

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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

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

Upcoming Events

Mon., Sept. 21st – 6:00 p.m. – Church
Council Mtg.

Council Members:

President – Diane France
Vice President – Georgia VanDyke
Secretary - Lori Roney
Treasurer - Debbie Palmatier
Members - Jim Brigadier, Lisa
Bartholomew and Deb Roberts

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Always pray to have eyes that
see the best in people,
A heart that forgives the
worst,
A mind that forgets the bad,
And a soul that never loses
faith in **God!**

- Author Unknown

Prayers Concerns

Family of Rex Smith
Family of Sylvia Barthlomew
Harry Amendola
Bill Gordon
Hope Armlin
Carol
Lillian Felter
Huie (Tre) Adams
Georgia VanDyke
I'Kiemah
Babette Beckley
Sandi Zinsman
Jackson Bywater
Justin
Jason Yanson
Ed Vander Wande
Jim Brigadier
Jen Brown & her dad
Barb Elder's Sister, Susan
Andreana Clark
Howard Porter
Tim Gordon

Thought for the Day

The Spirit enables me to rise
above life's challenges.
(Upper Room Devotional)

Maintaining and Sustaining

Have you ever been told, or maybe encouraged someone else to “keep the faith”? Sometimes it may seem easier said than done. Most people feel or state that they always have faith. The issue then is, and has always been, in what or in whom do we place our faith? How strong or how weak is our faith when we need it most? How do we find the strength (sustaining) to enable our faith to continue each day at the same level (maintaining)?

A while ago I saw a bumper sticker that read: “Look busy, Jesus is coming”. As humorous as this sounds, it has to make one think about how is it with my faith? Am I actively maintaining my faith? The Bible tells us that Jesus is the author of our faith (the one who initiated the relationship), and He is the perfecter of our faith (the one who will see it through to the end). *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.* (Hebrews 13: 8) *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.* (John 1:14)

This tells me that the Word is the same yesterday, today, and forever just as the only begotten of the Father is. Maintaining and sustaining ones faith through both the good and the troubling times requires being in the Word regularly so that the Word is deeply rooted within us to keep our faith growing stronger. In a world that is ever changing around us, we need to be aware of the changes and how they may affect or change that which is within us. Let us not just maintain the same level of faith we began with, but seek to increase our faith to meet the changes and challenges that lie ahead. A strong and healthy level of faith protects us; it helps us to keep from falling into the temptation of reacting to life by a worldly standard. It reminds us that a quality faith is revealed in always trying to live up to a Godly standard and not just when we think someone is watching. We cannot try to put on an act and look busy because we think that “Jesus is coming”. We must live by what we profess because Jesus is here with us and within us, if we have opened the door for Him to enter in. He is the One who initiated the relationship; it is up to us what our response will be. May our response be to move forward in our faith and not lose ground when events in our lives change. May we never forget that Jesus is with us when things are going well and that He is working with us to perfect our faith, to see it through to the very end, especially when times are troubling. For it is written: *Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” So we may boldly say: “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?”* (Hebrews 13:5,6)

May the Peace of the Lord be with you this day and all of those yet to come.

In God We Trust / Love and Prayers, Pastor Dave

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Servers for Sept.

Sept. 6th:

Reader – Edna
Prayer – Ron
Counter – Diane

Sept. 13th:

Reader – Sharon
Prayer – Carolyn
Counter – Carrie

Sept. 20th:

Reader – Peggi/Bob
Prayer – Ginny
Counter – Deb P.

Sept. 27th:

Reader – Marie
Prayer – Georgia
Counter – Diane

Operation Christmas Child (OCC)

Fall is fast approaching and we will begin thinking about our upcoming outreach programs. One program we support is Operation Christmas Child through their shoebox gifts. With the current world situation as it is, we would like to share the following from their recent newsletter:

- We are continuing ministry overseas. Operation Christmas Child is working directly with our international volunteer leadership teams in over 100 countries to assess ongoing ministry activity with some modifications according to local government guidelines.
- The health and safety of our staff, local partners, and beneficiaries is of utmost importance to us. Samaritan's Purse is constantly monitoring COVID-19 trends around the world.
- Samaritan's Purse and the Operation Christmas Child team encourages everyone to follow local guidelines and use personal discernment to shop for shoebox items. Many stores are opening around the country and online shopping is a popular method for participants.
- Shoebox gifts are needed! Now more than ever, children need to have the reassurance that they are loved by God. We believe in the urgency of reaching communities with the eternal hope of the Gospel, especially in these uncertain times. Shoebox gifts—and our follow-up discipleship program, The Greatest Journey—are powerful tools to share this Good News with millions of people around the world.

Shoebox collections will begin

November 16th. We will share additional information as it becomes available to us.

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September 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

September Anniversaries:

Maurice/Karen VanDyke	Sept. 11
Niles/Pat McCoy	Sept. 17
Bill/Vanessa Gordon	Sept. 20
Jim/Deb Brigadier	Sept. 23

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HOLY HUMOR



Three men went to church, and when it came time to pass the plate, they discovered they had no money. Not wanting to be embarrassed, one fainted and the other two carried him out.

Seed of Encouragement

Victory is in your praise...not in your complaining, but in your PRAISE!!!
Go into this day with a praise on your lips and a song in your heart...making joyful melodies unto the Lord all through the day.
Giving God praise for who He is...for what He has done...for what He is doing...AND for what He is about to do in your life! Praise Him for His grace and mercy that follows you each and every day. Praise Him for His peace, His protection and His provision...but most of all, praise Him for His presence!!!

Let ALL that I am praise the Lord;
with my WHOLE heart, I will praise His holy name. Let ALL that I am praise the Lord; may I never forget the good things he does for me.
Psalms 103:1-2

Let EVERYTHING that has breath
PRAISE THE LORD. Psalm 150:6

Ecumenical Service at Timothy Murphy Park

The Annual Ecumenical Service, founded by our beloved Pastor Carol Coltrain in 2013, was held on Sunday, July 26th at Timothy Murphy Park. It was a ministry team from the village churches that came up with the idea to begin the event on Schoharie's tricentennial celebration. This year's theme was the same as Carol suggested in the beginning: "Celebrating What Unites Us."

Joined together were pastors, lay persons, and church communities from Huntersland and Middleburgh UMCs, Middleburgh Reformed Church, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Bethany Ministries and Our Lady of the Valley.

Music leader, Reggie Harris began with pre-service songs "This Joy," "This Little Light of Mine," and a piece Reggie wrote at the start of the pandemic, "On Solid Ground," and during the event, he led parishioners on sing-a-longs including "Let There Be Peace on Earth, and "If I Had a Hammer".

Pastor David Houck began the service with a moment of silence for Isabel Skowfoe, a 2020 graduate of MCS, member of the National Honor Society, and winner of the Phil Ochs Memorial Award, who recently passed.

Pastor Maryellen Moore offered a time for children of all ages based on 1 Corinthians 12:12-27, illustrating the importance of sharing our gifts and the power of all of us working together as one "Body of Christ." Harris added his voice to the message with an original song, "In the Shelter."

Friar Peter Chepaitis, offered a sermon based on Mark 8:34-37. The heart of his message was that God created one race, the human race, so we need to recognize all people as members of the same family and race.

The service was well received, attended by more than 70 guests, and the spirit was alive in this special annual gathering with Harris's thought-provoking and uplifting music and lyrics.

We thank all who were able to help us celebrate during the time of this pandemic. We also want to thank Cathleen Berry for being our photographer and Kevin Koller for recording and editing a video of our worship service.

We especially raise our hearts in thanks to God and to Pastor Carol Coltrain, who we can't help but believe is smiling on us as we continue to celebrate what unites us.



Ecumenical 1 of 2: On stage performing one of the many songs at the service were (l to r) Reggie Harris, Sister Anna Tantsits (behind Reggie), Friar Peter Chepaitis, Pastor David Houck, and Pastor Maryellen Moore. Photo by Cathleen Berry.



A group of more than 70 guests attended this year's Ecumenical Service at Timothy Murphy Park on July 26th. Not all attendees were human. Seen here amongst the attendees were Fritz and Judy Zwicker with their beautiful and very well-behaved dog, Lucy. Photo by Cathleen Berry.