

# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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March 2019

## Upcoming Events

**Mar. 6 – 9:00 a.m. or 7:00 p.m. –  
Ash Wednesday Service held at  
Our Lady of the Valley**

**Mar. 9 – 9:00 a.m. – Men's  
Breakfast**

**Mar. 11 – 6:00 p.m. - Council  
Meeting**

**Mar. 27<sup>th</sup> – 5:00 p.m. – Net Dinner**

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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.

## Prayers Concerns

Please lift the following people up in prayer:

Ed Johnson  
Ray & Diane Craddock  
Ellie Spencer  
Allison Coons  
David Marquit  
Howard Bell  
Mona from Mona's Café  
Rosemary Cesina  
Chris Motta  
Jerry Werner's mother  
Ron Barry, Jr.  
Edna Lower  
Family of Mary O'Brien  
Family of Paul Dennis Fink  
Family of Valerie  
VanValkenburgh

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## Council Members:

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

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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: March

Carrie Foland	March 1
Jim Brigadier	March 14
Dylan Hillicoss	March 14
Mary Chichester	March 14
Cheryl Cater	March 19
Dean Roney	March 22
William Cronin	March 22
Linda Amond	March 26
Virginia Tinney	March 27

### Anniversaries: March

Pastor Dave / Melody Houck	March 24
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May your blessings  
outnumber  
The shamrocks that  
grow,  
And may trouble avoid  
you  
Wherever you go.

Irish Blessing

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

**HAPPY  
ST. PATRICK'S  
DAY!!!**



## The Best Guide for the Journey

In this life each person has a source of inspiration, a force that gives us motivation, drive, direction. As I reflect on events both current and historical, as well as the history of my own personal journey, I ponder what it is that has guided us. The scriptures tell us in 2 Corinthians 5:7 *For we walk by faith, not by sight.*

This has led me to a very important question. Do I try to justify how I walk by my faith or do I justify my faith by how I walk? The structure of these questions says a lot. In the first one the walk comes before faith and so one might "try" to justify how they walk by supportive scripture verses. Sometimes that is managed by rewriting or reinterpreting what has already been written in an attempt to defend one's decision or course. When questioned about their path or the direction, one response might be "yes, but...". The second question puts faith first and then the walk. If we think on this too long, it can easily become confusing. I formed these questions based on the definitions of justify.

**Justify** - *to show or prove to be right or reasonable, to give a reason or defense for.*

**Justify (theological)** - *to declare or make righteous in the sight of God.*

On our journeys, do we try to defend our walk, our actions, our words to lessen any harm they cause or any guilt we may feel afterward? Are we guided by those famous words of old, "go ahead; what's the harm?" When we walk by sight, we may see things as "well it's the norm; it goes on all the time." The opposite would be that sometimes we may view things as overwhelming or impossible and respond, "I don't know how or why this was given to me, but you have the wrong person, Lord, for I am not able; I don't have what it takes." If you look in the scriptures, you will find several people who responded in both of these ways. The first found difficulties as they turned from the Lord; the second found it best to step out in faith and learn to trust the Lord.

When we walk by faith, it is putting the Lord first. It is by spending time learning God's will for us and how to walk and how to live as it is spelled out in the scriptures. To start each journey, each task, each day, looking to the Lord in prayer. When we walk by faith, we are trusting in the Lord and the commandments that were given to us long ago. Jesus summed up the commandments in these words from Matthew 22:37 *Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'*

We are again at the threshold of Lent -- a journey and a walk that ended in the greatest sacrifice ever made. It was a sacrifice made on our behalf, for our benefit and for our eternal salvation. We may never be asked to make the same kind of sacrifice that was made for us. We may never fully comprehend or appreciate it either. But we may look at our walk, our journey, and ask ourselves...do I try to justify my walk by my interpretation of faith or do I justify my faith by how I walk? May our journeys, our walks, be seen and declared as righteous in the sight of those watching and especially by God, who teaches us all we need to know about how to walk this journey. AMEN.

In God We Trust / Love and Prayers, Pastor Dave



# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

## Servers for March

### March 3:

Candle Lighter - Dylan  
Ushers - Dennis / Diane  
Reader - Edna  
Greeter - Gloria  
Prayer - Chris  
Counter - Carrie

### March 10:

Candle Lighter - Lisa  
Ushers - Ted / Ellen  
Reader - Ted  
Greeter - Maurice  
Prayer - Ted  
Counter - Deb P.

### March 17:

Candle Lighter - Dylan  
Ushers - Maurice / Ginny  
Reader - Marie  
Greeter - Pat  
Prayer - Georgia  
Counter - Diane

### March 24:

Candle Lighter - Lisa  
Ushers - Marie / Deb R.  
Reader - Ron  
Greeter - Janet  
Prayer - Ron  
Counter - Carrie

### March 24:

Candle Lighter - Dylan  
Ushers - Deb P. / Georgia  
Reader - Sharon N.  
Greeter - Deb P.  
Prayer - Beth  
Counter - Deb P.

## 2019 Annual Congregational Meeting

St. Mark's held their annual congregational meeting on January 27. Enclosed in this newsletter are some of the reports regarding the activities of 2018. Many thanks to all who submitted and delivered their reports at the meeting. By the way --- anyone who was unable to attend the meeting missed a delicious potluck luncheon. All the food was so yummy. ☺

**THANK YOU!!!!** To all the men in our St. Mark's "Breakfast Club" who so graciously repaired the lights up over the altar. We musicians and choir members are truly grateful to be able to see our music. God bless you for "lighting up our world".



"I thought sure this would be the Lent when his long-dormant spiritual values would come to the fore."

© 1990 Ed Sullivan (from A Gift of Laughter)



# DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

*In the words of Pope Francis*

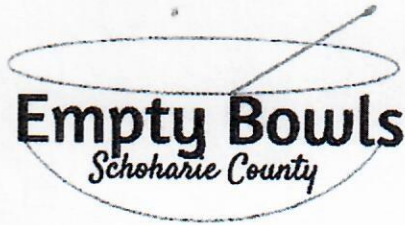
- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

[pietrafitness.com](http://pietrafitness.com)





**8<sup>th</sup> Annual**



**Raising money and awareness of hunger and food insecurity in our community**

**Soup Luncheon April 7, 2019  
11 am – 2 pm, C-R High School Rt. 7,  
Richmondville)**

**Proceeds from luncheon go to Schoharie County  
food pantries**

- **Over 30 soups and bread donated by county restaurants**
  - **Ice cream sundaes donated by Stewart's**
  - **Hot/cold beverages, live music, auction**
- **Organized by community volunteers (like you!)**



**Want to help? Call Maggie at (518) 231-2076  
and like Empty Bowls Schoharie County on Facebook**

*Sponsored by the Fusion Community Church*

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church Council  
Annual Meeting President's Report  
January 27, 2019**

Our 2018 year at St. Mark's was one filled with accomplishments. We worked on the most effective way to meet our mission goals of Church Growth and Calling for a Spiritual Leader and Unity.

Together we completed the Roof Replacement Project and the Driveway Project. We were awarded a Grant of \$9,000.00 from Oldham Little Church Foundation for the Roof Replacement. We received this check in January 2019. We were able to raise the full amount of \$30,000.00 for the Driveway Project and the new driveway was completed in July 2018.

We had a special Congregational Meeting in July, where the Call Committee made the recommendation of Pastor Dave Houck to be the Pastor of St Mark's. A vote was held, and it was unanimous. The Lord has serenely blessed St. Mark's with a very special spiritual leader.

We had a dedication service in September of the new engraved stone front sign that was donated by the Zinsman family in loving memory of Pastor Zinsman.

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

Serving my St. Mark's family as the Church Council President is an honor and a privilege. I pray that our church will continue to be blessed by God, seek to be more like Jesus, and moved by the Holy Spirit so that our faith may grow together. The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

Marie Whittaker  
Council President



## PHOEBE CIRCLE - 2018 REPORT

2019 is here and the Phoebe's have been very busy this past year. In our ministry of reaching out to others with encouragement baskets and quilts we are so blessed in our endeavor to bless others. As I have stated many times in the past, we are so blessed with the donations and support of others. Sometimes we are overwhelmed with the chaos and mess in the Phoebe room. God is so good and blesses us so that we can bless others.

Our outreach activities in 2018 included:

48 encouragement baskets were made and delivered. We thank Janet Abrams and Gloria Falcone for assuming the filling of the baskets for this purpose.

119 adult and children quilts were distributed to Schenectady City Mission, Marathon for A Better Life, Baptist health in Scotia, River Ridge Nursing Home in Amsterdam, Albany Medical Children's Unit, Bassett Hospital in Cooperstown, MEVAC for their 50 Year Celebration, Middleburgh library, The Veteran's Administration Hospital in Albany, Camp Erin at Speculator, New York.

53 quilts were given to individuals far and near.

14 fidget blankets were made and taken to NYRA house on Maple Avenue in the village and the Albany County Nursing Home.

The Phoebe's held our annual pie sale and as usual this was a great success. Thank you goes to all the people who make pies for this event. We also held a pork roast dinner fundraiser and our crafts are on sale at several events. We also participated in Miracle on Main Street offering free hot chocolate and brownies and our crafts were on sale. It was a very cold evening and we were blessed with many people coming in to get warm. With the fundraisers we were able to give \$725.00 to the Driveway Fund, \$100.00 to MEVAC and \$34.35 to the Schenectady City Mission for Thanksgiving dinners.

We hosted a reception for the Thorpe family after their memorial service. With Carolyn Wyckoff's help we also hosted a fundraising brunch for the Conesville Seniors. This was a good time for all.

We still have a time of devotion at our lunch and we all take turns participating in these readings and discussions. This is a time that the Phoebe's look forward to. A quiet time in our busy lives is always a blessing.

We have grown nicely this past year and have a few people not from our own congregation which is wonderful. Please feel free to stop in and visit or join us any Monday between 9:30am and 2pm. We will find something for you to do.

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 all our endeavors to bless others. "Love each other with brotherly affection and take delight in honoring each other. Never be lazy in your work but serve the Lord enthusiastically.

In His Service,

Sharon Nesbitt



## 2018 Worship and Music Report

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow"...blessings, blessings, blessings. We are indeed blessed by our God!

We are blessed to have a truly spirit-filled leader – Pastor David Houck. Pastor Dave puts all of his heart, mind and soul into serving our Lord. He listens to the still small voice; then he teaches us from the Word as he delivers the gospel messages God has given to him. "Praise God from whom all blessings flow"...through our pastor.

We are blessed to have a faithful choir who selflessly share their musical talent on Sunday mornings during the months of September through June. God selects our songs, He works through the choir members with the musical arrangements, and He encourages them as they joyfully sing their special music. "Praise God from whom all blessings flow"...through our choir.

We are blessed to have our own "praise band". Bill and Bonnie Morton, Bob Meunier, Marie Whittaker and Pastor Dave make a resounding noise on their percussion instruments to keep our music lively. "Praise God from whom all blessings flow"...through our praise band.

We are blessed to be a part of the ecumenical handbell choir. Led by Ron Lower, the handbell choir stepped beyond their comfort zone to play one song with the Schoharie Valley Band at their winter concert. The 2018 handbell concert in the spring was with the Schoharie Bell Ringers at the Reformed Church. In the winter we played at the Library as part of the entertainment for Miracle on Main Street. "Praise God from whom all blessings flow"...through our members in the ecumenical handbell choir.

We are blessed to have had the opportunity to host the 2018 MCS baccalaureate service. Eight students from St. Mark's were in the graduating class so it was indeed a privilege to have a moment to offer God's blessing on them and to wish them well in the future. "Praise God from whom all blessings flow"...through our support of the MCS graduating class. \*

We are blessed to participate in the annual ecumenical worship service on the MCS lawn in July. Blessing us through music were Kim and Reggie Harris, with the message delivered to us by Matthew Coltrain. He reminded us of the heart his mother, Carol Coltrain, had in service for our God, our community and our county. May we all have this kind of heartfelt love of all people. "Praise God from whom all blessings flow"...through our memory of Pastor Carol Coltrain.

We are blessed to participate in other ecumenical events such as the Seven Stations of the Cross held on Good Friday and Thanksgiving eve service. "Praise God from whom all blessings flow"...through our unity in worship with other churches in our community.

Let us open our hearts, our minds, our voices in praise...."Praise God from whom all blessings flow"!

Blessings,  
Cheryl Cater / Carolyn Wyckoff



## Social Ministries – 2018

"Shout to the Lord all the earth; break out in praise and sing for joy!"

- Psalm 98:4

Our Lord calls us to take care of His people. In 2018, St. Mark's was very active in social ministries. The following items are highlights of the 2018 calendar year.

### Food Pantry

Donations were received from school and community clubs, local churches, Boy Scouts, U.S. Post Office, Hannaford Food Market, Valley Market, and other community friends. As always, our congregation has been generous with non-perishable and monetary donations.

We were blessed with an \$800 grant from the Hunger Prevention Nutrition Assistance Program again this year. Every quarter, \$200 is applied to our account at the Regional Food Bank in Latham. Assistance from these sources and others made it possible to offer nutritious foods and maintain our pantry's supplies. Many thanks are extended to Dennis Foland, Dennis France, Tom Nesbitt and Virgil Cater for their commitment to pick up the food each month.

176 families served

Number of children fed	114
Number of adults fed	227
Number of elderly fed	<u>94</u>
Total number of people fed	435

The holidays are a very special time of year and in 2018 we were able to give away three (3) Thanksgiving baskets through our pantry. The congregation also collected food items for the Joshua Project Thanksgiving baskets so that food could be provided for many local families in need.

Even pets were provided for as dog food was made available through the "Jazzy's Place" grant. Five families received pet food.

### Clothing Closet

Donations made it possible to fulfill the need for clothing, shoes, boots, bedding and small household items. We met some specific needs for customers of the Everything Shoppe and clients of the Department of Social Services and donated clothing to the Schenectady City Mission.

Number of children served	31
Number of adults served	34



Referrals to the food pantry and clothing closet come from our local schools, Headstart, DSS, SCCAP, Catholic Charities, the Joshua Project, RSS, Bassett Outreach and Office for the Aging.

#### Domestics

Seven (7) families received bedding and small household items (mostly kitchen ware).

#### Mitten Tree

Socks, mittens, hats and scarves were given to Schenectady City Mission and the Joshua Project.

#### "Coats for Kids" and Adults

Working with the Joshua Project, St. Mark's hosted a coat, snowpants, boots, hats, mittens and scarf give-away. Thank you to the people who helped.

#### Summer Band Concert Ice Cream Social

A variety of delicious desserts and ice cream were enjoyed by those attending the concert on the MCS high school lawn. Stewart's donated the ice cream and sundae fixings. People really enjoyed our pies and brownie sundaes. Proceeds benefited our food pantry account. Thank you bakers, you make it possible!

#### Christmas Appeal

17 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes were packed with love and delivered to our Samaritan's Purse Relay Center. In addition, Walmart gift cards were sent to Wings as Eagles Ministries to bless the Native American children with gifts. Imagine the joy on the faces of the children who receive Jesus' love through these ministries!

#### Coffee Hour

Delicious refreshments, served after our worship service, are provided by you, the congregation. Ask a friend to co-host with you. What a super time for fellowship!

Thank you to everyone for the generous donations and help with the projects! The Lord needs/wants all of us

#### Our Prayer

"Let us not love merely in theory or in speech but in deed and in truth." 1 John 3:18

Yours in Christ,

Pat McCoy



## ANNUAL PROPERTY 2018

This past calendar year saw a number of completed projects as well as needed repairs or improvements. The most obvious and also the most expensive was the completion of the paving of the parking lot. The success of this project was due in part to the efforts of Richard Whittaker who provided technical knowledge that ensured compliance with code and zoning laws.

Additionally, the lights that were out for a number of months this past year in the back parking lot were fixed. This repair adds to both safety and convenience.

An insurance company inspection revealed some discrepancies that needed immediate attention. Two sets of stairs were without hand rails and needed to be remedied. These were the stairs leading up to the attic and the stairs leading down to the basement. Both sets of stairs were fixed by a church member who volunteered both time and material. There were also some electrical problems in the basement that were in need of repair. These discrepancies were remedied by a licensed electrician.

An on-demand hot water heater was installed that, over time, will save money and will greatly add to the convenience of those that use the facilities.

During November, the first snowfall with its associated freezing temperatures caused an ice accumulation on the north side gutters of the Fellowship Hall resulting in the gutters pulling away from the building. This is normally an easy repair but due to the height involved it would have been a potentially dangerous fix. This problem was remedied by hiring a bucket truck. A new and beautiful Saint Mark's Lutheran Church sign now graces our front lawn. This sign was generously donated by Rev. Zinsman family.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Brigadier".

Jim Brigadier

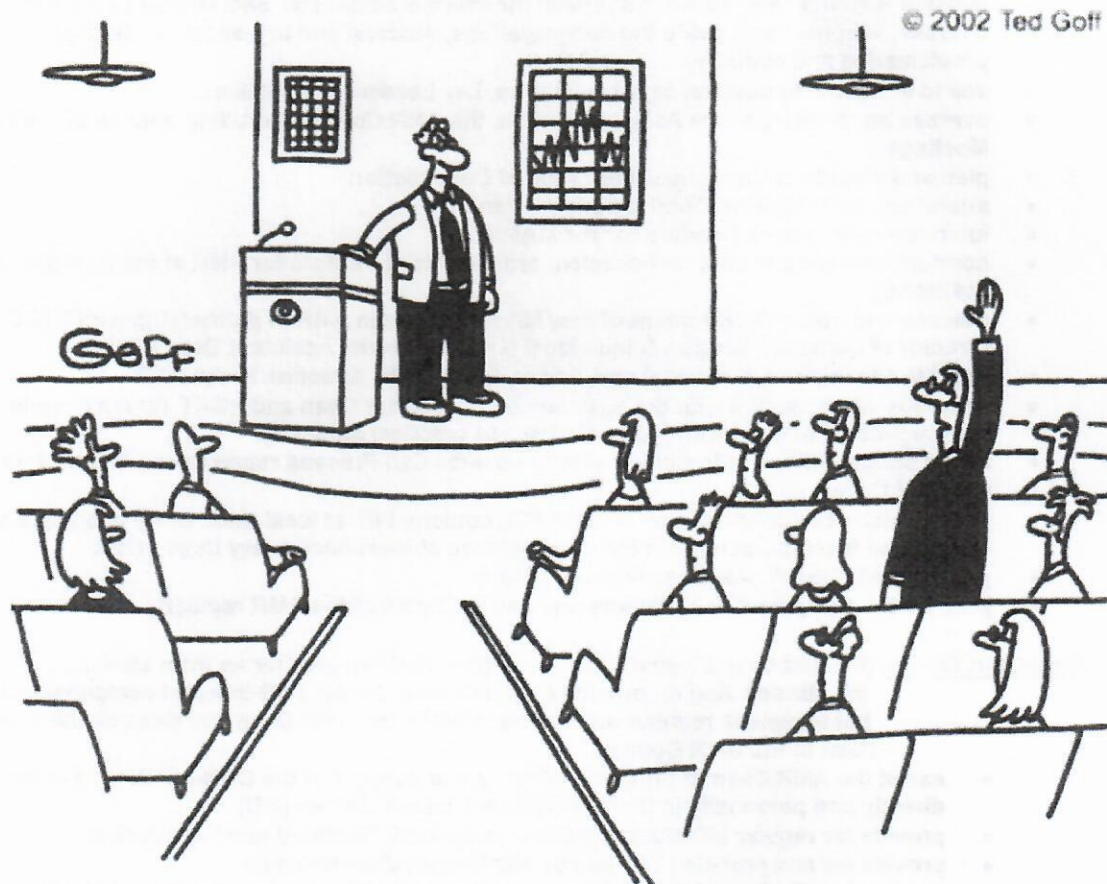


## 2018 Building Usage

We had many events held at St. Mark's fellowship hall this year. Some were rented by donation and some events were held by congregation members. Showers, birthday parties, candle and clothing parties filled our room. We also had one wedding and several memorial services. We were very blessed to have our many monthly groups who used our facility - Schoharie Valley Piecemakers, the Friendship Club, Joshua Project, American Legion, our NET dinners as well as Our Lady of the Valley with their NET dinners. Friar Peter celebrated his year of jubilee as a member of the Franciscan Order. We hosted a Youth Group from Wyckoff Reformed Church, New Jersey for a week while they were serving as counselors at the Christian Camp in Schoharie. On 4th Fridays this past summer/fall our lawn played host to many vendors and in December for Miracle on Main street. Thank you for all your help in keeping the calendar up to date.

Glad to be of service,  
Lisa Bartholomew





**"Could we extend the annual meeting? I still  
have a lot of complaining to do!"**