

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Publisher
Church mouse

Issue Number
87

Date
August 2018

Upcoming Events

**Aug. 10 – 7 p.m. - Gospel
Bluegrass Music Group, the
Hartley Family Concert at the
Methodist Church in
Middleburgh.**

**Aug. 11 – 9 a.m. - Men's
Breakfast**

**Aug. 13 – 7:00 p.m. - Council
Meeting.**

**Aug. 18 – 9:00 a.m. – Village &
Town Wide Garage Sale**

Where We Have Seen God

Once again God has blessed us at St. Mark's through the selfless giving of others as they serve our Lord. To lead the repaving of our driveway required someone who would work diligently to ensure it was completed with high quality and in a timely manner. We cannot thank Richard Whittaker for taking the initiative and using his leadership skills in service to our Lord. No more potholes!!! Thank you!

Prayers Concerns

Please lift the following people up in prayer:

Ronnie Barry
Kathleen Korman
Jessica Gordon
Jeanette Jaeger
Janice
Bob Meunier
Jim Marquit
Katie Anthony
Tim Schlegel
Amanda Twombly
Scott Lawyer
Kevin McDermott
Andre Durkin Family
Paul Standhart Family
Pat Losquadro
Dawn Elliott Brovetto
Fred
Austin Roney



Holy Humor

A woman went to the Post Office to buy stamps for her Christmas cards. "What denomination?" asked the clerk. "Oh, good heavens! Have we come to this?" said the woman. "Well give me 50 Lutheran and 50 Baptist ones".

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Happy Days !!!!!

Birthdays: August

Aug 8 – John Warner III
Aug 9 – Vanessa Gordon
Aug 19 – Jeremy Gordon
Aug 22 – Dennis Foland
Aug 22 – Georgia VanDyke
Aug 23 – Kelsey Roney

Anniversaries: August

Aug 22 – Cheryl / Virgil Cater
Aug 22 – Diane / Dennis France
Aug 22 – Lori / Dean Roney

Prayer Ministry

You are invited to participate in a 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 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.

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

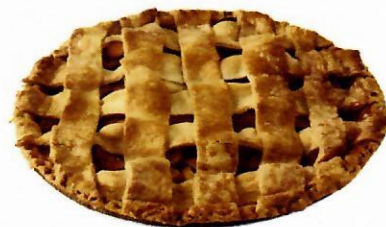
Phoebes - every Monday from 9-2 PM

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



Thank you to all who made delicious pies or made a monetary donation toward our annual pie sale. Once again, God blessed this endeavor and we made a little less than \$600. Praise the Lord!!!

Singing Hallelujah

Leonard Cohen, a poet, writer, and folk singer has written many pieces over the years. The one that I am most familiar with has been performed by hundreds of artists and is titled Hallelujah. Hallelujah, from the Hebrew origin, literally means 'praise God'. It is said that Cohen wrote eighty verses for the piece although generally less than half a dozen are known and used in performances. Born in Canada and raised in the Jewish faith, his works explored spirituality, politics, and relationships.

In the verses of Hallelujah there are references to figures in the Torah (part of our Old Testament), and references to relationship issues in life. The chorus after each is "Hallelujah". For me the passion of shouting out Hallelujah is exemplified in both a joyous, celebratory state and after those not so joyous times. Those times when defeat, abandonment, and isolation test our faith and as Leonard Cohen puts it, we cry out with 'a cold and broken...a cold and lonely, Hallelujah'. This leads me to Paul's writing to the Thessalonians, "in everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you".

It is only by the spirit within us that we can deal with and overcome the darkness in the world. The darkness that causes us to experience, or cause, feelings of defeat, abandonment and/or isolation. Paul goes on to say, "Test all things, hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil". The standard that we test things by is the Word of God and the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ. We come to a point where we realize a need in us. We accept that we are cracked and broken by this life and in need of healing...healing that can only be found in the great physician, Jesus Christ, the one who gave the miracle of healing to many broken bodies and spirits by word or by touch. To all who are spiritually dying in darkness and feeling defeated, abandoned, isolated, and/or hopeless He heals by faith...faith that believes and trusts in Him and the One who sent Him.

In the piece titled 'Anthem', Leonard Cohen offers this chorus, "Ring the bells, ring the bells that still can ring. Forget your perfect offering. There is a crack in everything, there is a crack in everything. That's how the light gets in." May we accept our cracked and broken state as the opportunity, the way, for the light to enter in. May that light fill us so as to help others overcome their personal dark moments by "the way, the truth, and the life" that is found in Jesus. May we ring the bells of Hallelujah in our lives for the whole world to hear. May our Hallelujahs let freedom ring, for as it is written, Jesus said: "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. Therefore, if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed." Hallelujah!

In God We Trust / Love and Prayers, Pastor Dave

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Council Members:

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

Servers for August

August 5:

Candle Lighter - Dylan
Ushers - Tom / Sharon
Reader - Ron
Greeter - Deb P
Prayer - Ginny
Counter - Diane

August 12:

Candle Lighter - Dylan
Ushers - Lori / Dean
Reader - Ted
Greeter - Ginny
Prayer - Ted
Counter - Carrie

August 19:

Candle Lighter - Lisa
Ushers - Diane / Dennis
Reader - Deb P
Greeter - Harry
Prayer - Georgia
Counter - Deb P

August 26:

Candle Lighter - Lisa
Ushers - Maurice / Ginny
Reader - Deb B
Greeter - Maurice
Prayer - Carolyn
Counter - Diane



"UNLESS A KERNEL OF WHEAT FALLS TO THE GROUND AND DIES, IT REMAINS ONLY A SINGLE SEED. BUT IF IT DIES, IT PRODUCES MANY SEEDS" _ (JOHN 12:24 NIV).

Maybe you think you're waiting on God. You think you're waiting on God for that job. You think you're waiting on God for a spouse. You think you're waiting on God for the windfall. God says, "You think you're waiting on me? I'm waiting on you! I'm waiting for you to plant a seed."

Everything in life starts as a seed: a relationship, a marriage, a business, a church. And nothing happens until the seed is planted.

Why does God require us to plant a seed? Because planting is an act of faith. You take what you've got, and you give it away. That takes an act of faith! And it brings glory to God.

Jesus described this principle of sowing and reaping when he was trying to explain why he came to Earth to die on the cross. In John 12:24 Jesus said, "Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds" (NIV). Jesus was saying, "People will be saved and go to heaven because of my death and Resurrection. I'm going to plant a seed, and the seed is going to be my life."

Here's the principle of sowing and reaping: Whenever you have a need, you plant a seed. Whatever it is you need -- more time, more energy, more money, more support, more relationships, more wisdom -- just plant a seed. If you need more time, give more time to your kids. If you need more money, give it away to someone who needs it. If you need more wisdom, share what wisdom you have with others. Give yourself away!

It may not make sense to you to give away something that you need more of, but that is exactly the kind of attitude that God wants to bless and that will produce fruit in your life. When you have a need, don't gripe about it, don't wish about it, and you don't even have to pray about it
-- just plant a seed!