

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Publisher
Church mouse

Issue Number
91

Date
December 2018

Upcoming Events

Dec. 7 - 5:30 p.m. - Miracle on Main Street festivities; Phoebe will be serving hot chocolate and snacks plus selling arts and crafts for Christmas. The Handbell Choir will be playing at the Library at 6:15 p.m.

Dec. 8 - 9 a.m. - Men's Breakfast

Dec. 8 - 12:30 pm - Women's Advent Tea

Dec. 10 - 7:00 p.m. - Council Meeting

Dec. 24 - 7:30 p.m. - Christmas Eve Service

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

Prayers Concerns

Please lift the following people up in prayer:

Family of Lori LaGrange
Margaret Thompson
Bob Albertson
Marlene Towne
Sarah Houck
Andrew Blackmon
Gloria Falcone
Phil Zorda
Peggi's Niece
Peggi's Nephew
Kenny Clark
Pete Rossi
Wilma Jones

Council Members:

President - Marie Whittaker
Vice President - Chris Cash
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.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Happy Days !!!!!

Birthdays: December

Dec. 1 – Terry Minton
Dec. 5 – Edna Lower
Dec. 11 – Debbie Palmatier
Dec. 13 – Niles McCoy
Dec. 18 – Ellen Langenbahn
Dec. 20 – Cody Whittaker
Dec. 21 – Melissa Cater
Dec. 31 – Todd Bartholomew

Anniversaries: December

Dec. 1 – Jerry & Mary Bowman
Dec. 17 – Pat & Skip Becker
Dec. 19 – Augie & Kathy
 Kauffman
Dec. 28 – Bill & Bonnie Morton
Dec. 31 – Harry & Sharon
 Amendola

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

Tradition

Greetings! A tradition is a belief or behavior passed down within a group or society with symbolic meaning or special significance with origins in the past. *Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.* This greeting is a tradition that is found in the epistles attributed to the Apostle Paul. This tradition continues in the epistles praying for an abundance of mercy, grace, peace and the knowledge of God and Jesus Christ.

This month many people will begin to focus on Christmas traditions that have been passed on from generation to generation. I began my preparation by seeking to know the tradition, the history of Christmas. What I found was differing statements and opinions which create much controversy. The views reflect the debate over pagan, secular, political-economic and religious beginnings. They challenge whether one beginning leads to another, the dates chosen and the reasons they were, and the opportunity they provide to promote one agenda over another. Some religious traditions believe it to be sacrilegious to even participate in these Christmas traditions.

As with many topics in our lives, there seems to be sound reasoning for each view that is presented. Without debating which came first and how they are labeled, for me, it comes down to which traditions we value and believe in.

Scripture tells us that a child was born of a virgin girl as a gift from God through the Holy Spirit. *John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ¹⁴ 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.* This is the tradition I choose. To remember the greatest demonstration of love ever shown, when God chose to walk among us. To appreciate the humble beginning of a life that gave birth to a new life for so many who choose to believe. To remember the light of the world and how the light brings *hope, peace, joy and love* into the world.

I enjoy the traditions I have been brought up with during the season of Christmas. Most of all I cherish the 'reason for the season'; it is not pagan nor secular nor economic. The tradition I want to pass down from generation to generation is my belief in the One who said *'I am the way, the truth, and the life'*. The One described in *John 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.*

I pray this year, as we revisit the traditions that we cherish, may we rediscover the light of the world, and carry it into all the dark and desperate corners of the world. Now that's a tradition to cherish forever and ever, AMEN.

In God We Trust / Love and Prayers, Pastor Dave

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Servers for Dec.

December 2:

Candle Lighter - TBD
Ushers - Sharon / Tom
Reader - Tamara
Greeter - Pat
Prayer - Carolyn
Counter - Deb P.

December 9:

Candle Lighter - Dylan
Ushers - Beth / Chris
Reader - Marie
Greeter - Janet
Prayer - Ginny
Counter - Diane

December 16:

Candle Lighter - Lisa
Ushers - Lori / Dean
Reader - Sharon N.
Greeter - Deb P.
Prayer - Chris
Counter - Carrie

December 23:

Candle Lighter - Dylan
Ushers - Diane / Dennis
Reader - Ginny
Greeter - Gloria
Prayer - Georgia
Counter - Deb P.

December 24: Christmas Eve

Candle Lighter - TBD
Ushers - TBD
Reader - TBD
Greeter - TBD
Prayer - TBD
Counter - Diane

December 30:

Candle Lighter - Lisa
Ushers - Bonnie / Bill
Reader - Ron
Greeter - Ginny
Prayer - Beth
Counter - Carrie

THANK YOU!!!!

In this time of year when we are more cognizant of the needs of others, we find that it is indeed more blessed to give than to receive. Many thanks to all who so generously donated food items for the Thanksgiving baskets, boxes of gifts to Operation Christmas Child, Walmart gift cards to Wings As Eagles and items delivered to flood victims in South Carolina. May God bless you as you continue to serve Him by meeting the needs of others.

Holy Humor

I MAY NOT BE A "WISE MAN," BUT AT LEAST I NEVER GOT SO LOST I HAD TO ASK HEROD FOR DIRECTIONS.

