

# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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## Prayer Ministry

You are invited to participate in a new 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.

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Council has adopted a new 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.

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**Thank you to everyone that assisted with or came out and supported the pork roast dinner. Proceeds will be used for our new driveway.**

## Prayers Concerns

Please lift the following people up in prayer:

Prayers for our new pastor  
Family of Vicki Morehead  
Amanda Carrie  
Family of Bill Thorpe  
Skip Jim  
Amanda Wilma  
John Caden  
Matt Paul  
Ron Don  
Sharon Sandi and Ed  
Dawn  
Family of Adam Binder

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## Upcoming Events

**Mar 10 - Men's prayer breakfast**

**Mar 12 - Council meeting 7:00**

**Mar 28- NET dinner @ St. Marks**

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**Council Members:**

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

# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

**If you know of anyone that  
could use an  
encouragement basket  
please speak with Janet or  
Gloria.**

## Servers for March

### **March 4:**

Acolyte - Lisa  
Ushers - Dean/Lori  
Reader - Lori  
Greeter - Debbie  
Prayer - Beth  
Counter - Debbie

### **March 11:**

Acolyte - Dylan  
Ushers - Dennis/Diane  
Reader - Marie  
Greeter - Ginny  
Prayer - Georgia  
Counter - Diane

### **March 18:**

Acolyte - Lisa  
Ushers - Bill/Bonnie  
Reader - Bonnie  
Greeter - Maurice  
Prayer - Ginny  
Counter - Carrie

### **March 25:**

Acolyte - Dylan  
Ushers - Ginny/Maurice  
Reader - Sharon  
Greeter - Pat  
Prayer - Chris  
Counter - Debbie



## Power of Prayer / Power for the Pray-er

Power is an interesting concept. I use the word concept rather than trait or characteristic for I wonder if, for humanity, it is just a thought or idea. Something that is desired and pursued. Something that at times is considered obtained or achieved by ourselves or by someone else. That power is perceived as quantitative via physical strength or by political, economic, social standings.

The scripture tells us that we get 'power from on high', Luke 24:49. It also speaks of the 'power of God' fifty-five times in the scriptures. How can we as mortals experience this power that speaks life into existence, that controls the elements and forces of nature, that resurrects, restores, and renews? Prayer!

Pray (or a form of the word), is spoken of three hundred and ninety-two times in the scriptures (New King James Version). Believe these words from scripture about prayer.

- *The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth. - Psalm 145:18*
- *Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. - 1 John 5:14*
- *Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart. - Luke 18:1*
- *Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving - Colossians 4:2*
- *Pray without ceasing - 1 Thessalonians 5:17*
- *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God - Philippians 4:6*
- *Rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer - Romans 12:12*

Power in prayer comes from praying continuously, in truth and according to God's will, and with thanksgiving and patience. When we or our prayers are misguided the scripture offers direction.

- *You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures. - James 4:3*
- *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. - 2 Chronicles 7:14*
- *Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. - James 5:16*

We are challenged again through our prayer life, to self examine our faith and trust in God.

- *Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" - Mark 9:23, 24*

These scripture verses are from the New King James Version. I discovered the end of the verse from James 5:16 in the New International Version reads: *The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.* There it is, power in prayer, power experienced by the pray-er. On our spiritual journey, as we strive to know the will of God for us, to serve the Lord, to love the Lord our God and our neighbor, may we rediscover the power of praying to the one who is all powerful. Whose name is above every name. Who is the beginning and the end, the first and the last. Who gave His life for us that we might surrender ours to Him. Through this season of Lent may we be renewed in our prayer lives together so as to revive, throughout the world, faith in the God who created it.

In God We Trust / Love and Prayers, Pastor Dave



# God Gives Hope

*Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit - Romans 15:13 (NKJV)*

During the month of April, Pastor Dave, as well as other clergy throughout the county, will be delivering messages with the theme "God Gives Hope". Their messages will be based on the Romans scripture verse shown above.

**April 15: HOPE**  
for New Beginnings

**April 22: HOPE**  
in Troubled Times

**April 29: HOPE**  
for the Future

**May 6: HOPE**  
for the World

We plan to place a banner on the front of the church as well as lawn signs as a reminder of the hope that God gives to all of us. If you would like a sign to display on your lawn, we will have some available that may be purchased for the price of \$5.00 each. Hopefully, by then the snow will be melted. ☺



## **Holy Week Services - 2018**

**Palm Sunday - Mar. 25<sup>th</sup> – 10:30 a.m. – St. Mark's Lutheran Church**

**Good Friday - Mar. 30<sup>th</sup> – 12:00 noon – "Stations of the Cross" - Reformed Church**

**AND**

**7:30 p.m. –Christian Community Church, Richmondville**

**Saturday Vigil - Mar. 31<sup>st</sup> – 6:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. - St. Mark's Lutheran Church**

**Easter Sunrise Service - Apr. 1<sup>st</sup> – 6:30 a.m. – Location to be determined  
(Sunrise breakfast to follow at the Middleburgh Methodist Church)**

**Easter Worship Service - Apr. 1<sup>st</sup> – 10:30 a.m. – St. Mark's Lutheran Church**





# Schoharie County "Prayer Breakfast"

All denominations welcome

## The Power of Prayer



Guest Speaker Rev. Kent Busman

God Bless America

**The Rodeway Inn**

**At Cobleskill**

**7:30 a.m.**

**22 March 2018**

\$15 per person (includes full breakfast)

RSVP by 15 Mar 2018

Make check out to - Milan Jackson Prayer Breakfast, P.O. Box 370, Richmondville, NY 12149

Tel (518) 294-6717

Email - [dgmilan7190@gmail.com](mailto:dgmilan7190@gmail.com)

# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

## Happy Days !!!!!

### **Birthdays: March**

March 1 - Carrie Foland  
March 13 - Jill Hanley  
March 14 - Jim Brigadier and Dylan  
                    Hillicoss and Mary  
                    Chichester  
March 19 - Cheryl Cater  
March 22 - Dean Roney and William  
                    Cronin  
March 27 - Virginia Tinney

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Carrie Foland will be heading up the audit committee for 2017 audit. Please get your records to her as soon as you can.

**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

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Enclosed you will find copies of the reports from the annual meeting in case you were unable to attend.



## **St. Mark's Council President's Annual Report - 2017**

Our year at St. Mark's has been one of both great challenges and even greater opportunities. Together we search for the most effective way to meet our mission goals of church growth, calling for a spiritual leader, and unity.

Serving my St. Mark's family as the Church Council President is an honor and a privilege. A special thank you to Pastor Dave Houck for all he does for St. Mark's. In March we were blessed with his offer to become our interim pastor, preaching and teaching every Sunday as well as leading our prayer time on Thursday evenings. I would also like to thank all committee members, volunteers and the congregation for the many tasks completed, many without any fanfare, that keep our church doing what it does best – serving the Lord. Some of these tasks include the Pastoral Call Committee, community NET dinners, Adult Sunday School, ecumenical worship services, fundraisers, building usage and maintenance, to name a few.

One large project this year was the replacement of the slate roof on the sanctuary with a standing seam metal roof. We were blessed to have this accomplished before the onset of winter. Our next project is to have the driveway replaced or repaired. As 2018 progresses, I will keep you, the congregation, up-to-date on the plans and work to be done.

I encourage you to openly express your viewpoints and opinions to members of the Church Council. We are here to represent the needs and wants of St. Mark's and will continue to do our best to serve with open minds, loving hearts and willing hands.

I pray that our church will continue to be blessed by God, will seek to be more like Jesus, and will be moved by the Holy Spirit so that our faith may grow deeper. May the peace of the Lord be with you always.

Marie Whittaker  
Council President



## PHOEBE CIRCLE – 2017 REPORT

2018 is here and, as always, God has proven to be AWESOME. The Phoebe's have been very busy again this year and we still find that giving is so fulfilling and rewarding. It just never gets old. We have been so blessed with donations and the support we get from others. We, as a ministry, are so blessed in so many ways, adding new people to our group and growing our outreach as we go on to bless others.

Our outreach activities in 2017 included a few new places to bless as well as some of our regular places: 39 encouragement baskets were made and delivered

52 quilts were given to individuals

110 adult and children quilts were distributed among Polar Express Lions Club, Belmore, NY, Palatine Nursing Home, NALC Disaster Relief, Schenectady City Mission, The VA Hospital in Albany, The Eddy in Troy, Robinson Terrace in Stamford, Lifesaver Ministries in Gloversville, Albany Medical Center, Camp Erin in the Adirondacks, Baptist Health in Scotia and Marathon for a Better Life.

62 infant hats were knit and crocheted and given to Albany Medical for their newborns.

12 Walker holders were made and distributed to Amsterdam Hospital and Baptist Health.

2 adult bibs were made and given to a friend.

8 fidget blankets were taken to The Eddy.

We again participated in Miracle on Main Street by offering free hot chocolate and brownies and our crafts were also on sale at this event. This is always a very nice evening, and we have many people who come in just to get warm.

We also had our pie sale in July which was very successful. Thank you to all who baked pies for us.

We hosted a reception for our own Virginia Peterson and Joe Falcone. Thank you to all who so willingly offered to make something for these receptions. We were blessed to have known them.

One of the many highlights of our Monday lunch time is and has always been our bible study. This often leads to many lively discussions as we study God's word. We thank Carolyn Wyckoff for so graciously leading and preparing these studies for us.

We have grown to have between 12 and 16 people most Mondays. Please feel free to stop in and visit or join us any Monday between 9:30 am and 2pm. We will surely find something for you to do. Our fellowship and devotion time prove to be a wonderful way to start off a Monday.

Our mission is, and always has been, to be the hands and feet of Jesus in the world. God is so good all the time and he has richly blessed us in our endeavors to bless others.

In Christian Love,

Sharon Nesbitt



## 2017 Worship and Music Report

One of the greatest privileges we have as children of God is to worship Him through word, song and action. 2017 was a year in which the congregation at St. Mark's displayed their faith as we held fast to the promises of God. As with all of life, there are times of joy and times of trial, but by staying true to Him, He guided us through it. It is with grateful hearts, we come together for Sunday morning worship and Thursday evening prayer to spend time in His presence.

In 2017 our prayers for an interim pastor, who loves and serves the Lord with all his heart, were answered. Pastor Dave Houck, who is also the pastor of Christian Community Church in Richmondville, accepted God's call and made a commitment to fill our pulpit, lead our worship services and supply pastoral support to St. Mark's. As a devoted servant of God's, he brings us messages that are divinely inspired.

This past summer one of our worship services was extra special because we had the opportunity to bless Kobe Gordon with a prayer and an anointing by Pastor Dave before Kobe left for basic training in the U.S. Army. Please continue to keep Kobe and all military personnel in your prayers for God's protection and guidance.

Music is a vital part of our worship services and our choir continues to bless us with special music. Anyone who would like to share their God-given talent to provide special music during worship services are welcome to do so. Such was the case when one Sunday Dylan Hillicoss and Debbie Brigadier sang a song he selected and dedicated to his mother, Nikki Gordon, called "Love Can Build A Bridge".

St. Mark's participation in other worship services has gone beyond the walls of our sanctuary. The ecumenical services held were:

- Ash Wednesday Service – Middleburgh Methodist Parsonage
- Baccalaureate – Middleburgh Methodist Church
- Community Worship Service – Middleburgh High School lawn
- Thanksgiving Eve Service – Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church

In addition, St. Mark's hosted concerts by the ecumenical handbell choir in May and December. This past December the choir also participated with the Schoharie handbell choir in a Valley Band Concert. While the music was challenging, the members enjoyed playing it.

Remember to always make a joyful noise unto the Lord! He loves to hear our praises! (and He does not say we have to be in tune 😊)

In Christ,  
Cheryl Cater / Carolyn Wyckoff

*Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.*

*Worship the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs.*

-Psalm 1:1-2



## St. Mark's Christian Care After-School Program – 2017



In the Bible the number 7 equate to completion and 2017 was the 7<sup>th</sup> year we were able to continue doing one of God's missions here at St. Mark's through our After-School Program.

We began the school year with 27 children registered and even though some days we have less than other days, we were challenged and rewarded at the same time. Our employees this year were Cheryl Cater, Patti Bowman, Jessica Miller, Maureen Sniffen, and Jennifer Sniffen and Bonnie Jorgensen with Jordan Miller (a senior from MCS high school) for January through June and Breanna Gordon (a senior from MCS high school) for September through November.

However, on November 28, the State of New York required we terminate our After-School Program due to changes we were unaware of regarding the care of school-age children. Therefore, when completion comes, it is time to reassess what God's plan is for the future and we are now at that crossroads.

We give **God** thanks and praise for Him blessing us with this opportunity to serve Him. The hugs are and always will be so **"priceless"** as are the children whose lives we have touched.

In Christ,  
Cheryl Cater  
ASP Coordinator

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
Call Committee – 2017**

2017 was a year of reorganizing and refocusing our Pastoral Call Committee. With Marie Whittaker being named to the position of Council President, Debbie Brigadier assumed Marie's role as Call Committee Chairperson.

Members of the Pastoral Call Committee are: Debbie Brigadier, Marie Whittaker, Janet Abrams, Cathy Kauffmann, Bill Morton and Carolyn Wyckoff. Unfortunately our youth representative, Mary Chichester, decided to resign from the Committee.

As our leader, Debbie has been taking the approach of having regular meetings and studying the Bible with a focus on what it is to call a pastor. The Call Committee also sent a survey to the members of our church asking for their suggestions and recommendations in regards to the selection of a pastor. Unfortunately, of the 70+ surveys sent, only 20 people responded.

Since we did not receive any applicants from NALC, the Committee is reviewing what the requirements are for a pastor to become a member of NALC. Having this information will help guide us in our search for a pastor should we have a candidate who currently is not part of NALC.

Please keep your Pastoral Call Committee in prayer, that we have the wisdom and discernment to follow God's lead in seeking His selection for our church.