

# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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**Reminder:** Masks are required for everyone's safety.

## **Upcoming Events**

Mon., July 20<sup>th</sup> – 6:00 p.m. – Church Council Mtg.

Sun., July 26<sup>th</sup> – 11:00 a.m. - Annual Ecumenical Service at the Timothy Murphy Park. Please bring your lawn chairs so we can maintain social distancing during the worship service. Also, masks and hand sanitizers will be available for your use. NO Church Service at St. Mark's that day.

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### **Council Members:**

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

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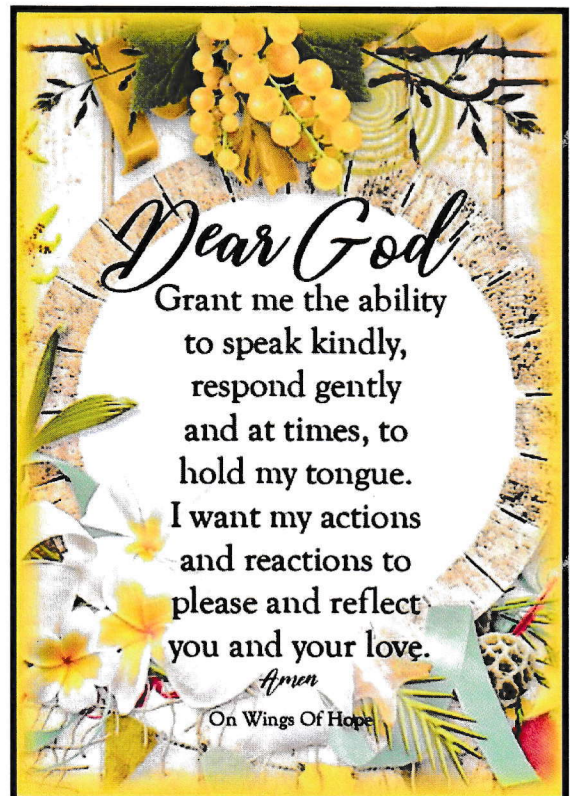
*If the devil tries to remind you of your past, remind him of his future.*

## **Prayers Concerns**

Please lift the following people up in prayer:

Family of Betty Lou DeAngelo  
Family of George Chichester  
Family of Richard Bartholomew  
Family of Andy DeRosier  
Family of Ed Kaull  
Michelle Amendola  
Harry Amendola  
Janet Meyer (Retired MCS Teacher)  
Pastor Dottie  
Sandi Johnson  
Chris  
Joanne Coonradt  
LaVerne Hubbard  
Ellie Spencer

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## Professing Faith and Possessing Faith

We recently resumed worship services in the sanctuary after not being able to for fourteen weeks. It was an “aha” moment for me. Each of the weeks we were not able to gather together, I spent a lot of time reviewing the scriptures and my messages. Each week I would search for meaning that we could relate to today. Each of those weeks I would add the words of a hymn or song that related to the message that might encourage us to sing in praise to God. Each week I realized how much I missed being in community, raising our voices together in unity prayers, and singing praises to God through the hymns, the Gloria Patri, and the Doxology. Each day I thought about all of these things and why we...why I, do all of this each week. Feeling sad over what I had been missing, I began to wonder what have I taken for granted each week. I believe it comes down to the ways we exercise our faith. Professing our faith is easy for we can say a bunch of religious words or recite a certain prayer and think we are there. Possessing faith goes further as it changes us and how we live. This change comes about by the realization that we need to refocus on who we are, and look deep into our hearts to see why and how we do what we do as if we were looking at ourselves through the eyes of God. When we truly possess faith, we not only invite the Spirit of God in (professing our faith) but we allow God's Spirit to enter in, to clean house, and to upgrade those traits and values that make us not just who we are, but whose we are. It empowers us to shine brightly in a world of darkness as members of the Church, the body of Christ.

We have many opportunities to grow spiritually whether together or on our own. Serving, studying, praying, and singing are some of the ways in which we can praise and worship God. Gathering together in our sanctuary is generally referred to as a “Worship Service”. Worship is said to be reverence offered to God manifested in extravagant respect and admiration of God, resulting in devotion to God. Worship goes deeper than praise. It is when we are at the point in our faith that we desire to bow down to God as sovereign over our lives. There are many components and styles to the praise and worship services that are held in the world today. They contain words of praise that help us to profess our faith before God and the world. The big question is ‘do I possess the faith that I profess’. Do I worship God as Jesus stated we are to “in spirit and truth”?

The topic of true worship challenged me this month as I read two quotes from the ‘Sermon Quotes’ website. Matthew Westerhom wrote: “Worship is a believing heart’s response to the work of the Holy Spirit, not an emotional response to the quality of the music”. The second is from Craig Groeschel: “Worship is more than singing a song or lifting our hands. It is cultivating a heart with a posture of surrender and awe to the one who gave His all for us”.

I once tried something during a worship service...let’s call it something different as far as typical worship services go. I asked the congregation to sit in silence and think only of God for three minutes. After thirty seconds, the restlessness was very evident. It seemed that the words of Psalm 46:10 *Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!* are more difficult to possess than they are to profess. Why am I so concerned about all of this? It seems that the idols of this world are wooing many people away from true, honest worship. I fear that sometimes we do our duty yet do not go the distance. I fear that even though many profess Jesus as Lord with their lips, Jesus reminds us that *“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven”*.

My friends, may we continue to boldly profess our faith to God in our lives and our praise and worship services. May we also possess our faith by humbly surrendering our hearts and lives to the Lord’s will each day.

In God We Trust / Love and Prayers, Pastor Dave





*The strength of our country is the strength of its religious convictions...The foundations of our society and our government rest so much on the teachings of the Bible that it would be difficult to support them if faith in these teaching would cease to be practically universal in our country.*

*- Calvin Coolidge, 30<sup>th</sup> President*

Look graciously, Lord, upon our land.  
Where it is in pride, subdue it.  
Where it is in need, supply it.  
Where it is in error, rectify it.  
Where it is in default, restore it.  
Where it holds to what is just and  
compassionate, support it. Amen.



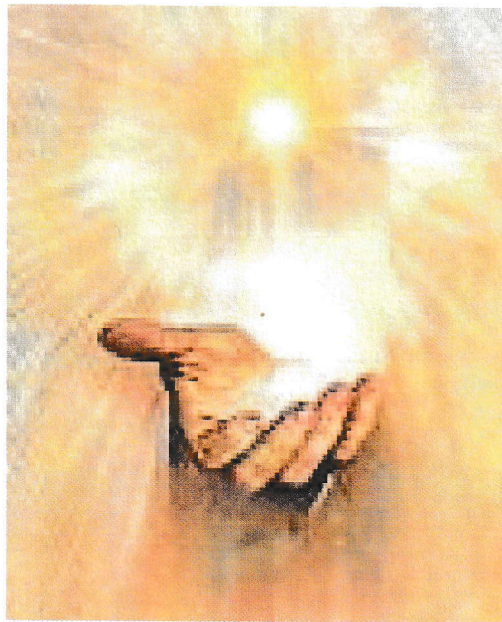
# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

## July Birthdays:

Terri Cronin	July 7
Colleen Davidson	July 14
Janet Abrams	July 22

## July Anniversaries:

Bill / Holly Pierce	July 14
Terri / John Cronin	July 21



*When I hold God's hand, I can  
never get lost.*

On the outskirts of a small town, there was a big old pecan tree just inside the cemetery fence. One day, two boys filled up a bucketful of nuts and sat down by the tree, out of sight, and began dividing the nuts. "One for you, one for me, one for you, one for me," said one boy. Several nuts dropped toward the fence.

Another boy came riding along the road on his bicycle. As he passed, he thought he heard voices from inside the cemetery. He slowed down to investigate. Sure enough, he heard, "One for you, one for me, one for you, one for me..."

He just knew what it was. He jumped back on his bike and rode off. Just around the bend, he met an old man with a cane, hobbling along.

"Come here quick," said the boy, "you won't believe what I heard! Satan and the Lord are down at the cemetery dividing up the souls!" The old man said, "Beat it, kid, can't you see it's hard for me to walk." When the boy insisted though, the old man hobbled slowly to the cemetery.

Standing by the fence they heard, "One for you, one for me. One for you, one for me." The old man whispered, "Boy, you've been tellin' me the truth. Let's see if we can see the Lord..." Shaking with fear, they peered through the fence, yet were still unable to see anything. The old man and the boy gripped the wrought iron bars of the fence tighter and tighter as they tried to get a glimpse of the Lord. At last, they heard, "One for you, one for me. That's all. Now let's go get those nuts by the fence and we'll be done..."

They say the old man had the lead for a good half mile before the kid on the bike passed him.





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## Servers for July

### July 5th:

Reader – Peggi/Bob

Prayer – Carolyn

Counter – Diane

### July 12th:

Reader – Nannette

Prayer – Ginny

Counter – Carrie

### July 19th:

Reader – Marie

Prayer – Ron

Counter – Deb P.

### July 26th:

Reader – Sharon

Prayer – Georgia

Counter – Diane



## *Rolling, Rolling, Rolling Keep those cars a rolling...*

With horns blowing and people voicing "Happy Birthday" wishes, we participated in a Birthday Drive-Up to Trudy Shaul's house.

