

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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Date
July 2019

Upcoming Events

**July 13th – 9:00 a.m. – Men's
Breakfast**

**July 15th – 6:00 p.m. - Council
Meeting**

**July 19th – 8:00 p.m. – Ice Cream
Social / Band Concert**

**July 27th – 9:00 a.m. – Community
Arts & Crafts Day / Pie Sale**

**July 28th – 11:00 a.m. -
Community Church Service at
M'burgh High School Lawn.
No service at St. Mark's.**

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 Bruce Becker
Family of Emily Fydenkevez
Family of Bill Winegard
Family of Jerry Andrew
Family of Dave Coons
Jessica Gordon
Mary McCoy
Janice Frizee
Barbara Valosin
Gregory Brown
Lisa Bartholomew
Tamara Guerrero
Jeffrey Kingsbury
Ronald (Cha) Becker
Harley Kelly
Sandy
Sandi Johnson
Pete Rossi
Kitty & Jim Heiser
Ken (Melody's Dad)
Lori 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.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Happy Days !!!!!

Birthdays: July

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

Anniversaries: July

Kobe/Mickayla Gordon	July 7
Nate/Sydney Shoemaker	July 16
John/Terri Cronin	July 21

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

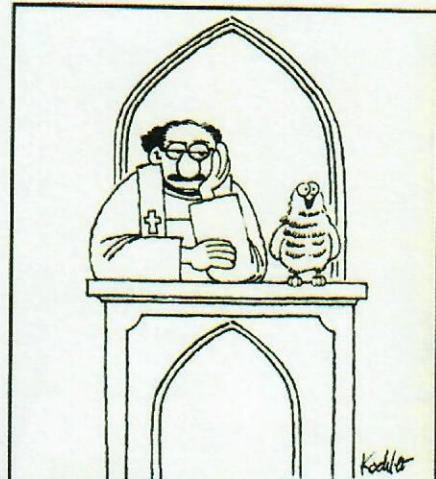
Phoebes - every Monday from 9-2 PM

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



"Hello, I'm Polly. Unfortunately, Rev. Wolter has come down with laryngitis. Fortunately, I'm in his study when he practices his sermons."

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Food Pantry Needs

Chicken noodle soup
Tomato soup
Rice and pasta side dishes
Canned fruit
Jelly / jam

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Servers for July

July 7:

Candle Lighter – Lisa
Ushers – Marie / Deb Roberts
Reader – Nannette
Greeter – Ginny
Prayer – Carolyn
Counter – Carrie

July 14:

Candle Lighter – Mason
Ushers – Deb Palmatier / Georgia
Reader – Georgia
Greeter – Deb Palmatier
Prayer – Ginny
Counter – Deb Palmatier

July 21:

Candle Lighter – Lisa
Ushers – Pat / Dennis Foland
Reader – Deb Brigadier
Greeter – Harry
Prayer – Deb Brigadier
Counter – Diane

July 28:

Community Worship Service on
High School Lawn
(**NO** Church Service will be held at
St. Mark's)

July 19 – Ice Cream Social

St. Mark's is providing refreshments at the band concert being held at 8:00 p.m. on the MCS lawn. We are looking for volunteers to bake homemade desserts for us to sell. Suggestions are: pies, cakes, cookies, brownies, cup cakes, etc. Please contact Pat McCoy at (518) 827-5035 if you are able and willing to make a donation. Stewart's will supply the ice cream kit. Don't forget to mark your calendar to come to hear great music and enjoy the time of fellowship at the concert.

July 27 – Annual Pie Sale / Craft's Day – 9:00 a.m.

Calling all bakers!!!! Please contact Sharon Nesbitt if you are willing to make a pie or make a monetary donation and/or help on the 27th. (Please leave your pie at the church prior to 9:00 a.m.)

July 28 – Community Church Service – 11:00 a.m.

There will be a community worship service on the High School Lawn. Please remember to bring your lawn chairs. **NO** Church Service will be held at St. Mark's.

Independence, Freedom, and God

July is the month of vacations, summer fun, trips on the open road and exercising our personal freedom. After all...it is the month to celebrate and remember our freedom, our Independence Day. Let's take a closer look at freedom and independence and see how it is perceived today.

There are multiple generations today that have not experienced nor know anything other than the freedom and independence we currently enjoy. It seems that in this land of the free there are many who do not feel that way. Kris Kristofferson penned the lyrics "freedom's just another word for nothin' left to lose". It is on the roller coaster of life when we find ourselves trying to climb up another hill after a rapid decline that we will discover the truth, 'It is when God is all you have left that you realize God is all that you need'.

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." A related quote from Jesus is, 'And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. Therefore, if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed'. As we examine our perception of freedom, let us look at the truth in Jesus' words.

What holds us captive; what are we a slave to? What is it we need to lose so we can see God's presence more clearly, so we can hear God's directions more understandably? As a nation we celebrate independence, which means freedom from the rule or control of another. Through many dangers, toils, and snares we have already come, and strive to remain united in our declarations, our proclamations, our communities. Not experiencing or knowing any other living conditions has enabled 'independence' to become more singular, to feel self-sufficient, self-reliant, self-supporting, self-subsistent. Has this mind set gone beyond the physical terrain? Has it infiltrated the spiritual domain as well? In God's exchange with Job He queries him, 'Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding.' God has given us the freedom of will to choose the paths we take. We have been able through that freedom and independence to technologically advance to where we believe we have a greater understanding of how things really are...or do we? While we enjoy our personal and our united independence, we must remember the words the founding fathers chose to reveal our dependence on the one who is omnipresent, omniscient, and omnipotent - the truth and the blessings in these words, 'one nation under God' and 'in God we trust'.

The Apostle Paul frequently referred to himself as 'a prisoner of Jesus Christ'. This surrender is only accomplished by the freedom and independence both he and we have. The freedom of will to choose that status - a prisoner of Jesus Christ, to put 'God first', to be a servant to Jesus Christ the Lord of Lords and King of Kings, to surrender all to His will. In 2nd Chronicles God said, 'if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land'. True freedom only comes with our dependence on the One who was the first to offer it to us. Let us celebrate that Jesus said, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life', and when you accept the truth, the truth will set you free and you shall be free indeed.