

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Publisher
Church Mouse

Issue Number
128

Date
January 2022

Upcoming Events

Wed., Jan. 12th – 5:00 p.m. – Net Dinner at
Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church.

Sun., Jan. 16th – 12:00 p.m. – Church Council
Meeting

Sun., Jan. 16th – Annual Reports due

Wed., Jan. 26th – 5:00 p.m. – Net Dinner at
St. Mark's Church.

Sun., Jan. 30th – Annual Congregational
Meeting immediately following worship
service and covered dish luncheon

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ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Plans are being made to hold our Annual
Congregational meeting on **Sunday,
January 30th**, immediately following our
worship service and covered dish
luncheon. Please submit your annual
report to the Church office **no later than
January 16th**, so we will have time to
compile and reproduce them for the
meeting.

Prayer Chain Requests In December

Family of John Yung
Family of Loretta Bolen

Andreanna Blesser
Tina
Donna Palmer
Wayne / Diane Bevins
Mickayla Gordon
Richard Norris
Dawn Falcone
Courtney Smida
Eric Dahlberg
Ellen Langenbahn
Maurice VanDyke
Colleen
Melody Houck
Lori Wagner
Katlyn Monzon

Thought for the Day:

As you pack up your Christmas
decorations, don't put away the
Spirit of Christmas.

Have a blessed New Year!!!

The “Aha!” Moments in Life

What makes an “Aha” moment? The dictionary defines it as: a moment of sudden realization, inspiration, insight, recognition, or comprehension. For me, these words sum up the wisdom I gain from any given experience. A test of character when I am faced with how to react to the experience. An opportunity to let my reaction be one governed by what I believe as a child of God, and not a knee-jerk reaction governed by what is common or acceptable by worldly standards. The experiences we will have in life can be either positive or negative.

The positive experiences generally produce joy filled reactions but can also yield reactions that are adverse or hurtful. Being concerned and compassionate for and towards those around us, especially when we have gained and someone else has lost, is a positive and beneficial reaction. I’ve noticed it at the end of televised sporting events when the winners and the losers meet and greet each other after the game is over. They shake hands and embrace one another in a way that says I enjoyed the competition, thanks for the experience, I am better for it. It reminds me of when I was involved with my children in Little League Baseball and Girls Softball. At the end of each game the players from both teams would line up on the base line and either shake hands or high-five each other. I always saw it as an “Aha” moment for the players as they learned something about good sportsmanship and camaraderie.

Negative experiences on the other hand tend to bring out the worst in ourselves. More often than not, the reactions are of frustration or anger. When something is outside of our game plan, sets us back, or creates a loss, there is a tendency to find fault with or place blame on someone or something we feel was the cause.

Trying to govern how we react to the experiences in our life can be challenging, but they can produce great benefit for ourselves and those around us when we take a breath and consider what would God want us to do. I once saw an interview with the Eshelman family, who are the founders and operators of the Sight and Sound Theaters. It covered the history of the mission and ministry of the Sight and Sound Theaters, which for over fifty years have given millions of people “Aha” moments by bringing the Bible to life on the stage. The dream and vision was not without its challenges which included the negative experience of a fire which destroyed the theatre and threatened the future of their dream. The quote I want to share with you from that interview is from Shirley Eshelman who said: “When negative things come in our lives, it can either make us bitter or better”.

These are powerful words for everyone to hear and consider. There are plenty of experiences in life that can challenge us. How will we react when the negative things come our way? The temptation to be bitter can be very strong and even overwhelming at times. I know from how I have felt after some of the more challenging experiences and events in my life. I can now say with great confidence, pride, and faith that they have all made me better. Better than I used to be because of what I learned from each experience. How I was taught to look at things in a better way, in a better light. Having the light of life, the Lord Jesus in my life has given me many “Aha” moments where the insight and inspiration I gained is priceless. When we realize and comprehend the true value of this life and give recognition to the One who gave it to us, we are made better. We can be a much needed positive presence in a world that seems filled with negativity.

I wish you a very Happy New Year and pray that it is filled with many “Aha!” moments for you. May all that we experience make us each better and not bitter.

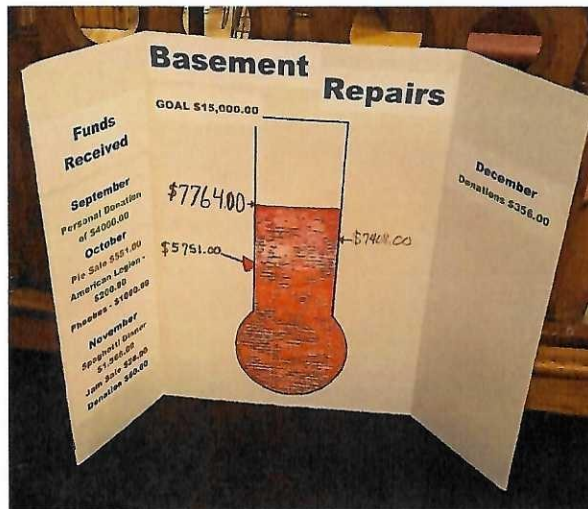
In God We Trust / Love and Prayers, Pastor Dave

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

**Total Needed for Basement
Repair - \$28,000**

**Our Basement Fundraiser Goal
- \$15,000**

**Year-to-date Donations
- \$7,764**



Basement Repair Update

Work on the basement has begun so if you are in the sanctuary and hear some unusual noises, please do not be concerned. As you can see, we are a little more than half way to our goal of \$15,000 through fundraising and Pocket Change donations. Please continue to give as the Lord leads to help us meet this goal. With God's help, all things are possible. Thank you!



Flight 2022 Instructions

Good morning and welcome to Flight 2022. We are prepared to take off into the New Year.

Please make sure your Positive Attitude and Gratitude are secured and locked in the upright position. All self-destruct devices: pity, anger, selfishness, pride, and resentment should be turned off at this time. All negativity, hurt, and discouragement should be put away.

Should you lose your Positive Attitude under pressure during this flight, reach up and pull down a prayer. Prayers will automatically be activated by Faith. Once your Faith is activated, you can assist other passengers who are of little faith.

There will be NO BAGGAGE allowed on this flight. God, our Captain, has cleared us for take-off.

Destination - GREATNESS!

Wishing you a New Year filled with new HOPE, new JOY, and new BEGINNINGS!

Stay Blessed!

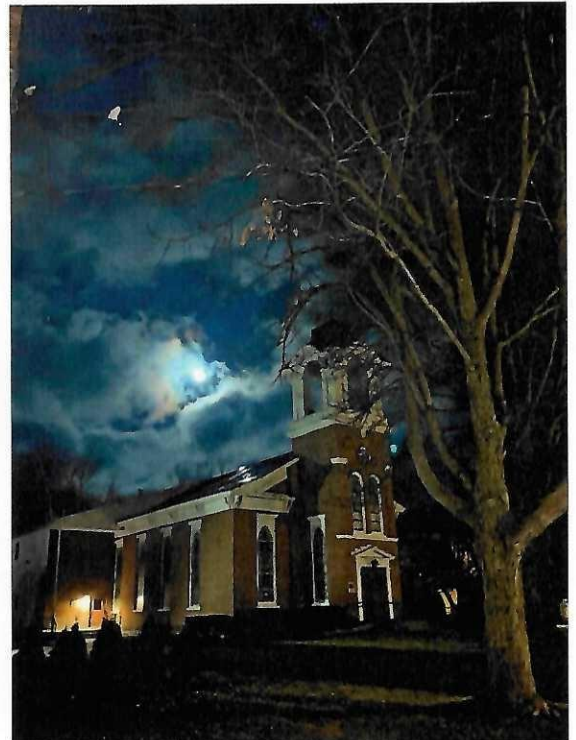
And welcome in 2022.



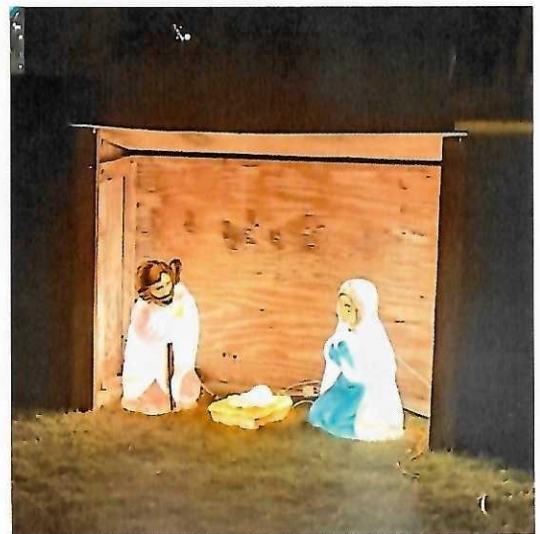
St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Phoebes are "On the Road Again"....

Camp Swamp Methodist Church
Christmas Encouragement Baskets
in Loris, South Carolina



How beautiful!



St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Servers for Jan.

Jan. 2nd:

Reader – Deb P.
Prayer – Cheryl
Ushers Diane/Dennis (for communion)
Counter – Deb P.

Jan. 9th:

Reader – Sharon N.
Prayer – Georgia
Counter – Sharon N.

Jan. 16th:

Reader – Lori
Prayer – Carolyn
Counter – Diane

Jan. 23rd:

Reader – Ron
Prayer – Ron
Counter – Carrie

Jan. 30th:

Reader – Marie
Prayer – Cheryl
Counter – Deb P.

Jan. Birthdays:

Helen Ruland	Jan. 1
Brenda Varella	Jan. 4
Tom Nesbitt	Jan. 5
Ted Langenbahn	Jan. 18
Lisa Bartholomew	Jan. 20
Anne Hartnell	Jan. 21

Jan. Anniversaries:

Carrie / Dennis Foland	Jan. 2
Beth / Chris Cash	Jan. 8
Sharon / Tom Nesbitt	Jan. 17

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St. Mark's choir warming up for
"The Angels Song Medley"... 😊



Save the Date!

2022 Spring Women's Retreat

**Evening of Friday, May 6 —
Noon on Sunday, May 8**

at

**Twin Pines Camp & Retreat Center
3000 Twin Pines Camp Road
Stroudsburg, PA 18360**

Planning is in progress for our FIRST weekend AMR Women's Retreat. Fellowship, worship, Bible study, games, and quiet time are among the things being planned. Meals and linens are included. More information will be available this fall. Mark your calendars now!

Yes, that is Mother's Day weekend. Go home refreshed after spending the weekend with your sisters in faith! *That will give your family time to clean the house and cook Sunday supper!* ☺