

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Publisher
Church Mouse

Issue Number
141

Date
February 2023

Upcoming Events

Wed., Feb. 8th – 5:00 p.m. – Net Dinner
at OLV Catholic Church

Sun., Feb. 12th – “Souper” Bowl Sunday

Sat., Feb. 18th – 6:30 p.m. – Movie Night

Sun., Feb. 19th – 4 Chaplains Service

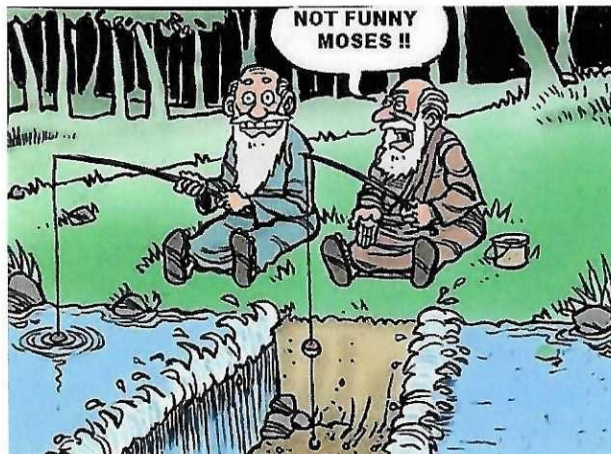
Sun., Feb. 19th – 12:00 p.m. – Church Council
Meeting

Wed., Feb. 22nd – Ash Wednesday

Wed., Feb. 22nd – 5:00 p.m. – Net Dinner
at St. Mark's

Sun., Feb. 26th – First Responders Recognition
Sunday

@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@



Prayer Chain Requests In Jan.

Family of Kay Stein
Family of Marjory Rivenburg
Family of Virgil Cater, Jr.
Family of Dawn Rogers

Georgia VanDyke
Janet Abrams
Martin Wenzl
Tamara Guerrero
Jeremy Gordon
Ed Vander Wande
Ed Johnson
Jaci Krause
Bill Hillicoss
Stephen Lammers



St. Mark's Church Information

Pastor David Houck
Home Phone: 518-827-6385
Email: pastordave@midtel.net
St. Mark's Phone: 518-827-5318
St. Mark's Email: stmarks@midtel.net
Website:
stmarkslutheranmiddleburgh.com

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Servers for February

Feb. 5th:

Reader – Nannette
Prayer – Cheryl
Ushers – Debbie R. / Marie
Counter – Sharon

Feb. 12th:

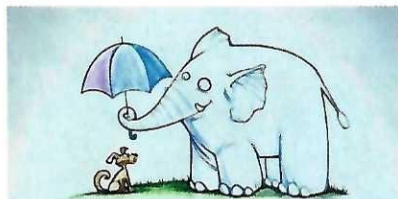
Reader – Alyssa
Prayer – Carolyn
Ushers – Denise / Ron
Counter – Diane

Feb. 19th:

Reader – Bob
Prayer – Ron
Ushers – Dennis F. / Carrie
Counter – Carrie

Feb. 26th:

Reader – Deb P.
Prayer – Cheryl
Ushers – Bob / Peggi
Counter – Deb P.



It doesn't matter how many Sundays you sit in Church or if you think you're saved. God sees what you do and how you treat people. That's what really matters.

Amen

February Birthdays:

Bob Meunier	Feb. 1
Bill Morton	Feb. 23
Greg Howland	Feb. 24

February Anniversaries:

Sandi / Ed Johnson	Feb. 14
Ron / Edna Lower	Feb. 15

St. Mark's Income vs Expenses

Here is the summary of income and expenses for the month of **December 2022:**

Income	\$4003.00
Expenses	3147.09
Balance	\$1512.27

Fuel Fund	\$2353.15
Fuel Expenditure	680.00
Balance	\$1673.15

The Law of Love

Is there a law of Love? Is there a law for Love? Laws are written to guide us and to protect us. In one definition it states laws protect us from others, ourselves, and governing bodies that rule over us. I have to wonder if, and how many, of these groups are influenced by the forces of evil which seek to deceive, divide, and destroy?

I believe that there is a law of Love...a law for Love...True Love...the kind of Love that is defined and found within the pages of the Holy Scriptures. The term love is found over 500 times in our Bibles. In 1 Corinthians 13 the Apostle Paul gives a detailed description of what love is and what love is not. Paul writes that even if we are eloquent in speech knowing several languages and dialects, if we have not love we are only making a lot of noise. We may possess and exhibit many skills, talents, and attributes, but if we do not have love, we are nothing. Even if we serve and give of ourselves without limit, if we have not love it profits us nothing. Paul's definition of Love: ⁴ *Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.* ⁵ *It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.* ⁶ *Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.* ⁷ *It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.*

⁸ *Love never fails. (NIV).*

As recorded in the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus stated: *"Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. The law which Jesus came to fulfill he clarified in Matthew 22 -* ³⁵*Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying,* ³⁶*"Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?"* ³⁷*Jesus said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.* ³⁸*This is the first and great commandment.* ³⁹*And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'* ⁴⁰*On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."* In the Gospel of Luke Jesus goes on to define who one's neighbor is and He takes it further by stating that we are to also love our enemies and to do good to those who hate us as well. This seems to be asking a lot of those who chose to be followers of Jesus. Those who chose to obey His law, the law of Love.

The book of 1 John gives us the reasons why this law is essential and that fulfilling it is obtainable for each of us.

1 John 2:5 But whoever keeps His (Jesus') word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. 1 John 3:16 By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. 1 John 3:18 My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. 1 John 4:7 Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸*He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.* ⁹*In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.* ¹⁰*In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.* ¹¹*Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.* ¹²*No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.*

The world seems to promote love of self and the Bible instructs us to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. With what is going on in our world doesn't it make one wonder if, or how people love themselves? It is written that we are created in the image of God and that our bodies are a temple for the spirit of God. *1 Corinthians 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?* ²⁰*For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.* The evil one is at war with God and is raging the battle through us. Satan wants to destroy each and every temple of God, physically, emotionally, mentally, and spiritually. Therefore if we believe in God, if we trust God, if we have the faith to honor, worship, and glorify God, then we must know and obey God's law...the law of Love.

In God We Trust / Love and Prayers, Pastor Dave

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

NET Dinner

The weather may have been stormy on the evening of Wednesday, January 25th; however, it did not hinder the gathering of our friends and neighbors for a delicious turkey dinner.

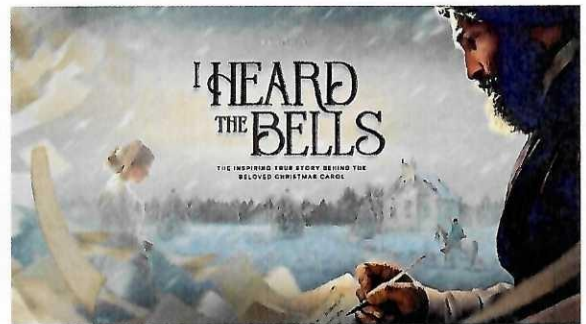


Some yummy stuffing

Thank you to all who came to help prepare and serve our meal. Our next dinner will be held at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 22nd, so mark your calendars and plan to join us for another great time of dining and fellowship.

Movie Night

January 14th, Sight 'n Sound brought to life the story of "Noah" at our movie night. We witnessed a family of faith, who by the leading of God, worked together to build an ark despite many obstacles. Upon completion, there was the arrival of animals to the ark, the closing of the door, the depiction of life inside the ark while the waters rose, and ultimately the promise from God to never purge the earth again with a flood. What an amazing production!



The inspiring story behind the Christmas carol "I Heard the Bells" is the feature for our next movie night. So...if you would like to have an enjoyable night at the movies (with snacks), please join us at 6:30 p.m. on February 18th in our fellowship hall.



St. Mark's Lutheran Church



Please remember our armed forces and the leaders of our nation in your prayers.



The power of prayer

St. Mark's Welcomes New Members



On January 8th, Linda Amond, Karen Berkheimer, Eric Mattson, Margaret (Peggi) Meunier, Robert Meunier and Deborah Roberts became members of St. Mark's. Welcome and may God bless you!



Bob, Karen, Deb, Peggi, Linda, Eric, Pastor Dave

