

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Publisher
Church Mouse

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Upcoming Events

Sun., May 8th – Mother's Day

Wed., May 11th – 5:00 p.m. – Net Dinner -
Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church

Sun., May 15th – 12:00 p.m. – Church Council
Meeting

Wed., May 25th – 5:00 p.m. – Net Dinner at
St. Mark's Church.

Mon., May 30th – Memorial Day

**Movie night – Date TBD – 6:00 p.m. –
additional information will be forthcoming

Future Events

Summer will soon be here and with that comes many activities at both St. Mark's and in the community. Here is a list of a few items of our upcoming events. Please watch for additional information in future newsletters and other communications.

June – Baccalaureate

July – Mortgage Burning Celebration
Ice Cream Social (at band concert)
Ecumenical Worship Service

August – Joint worship service with
Christian Community Church of
Faith

Prayer Chain Requests In April

Family of Charlie Fremgan

Family of Susan Pigott

Family of Pastor De's Brother-in-law, Ron

People of Ukraine

Lindsey McCoy

Hannah Martin

Bob & June Abrams & family

Steve Kulesa

Pray for the body of the church that they
follow only Jesus.

A HAPPY HOME RECIPE

5 spoons of Hope
4 quarts of Faith
2 c. of Love and Loyalty
3 cups of Forgiveness
1 cup of Friendship
2 spoons of Tenderness
1 barrel of Laughter

Take Love, Loyalty, mix it
thoroughly with Faith. Blend it with Ten-
derness, Kindness & Understanding. Bake
with Sunshine and Serve daily with
generous helpings.

Sally Ruffcorn

Thought for the Day:

A healthy Christian is a hungry
Christian feeding on God's Word.

A Year-Round Harvest

I stopped at a local produce vendor yesterday and was in awe of the variety of fresh fruits and vegetables available. I did purchase some beautiful ripe tomatoes and radishes. It made me think about how blessed we are that we can satisfy our cravings year-round with the fruit of the land without having to wait for the growing season to arrive here where we live. The signs advised that all of the produce was grown in the United States. I thought about all of the different growing seasons in the different regions of our country, which like here are dependent on the climate and the weather conditions to get the best yield of product.

With the development of and advances in technology, we are able to grow vegetables in our region year round without being restricted by the weather to a certain calendar designated growing season. One example is the hydroponic greenhouses on the SUNY Cobleskill campus. Another I just learned about, operated by the Schenectady City Mission, are called "freight farms". They are large shipping containers one might see on a tractor trailer, a rail car, or an ocean-going freighter. The City Mission spoke about the lettuce crops they have been producing through the winter months to use in their kitchen as well as selling locally so they may finance more programs at their facility. I can only wonder about what possibilities this could mean for growing other crops inside containers of all types and sizes.

In the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, Jesus tells his followers: Matthew 9:37,38 Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest." The book of Revelation speaks of the Son of Man returning on a cloud and reaping the earth's harvest. Jesus has already stated that no one knows the day or the hour, only God the Heavenly Father. As with anything that is grown or built, it takes laborers to prepare, to nurture, to serve the owner of the field. God is the creator of the heavens and the earth and all that dwell therein. In our lives as servants of the one true God, we are to honor the words of a famous hymn: Let us labor for the Master from the dawn 'til setting sun, let us talk of all His wondrous love and care. Just as in our fields, our greenhouses, or enclosed containers, we must put in the effort to labor for the master in our homes, our workplaces, and at our social gatherings. I am discovering that more and more, the opportunities to serve God and share the Good News of His grace and mercy come to us when and where we may not expect them too. It was after a public meeting when one of the people present, after hearing me speak, asked me where I worship. I spoke of the churches I worship in, and then asked where they worship. This person relayed that they do not regularly attend worship, but has recently felt there was something missing in their life. I was able to share that I know the feeling well. I shared my story of faith experiences from my youth, to seeking out a career and supporting my family, and then finding that I too felt something was missing. I was going through the motions of living without making the time or effort to build on a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. I left that meeting thanking God that I felt that I may have just done some work in God's garden to help one of God's children in their own spiritual growth.

It is written John 4:35 Do you not say, "There are still four months and then comes the harvest? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already ripe for the harvest!" Every opportunity to serve God may not be in the form of someone else asking us. We may need to initiate the conversation in a simple, routine way such as how they are and how life is going for them. Many people will open the door for us with those same words, "I feel there is something missing in my life". The opportunity to share our stories of what the Lord has done for us and how it changed our lives for the better are possible every day, throughout the entire year and through every season. Remember, most of Jesus' best messages were in telling stories of life that people can relate to. Let us make the most of the time we have to "labor for the Lord" while we still can. In the Lord's army He is calling the multitudes, the humble, and the faithful to service.

In God We Trust / Love and Prayers, Pastor Dave

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

NET Dinner

Wednesday, April 27th, St. Mark's hosted their monthly NET dinner. We served some very tasty pancakes, sausage, sausage gravy and egg casseroles to ~40 people. Thank you to all who donated and/or served the food. What a blessing to share fellowship time with our friends and neighbors!



Volunteers Needed

In 2010 our church underwent some major changes, one of which was to become part of NALC. At that time, we adopted the NALC constitution as our own. Now, 12 years later, it is time to review our constitution and if updates are required, propose any modifications as it applies to us today. If you are interested in being on the committee to work on this endeavor, please contact Marie Whittaker.



City Mission Banquet

Each year Schenectady City Mission holds an annual banquet to celebrate with donors what has been happening on their campus and in the community. This year several members of our congregation attended their banquet and were blessed to hear Mike Saccocio, their Executive Director, talk about their new endeavors as well as listen to testimonies from people whose lives were greatly impacted by the Mission through their ministry. May God continue to bless all that City Mission does as they strive to share the light of Christ in the lives of so many people.

Reminder -- Volunteers Needed 200th Anniversary in 2024

We are looking for volunteers to help plan St. Mark's 200th anniversary celebration. This will take much planning, sharing ideas and organizing so if you would like to be a part of this project, please contact Diane France or Georgia VanDyke.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Memorial Day Tribute

They answered their country's call
to arms,
 into battle they did go.
Where their final destination was,
 no one will ever know
May their final resting place,
 under some unknown sod,
Be forever hallowed,
 for it is known only unto God.



Highlights of Holy Week in Pictures



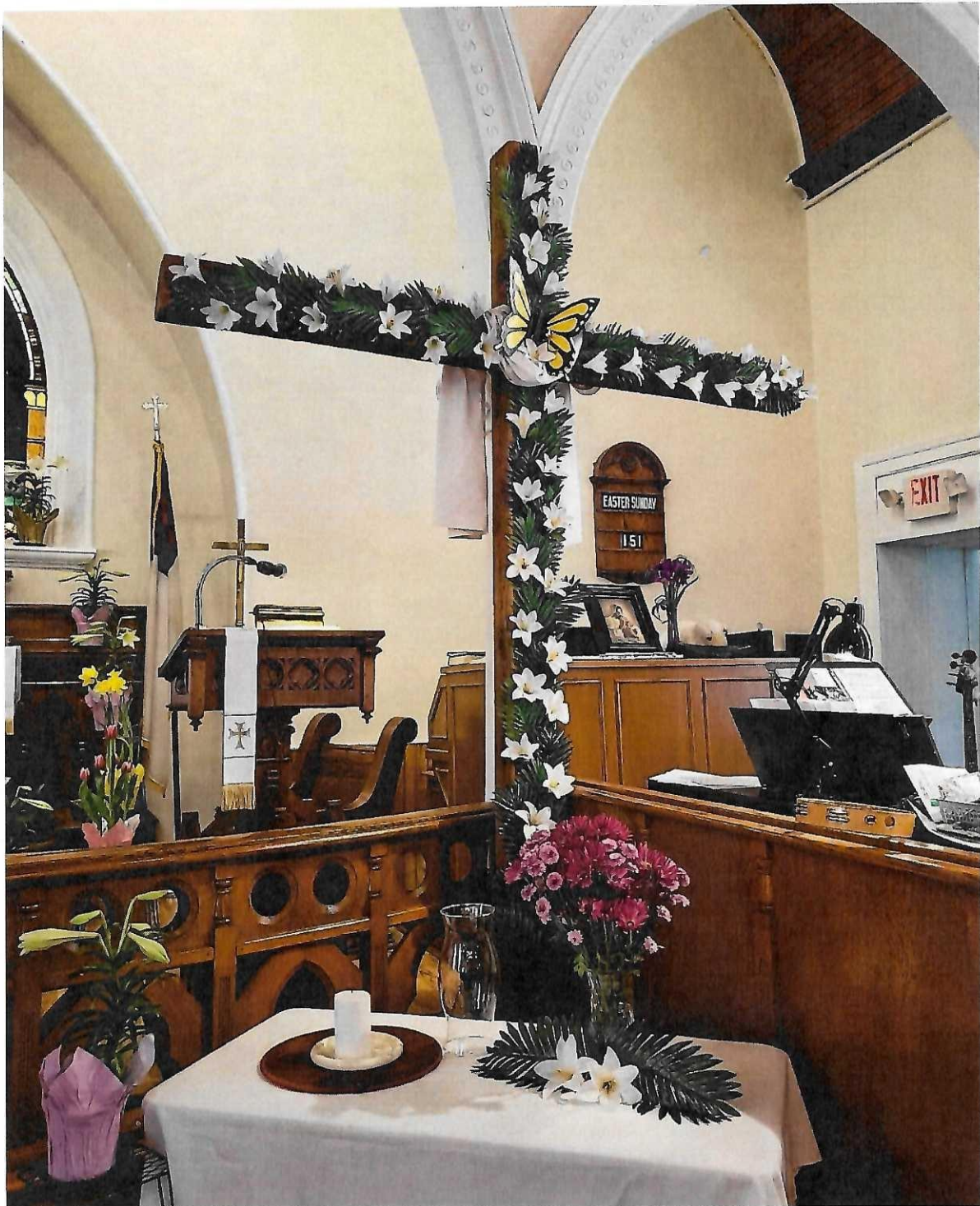
Maundy Thursday

Seder Dinner
at Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church

Sunrise Service

Led by Matt Coltrain



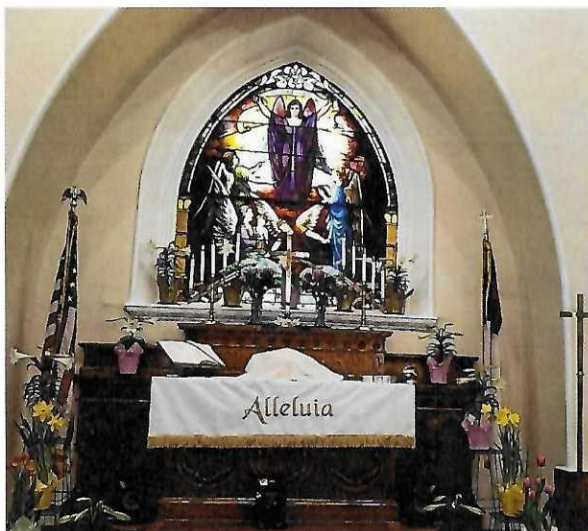


EASTER
Christ Is Risen!

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Thank You!!

God has been so good to us and has blessed us in many ways. Through your generosity the new paraments were purchased and received before Easter. Thank you for helping to make our altar so beautiful on this special day.



Thank you too to all who helped at the chicken bar-be-cue and supported our fundraiser to benefit our steeple project. The chicken was delicious!



New TV for Movie Night

For the past several months, St. Mark's has hosted a movie night when productions from Sight 'n Sound Theater were shown. It quickly became obvious that, just like in a theater, someone who is taller than you or shifts in their seat can obstruct your view. So... thanks to the generosity of a loan granted by a member of our church, we were able to purchase a new, larger TV that has been mounted on the wall in the fellowship hall thus solving that problem. If you would like to make a financial donation toward repayment of the loan, please see Marie Whittaker.

By the way ... please consider joining us for future movie nights. It is fun going to see Christian movies with family and friends (the snacks are good too).



WHY GOD MADE MOMS

Answers given by 2nd grade school children to the following questions:

Why did God make mothers?

1. She's the only one who knows where the scotch tape is.
2. Mostly to clean the house.
3. To help us out of there when we were getting born.

How did God make mothers?

1. He used dirt, just like for the rest of us.
2. Magic plus super powers and a lot of stirring.
3. God made my mom just the same like he made me. He just used bigger parts.

What ingredients are mothers made of?

1. God makes mothers out of clouds and angel hair and everything nice in the world and one dab of mean.
2. They had to get their start from men's bones. Then they mostly use string, I think.

Why did God give you your mother and not some other mom?

1. We're related.
2. God knew she likes me a lot more than other people's mom like me.

What kind of a little girl was your mom?

1. My mom has always been my mom and none of that other stuff.
2. I don't know because I wasn't there, but my guess would be pretty bossy.
3. They say she used to be nice.

What did mom need to know about dad before she married him?

1. His last name.
2. She had to know his background. Like is he a crook? Does he do drugs?
3. Does he make at least \$800 a year? Did he say NO to drugs and YES to chores?

Why did your mom marry your dad?

1. My dad makes the best spaghetti in the world. And my mom eats a lot.
2. She got too old to do anything else with him.
3. My grandma says that mom didn't have her thinking cap on.

Who's the boss at your house?

1. Mom doesn't want to be boss, but she has to because dad's such a goof ball.
2. Mom. You can tell by room inspection. She sees the stuff under the bed.
3. I guess mom is, but only because she has a lot more to do than dad.

What's the difference between moms and dads?

1. Moms work at work and work at home and dads just go to work at work.
2. Moms know how to talk to teachers without scaring them.
3. Dads are taller and stronger, but moms have all the real power cause that's who you got to ask if you want to sleep over at your friends.
4. Moms have magic, they make you feel better without medicine.

What does your mom do in her spare time?

1. Mothers don't do spare time.
2. To hear her tell it, she pays bills all day long.

What would it take to make your mom perfect?

1. On the inside she's already perfect. Outside, I think some kind of plastic surgery.
2. Diet. You know, her hair. I'd diet, maybe blue.

If you could change one thing about your mom, what would it be?

1. She has this weird thing about me keeping my room clean. I'd get rid of that.
2. I'd make my mom smarter. Then she would know it was my sister who did it not me.
3. I would like for her to get rid of those invisible eyes on the back of her head.



St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Servers for May

May 1st:

Reader – Alyssa
Prayer – Ron
Ushers – Tom / Ginny
Counter – Sharon N.

May 8th:

Reader – Ginny
Prayer – Carolyn
Ushers – Denise / Ron
Counter – Diane

May 15th:

Reader – Sandi
Prayer – Georgia
Ushers – Bill / Bonnie
Counter – Carrie

May 22nd:

Reader – Georgia
Prayer – Cheryl
Ushers – Dennis / Diane
Counter – Deb P.

May 29th:

Reader – Nannette
Prayer – Ron
Ushers – Deb R. / Marie
Counter – Sharon

May Birthdays:

Gloria Falcone	May 2
Mary Schaffer	May 8
Dennis France	May 11
Debbie Brigadier	May 13
Sharon Nesbitt	May 22
Ed Johnson	May 24

May Anniversaries:

N/A

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Brenda Varella New Address

In our April newsletter, we wrote about Brenda Varella's move from Middleburgh to Cooperstown. We are happy to report Brenda loves her new home and thanks you for your prayers for a smooth transition. Recently, Brenda was moved to a new location at the Cooperstown Center so here is her new address and her phone number:

Brenda Varella
Room 154
Country Meadows
128 Phoenix Mills Road
Cooperstown, NY 13326

Phone # (607) 544-2886