



St. Mark's Lutheran Church

ReMarks and ReMindørs

December 23, 2020

FIRST A LITTLE BUSINESS

Church Council would like you to know that your votes are in, and you have approved the budget for year 2021. You were also asked to approve the following candidates who agreed to serve on Council for the upcoming term. They are:

Becky Folk

Barry Fox

Heather Schmitt

Connie Taglieber

You have all voted to approve. Thank you for voting. St. Mark's is OUR church. Your input is always welcome.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Christmas Eve is Thursday! Suddenly, it is here! Despite this very unusual year. Many people contributed to making our Christmas Eve service special. It will almost be like we are all there! The bulletin will be posted today. The service will be available for viewing beginning 4PM on Christmas Eve. So if you cannot actually be with your family, pick a time that all of you will watch – and it will almost be like you are together. Did you hear that song? Did you see those lights? Such musical talent! And the sermonwell, this really was special!

Just in case you didn't know: all of this is available on our website. The services, the bulletins, this newsletter. Our website is: www.stmarkspennsburg.com

Please take time to visit – it's all there for you!

AND JUST LIKE EVERY SUNDAY

There will be a service on Sunday, December 27th. Only this Sunday, it will be a service of lessons and carols sent to us by our Synod. The Synod has asked all of the churches in the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod (SEPA) to contribute photos and music and they have produced a service gift to all of us. It sounds very interesting! I do know that some photos of St. Mark's have been sent to SEPA for inclusion. I do know some favorite songs have been sent to SEPA as well. And I do know that Bill Folk will be doing the postlude – Angels We Have Heard On High. So be sure to look for some parts of St. Mark's there! The bulletin for this service will be available Saturday evening and the service itself will be available for viewing beginning Sunday morning at 9AM. Again, all you need to do is go to our website: www.stmarkspennsburg.com These will all be posted right there.

TWO MORE DAYS

Just two more days until Christmas. My grandson gives me a daily count! Of course, his excitement is part of what makes Christmas special. The tree, the cookies, and the presents. But he's seven. The more grown-up part is realizing the wonder of the gift we received so very long ago. Perhaps that is why we seem to need to give to others – especially this time of year. You give gifts to family and friends. You give gifts to St. Mark's – this place that brings us together and gives so much meaning to our lives. You give gifts to total strangers – like you did with the 12 Days of Holiday Donations. So much was given that a big truck was needed to transport the donations. Do you see that overflowing table? That was just one of several tables stacked high with boxes of donations. Those 12 days alternated between rain or very cold winds, as you can see by those frozen children manning the donation station.



All in all, the donation totals were:

7 boxes of pajamas

5 boxes of coats

6 boxes of hats/gloves/scarves

30 boxes of food and coffee

6 boxes of laundry products and toiletries

\$400 in gift cards

\$117 in noisy offerings for Open Link

These donations were all transported to The Open Link, The Welcome Church, The Well (shelter), The PJ Project (shelters) and St. Luke's Lehigh Valley. Thank you to the Outreach Committee for organizing this event, as well as the people who, no matter the weather, stood outside to accept the donations. Big thanks to those who sorted and boxed everything up and to the ones who transported all the items to the various places. It was quite an undertaking and so many helped. The biggest thanks, though, go to you – for all your donations! Your coats, hats, gloves will bring warmth to someone who otherwise would suffer the cold. The PJ's will bring a sense of comfort to children, especially if they are reading one of those Christmas story books too. Your donation of food, especially this year, is so needed. No one should go hungry. The laundry products and toothpaste, shampoos, soaps – all very necessary items for everyone. Donations like this bring hope to many. Thank you!

PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following people in your prayers:

Florence Aikens, 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, Lenny Rafalko and Harold Schultz.

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

MERRY CHRISTMAS!