

# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Publisher  
Church mouse

Issue Number  
125

Date  
October 2021

## **Upcoming Events**

Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 a.m. – Apple and Pumpkin Pie Sale at Middleburgh Octoberfest at MCS lawn

Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> – 5:00 p.m. – Net Dinner at Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church.

Mon., Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> – 5:30 p.m. – Church Council Mtg.

Wed., Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> – 5:00pm – Net Dinner at St. Mark's.

Sat., Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Coats for Kids and Adults (see article for information)

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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.

## **Prayer Chain Requests In Sept.**

Family of Sandy Mickle  
Family of Tiffany Ottoman  
Family of Debbie Hatch Pepe  
Family of Guy Lindemann  
Family of Obie Johnson  
Family of Don Griffith  
Family of Pardy Coons  
Family of Nancy Oliver

Steve Schmidt  
Paul Zinsman  
Andreana Blesser  
Kobe Gordon  
Samantha Warner  
Chris Motto  
Pastor Dottie  
Ed Johnson

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## **Thought for the Day:**

Look forward in faith, instead of backward in fear or regret.



## For Such A Time As This

Melody and I were blessed to be able to go on a bus trip to the Sight and Sound Theatre where once again the Bible came to life through their amazing production of "Esther". The books of the Old Testament reveal the history of humanity, whom God created. Most of the recorded history is about the Hebrew people and the struggles they faced as they were moved from location to location and from situation to situation. Some of their history was the direct result of their own choices, while at other times it was the result of the control or influence of others upon their lives. It was when the people got caught up in themselves that they forgot about or turned from God. It is during those times that life itself and the decisions they had to make were the most difficult. It is only when they remembered who their creator is and how the Divine had delivered them from the trials they had faced that they sought the One whose hand delivers and they found their salvation.

It seems that life and history has not changed much over the years. It is still when we get caught up in ourselves, in a life of comfort and convenience, that we also forget who we are...or more importantly, whose we are. It is not that we intentionally forget about or turn from God, after all, we are doing the best we can, aren't we? We cannot control what is done to us. But what about how the world influences us and how that influence affects our choices and our decisions, which not only affect us but those around us?

Esther, a young Hebrew woman whose given name was Hadassah, was taken from her home and family by a governmental decree to become part of a harem from which the King would choose his next queen. It is believed that Hadassah's name was changed to Esther in order to hide her ancestry from everyone in the palace. All of the Hebrew people had been living in exile and had suffered great persecution at different times during their exile. Although they longed for home, their greater longing was to maintain their heritage and their faith while living in societies where faith and worship had become directed towards idols and rulers of the land. Being selected and living in the palace took Esther from the humble life of an exile to the lavish lifestyle of the Queen of Persia. To have the best of the best can be quite influential and distracting from what is going on in the world. It is when Esther, Hadassah's family and her people are threatened by the ruling system, that she is now a part of, she must make a decision that could endanger her position and possibly her life. Her Uncle Mordecai challenges Esther to "remember who you are".

We, like Esther, have been influenced by events in our lives regardless of whether they were our own choices or caused by the actions of others. We have all been prepared to serve God in "such a time as this" just as Esther was and did. It was not easy for her at first. The possibility of losing her position, her comforts, her conveniences, and possibly her life can be quite discouraging. It was that one phrase that changed everything for her, her family, her people, and their history.... "remember who you are".

We in the world today are being subjected to many influences from ruling parties no matter whether they be governmental, vocational, family, friends, or even the different faith systems. Intimidation, fear, temptation, and desire are all methods of control to drive us one way or another. We must remember who we are and whose we are. We are creations of the Most High God, created to be in the image of God. Adopted into the family as children of God and heirs to the kingdom with His Son our Savior Jesus Christ. We must remember who we are as Christians, for we are the Church, the body of Christ serving in His name and for His glory. We may never have to make a decision that could jeopardize ourselves and everything we have, like Esther had to. Yet whether or not we are in such a position of challenge and trial as Esther was, we must remember that throughout our lives we are being prepared "for such a time as this", and that God is with those who truly believe. We must remember "whose we are". We must choose to live for, and glorify the one true God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen

In God We Trust / Love and Prayers, Pastor Dave

# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

## Servers for Oct.

### Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>:

Reader – Edna

Prayer – Ron

Ushers – Denise/Ron (For Communion)

Counter – Diane

### Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>:

Reader – Bob

Prayer – Carolyn

Counter – Sharon N.

### Oct. 17<sup>th</sup>:

Reader – Alyssa

Prayer – Cheryl

Counter – Deb P.

### Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>:

Reader – Lori

Prayer – Ron

Counter – Diane

### Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>:

Reader – Bonnie

Prayer – Carolyn

Counter – Sharon N.

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## Oct. Birthdays:

Beth Cash	Oct. 1
Michelle Amendola	Oct. 6
Kathy Kauffmann	Oct. 12
James Boyle	Oct. 14
Lori Roney	Oct. 18
Doug Chichester	Oct. 19
John Palmatier	Oct. 20
Pastor Dave Houck	Oct. 25

## Oct. Anniversaries:

Lisa / Todd Bartholomew	Oct. 4
Gregory/Colleen Davidson	Oct. 21
Denise / Terry Minton	Oct. 25

## “Coats for Kids” and Adults

The team of St. Mark's and Joshua Project are hosting “Coats for Kids” and Adults on the following date and time:

Sat., Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Wed., Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m.

Sat., Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

If you would like to help with this event in any way, please call Pat McCoy at 518-231-4632.





# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

## Outreach Ministry at AMRC



Response has been wonderful to fill the table with items being taken to the Atlantic Mission Region Convocation by our representatives Marie Whittaker and Georgia VanDyke.

In addition, the Atlantic Mission Region is also sponsoring "Stuff the Truck" at the Convocation. With the current disaster response, supplies are depleted so donations of flood buckets, health kits, school kits, diapers, Bibles and / or gift cards from Home Depot, Lowe's and Walmart may be made.

Our Phoebe group is still working diligently on quilts and will be sending some of them to help "Stuff the Truck".

Since Marie and Georgia are leaving on October 21, there is still plenty of time to make any donations you feel God is leading you to give.

If you have any questions, please feel free to speak with either Marie or Georgia.

## Angels Among Us

Several years ago, the country group, Alabama, recorded the song "Angels Among Us". The first few lines of the song are: "I believe there are angels among us, sent down to us from somewhere up above". Diane recently reminded us that there are truly angels among us. At our September congregational meeting, we were provided updates about the maintenance and repairs needed in our beautiful church.

They included:

- Resealing the driveway
- Repainting the parking stripes
- Repairs and painting of a soffit
- Repairs and painting of the steeple
- Repairs to the cracked beam in the basement

We brought our building projects and financial concerns before the Lord in prayer, both individually and as a group at our Thursday prayer time. God does answer prayer!!!

We were blessed to receive donations that paid the total cost of the driveway resealing, the parking stripes and the soffit projects. In addition, a wonderful donation was made to St. Mark's toward future building expenses.

Thank you "angels" for following God's guidance in blessing us with your generous gifts. Most of all, we thank GOD for His presence and His provision as well as for reminding us, He is always with us.

# St. Mark's Lutheran Church



## St. Mark's Scarecrow

As one wanders around the village of Middleburgh, they will see various kinds of scarecrows decorating the town. As cute, adoring and sometimes scary as they are, St. Mark's scarecrow is very different.

**He has a message reminding people:**

***JESUS LOVES YOU!!!!***

Thank you to Marie Whittaker for using her creative talents for making our scarecrow and to Peggi Meunier using her talent to make the banner.

## Basement Project Fundraiser

At our September congregational meeting regarding the repairs to the basement, we learned the cost is going to be approximately \$28,000. We discussed the possibility of getting a grant; however, the process to obtain one is very long and our time for 2021 has passed. Until we have obtained any funding, we are holding various fundraisers to help defray the cost.

Our first St. Mark's fundraiser is an Apple and Pumpkin Pie Sale on October 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. Please contact Sharon Nesbitt if you are willing to make pies and / or help that day. We are looking for volunteers to help set-up, sell pies and breakdown the tables. As always, monetary donations are gratefully accepted.

Also, please note we are planning a spaghetti dinner on November 20<sup>th</sup>. Additional information will be forthcoming.

Thank you for your support and ask you continue to keep our building projects in your prayers.



# The Schoharie County Aggie Scott Memorial **CROP HUNGER WALK**

Sunday  
October 24



Cobleskill  
NY

The first hybrid Schoharie County Aggie Scott Memorial CROP Hunger Walk will begin at the Cobleskill United Methodist Church on Chapel St. at 1:30pm on Sunday, October 24.

Registration starts at 1:00 pm

Walk begins at 1:40 pm

For more information, call 518-234-2933.

Thank you to our sponsors!

