

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Publisher
Church mouse

Issue Number
90

Date
November 2018

Upcoming Events

Nov. 2 – 5:00 p.m. – Chicken & Biscuit Dinner Fundraiser

Nov. 10 – 9 a.m. - Men's Breakfast

Nov. 12 – 7:00 p.m. - Council Meeting

Nov. 21 – 7:00 p.m. – Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Service at St. Mark's

Nov. 28 – 5:00 p.m. – NET dinner at St. Mark's

Blessing Means:

**B – Begin your day with
L – Love in your heart.
E – Expect blessings.
S – Share goodness.
S – Shine like the sun.
I – Inspire someone.
N – Never forget that
G – God is with you all the time.**

Prayers Concerns

Please lift the following people up in prayer:

Sharon Becker
Bill Reisinger
Lori LaGrange
Lisa Long
Audrey D'Amico's family
Ed Johnson
Pete Rossi
Todd Rossi

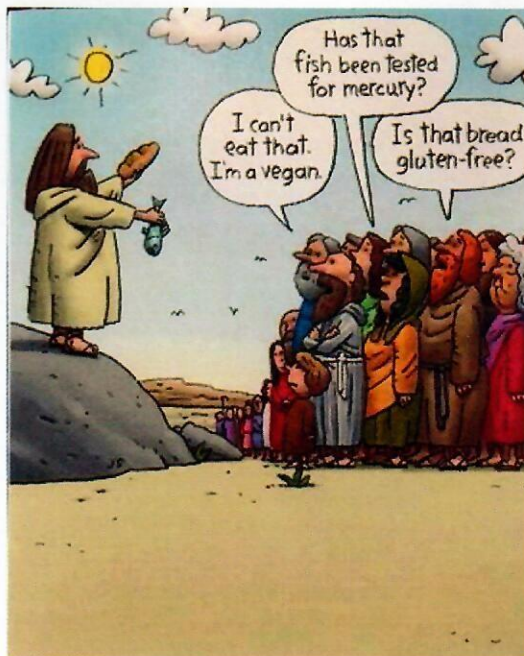
Council Members:

President - Marie Whittaker
Vice President - Chris Cash
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.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Holy Humor



Servers for Nov.

November 4:

Candle Lighter - Lisa
Ushers - Denise / Deb R.
Reader - Nannette
Greeter - Ginny
Prayer - Georgia
Counter - Carrie

November 11:

Candle Lighter - Dylan
Ushers - Dean / Lori
Reader - Debbie P.
Greeter - Harry
Prayer - Chris
Counter - Debbie P.

November 18:

Candle Lighter - Lisa
Ushers - Maurice / Ginny
Reader - Edna
Greeter - Gloria
Prayer - Edna
Counter - Diane

November 25:

Candle Lighter - Dylan
Ushers - Dennis / Pat
Reader - Lori
Greeter - Maurice
Prayer - Beth
Counter - Carrie

Church

The word church is both identifying and descriptive. When capitalized, Church, it is considered to be referring to the body of all believers. Whereas church is relating to the building that Christians, the Church, gather in to worship.

Since it's origin when the followers of Jesus Christ began to form communities they have been considered the Church and worshiped in churches. First in homes, which were known as house churches and are still in practice to this day. It is believed that the first identified church building was in the 3rd century, with a major increase in the number of buildings between the 11th and 14th centuries.

In 2010 the world population was estimated to be 6.9 billion people. That same year research estimates 5.8 billion people have a religious affiliation. The remaining 1.1 billion are classified as either agnostics or atheists. Of those with a religious affiliation, Christianity was the largest that year with an estimated 2.2 billion adherents.

Recently as I was going through some of my files I came across an old newspaper article that I thought was worth sharing. I do not have the date or the name of periodical that it was published in, yet find it very relevant.

Why Go To Church?

A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday.

"I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this... They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!" When you are DOWN to nothing.... God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible!

The Kingsmen recorded a song titled "Excuses". The first line goes-Excuses, excuses, you'll hear them every day. And the Devil he'll supply them, if the church you stay away. Each line of the song provides a variety of excuses, some of which even sound humorous. It is disheartening to wonder if any of them could be true. Humanity was created in the image of God, but that does not make us God, as the first temptation and fall proved. We are not, and can not be, omnipotent, omniscient, or omnipresent. We are a work in progress, growing and developing physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually. Of all of the places we go for nourishment in each of these areas the church is the one that offers the most for the best price (it only costs time) and is utilized the least. This month as we give thanks for the nourishment we receive from our tables, let us strive to get the nourishment we need most, and invite others to come to church for theirs as well. Thank God for our physical AND our spiritual nourishment!

In God We Trust / Love and Prayers, Pastor Dave

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Happy Days !!!!!

Birthdays: November

Nov. 11 – Deb Roberts
Nov. 12 – Karen VanDyke
Nov. 13 – Bonnie Morton
Nov. 14 – Taylor Cater
Nov. 20 – Ryan Whittaker
Nov. 25 – Heather Palmatier
Nov. 28 – Sydney Cater
Nov. 28 – Ron Lower
Nov. 29 – Ethel Cater

Anniversaries: November

Nov. 10 – Ted / Ellen Langenbahn
Nov. 23 – Russ / Barb Elder

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.

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

News from Plymouth

By the time you read this we likely will have had our first frost. The leaves will be in full color. The cranberries will have been harvested. The Atlantic Mission District Convocation will be done and over with and Thanksgiving will be around the corner. My hope is that these notes might encourage you as you struggle to become the church that Christ is calling you to become in these very different, difficult times.

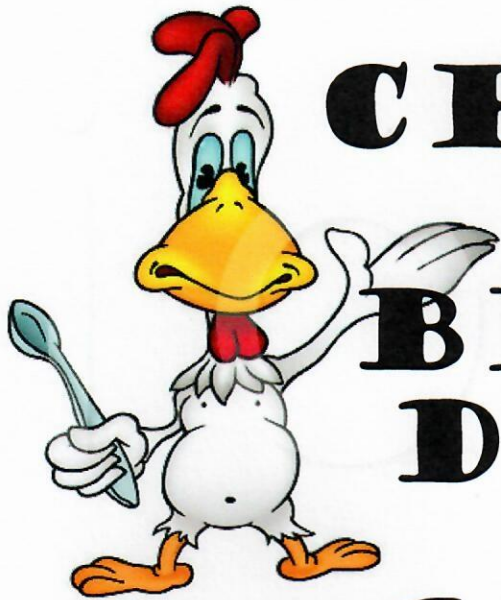
I joined a dozen members of Christ Lutheran Church for a guided tour of the National Monument to the Forefathers. Colleen and I had happened upon this 81 foot tall monument by accident a couple of years ago and found it impressive in size and detail, but the guide told the stories around the monuments conception and creation. As the guide pointed out the symbolism of the monument and connected the meaning to the history of the Pilgrims, I began to see it not just as an enormous pile of granite, but as a story ready to be appreciated by everyone who visits.

Besides the names of the passengers on the Mayflower (half of whom died in the winter months after disembarking at Plymouth) there are two notable inscriptions on the monument. One is from those who erected the monument: "National Monument to the Forefathers erected by a grateful people in remembrance of their labors, sacrifices, and sufferings for the cause of civil and religious liberty." The other is from Governor William Bradford: "Thus out of small beginnings greater things have been produced by his hand that made all things of nothing and gives being to all things that are. . .and as one small candle may light a thousand, so the light here kindled hath shone unto many, year in some sort to our whole nation. Let the glorious name of Jehovah have all the praise."

The visit to the monument was organized by a member of Christ Lutheran Church. It was one small step in the direction of a different way of being church. A comfort dog ministry to lonely, grieving, hurting members of the community is another small but consequential step toward being church in the midst of 21st century social realities. Laity being mentored to lead worship and visit with the guidance of a part-time pastor is yet another different and even scary step in the direction God seems to be calling them to be His church now.

The Pilgrims survived because of their faith in Christ and their determination to adapt to their surroundings, bequeathing on us "civil and religious liberty." I believe we - the people of Christ Lutheran Church and the people of St. Mark's Lutheran Church - will also survive because of our faith in Christ and our determination to adapt to our surroundings for His glory, so that "our one small candle may light a thousand."

Your brother in Christ, Gregory



CHICKEN AND BISCUIT DINNER

St. Mark's
Lutheran Church
Middleburgh, NY

Friday, November 2, 2018

5:00 PM to 6:30 PM

Prices

Adult - \$10.00

Children - Age 5 To 12 - \$6.00

Age 4 and younger - Free



As in the past, we would like to bless children throughout the world through Operation Christmas Child's shoebox project. Shoeboxes are available at St. Mark's so please stop by to pick up one to fill and return to St. Mark's no later than Sunday, November 4th.



We would also like to bless the Native American children of the Wings As Eagles Ministries through the purchase of Walmart gift cards. Cards may be purchased in any monetary denomination. Please place them in the special box located at St. Mark's sanctuary no later than Sunday, December 2nd.



JOSHUA PROJECT – THANKSGIVING BASKETS

Dear Congregation,

We have been blessed with a beautiful autumn, a bountiful harvest, and continued participation with our wonderful rural neighbors. The time has come to start planning the non-perishable food drive for Thanksgiving meal baskets which are provided through The Joshua Project and delivered to appreciative families in our area.

Our food campaign will begin in October and we are asking congregations to collect items such as: juice, canned green beans, corn, peas, sweet potatoes, instant potatoes, cranberry sauce, apple sauce, turkey gravy (jars or packets), boxes of Stove Top Stuffing. Turkeys are provided through another source. **Please leave your donations on the table in front of the pulpit in church by no later than Sunday, November 11th. They will be assembling the baskets at St. Mark's on Saturday, Nov. 17th at 10:00 and would appreciate any help in putting the baskets together and in delivering them.**

We thank you for your support, participation, and love of our community. The Thanksgiving baskets will be delivered to families before Thanksgiving. With your help, the Joshua Project continues to spread love and good cheer in Middleburgh and throughout the county.

In His Service,
The Joshua Project

Messiah 2018



Rehearsals: Sunday evenings 7:00 – 8:30pm beginning November 11, 2018

Location: Zion Lutheran Church, 615 Main Street, Cobleskill, NY

Directed by: Mark Pracher

Dress Rehearsal: Saturday 10am – 1:00pm December 15, 2018; Zion Lutheran Church

Concert Date: Sunday December 16, 2018 @4:00pm: Zion Lutheran Church

Contact: Questions? Call Mark Pracher 518-669-4226

All area singers are invited to join the Community Christmas Chorus in the singing of Handel's "Messiah". Spread the word, bring a friend, no experience necessary...only a love of music and good company!!

***I am looking forward to getting back together with everyone for this wonderful event. – Mark Pracher**