



# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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## From Pastor Rodney

See Pastor's report.

E-mail: [Pastorrodney@midtel.net](mailto: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](http://www.stmarkslutheranmiddleburgh.com)

## Operation Christmas Child

Boxes should be available soon!

## 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  
Clapper family  
Inger  
Colleen Quirion  
Marcus

## Upcoming Events

Oct 2 - NET dinner @Reformed Church 5 PM

Oct 5 - Youth apple picking 1 PM

Oct 5 - Chicken and biscuit dinner 4 PM

Oct 8 - Council meeting 6 PM

Oct 12 - Youth bake sale at Harvest Festival 9 - ??

Oct 13 - Reception of new members

Oct 18 - Men's group 6 PM

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### 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.





# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

## Committees:

### Christian Education/Youth:

Sunday School and Confirmation classes began on September 15. Pat McCoy has graciously accepted the position of Sunday School leader.

September 15 after the worship service we dedicated the new youth room. What a blessing this room will be for the youth and the after school children. Thank you to everyone that helped in any way to make this a success! If you did not get a chance to see it please ask for a tour.

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#### Finances:

Benevolence for Aug \$583.50

NALC 1284.25

Wings as Eagles 1764.25

#### Checking accounts:

Income for Aug 35111.49

Expenses for Aug 36340.90

Over/under (\$1229.41)

#### Vision mortgages:

Receipts for Aug 1735.00

Mortgage payments 11046.00

Over/under (\$311.00)

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## Servers for Oct

### October 6:

Acolyte - Marilyn/Brianna

Ushers - Marie/John C.

Reader - Georgia

Greeter - Deb P.

Prayer - Gene

Counter - Deb

### October 13:

Acolyte - Logan/Kenny

Ushers - Tom/Sharon

Reader - Ginny

Greeter - Harry

Prayer - Beth

Counter - Diane

### October 20:

Acolyte - Morgan/Mary

Ushers - Dean/Lori

Reader - Marie

Greeter - Maurice

Prayer - Georgia

Counter - Deb

### October 27:

Acolyte - Kaleb

Ushers - Harry/Sharon

Reader - Ted L.

Greeter - Pat

Prayer - Ginny

Counter - Diane





# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

## Confirmation Class:

The confirmation class will be volunteering at the Empty Bowl soup project in Cobleskill on Sunday November 17. We will be leaving right after the worship service and will eat lunch when we get there and then help to serve soup and clean up. This will take the place of the regular confirmation class that day as Pastor will be away and all confirmands are expected to participate! Any questions see Pastor.

### ***"Anything Apple Bake Sale"*** at Fall Harvest Festival

Saturday, October 12, 2013  
9:00 a.m. – sold out

#### Fundraiser for the youth group

If you would like to bake some goodies, check the kitchen to see if there are apples left on October 6<sup>th</sup>. Goodies can be dropped off at church, October 12, at 8:30 a.m.

## Upcoming Youth Events:

Oct 5 - Apple picking 1 PM  
Oct 12 - Fundraiser @ Fall Festival  
9 AM - sold out  
Nov 2 - Paint bowls 6-8 PM  
Nov 17 - Serve soup - leave after worship service  
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 .

Thank you to all that helped to make our bake sale a huge success! We raised \$405.00 to use for the youth.

Those youth that are scheduled to volunteer for the Harvest Bake Sale are Jenna, Hannah and Kobe. Please be at church at 8:30 that morning to help get ready. The youth will be given a bag of apples to take home on October 6th to bake something "apple" for our fundraiser. If you would like to help us please check the kitchen for apples to take and bake.

If you would like to paint bowls again this year please be sure and sign up in the hallway so we know how many bowls to order. **Last day to sign up is October 20.** Any adults that wish to join us please sign up too.





# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

## Happy Days !!!!!

### **Birthdays: October**

October 1 - Chris Cash  
October 2 - Dave Burnette  
October 6 - Michelle Amendola  
October 9 - Debbi Hagadorn  
October 11 - Debbie Arnwine  
October 12 - Kathy Kauffman  
October 18 - Jessica Gordon and  
Lori Roney  
October 20 - John Palmatier  
October 26 - John Cronin and  
Willard Karsch  
October 27 - Nicholas Roney and  
Allen Turner  
October 28 - Mary Bowman

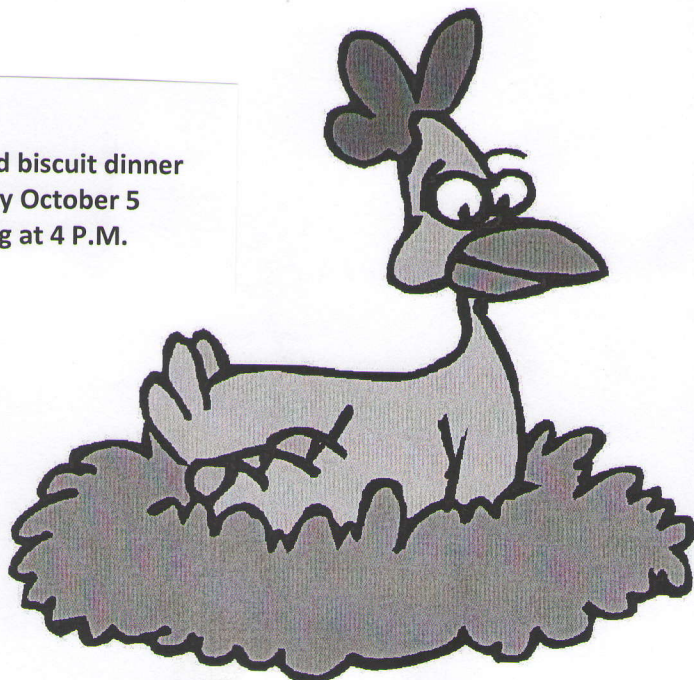
### **Anniversaries: October**

October 4 - Todd and Lisa  
Bartholomew  
October 7 - Joe and Gloria Falcone  
October 9 - Virginia and Harold  
Peterson  
October 15 - John and Lori Warner  
October 25 - Denise and Terry  
Minton

Happy 65<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary to  
Harold and Virginia  
Peterson! May you  
be blessed on this  
special day!

Join us on October 13 as we  
welcome several new members  
to our congregation during the  
worship service along with the  
baptism of Theresa Crapser.

Chicken and biscuit dinner  
Saturday October 5  
Starting at 4 P.M.





"Do You Really Want To Be Changed?"

John 5:1-9, 14

Sir Isaac Newton's "First Law of Motion" states "Everything continues in a state of rest unless it is compelled to change by forces impressed upon it!" I think we all recognize within ourselves the need for change. Yet we also recognized that the change we need is often hard to achieve.

There is a very important story about change recorded in the fifth chapter of the Gospel of John; Jesus has gone up from Cana of Galilee to Jerusalem to celebrate one of the great religious feasts. It is worthy to note that Jesus, as the Lamb of God would take away the sins of the world, would enter the city through the Sheep Gate, the entrance to the city through which the sheep for temple sacrifices were brought.

Once inside the city, he comes to the pool of Bethesda. Lying all around the pool are sick and paralyzed people. They are there because there is a legend that an angel would on occasion come and stir up the waters of the pool, and the first one to enter the pool after the angel stirred the water would be healed. It was of course merely a superstition, but it was the last hope for many of these people.

Jesus moves into the midst of such a group but Jesus does not heal everyone at that the pool randomly that day. As He moved among the blind and the lame, he is drawn to one particular man who had been sick for 38 years. The Bible does not say the nature of his disease other than it rendered him unable to walk, nor why among so many Jesus chose this man to heal. But from a careful study of this man and his condition we learn a lot about ourselves! As we dive deeper into this story, I want you to note three things with me this morning.

First, We Must Decide If we want to be changed? (v. 6)

"When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" This seems a strange question to ask a man who had been sick for nearly forty years. "Do you want to be made well?" But Jesus never asked a foolish question in his life, therefore it was important for this man to answer at least to himself the question, "Do I really want to be changed." He was asking a very serious question because it is entirely possible that he does not "really" want to be changed. In the past thirty-eight years this man had been a beggar who lived by the pity of others; if he is healed he would lose all of this. In the Middle East in Bible times and some places even today – a person who was healed would lose a good living. There are many places in the third world today, where parents are guilty of crippling their own children so that they can earn a living by begging.

To be healed meant to enter in a completely new life, one with wonderful possibilities, but also with certain amount of risks. After 38 years he had accepted his condition. He was content now to scratch out his pathetic existence by begging. Being paralyzed was a help, because people felt sorry for him. Now

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that he has been healed he will have to work and take on the full responsibilities of life, and perhaps he is concerned.

The fact is that some people will go to extraordinary lengths to avoid unwelcome changes in their lives. I see in this man many people in our own day. Their lives are sick. They are paralyzed in heart and mind. Their lives are dysfunctional, but they have never considered that God might have something for them and he can change their reality. They have learned to live like this. They don't even know there is something more to life. They have become satisfied with just existing rather than living. They are not seeking God or calling out to him. It is as though they are sick and are not aware of it, or if they are aware of it, it seems normal to them.

We see this even in the life of the church, we have seen people attend church. They are respectful and seemingly excited about what they are hearing. They are not saved, but they listen to the Gospel. But there comes a time, when they realize they do not really want to be changed and they leave.

Even after we are saved, we continue to be confronted by issues in our lives that need to be changed, like bitterness, unresolved conflicts and things that have lie hidden within us for years. The question is, "Do we really want to change?" So the question that Jesus asked the paralyzed man, that seemed unnecessary even ridiculous, was relevant for him and it still is relevant for us!

We Not Only Must Decide If We Want To Change but ...

Secondly, We Must Decide Not To  
Continue Making Excuses. (v. 7)

"The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me."

Notice that he did not answer Jesus' question. He does not say that he wants to be well. He dismisses Jesus' question and merely complains about his condition. The lame man did not answer Jesus' question directly but rather said, that he had no one to place him in the pool when it was disturbed.

He tells how unfortunate he is. He lists his troubles. To be sure, he has plenty to complain about. But he whines about life instead of answering Jesus' question about whether he really wants to be well. In today's language we would say that he sees himself as a victim.

So how can you tell if you or someone you know is a "victim"?

- Victims endlessly repeat how they have been mistreated.
- Victims live by the childish notion that life should always be fair.
- Victims find it difficult to forgive others because they see forgiveness is weakness.
- Victims have difficulty maintaining close relationships because they have difficulty trusting other people.

•The cry of the perpetual victim is, "It's not my fault!" If we are unwilling to accept responsibility for our lives then it has to be my parents, or my spouse or society, anybody's faults but my own!

Dr. William Glasser is founder of "Reality Therapy," and during one of his seminars his talk had one main theme; "Healthy people do not make excuses. He used as an example the tendency people have to make excuses when they are late for an appointment. They will say traffic was heavy, they got a last-second phone call, and a crisis came up at the office and so on. Dr. Glasser argued that those kinds of excuses cover up the real issue.

It is only when we stop making excuses that we discover that we have the power to be on time. It is only when we stop making excuses that we would discover that it is possible to be in church every Sunday. There would be nothing that will be able to keep us from God and the commitment we made to be in His house each week.

There are several things we should note

- 1)We make more excuses than we would like to admit.
- 2)It is possible to break the pattern of making excuses.
- 3)Change is never possible until we admit that we have a problem.

Not Only Must We Decide Not To Continue Making Excuses but...

Third, We Must Decide Whether We Are Ready To Act (vv. 8-9)

"Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." (9) And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. In his words "to take up his bed" the Lord is telling him and all those who truly want to change something very important; do not make any provision to go back. Many people fail right here. Burn your bridges. Cut off any possibility of going back. Your parents have me the decision to bring you up in the house of the Lord on your baptism and you confirmed that on your day of Confirmation. SO there should be no turning back or turning away from the house of the Lord. Nothing should be able to separate us from the Love of God and the House of God.

Are you ready to be changed? You can be if you truly want to be.

- We Must Decide If We Want To Be Changed?
- We Must Decide Not To Continue Making Excuses.
- We Must Decide Whether We Are Ready To Act.

"Do You Really Want To Be Changed?" The answer should be yes, let us launch out and trust God and pick up our mat and be healed. Amen.