

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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Prayer Ministry

You are invited to participate in a new prayer ministry. We meet on Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. in St. Mark's sanctuary. If you are unable to attend and have a prayer request you would like lifted, please contact the church office or feel free to place your written request in the prayer box located in narthex.

Council has adopted a new policy for anyone that wishes to use the fellowship hall for an event. All requests are to be sent to Lisa Bartholomew. She can be reached at 231-9494. She will handle all the arrangements, scheduling, paperwork and payments. This will allow for a one point person contact rather than having too many people involved.

Council Members:

President - Marie Whittaker
Vice President - Chris Cash
Secretary - Lori Roney
Treasurer - Debbie Palmatier
Members - Jim Brigadier,
Dennis Foland and Lisa
Bartholomew.

Prayers Concerns

Please lift the following people up in prayer:

Prayers for our new pastor
Mickle family
Thorpe family
Van Dyke family
Bell family

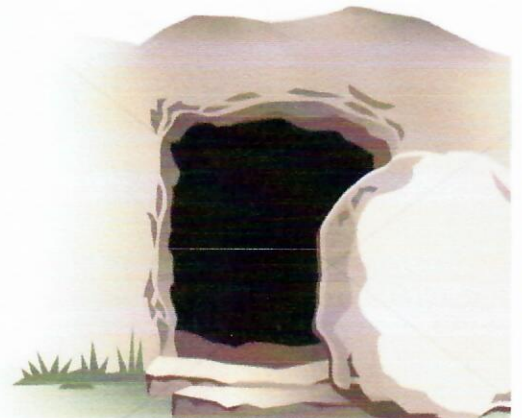
Upcoming Events

Apr 1 - A Blessed Easter

Apr 9 - Council meeting 7:00

Apr 14 - Men's prayer breakfast

Apr 25- NET dinner @ St. Marks



St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Happy Days !!!!!

Birthdays: April

April 1 - Jerry Bowman
April 3 - Pat Becker
April 5 - Nikki Gordon and Julie
 Sammons
April 11 - Carolyn Wyckoff and
 Marie Cater
April 19 - Hannah Martin
April 20 - Diane France
April 23 - Sandi Johnson
April 24 - Maurice Van Dyke
April 25 - Gabby DeRocher
April 26 - Lori Warner
April 28 - Bill Gordon
April 30 - Virgil Cater

Legend of the Dogwood

An old and beautiful legend says that, at the time of the crucifixion, the dogwood was comparable in size to the oak tree and other monarchs of the forest. Because of its firmness and strength it was selected as the timber of the cross, but to be put to such cruel use greatly distressed the tree. Sensing this, the crucified Jesus in His gentle pity for the sorrow and suffering of all said to it: "Because of your sorrow and pity for My sufferings, never again will the dogwood tree grow large enough to be used as a cross. Henceforth it will be slender, bent and twisted and its blossoms

Did you know St. Mark's offers the following opportunities for you and your family to participate?

Phoebes - every Monday from 9-2 PM

Youth Sunday School - Held during the worship service message

Adult Sunday School - Sundays from 9:15 - 10 AM

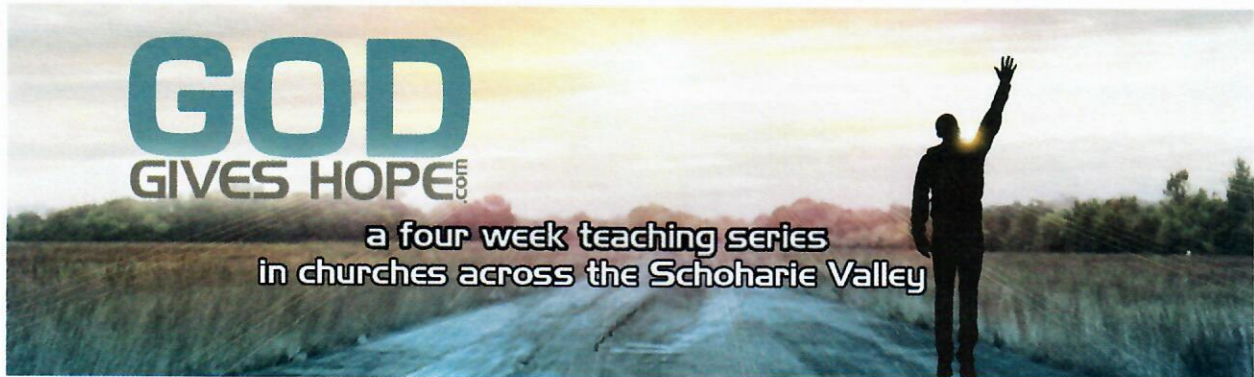
Prayer Ministry - every Thursday night beginning at 5:30 PM

Men's Prayer breakfast - second Saturday of each month

will be in the form of a cross - two long and two short petals. In the center of the outer edge of each petal there will be nail prints - brown with rust and stained with red - and in the center of the flower will be a crown of thorns, and all who see this will remember."

Finding Hope, Having Hope, Giving Hope

Greetings! We have shared in our faith, our worship, our service, and our prayers. This month we will embark on a journey of exploration. A journey to seek out that which keeps us dreaming and seeking.....hope.



Two weeks after our Resurrection Celebration on Easter, we will begin a series of how 'God Gives Hope'. Each week will have a focus for us to explore together. April 15th will be 'Hope for New Beginnings', April 22nd - 'Hope in Troubled Times', April 29th - 'Hope for the Future', and May 6th - 'Hope for the World'.

Over time human beings have followed God's command to be fruitful and multiply. We have multiplied and spread out around the world to the point of where there is little untouched land. We have continued to increase in numbers so that we have urbanized much of the world and concentrated in many areas. Yet, like our ancestors, we still find ourselves 'wandering in the wilderness'. Just like our ancestors whom God set free from captivity and slavery long ago, we too are in a 'wilderness of sin'. Did they grumble against Moses and God because of the hopelessness they felt? In spite of all the miracles God did for the people by providing escape, freedom, bread from heaven, meat, and water, they still longed for what they had before. They did not have hope. They too needed hope for their new beginnings, in their troubled times, for their future, and for their world. The world is still the same physical size now as then, only it has become smaller by our ability to reach out to each other, as well as wander from one place to another, in a relatively short amount of time.

My friends, now as then we still have our fears, our doubts, and our grumblings. Now as then there is a great need for hope. Now as then there is a great need for renewal and revival of faith. Faith in our God who has led us, freed us, provided for us, and saved us from the evil forces within this world and within ourselves.

The headlines of today are filled with the hopelessness of our world. The hopeless grumblings that are expressed through hate, anger, and violence. Let us spread the word that God is the way, the truth, and the life that makes us whole. Let us reveal the hope that sustains us each day in our beginnings, our troubles, for our future, and throughout our world.

In God We Trust / Love and Prayers, Pastor Dave

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Servers for April

April 1:

Acolyte - Lisa
Ushers - Denise/Kaleb
Reader - Nannette
Greeter - Janet
Prayer - Georgia
Counter - Diane

April 8:

Acolyte - Dylan
Ushers - Debbie/Marie
Reader - Ginny
Greeter - Deb P.
Prayer - Carolyn
Counter - Carrie

April 15:

Acolyte - Lisa
Ushers - Pat/Dennis
Reader - Debbie
Greeter - Ginny
Prayer - Ginny
Counter - Debbie

April 22:

Acolyte - Dylan
Ushers - Sharon/Tom
Reader - Georgia
Greeter - Maurice
Prayer - Chris
Counter - Diane

April 29:

Acolyte - Lisa
Ushers - Chris/Gene
Reader - Lori
Greeter - Pat
Prayer - Lori
Counter - Carrie

**The Schoharie Bell Ringers
and
The Middleburgh Ecumenical Bell Choir
invite you to a Concert**

Sunday, May 6, 2018

3 PM

**Middleburgh Reformed Church Fellowship Hall
River Street, Middleburgh**



Men's Group Annual Report 2017

The Men's group met most months of the 2017 year. The number of people attending ranged from 5 to 12 men primarily from the St. Marks congregation but occasional visitors attended.

The group met socially for breakfast and devotion. Activities of the group involved providing for a church wide breakfast on Mother's Day and a fund-raising breakfast in the summer. The group also aided with numerous church activities such as setting up for Easter and Christmas.

In the future the group would hope to have to have more attendees, devotional activities, and assist with fund raising.

To the glory of God.

Recording Chris Cash

2/3/2017

Fellowship Hall Usage

When we built the new addition with the large fellowship hall, we never realized how much we were going to be able to bless others through the use of our beautiful facility. In 2017 there were celebrations such as birthdays and showers, there were celebrations hosted by members of our church families and there were organizations such as the Boy Scouts, the ARC Friendship Club and the Schoharie Valley Peace Quilt Guild who have utilized our building.

Please remember to contact me to reserve our fellowship hall for any event / celebration you would like to host here.

What a privilege God has given us to be able to share with others the gifts we have received from Him.

Many blessings,

Lisa Bartholomew

Social Ministries – 2017

"Praise the Lord, all you nations, extol Him all you people"

- Psalm 117:1

Our Lord calls us to take care of and provide for the needs of others. In 2017 St. Mark's has been very active in social ministries and here are some of the highlights.

Food Pantry

Donations were received from school and community clubs, local churches, Scouts, U.S. Post Office, Hannaford Food Market, Bohringer's and other community friends. In addition, our congregation has been generous with non-perishables and monetary donations and our local Stewart's shop donated perishables such as bread, rolls and pastries.

We were blessed with an \$800 grant from the Hunger Prevention Nutrition Assistance Program again this year. Every quarter, \$200 is applied to our account at the Regional Food Bank. Assistance from these sources and others make it possible to offer nutritious foods and maintain our pantry's supplies. Many thanks are extended to Dennis Foland and Dennis France for their commitment to pick up the food each month.

Number of children fed	107
Number of adults fed	<u>308</u>
Total number of individuals fed	415

The holidays are a very special time of year and in 2017 we were able to give away two (2) Thanksgiving baskets through our pantry. The congregation also collected food items for the Joshua Project Thanksgiving baskets so that food could be provided for local families in need.

Even pets were provided for as dog food was made available through the "Jazzy's Place" grant. Nine families received pet food throughout the year.

Clothing Closet

Our community and congregation were very generous with donations to our clothing closet which made it possible to fulfill the need for clothing, shoes, boots, bedding and household items. We were able to meet some specific needs for customers of the Everything Shoppe and clients of the Department of Social Services as well as donate clothing to the Schenectady City Mission.

Number of children served	39
Number of adults served	46

Referrals to the food pantry and clothing closet come from our local schools, Headstart, DSS, SCCAP, Catholic Charities, the Joshua Project, RSS, Bassett Outreach and Office for the Aging.

Domestics

Four (4) families received bedding and small household items.

Mitten Tree

Socks, mittens, hats and scarves collected will be given to Schenectady City Mission.

"Coats for Kids" and Adults

Working with SCCAP, St. Mark's hosted a coat, snowpants, boots, hats, mittens and scarf give-away in which 32 coats were handed out. Thank you to the congregation for the new and gently used items.

Summer Band Concert Ice Cream Social

Delicious desserts and ice cream were enjoyed by people attending the concert on the MCS high school lawn. Stewart's donated the ice cream and sundae fixings. (Pie a-la-mode was the favorite!) What a nice evening of fun and fellowship! Proceeds benefited our food pantry account.

Christmas Appeal

28 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes were packed with love and delivered to the Samaritan's Purse Relay Center. In addition, Walmart gift cards were sent to Wings as Eagles Ministries to bless the Native American children with Christmas gifts.

Coffee Hour

Each Sunday, delicious refreshments are served after our worship service. What super time for fellowship!

Thank you to everyone for the generous donations and help with the many projects!!

Our Prayer

"Loving Lord, help me to follow You into the needs of others and serve You there." (Our Daily Bread – December 1, 2017)

Yours in Christ,

Pat McCoy