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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.

Council Members:

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

Prayers Concerns

Please lift the following people up in prayer:

Dennis France Araxi (Dutton) Palmer John Tully Pat McCoy's nephew Noe Andrew Blackman Carol Hartwell Deputy Dan Smith and family

Upcoming Events

June 10 – Joint service w/Christian Community Church of Faith – 10:30 a.m. @ Gobbler's Knob, Cobleskill

June 11 – Council meeting – 6:00 p.m.

June 17 – Baccalaureate Service – 7:00 p.m. @ St. Mark's Church

June 22 – Senior Graduation – 7:00 p.m. @ MCS High School

Happy Days!!!!! Birthdays: May

June 6 – Austin Roney

June 10 - Madison Palmatier

June 17 – John Warner

June 24 – Vicki Chichester

June 25 - Trudy Shaul

June 25 — Denise Minton

June 26 – Kenny Hanley

June 30 – Nannette Amendola

June 30 – Joshua Warner

Pantry Needs

Pat is requesting donations of soup of any kind and financial donations to help her purchase fresh food for those requesting food from our pantry. If you are being led by the Lord to assist in this ministry, please contact Pat.

There is also a need in the clothing pantry for boy and girl's clothes, sizes 5 - 14. These can be new or gently used. If you have any donations, please contact Pat for this as well.

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

FAITH

- (F) FORWARDING
- (A) ALL
- (I) ISSUES
- (T) TO
- (H) HEAVEN

Covenant - Completing What God Started

Greetings! One of the blessings of my Ordination is to preside at marriage ceremonies, which enables me to discuss with the couple how they understand the union they are committing to. In requesting me I advise them it will be a Christian ceremony which means it is not a contract, or a license to test drive or try it out. It is a covenant.

I came across an interesting definition of the difference in a post called 'Covenant People'. It states: With a contract, if one agreeing party does something in violation of the contract then it is considered broken. The whole contract becomes null and void. Basically the signers of a contract agree to hold up their ends as long as the other signatories hold up theirs too. With a covenant, both parties agree to hold up their ends regardless of whether the other party keeps their part of the agreement. A violation of a covenant by one party doesn't matter as far as the other party's responsibility to continue to do what they agreed to do.

I agree, by this definition a covenant sounds very challenging and a little unfair, but let us look a little deeper and consider the Covenants of God. The term covenant is used in legal, social, and theological settings. Most times it is taken to mean a contract or agreement. It also means there is a bond or those in covenant are bound together. In the Bible there are many covenants between the patriarchs and between nations. One of my study Bibles highlights four of the covenants God made with humanity. The covenant with Abram (Abraham) is one of blessing. Abram was called to trust and obey. Even with his stumbling and a few wrong decisions, God continued to do what He promised to do. The covenant with Israel, given through Moses, was the law. Again, trust and obedience is requested from the people. They too stumbled, made poor decisions, and at times turned away from God. Yet God continued to pursue them and their faith by keeping the covenants He was making. In the covenant with David, God promises an offspring who will have a perpetual dynasty, His rule will know no end. The people continued to stumble and set their own standards for living and righteousness. God still kept the covenant and sent the Messiah, His only Son, the Word incarnate. The one who came to fulfill the law. He summed up every law into two, Love God and Love your neighbor. Jesus exampled this perfectly throughout His life. God, through Jesus, gave a new covenant through His sacrifice and blood. After the death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus a covenant was made with the Church. One which Jesus foretold would come, the Spirit. After His resurrection Jesus breathed on His disciples and said receive the Holy Spirit. At the Pentecost celebration the presence of His Spirit caused such a commotion it drew crowds from the many nations that were in Jerusalem. The Church is empowered by the Spirit to take the good news of the Gospel to all peoples. That even though we have broken the covenant from our mortal side, God has kept the covenant from the immortal side. God invites us to receive the new covenant with joy and hope. God does not ask us to do the impossible in order to keep it or to receive its promises. God asks us to trust and obey...to love the Lord our God with all that we are and have, and to love our neighbors as our selves.

In a world that seems to exist for and by contracts, can we be still for a moment and reflect on which standard we live by? Can we look at how we covenant in our personal, professional, civil, and public lives? Can we hear again the words of our Savior calling softly and tenderly....follow me. Receive the gifts of God. Restore the faith through trust and obedience. May our covenantal circle be unbroken.

In God We Trust / Love and Prayers, Pastor Dave

Where We Have Seen God

Sometimes we start projects and wonder how we will be able to fund them. Last fall we began the process of obtaining a grant to help us pay for the replacement of the sanctuary roof. God answered our prayers for financial assistance and we have received a letter indicating that our grant application has been approved.

Praise the Lord!!!

Servers for June

June 3:

Acolyte - Dylan

Ushers - Harry / Sharon

Reader - Ted Lagenbahn

Greeter - Maurice

Prayer – Ted Lagenbahn

Counter - Diane

June 10: Joint Service / Picnic At Gobbler's Knob

June 17:

Acolyte - Dylan

Ushers – Denise / Kaleb

Reader – Marie

Greeter - Pat

Prayer – Deb B.

Counter - Deb P.

June 24:

Acolyte - Lisa

Ushers - Deb P. / Marie

Reader - Lori

Greeter - Janet

Prayer – Beth

Counter - Diane

Mother's Day Blessing!!!

Mother's Day was an exceptional day at St. Mark's. All women with a mothering heart were celebrated by the Men's Group. They prepared and served a delicious breakfast and provided musical entertainment by Bill and Bonnie Morton with Peggi and Bob Meunier. All the women were truly blessed at the men's thoughtfulness, thus making their day extra special.

Thank you, St. Mark's Men's Group!!!



PROUD MOMENTS



Congratulations to Gloria Falcone who was selected to be Senior of the Year by Middleburgh Golden Agers.



Congratulations to Jim & Debbie Brigadier's grandson, Matthew Christian Brigadier who was commissioned into the United States Marine Corps. Matthew is a "Third" generation to serve in the Brigadier family.

Holy Humor

A certain church found itself burdened with a very tedious and self-centered pastor for a couple of years. Then came the day when he was called to another church. He announced his resignation by saying, "Brethren, the same Lord who sent me to you is now calling me away." There was a moments silence and suddenly the congregation rose as one and began to sing, "What a friend we have in Jesus."

Senior Recognition Sunday

On Sunday, May 20th, the congregation at St. Mark's celebrated members of the Class of 2018 who either attended and/or was confirmed in our church. Honored were: Hannah Martin, Gabby DeRocher, Brianna Gordon, Mary Chichester and Kaleb Minton. Others who had prior commitments so were unable to participate were: Breanna Palmatier, Jenna Warner and Kenny Hanley.

During the time of recognition, Cheryl Cater spoke about the many memories and the precious time we had with them as they were growing up. In addition, Cheryl, Denise Minton and Carolyn Wyckoff blessed them with a Psalty song, "I Will Stand With You," as a reminder that as they begin the next phase of their life's journey, they are not alone for the Lord and we, the congregation, are with them.

Please keep them as well as all graduates in your prayers. May God richly bless and may their faith in our Lord continue to grow stronger.





St. Mark's Lutheran Church / Christian Community Church of Faith Joint Worship Service / Picnic

Sunday, June 10, 2018 – 10:30 a.m. at Gobbler's Knob

Covered dish luncheon to follow. Please bring a side dish to pass. Meat will be provided.





MIDDLEBURGH CENTRAL SCHOOL

CLASS of 2018

BACCALAUREATE SERVICE

SUNDAY, JUNE 17th - 7:00 P.M.

at St. Mark's Lutheran Church 326 Main St.

Please join us in giving thanks to God and honoring our graduates.

Refreshments following service

2018 Joshua Project Seeking Volunteers for Summer Lunch and Backpack Programs

With summer fast approaching, the Joshua Project is already starting to make plans for their summer lunch and backpack programs.

As in the past, the lunch program is asking for volunteers to help serve food to people in the Middleburgh community during the summer. Additional information about the start / end dates will be forthcoming.

Volunteers are also being sought to help with the receiving and distribution of food for the Joshua project backpack program. This program will be starting the week of June 18 with first deliveries to homes scheduled for Thursday, June 21st, and the last deliveries on Thursday, August 23rd.

Volunteers needed are:

- people to unload the truck and set up (will be either Tuesday or Wednesday)
- packing the bags (9:00 a.m. on Thursdays)
- delivering to the families (9:30 10:00 a.m. on Thursdays)

If you are being led by the Lord to serve in any capacity, please contact Carrie Foland (827-4559) or Debbie Brigadier (827-8276) to help with the summer lunch program and Rick or Karen Conner (827-5013) to help with the backpack project.

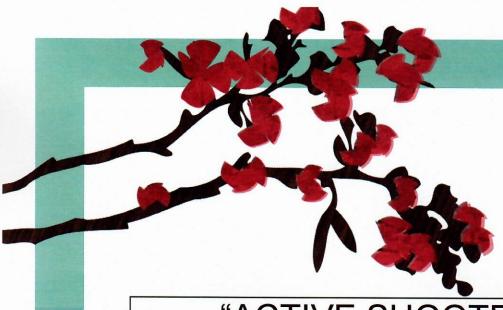
Special Veterans Project

Remember the saying "Uncle Sam wants you".... now, Cheryl and Carolyn want you. We are asking for help to accomplish a project that the Lord has placed on our hearts to recognize the sacrifices made by you, the men and women, who so faithfully served our country.

We are looking for picture(s) that we may scan into the computer and will be included in our special project. Please write your name on the back of the picture(s) and we will return them to you.

Thank you for your service to our country and for helping us in this endeavor.





"ACTIVE SHOOTER" AWARENESS IN RELIGIOUS SANCTUARIES PRESENTATION

WEDNESDAY, MAY 30, 2018 AT 6:30PM

ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

24 PINE STREET, AMSTERDAM, NY 12010

A FREE presentation by Mr. Jeffery P. Smith, Director of Montgomery County Emergency Services.

For more information contact us at 518-843-2401. Parking is available in the lot behind the Church off of Division Street; or on the street (Guy Park Avenue,

Pine Street, or Division Street)