yes, I believe if this issue is not addressed, if this trend is not reversed, the congregations of our nation are in trouble of disappearing and that is a crisis. May we wholly submit to God, who will lead us in paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Amen.

In God We Trust / Love and Prayers, Pastor Dave

# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

## St. Mark's Financial Update

Currently, our mortgage balance is \$41,033.91. PLEASE make every effort to help us pay our monthly bill because we are having to transfer money from FAM to cover the shortfall. The result of having to do this is causing a slow erosion of our emergency funds that we may need for any future unexpected expenditures.

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## Operation Christmas Child

Summer is very quickly coming to an end and we will soon be thinking about the outreach programs we support each year in November / December. While it may seem to be early to start thinking about the Operation Christmas Child (OCC) shoeboxes, this is a reminder that now is the best time of the year to purchase school supplies as well as start collecting other items for your shoeboxes.

Please read future newsletters for additional information about OCC and the collection dates.



## St. Mark's Property Updates

### Driveway

St. Mark's driveway will be closed from Wednesday evening, September 1<sup>st</sup>, thru Saturday, September 4<sup>th</sup>, for sealing and lines painted.

### Soffit

Lenny's has begun work to repair the soffit on the right side of the sanctuary.

### Basement

As a step of faith that God will provide, our congregation approved the funding for the repairs to be made to the basement. We are hopeful and praying for God to help us receive a grant to help us financially cover this expenditure.





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## Servers for Sept.

### Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>:

Reader – Peggi  
Prayer – Carolyn  
Ushers – Dennis/Diane (For Communion)  
Counter – Deb P.

### Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>:

Reader – Ginny  
Prayer – Cheryl  
Counter – Diane

### Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>:

Reader – Ron  
Prayer – Ron  
Counter – Carrie

### Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>:

Reader – Nannette  
Prayer – Carolyn  
Counter – Deb P.

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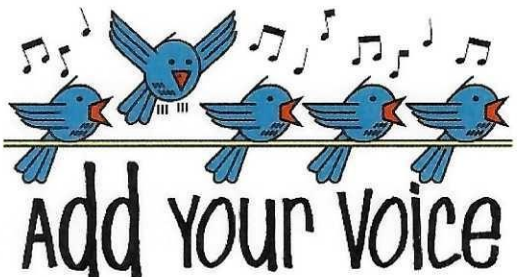


## Sept. Birthdays:

Dolores Wenzel	Sept. 6
Pat McCoy	Sept. 13
Tamara Guerrero	Sept. 13
Robin Gordon	Sept. 15
Chris Cash	Sept. 17
Marie Whittaker	Sept. 19
Sharon Amendola	Sept. 28

## Sept. Anniversaries:

Maurice/Karen VanDyke	Sept. 11
Pat/Niles McCoy	Sept. 17
Deb/Jim Brigadier	Sept. 23



## A JOYFUL NOISE RETURNS TO ST. MARK'S

Pastor Dave recently reminded us that we, as believers in Christ, need to take a step of faith and place our trust in our Lord. We, as St. Mark's musicians, are taking that step of faith by reinstating our choir. Rehearsals will begin on Monday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 p.m. All are welcome to join us to make a joyful noise.

# Atlantic Mission Region 3rd annual Women's Conference

Friday, October 22, 2021  
9:30 AM—11:30 AM

Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church  
696 Johnson Road  
Nazareth, PA 18064

## We will be assembling kits for Disaster Response!

Each congregation is asked to bring components for at least five (5) complete health care kits and five (5) complete school kits. Please DO NOT have them assembled ahead of time. We will be doing a "hands on" assembly line at our conference.

Below is the list of items requested for each kit. Remember, we are asking for FIVE (5) of each item from each participating congregation.



### Health Care Kits

(one item of each listed below completes one kit)

- ◇ **One** bath towel
- ◇ **One** wash cloth
- ◇ **Two** bars of soap, in original wrapping
- ◇ **One** toothbrush
- ◇ **One** pack of dental floss
- ◇ **One** tube of toothpaste (two if sample size)
- ◇ **One** comb
- ◇ **One** deodorant



### School Kits

(one item of each listed below completes one kit)

- ◇ **One** cloth bag or back pack
- ◇ **Four** notebooks of wide or college-ruled paper (NO loose leaf paper)
- ◇ **One** blunt scissors
- ◇ **One** ruler
- ◇ **One** pencil sharpener
- ◇ **Six** new pencils
- ◇ **One** eraser
- ◇ **Twelve** sheets assorted colors construction paper
- ◇ **One** box of 16 or 24 crayons
- ◇ **DO NOT** include a calculator. The WC planning committee will be purchasing those.

