



St. Mark's Lutheran Church

ReMarks and ReMinders

SEPTEMBER 25, 2020

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### PHOTOS

If you haven't already done so, we are looking for photos of Fall. Do you have any Fall decorations up yet? Any Fall blooming plants? What about changing leaves? If you send a photo today, it could still be in this week's recordings. Just upload it to: <https://tinyurl.com/StMarksPhotos>

### SPEAKING OF PHOTOS

These photos are of members of Girl Scout Troop # 71879 celebrating the International Day of Peace. They made Pinwheels for Peace and placed them in our church yard and also at The Open Link bringing a message of peace to our community. The troop meets here at St. Mark's, led by Connie Taglieber. Even with the limitations during this time, they find ways to be actively involved and committed to serving our community.





## HISTORY OF THE BELL

Narona Gebert sent this history of our church bell to share with you:

### THE CHURCH BELL AT ST. MARK'S

The name of Clayton Fryer of East Greenville was well known in the local towns, not only for his work as an undertaker, but his talent in building churches. Fryer built the Chapel in East Greenville; the present church at St. Paul's in Red Hill, built in 1892; and the Jerusalem Church in Schwenksville.

Although the parishioners of St. Mark's leaned on their choice, Clayton Fryer, to build the new St. Mark's Church, the building committee chose to engage G. T. Guthrie of Downingtown, Chester Co. who gave the lowest bid. However, it only provided for walls, roof, a tower and one floor. Therefore, the committee was responsible for the excavation of the foundation.

On May 14, 1901, Clayton Fryer was given the contract to complete the bell tower at St. Marks.

The following article appeared in the Town and Country issue of May 10, 1902 as follows:

#### Purchased Bell for St. Mark's Luth. Church

The church council and a committee of the Ladies Aid Society of the St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Pennsburg on Wednesday purchased a bell which will be placed in the belfry of their handsome edifice. The bell was purchased from the well-known Meneely Bell Foundry at West Troy, New York, which was represented by a Mr. Lotz. The bell weighs 2050 pounds by itself, held with mountings about 3100 pounds. It will be shipped to this place in about one month and the prospects are that it will be dedicated some time in June.

Rev. Henry M. Kistler noted in his 1955 history of St. Mark's that the bell was purchased for \$475 and as noted on the bell, "Through the efforts of the Ladies Aid Society."

#### RULES FOR TOLLING THE BELL (Drawn up Aug. 12, 1902)

Ring the bell every Saturday evening when there is a church service on Sunday.

Ring the bell during the daytime and in the morning when church service is held in the forenoon and in the evening.

Ring the bell one hour before church service in the evening.

Ring the bell two hours before morning church service and always at the church service.

#### RULES FOR TOLLING THE BELL FOR FUNERALS

1. Ring the bell in the evening before funeral service that is held the next day.

2. Ring the bell in the morning of the funeral service. It is also to be rung when the funeral takes place at the residence of the deceased and shall again be tolled when the funeral arrives near the church. Anyone who wants the bell tolled for a funeral must notify the bell ringer of the deceased's name, age, and residence and the time of the funeral.
3. The bell is to be tolled five times for a child under ten years; ten times for a single adult; fifteen times for a male adult; and twenty times for an adult over fifty
4. The bell is to be tolled for each day between the day of tolling and the funeral day.
5. Those who want the bell tolled, but have not been a regular contributor to the church, must pay \$5 in advance.

A number of the above rules no longer apply. However, the bell is still rung at the beginning of the 10:15 a.m service; prior to Lenten services; at funerals as requested; prior to special events held at church; on the date 9/11 and so on.

The bell was removed by crane on September 3rd for extensive repair in the belfry. In the meantime, the bell itself needs some clean-up attention before it is returned to its place in the belfry.

The future of our church bell awaits important decisions to be made. It has served this church well for over 100 years. We owe it a rejuvenation.

Thank you, Narona. Sometimes we need a little history to decide how to go forward.

### CHURCH COUNCIL

Church Council wants you to know that there will be open positions to be filled for the upcoming year 2021. We have members whose terms are up. If you are interested in serving our church, please contact a current Council member or call the church office (215-679-9015). Serving on Church Council is a truly rewarding experience.

### REQUEST FROM ST.MARK'S CEMETERY

Our Cemetery Committee is asking that all summer flowers be removed from the cemetery by October 1<sup>st</sup>. Thanks for your help here.

## ADULT BIBLE STUDY

The Adult Bible Study class invites you to join us for a Zoom discussion on Sundays at 9:00 AM. We are starting a new 13 week unit called “The Many Faces of Wisdom”. No Bible knowledge needed, just a willingness to listen, learn and share. No long term commitment – each week’s lesson is separate. If you are interested, please contact Deb Long at [debra.reed588@comcast.net](mailto:debra.reed588@comcast.net) A Zoom link will be sent to you for the class. Added bonus: you get to see and talk with other members of St. Mark’s!

## PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Lillie Bosler, Lisa Clark, Jack Cross, Randy Dotter, Andrew Erb, Renae Fosbenner, Marie Grubb, Dorothy Hagenbuch, David Haines, Paul Hausmann, Harold Hieter, Marie Jones, Dennis Laubach, Merle Leh, Barbara Lehmann, Kenneth Miller, Deb Mullen, Vona Olson, Barbara Opachinski and Lenny Rafalko.

Please call or email me with any changes or additions. The church office phone is 215-679-9015. Email address is: [stmarks@stmarkspennsburg.com](mailto:stmarks@stmarkspennsburg.com)