

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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Upcoming Events

**August 10th – 9:00 a.m. – Men's
Breakfast**

**August 17th – 11:00 a.m. – Village
Wide Garage Sale**

**August 19th – 6:00 p.m. - Council
Meeting**

Council Members:

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

Council has adopted a 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.

Prayers Concerns

Please lift the following people up
in prayer:

Family of David Chancey
Yleana Clark
Susan & Leondus Walker
John Motta
Pete Rossi



Rice and pasta side dishes
Hamburger Helpers
Instant Potatoes

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Happy Days !!!!!

Birthdays: August

Barbara Elder	August 7
Vanessa Gordon	August 9
Jeremy Gordon	August 19
Dennis Foland	August 22
Georgia VanDyke	August 22
Kelsey Roney	August 23

Anniversaries: August

Virgil/Cheryl Cater	August 22
Dennis/Diane France	August 22
Dean/Lori Roney	August 22
Bob/Peggi Muenier	August 28

Operation Christmas Child

Time passes so quickly and it is difficult to believe that Operation Christmas Child collection week is only about three and a half months away. If you have not already done so, now is the time to purchase school supplies for the shoeboxes you will pack. Providing a few basic items such as paper, pencils, a pencil sharpener, and crayons may give a child what he or she needs to attend classes. Please remember to include hygiene items such as a bar of soap, washcloth, comb, and toothbrushes as well as clothing items and small toys such as a ball, stuffed animal, jump rope, doll, cars, etc. Toys are something that many parents are unable to afford, and what child doesn't like to play with toys?

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

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

**Some people are kind,
polite, and thoughtful,
until you try to sit in
their pews.....**

Celebrating That Which Unites Us

To unite means to join together to do or achieve something, to cause (two or more people or things) to be joined together and become one. What is it that unites people? Is it something in common, something preferred such as an interest? Is it sports? Let's see, so many teams and rivalries. There's Giants and Jets, Yankees and Mets, Islanders and Rangers, Nets and Knicks and those are just in New York. Is it our alma mater? Well there's Knights and Indians, Bulldogs and Spartans, Wildcats and J-Hawks, and that is just our high schools. Is it our humanity? There are nearly 200 established countries on earth and we still divide ourselves by age, gender, race and nationality. What about faith? There are many to choose from. Our scripture defines who and what we are by what we believe. Let me ask you, how many churches are there, really? There is only **one** church.. "I am the church, you are the church, we are the church together, all who follow Jesus, all around the world, yes we're the church together".

Throughout history many people have united because of a need generated by hurt, fear or anger...needs that have provided a reason or purpose for people to come together for a cause. Some causes have been worthy such as helping others who have lost everything due to fire, flood, storm, or actions of others; providing for those who find themselves homeless, hungry, naked and afraid with no place to hide from the eyes of those who would judge them because of the position they find themselves in; caring for those who are sick or imprisoned whether it is physically, mentally, or emotionally; those who are held captive by the events in their lives. At times people have united out of anger over the actions of others that have sparked feelings of anger, hostility, vengeance, and retaliation. Some issues have people pitted against each other such as equality, immigration, abortion, or even the governmental selection process. A mob rule mentality that long ago even, took people from shouting 'Hosanna in the highest, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord one day to "crucify Him" a day or two later.

What is it that unites us in this faith, in this body of Christ, the church? It is GRACE! I'm not a very smart, techy person like so many others and I get into trouble with my computer at times. If I have changed settings either intentionally by my will or accidentally by my uninformed inexperience and the program starts to do what I don't want it to or refuses to do what I do want it to, I can go into the set up and hit "restore default settings" and it returns to the point of origin. If we could do that, go back to the point of origin, to our beginnings, our innocence, created in the image of God, without fault, there would be no need for grace. God allows us to choose right or wrong. The good news is God has provided a way to restore us....if we choose it. No matter who we are, where we are from, what we pledge allegiance to or where we worship, the one thing we have in common is God's grace, both the need for it and the availability to it. For all of those situations that unite people, Jesus said when you do this to the least of these you do it to Me. That is both the good and the bad responses that we choose. Jesus said that the truth will set you free, and part of that truth is that we are all in need of grace. Grace heals. Grace restores. The power of grace enables us to respond to every person and every situation with the love of God that truly unites us as the body of Christ. The Bible says that God is love and if we love one another God is in us and we are united in the family of God. In a question from a lawyer about what is needed for eternal life, Jesus affirmed we are to "love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself". Then He went on to define who our neighbor is. You have heard the saying "no justice, no peace". It is said that justice is getting what you deserve, mercy is not getting what you deserve, and grace is getting what you do not deserve. An acronym for grace is "God's Riches at Christ's Expense". Christ paid the price so that we and others could be healed, to restore our relationship with God and to restore our relationship with others. There is power in God's grace. Jesus said to ask and it will be given unto you, seek and you shall find, knock and it will be opened for you. Maybe, just maybe, Jesus was talking to us about grace; you are forgiven because you ask for forgiveness. What's in your heart? What unites you with others? Is it God's grace?

Receive, accept, understand, and utilize the power of grace that is offered and given to each of us so that we live a life truly united as the body of Christ. When we understand the power in the grace we have received, then we will understand the power it can have on others whom we show grace to as well.

Whenever you find yourself in a situation with someone, no matter if it is pleasant or not, comfortable or not, whether or not it is brought on by your own words or actions, let this be your grace response: 'I promise to pray for you every day, ask your forgiveness, grant you the same, and be your friend always'. (Grace response taken from the movie 'The Grace Card' by Howard A. Klausner and David Evans).

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Servers for August

August 4:

Candle Lighter – Dylan
Ushers – Bob / Peggi
Reader – Peggi
Greeter – Gloria
Prayer – Ron
Counter – Deb P.

August 11:

Candle Lighter – Mason
Ushers – Deb P. / Georgia
Reader – Deb P.
Greeter – Maurice
Prayer – Georgia
Counter – Diane

August 18:

Candle Lighter – Dylan
Ushers – Jim / Deb B.
Reader – Edna
Greeter – Pat
Prayer - Jim
Counter – Carrie

August 25:

Candle Lighter – Mason
Ushers – Tom / Sharon
Reader – Lori
Greeter – Janet
Prayer – Carolyn
Counter – Deb P.

One True God

There truly is only one God. God is the highest and the greatest good. We may not be able to see God, but we can know about God.

Look around you -- the trees, the flowers, mountains, waterfalls and so much more!

How is this beauty and majesty here, but for God's doing. God is the life in everything. God is the power and the force that moves all things, governs all things and changes all things.

Yet, God never ever moves. God never changes. God is love.

God speaks to us through conscience; that inner voice which guides you to do only what is right and good. Our conscience reminds us to be honest, true, kind, pleasant, friendly, useful and respectful.

God is the greatest of these things and much more.

- Peggi Munier



Schoharie County

Community **Action** Program, Inc.

Building stronger, healthier communities and empowering families that experience economic and social challenges through strategic partnerships, education, services, and compassion.

BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE



**School supplies to be provided to low income
Schoharie County students**

Donations will be accepted throughout the summer

Needed items:

Backpacks (no wheels please)

Insulated lunch bags

1 & 2 inch binders

Multi-subject notebooks

Marble composition notebooks

Loose-leaf paper
(both college & regular lined)

Number 2 pencils

Colored pencils (*Crayola*)

Mechanical pencils

Pens (black or blue ink)

Highlighters

Markers, crayons (*Crayola*)

Pencil cases

Scientific calculators

Colored 2-pocket folders

Protractors, rulers

Glue & glue sticks (*Elmer's*)

Scissors (*pfiskars*)

Index cards

Erasers (*pink*)

Thank you for your continued support!

*For more information, please call Melissa Pawlak at 518-234-2568 x3035
or visit us at 795 East Main Street, Suite 5, Cobleskill, NY 12043*

www.sccapinc.org