

St. Mark's Messenger

September 2024

FATHER JOHN'S REFLECTIONS



How could August have been any better? We not only had Kaley's concert and an ice cream social but our annual parish picnic? What a joy to meet Kaley's whole family and three of her PSU classmates. A bonus was to see how Jonah Glunt, the pianist-mechanical engineer, fix the damper pedal with a paperclip. **Through our two concerts this summer, we also raised \$2,000 for the Shelter.**

This concert was the second in our series of Summer Concerts at St. Mark's. Each of them attracted about 60 people who are NOT members of our church, and they also enjoyed the fellowship of an ice cream social. Future concerts will include a choral group with eight Penn State students (December 1) and a "Swing Concert" of holiday favorites by a State College group with about a dozen musicians.

We are getting the word out. We have had very good success with "St Mark's stories" in the *Sentinel*. We got good coverage not only for the two concerts this summer but also for Toys for Tots and Mother Hubbard's Cupboard.

We are also doing a good job of being "good neighbors" to the people of this community, inviting them not only to food (MHC, BBT) but fellowship and entertainment in our beautiful church. For the celebration of Goose Day at the end of the month, there may be a chance to showcase our church and hospitality as well.

What is the next step? Inviting a friend or neighbor to worship with us or work with us in our community ministries.

Father John+

COLLECT FOR LABOR DAY (SEPTEMBER 2)

Almighty God, you have so linked our lives one with another that all we do affects, for good or ill, all other lives: So guide us in the work we do, that we may do it not self alone, but for the common good; and, as we seek a proper return for our own labor, make us mindful of the rightful aspirations of other workers, and arouse our concern for those who are out of work; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen – *Book of Common Prayer, p. 261*

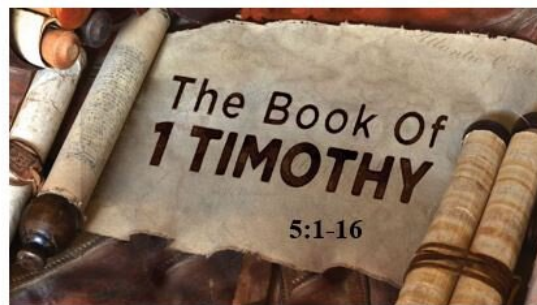
PROPERTY UPDATES

You will enjoy the new large-screen TV in the Parish House. This will be a godsend both for meetings and entertainment. We will soon begin the process of replacing gutters and cleaning the exterior of the church.

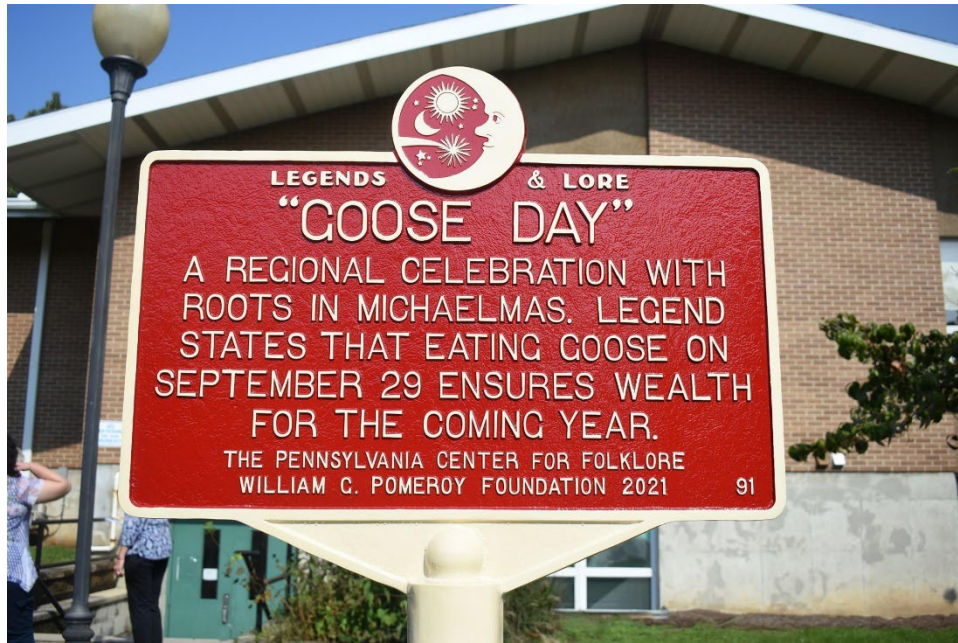
COMING ATTRACTIONS: BIBLE STUDY AND CONFIRMATION CLASS

I sometimes laugh when I meet people in Lewistown who tell me that they go to a “Bible church.” I tell them that this sounds like St. Mark’s. Our services consist of prayers, readings from Scripture, and hymns (another form of prayer).

But did you know that we also have a Bible Study program, also known as the Adult Forum. We’ve had it since I arrived in 2017. Right now we’re studying the book of Timothy.



Would you like to know what the Bible actually says? Join us on Sundays at 9AM. We will be starting a confirmation class after Labor Day. If you have not been confirmed or would like to renew your confirmation promises, please let Father John know so we can order the materials for you. The classes will be held over Zoom at a convenient time and will last about eight weeks.



MOTHER HUBBARD’S CUPBOARD, OUTREACH, AND BREAKING BREAD TOGETHER

In July we saw a sharp increase in the number of families.

December	513
January	574
February	543
March	464
April	614
May	595
June	450
July	595 (33% are children & 15% are seniors)

PRAYER LIST

We pray for those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this month; and we pray especially for Myra Bannon, Sue Cherry, Mary Daily, Shirley Mancino, Tony Hatfield-Nicholson, Doris McKee, Carole Mease, Lynn Stricker, Patty Wagner, and

Evelyn Wilson.

Pray also for those serving in the military as well as President Joe Biden and Governor Josh Shapiro.

Pray for all members of Congress and our legislature to be guided by respect for the rights of every human being and respect for the common good.

Pray for the people of Ukraine in their fight for freedom and for the people of Israel and Gaza as they struggle to find a way to become good neighbors.

Pray for the safety of our teachers and students in our schools this year.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

1—Judy Clare, 4—Michele Harden Lasher, 6—Michelle Bitner, 7—Evelyn Wilson, 15—Diann Pinkerton, 18—Theodore Wilson, 28—Anniversary of Judy and Charlie Clare

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