

# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Publisher  
Church mouse

Issue Number  
88

Date  
September 2018

## Upcoming Events

**Sept. 8 – 9 a.m. - Men's  
Breakfast**

**Sept. 9 – 9:15 a.m. – Adult  
Sunday School Resumes**

**Sept. 10 – 6:00 p.m. – Handbell  
Rehearsals Resume each  
Monday**

**Sept. 10 – 7:00 p.m. - Council  
Meeting**

**Sept. 12 – 6:00 p.m. – Choir  
Rehearsals Resume each  
Wednesday**

**Sept. 23 – 10:30 a.m. – New Sign  
Dedication Service**

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In 2011 Hurricane Irene washed away the sign located in the front of the church. A new sign is being gifted to St. Mark's and is being dedicated in loving memory of Pastor George P. Zinsman by his family. Pastor Zinsman was our spiritual leader from 1962 to 1967. Sadly, at the age of 36, God called him home during a congregational meeting. The new sign has been donated by the Zinsman family and Cherry Valley Memorials.

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## Prayers Concerns

Please lift the following people up in prayer:

Jane Ryan  
Chet Gillespie  
Jim Marquit  
Family of Jill  
Family of Jay Gurber  
Family of Nettie Irving Spencer  
Family of Stanley Fancher, Sr.  
Tamara Guerrero  
Izarius

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**We all say Good Morning to Others.  
Do you know the new meaning of  
"GOOD MORNING"?**

**G** Get up.  
**O** Open your heart.  
**O** Open your mind.  
**D** Dedicate your day to God.

**M** Meditate on God's Word.  
**O** Optimize your faith & hope.  
**R** Rebuke all evils.  
**N** Never doubt God's love.  
**I** Inspire someone.  
**N** Nothing should scare you.  
**G** Go out with joy.

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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

## Happy Days !!!!!

### **Birthdays: September**

Sept 8 – Noelle Bywater  
Sept 10 – Leonard Cater  
Sept 13 – Pat McCoy  
Sept 13 – Tamara Guerrero  
Sept 15 – Robin Gordon  
Sept 17 – Beth Cash  
Sept 18 – Mason Palmatier  
Sept 19 – Marie Whittaker  
Sept 25 – Cody Martin  
Sept 28 – Sharon Amendola

### **Anniversaries: September**

Sept 10 – Leonard / Marie Cater  
Sept 11 – Maurice / Karen  
VanDyke  
Sept 17 – Niles / Pat McCoy  
Sept 20 – Bill / Vanessa Gordon  
Sept 23 – Jim / Deb Brigadier  
Sept 24 – Richard / Marie  
Whittaker

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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.

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**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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### **Operation Christmas Child**

Time passes so quickly and it is difficult to believe that Operation Christmas Child collection week is only about three and a half months away. If you have not already done so, now is the time to purchase school supplies for the shoeboxes you will pack. Providing a few basic items such as paper, pencils, a pencil sharpener, and crayons may give a child what he or she needs to attend classes. Please remember to include hygiene items such as a bar of soap, washcloth, comb, and toothbrushes as well as clothing items and small toys such as a ball, stuffed animal, jump rope, doll, cars, etc. Toys are something that many parents are unable to afford, and what child doesn't like to play with toys?



## Righteousness

What does it mean to be righteous? The definition is "acting in accord with divine or moral law; free from guilt or sin". In Paul's letter to the Romans, he wrote, "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God". Can anyone be righteous then? In the New King James translation of the scriptures, righteousness is found 304 times. It is often seen in conjunction with the word judgment. It seems that more and more in our world it is found tied with the word "self".

In the Bible, "righteous" is only used to describe God and Jesus the Christ. We are told in 1 Kings 3:6 that David *walked before the Lord in truth, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart*. In Romans 4:3, Galatians 3:6, and James 2:23, it is written that "*Abraham believed God and it was accounted to him for righteousness*".

Is it then that when we believe God, trust God, live in faith and walk by faith, it will be accounted to us for righteousness? We know that we can never free ourselves from guilt or sin. That the temptations today are no different than they have been throughout time. Jesus resisted all of the same temptations by responding with the *Word*, and encourages us to do the same, to follow Him. From the Gospel of John 8:31-36 "*Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, 'If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.'* Jesus answered them, '*Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. Therefore, if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.*'

There we have it. We can either be a slave to sin or a servant to the Lord. That we must believe, truly believe, in God and His precepts and commandments. Accept Jesus Christ's sacrifice as the atonement for our sin, abide in His will and act according to His law. Then we will be learning what righteousness is all about. When self-righteousness loses its hold and walking in righteousness becomes the norm, true healing and miracles will be the norm.

We know that David and Abraham were not flawless. We know that they continually trusted and obeyed God, inspite of the times they trusted in their own wisdom and understanding.

We are living in the continual presence of sin and have been given the ability to resist sin, resist evil in whatever forms it presents itself by striving to live righteously, to act and live in accord with divine law, to trust and obey where God leads us and to respond to Jesus' words wooing us to "follow me".

I have defended my self-righteousness through politically correct jargon that the culture has taught me to use. To feel at ease with the times, I relied on my own wisdom and understanding. May I, may we, like David, Abraham, and many others before us, strive to trust and obey God inspite of ourselves and our desires. May we learn to live to seek "God's kingdom and His righteousness" above all else. AMEN.

In God We Trust / Love and Prayers, Pastor Dave



Dear Members of St. Mark's,

We at St. Mark's have so much to be thankful for as God keeps blessing us through answered prayer. A Call Committee was organized and, after seeking God's will for a new spiritual leader, recommended to the congregation we hire Pastor David Houck to fill the position. On July 28, 2018, a congregational meeting was held and Pastor Dave was unanimously accepted as our new pastor. We are so blessed to have a true man of God, who loves and serves the Lord with all his heart. As a devoted servant of God's, Pastor Dave brings us messages that are divinely inspired.

Pastor Dave is also the pastor of Christian Community Church in Richmondville as well as a dispatcher for Schoharie County.

REMEMBER....we, the congregation, need to continue to be the hands and feet of Christ as we support Pastor Dave.

In Christ,

Marie Whittaker  
Council President



## Special Veterans Project Need Your Help by September 28th

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 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.





# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

## Holy Humor



"Don't worry — we'll be found. My pledge to the church comes due this week."

© 1995 Cartoons by Johns

## Servers for Sept.

### September 2:

Candle Lighter - Lisa  
Ushers - Pat / Dennis Foland  
Reader - Georgia  
Greeter - Pat  
Prayer - Ginny  
Counter - Carrie

### September 9:

Candle Lighter - Dylan  
Ushers - Deb P / Marie  
Reader - Lori  
Greeter - Janet  
Prayer - Chris  
Counter - Deb P

### September 16:

Candle Lighter - Lisa  
Ushers - Denise / Chris  
Reader - Marie  
Greeter - Ginny  
Prayer - Georgia  
Counter - Diane

### September 23:

Candle Lighter - Dylan  
Ushers - Dean / Lori  
Reader - Deb P  
Greeter - Deb P  
Prayer - Beth  
Counter - Carrie

### September 30:

Candle Lighter - Lisa  
Ushers - Tom / Sharon  
Reader - Jim B  
Greeter - Harry  
Prayer - Jim B  
Counter - Deb P