



St. Mark's Lutheran Church

ReMarks and ReMinders

November 3, 2020

MORE BELL HISTORY!

THE CHURCH BELL AT ST. MARK'S (Continued)

My search for a church bell that once was tolled for funerals at St. Mark's has drawn to a close. Speaking with Maurene Edelman, our church sexton, I learned that there is actually no bell in the church steeple other than the one that is rung for Sunday services. However, she did have an explanation for that "funeral bell" for which I have been searching.

I was informed that it is a "clapper" that is tolled to signify a death. The encyclopedia defines a clapper as an elongated piece of metal likened to a tongue. At St. Mark's a rope is attached to the clapper in such a way that when the rope is pulled, the clapper strikes the exterior side of the existing church bell and resonates the sound of "bong~." In recent years, the clapper became displaced and rendered it inoperable.

The clapper was engaged to announce a funeral. In years gone by, the number of times the clapper was tolled, revealed that a member of the church had died. After a pause, a number of rings denoted gender of the deceased, etc. This was listed in the previous article under Rules For Tolling The Bell For Funerals in the Sept. 25, 2020 issue of ReMarks and ReMinders.

The clapper is no longer tolled for funerals to denote day of funeral, age of deceased, etc. as was done years ago. However, the clapper is still tolled for funerals when its use is requested by the family. The clapper's toll is now a slow and steady bong. It is usually tolled as the family leaves the viewing room until they arrive at the sanctuary for the funeral service.

A number of years ago, the clapper was tolled on two separate occasions as the funeral processed from the funeral home to St. Mark's Cemetery.

The clapper is also tolled each year on the date of 9/11.

Hopefully, the church bell and the clapper will be back in the belfry for another century or more of ringing after the repairs in the belfry are completed.

N. Gebert

FLOWERS

At this time, Altar Guild will be using the silk flowers to decorate the altar. If you are on the chart for flowers, please do not order any until further notice. Also, if you are on Altar Guild, please note that the monthly schedule is not being used right now. Bonnie is taking care of all altar duties.

POINSETTAS FOR CHRISTMAS

Having said all that about flowers, I now must tell you that we WILL be having poinsettas on the altar for Christmas! The plants will be \$13.00 each and must be ordered by Sunday, December 6th, this year. You can place your order in the offering or mail it to church. Plants will be available to take home after the Christmas Eve services (please maintain social distancing when retrieving your plants) or later during the week in the multi-purpose room.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTAS

In order to provide festive decorations for the season, you may want to sponsor one or more poinsettia plants to be placed in the church for Christmas. The cost of each multiple bloomed plant will be \$13.00. Please fill out this form, including the amount due, and place it in the offering, the church office, or give it to Diane Mohr **no later than Sunday, December 6th.**

Your Name _____

Check one:

() In Memory of _____

() In Honor of _____

() Presented by _____

Use after service:

() Family will take ordered plant(s)

() Church is to deliver plant to shut-in

No. of plants _____ @ \$13.00 Total due \$ _____

BIRTHDAY WISHES

Harold Hieter will be 90 years old on November 26th – Thanksgiving Day! If you can, please send him birthday wishes to help celebrate this milestone day! His address is:

Harold Hieter
2320 Hieter Road
Quakertown, PA 18951

LIFE LINE SCREENING

Life Line Screening will be returning to St. Mark's on Wednesday, December 16th. They will offer ultrasound screening to identify five risk factors: Carotid Artery – plaque build up which can lead to stroke.. Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm – risk of ruptured aorta. Peripheral Arterial Disease – hardening of arteries in the legs. Heart Rhythm Screening – an EKG to detect Atrial Fibrillation (irregular heartbeat). Osteoporosis Risk Assessment.

Life Line will be adhering to strict safety protocols. If you wish to register for one or more of these screenings, please go to: www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle or you can call: 1-800-679-5609

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

The Adult Bible Study class invites you to join us for a Zoom discussion on Sundays at 8:30 AM. We are continuing 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 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!

UPCOMING MEETINGS

WELCA will be holding a meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 10th at 11:30AM in the social room. Please bring your mask and lunch! Coffee and pie will be provided. (that sounds so good!) They will also use this time to tie fleece blankets. If you are interested in joining WELCA, please contact Elaine, Diane, Dottie or Lucy.

OUTREACH will be meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 10th at 6:30PM in the multi-purpose room. Please bring a mask and your ideas for ways to connect, reach out and get back to some of our activities. New members are always welcome!!

CHURCH WEBSITE

Our website address is: www.stmarkspennsburg.com If you visit the website, you will find links to click on for a Sunday bulletin, a newsletter (Remarks & Reminders), a recording of our Sunday service, and a children's message.

PROTOCOLS

Perhaps not your favorite word, but necessary so we all know what to do, what to expect. The protocols were sent out in the letter from Church Council. I will summarize them here for you.

- **Reservations are required** – please call or email the church office
- If you are not feeling well, please stay home and view the service on the website which will be available later on Sunday.
- **Masks are required.** There are some disposable ones available if needed.
- Enter through the side door facing gazebo only (office/Sunday School)
- Please plan to arrive around 10AM to allow for seating, picking up bulletins and communion sets.
- Ushers will direct you to your seat. Please remain at your seat during service. Communion will be taken at your seat.
- Congregational responses or singing will not be done at this time.
- Dismissal will be led by ushers to comply with distance guidelines.
- Please wait until you are outside to chat and greet your friends!

PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Lillie Bosler, Lisa Clark, Jack Cross, Marilyn Donis, Randy Dotter, Andrew Erb, Renae Fosbenner, Marie Grubb, Catherine Gruber, David Haines, Paul Hausmann, Harold Hieter, Marie Jones, Dennis Laubach, Merle Leh, Barbara Lehmann, Kenneth Miller, Deb Mullen, 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