

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Publisher
Church mouse

Volume Number
2013

Issue Number
30

Date
November 2013

From Pastor Rodney

See Pastor's report.

E-mail: Pastorrodney@midtel.net

Pastor now has office hours Tuesday through Friday from 9-1. Please call ahead in case he had to leave.

New website

Our new webpage is up and running. Check it out. It is awesome! Thank you Angela. The address is www.stmarkslutheranmiddleburgh.com

Operation Christmas Child

Boxes are now available !
Please see Pat McCoy.

Looking for new members!

If you would like to become a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church please speak with Pastor Rodney.

Prayers Concerns

Please lift the following people up in prayer:

Dee and Mike
Dean Roney's uncles
Marie's sister Ruth
Vanessa Gordon's Dad
Kevin and Claude Ray
Inger
DeBartolo family

Upcoming Events

**November 12 - Council meeting
6 PM**

CPR/AED/First Aid Class:

If interested in taking this class please sign up in the hallway by the music room. Date to be determined soon.

Praying Faithfully

Luke 18:9-14

What is one of the most important practices to Christian life and discipleship? Prayer.

Martin Luther King, Jr., said, "To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing." Prayer has sustained us, shaped us, formed us and led us to this point. God, in Christ through the Holy Spirit, is connected to us in relationship through prayer.

But, how and what we pray reveals a significant amount about our relationship to God and others. For some, prayer is about bringing our list of needs a.k.a. wants to God. C.S. Lewis, said, "prayer is not for the purpose of changing God, but rather for changing us." Prayer brings us closer to God and one another, a means of restoring the image of God in us. In the gospel of Luke 18: 9-14 the key activity of the two characters, a Pharisee and a tax collector, is prayer.

The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed: "God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of my income." Was his prayer answered? Yes. What did the Pharisee ask of God? Nothing. Upon whom did the Pharisee rely for his identity and salvation? Himself. Who sustained the Pharisee in his life and vocation? Himself. So, then, what was his purpose in going to the Temple and uttering his reflections to God? Whatever his purpose, it did not seem to include an openness to being formed in God's image in relationship to God and neighbor.

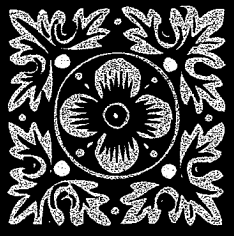
"But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!'" Was the tax collector's prayer answered? Yes. And for what did he pray? Mercy. The tax collector petitioned God for mercy. While aware of his sinfulness, the tax collector understood or at least hoped for understanding of the vastness of God's mercy and came humbly to the Temple to seek God's grace. Did he think he could save himself on his own strength or good works? No. He saw the possibility of drawing closer to God.

Note that the Pharisee and the tax collector pray at a distance from one another, in part because of the politics of the community, in part perhaps because of their perception of self. The Pharisee prays standing by himself in a section worthy of his role but, perhaps, also because of his contempt for others. The tax collector prays standing far off, again in a space considered deserving of his role, but also possibly because of contempt for himself.

Whether we distance ourselves from God and one another because of an abundance of self, or whether we are distanced from God and God's creation because of lack of self, our purpose, is proximity to and relationship with God, neighbors and creation. It is interesting that the Pharisee pursued the very practices fasting, tithing and prayer that cultivate relationship with God through Jesus Christ, yet he did not allow the Holy Spirit through these practices to form his identity and bring him into a closer

relationship with God. Wherever we are on our journey, it is God's love for all creation -- and our responding to that love -- that sustains our vocation, identity and purpose. Let us be faithful in prayer, and pray to God and not to ourselves. Let us pray for our brothers and sisters, those who have fallen away from the fold that God will bring them back into his vineyard. God's reign is realized through the prayers of the humble as we grow together in knowledge of God, receiving God's mercy in Jesus Christ, serving one's neighbor in the strength of the Holy Spirit and sharing God's love and mercy with the world.

Rev. Ryan Rodney



St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Paint Fund:

Donations to date:	\$684.50
Expenses to date:	\$549.40
Balance	\$135.10

Upcoming Youth Events:

Dec 13 - Fundraiser @ Miracle on Main Street 6 PM - ??

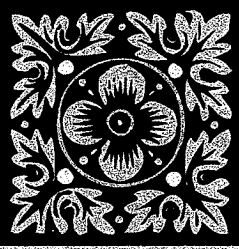
Dec 14 - Christmas party 6:30 - 8:00

See flyers in the hallway for more details and sign up for 2014 activities.

Thank you to all that helped to make our "anything apple" bake sale a huge success! We raised \$150.00 to use for the youth.

Thank you!!!!

Thanks to everyone that helped to make our chicken and biscuit dinner a huge success! We raised \$1142.00. The food was absolutely delicious! Praise the Lord!



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Committees:

Christian Education/Youth:

7 youth and 5 adults traveled to Terrace Mountain Orchards to pick apples for our 'anything apple' bake sale on October 12. Thanks to all that baked goodies for our fundraiser. We raised \$150.00

Property:

Work continues on painting the sanctuary. Thanks to all that donated towards the paint or helped to do the painting. It's looking real good!

Servers for Nov

November 3:

Acolyte - Mary/Gabby
Ushers - Dean/Lori
Reader - John Cronin
Greeter - Janet
Prayer - Chris
Counter - Deb

November 10:

Acolyte - Breanna/Vivian
Ushers - Jeremy/Kobe
Reader - Nanette
Greeter - Jessica
Prayer - Gene
Counter - Diane

November 17:

Acolyte - Jenna/Hannah
Ushers - Austin/Cody
Reader - Ethel
Greeter - Deb
Prayer - Beth
Counter - Deb

November 24:

Acolyte - Logan/Marilyn
Ushers - Beth/Chris
Reader - Sharon N.
Greeter - Harry
Prayer - Georgia
Counter - Diane



St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Happy Days !!!!!

Birthdays: November

Nov 8 - Vivian Hanley
Nov 12 - Karen Van Dyke
Nov 13 - Bonnie Morton and
Jenna Warner
Nov 14 - Taylor Cater
Nov 20 - Ryan Whittaker
Nov 24 - Olivia Grapes
Nov 25 - Heather Palmatier
Nov 26 - Aaron Wilsey
Nov 28 - Michelle Nespica, Sydney
Cater and Ron Lower
Nov 29 - Ethel Cater

Anniversaries: November

Nov 10 - Ellen and Ted
Langenbahn
Nov 12 - Willard and Freya Karsch
Nov 25 - Toni and Dave Burnette

CREATIVE WOMEN'S MINISTRY MEETING

Now that summer has passed, our Creative Women's Ministry has resumed their meetings. The first Fall meeting was held on Friday, September 27, in St. Mark's Fellowship Hall with five lovely ladies in attendance.

God has led us to a new and exciting ministry – visitations at Sharon Manor, Marchon Manor and Van Aller's assisted living facility as well as calling on ladies in our congregation. While on these visits, we would like to pray with them, sing, bring small gifts, play board games and talk with them. We look forward to serving God by sharing the fellowship with other women.

If anyone is interested in participating in the visitation program, please feel free to contact Georgia VanDyke.

Just as a reminder, this ministry is open to all women who have willing hearts to serve our Lord. The meetings are scheduled for the fourth Friday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at St. Mark's. All women are welcome!