

# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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July 2023

## **Upcoming Events**

Sat., July 8<sup>th</sup> – 8:30 a.m. – Men's Fellowship  
Breakfast

Fri., July 14<sup>th</sup> – 8:00 p.m. – Ice Cream Social /  
Band Concert

Sun., July 16<sup>th</sup> – 12:00 p.m. – Church Council  
Meeting

Sat., July 22<sup>nd</sup> – 9:00 a.m. – Pie Sale on  
MCS lawn

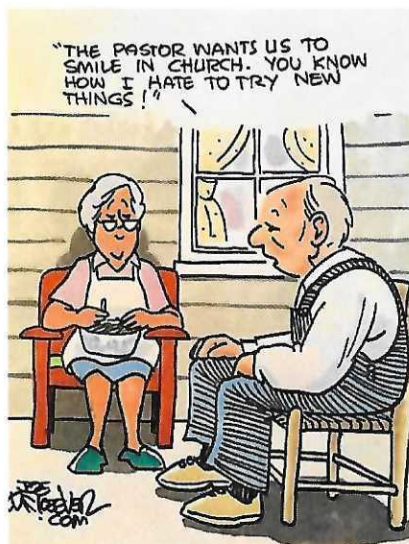
Sun., July 23<sup>rd</sup> – 11:00 a.m. - Ecumenical  
Worship Service on MCS lawn

Fri., July 28<sup>th</sup> – Middleburgh 4th Friday

Reminder – Summer Band Concert every  
Friday evening at 8:00 p.m. during the month  
of July on the front lawn of MCS. (Don't forget  
your lawn chair.)

## **Thought for the Day:**

By the sunshine of His love, God paints  
on our cloud the rainbow of His Grace.



## **Prayer Chain Requests In June**

Family of Richard (Dick) Shoemaker

Nathan & Sydney Shoemaker  
Georgia VanDyke  
Alton Rowe, Sr.  
Mary  
Paul Zinsman  
Carrie Bowman & Jason Bernard  
Pastor Dottie Morris  
Willie Palmer  
Tom Moore  
Tamara Guerrero  
Chris Vickers  
Sharon Becker  
Chuck and Laura Twombly  
Skeeter and Liz Coons  
Ian Dingel  
Steven Nelson



## **St. Mark's Church Information**

Pastor David Houck

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St. Mark's Phone: 518-827-5318

St. Mark's Email: [stmarks@midtel.net](mailto:stmarks@midtel.net)

Website:

[stmarkslutheranmiddleburgh.com](http://stmarkslutheranmiddleburgh.com)

# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

## Servers for July

### July 2<sup>nd</sup>:

Reader – Alyssa  
Prayer – Ron  
Ushers – Dean / Lori  
Counter – Diane

### July 9<sup>th</sup>:

Reader – Bob  
Prayer – Carolyn  
Ushers – Tom / Dylan  
Counter – Carrie

### July 16<sup>th</sup>:

Reader – Ted  
Prayer – Cheryl  
Ushers – Deb P. / Pat  
Counter – Deb P.

### July 23<sup>rd</sup>:

Ecumenical Worship Service on  
MCS lawn

### July 30<sup>th</sup>:

Reader – Deb P.  
Prayer – Ron  
Ushers – Dennis / Diane  
Counter – Diane

## July Birthdays:

Mia Howland	July 7
Colleen Davidson	July 14
Janet Abrams	July 22

## July Anniversaries:

Bill / Holly Pierce	July 14
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## St. Mark's Income vs Expenses

Here is the summary of income and expenses for the month of May 2023:

Income	\$5782.20
Expenses	4891.50
Balance	\$890.70

Summer is the time of year when there are a number of events, vacation time, and other things that can keep us away from worship services. Council would like to ask you to continue to financially as well as prayerfully support St. Mark's during the summer months, even if you are unable to attend. Thank you and God bless you!

## One Small Step for (a) Man

It was fifty-four years ago on July 20, 1969, that American astronaut, Neil Armstrong, became the first human being to set foot on a foreign sphere, the earth's moon. What do you say at an incredible moment in history as that was? What was heard on the radio was this: "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." Lt. Armstrong upon hearing the tape stated that the recording was missing the 'a' between "for" and "man". He thought for sure that he said it but admitted he did not hear it himself on the recording. Years later using advanced sound technology it showed that he did indeed state, "That's one small step for a man." The "a" makes a big difference for it is accentuating the action of a man, singular, one person. All in all though, the message was clear that it was truly "one giant leap for mankind."

I was thinking about this achievement, this milestone in our history because this is July and on the 20<sup>th</sup> it will be the 54<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that monumental moment. It also brought to my mind another monumental moment in history where a man, one man, took action, took a step of faith that became a giant leap for all of mankind. That man is Jesus Christ. I am not understating the horror, pain, and suffering that Jesus went through for us by his actions for it was no small step that was taken. The fact remains that this one step changed the course of history more than any other event. God's interaction with humanity through Jesus Christ is a giant leap for all mankind, for all time.

At this time, over five decades later, we are planning to return to that lunar surface to take another step in our exploration of that which lies beyond the dome God put in place to protect us. It will be a stepping off point to travel further, touch other celestial spheres, and boldly go where no man or woman has ever gone before. After that first step that Jesus took for us, He too returned to this sphere that we call home to lead us on a great journey to where only He had been before. For it is written: *John 3:13 No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven.*

Our faith journeys will at times require us to take single steps and at other times to take giant leaps. Taking it one step at a time often provides comfort and safety as we continue to move forward towards our goal. At other times, we may find ourselves in a position where a leap of faith is required. Taking a leap of faith can be the proving ground for those with the right stuff. *Hebrews 11:1 Now faith is the substance [realization] of things hoped for, the evidence [confidence] of things not seen.* In one of my educational experiences for ministry, this quote from Edward Teller was shared with me: "When you get to the end of all the light you know and it's time to step into the darkness of the unknown, faith is knowing that one of two things shall happen: either you will be given something solid to stand on, or you will be taught how to fly".

Faith is having the confidence to take that next step, even if we cannot see what is next. When our steps are directed by our faith in God and God's word is the road map we use to travel by, we can believe that we are on solid ground. As the lyrics from the hymn by Barry Collocutt tell us:

When we walk with the Lord in the light of His Word  
What a glory He sheds on our way!  
While we do His good will, He abides with us still  
And with all who will trust and obey.

Jesus took a giant leap for us when He placed His complete trust in God's plan and was obedient to the point of sacrificing himself on that cross so that we might live eternally with God the Father. A popular thing today is counting one's steps throughout the day. Let us make our steps count by being in the light as He is in the light so we might together continue the leap of faith that will benefit all of mankind. Amen

In God We Trust / Love and Prayers, Pastor Dave



# St. Mark's Lutheran Church



## Operation Christmas Child

In the month of July, we are collecting T-shirts for boys in a variety of sizes and colors. Also, after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, school supplies store will begin to display them on their shelves. Please consider purchasing / donating spiral back notebooks, pencil sharpeners and crayons. We no longer need pencils, scissors and construction paper.

If you have any questions, please call our coordinator, Ruth, at 910-829-5252. Thank you for all your donations. You are making a difference in a child's life!



## ECUMENICAL WORSHIP SERVICE

On Sunday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 11:00 a.m., please join our brothers and sisters in Christ as we gather on the front lawn of MCS for our annual ecumenical worship service. Join us too for spirit-filled music that will be led by Kim and Reggie Harris. Because we will be outside, please bring your own lawn chair.

REMINDER: there will NO service at St. Mark's on July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## Men's Fellowship Breakfast

If you come to St. Mark's at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, July 8<sup>th</sup>, you will hear men's voices as they enjoy good food and good conversation at their monthly fellowship breakfast. (After dining, they plan to work in the attic of the addition.) If you have any questions, please call Dennis Foland at 518-827-4559. Remember... all men are welcome to join in this time of fellowship.

# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

## **Baking, Baking, Baking... St. Mark's Needs Bakers**

On Friday evenings during the month of July, you can hear the sounds of live music as our summer band performs at a concert on the MCS front lawn. The first one will be held on Friday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00 p.m. During the concerts, local churches serve refreshments as a fundraiser.



## **Ice Cream Social**

On July 14<sup>th</sup>, St. Mark's will be hosting an ice cream social at the concert when we will be serving ice cream as well as baked goods and beverages.

We are asking for volunteers to bake "goodies" such as cookies, pies, cupcakes, cakes, etc. for us to sell to benefit our food pantry. Please leave your baked goods at the church no later than 6:30 p.m. or bring them to the concert.

We are also asking for volunteers to help us set up our tables on the MCS lawn. We will meet at the church at 6:30 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact Pat McCoy on 518-231-4632.

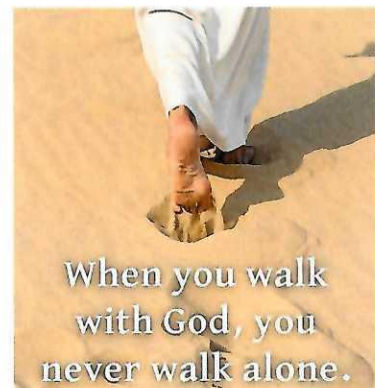


## **Phoebes Annual Pie Sale**



Saturday, July 22, 2023, Middleburgh is hosting its annual Arts and Crafts day. It is also when our Phoebes will hold their annual pie sale. Please contact Sharon Nesbitt at 518-827-4644 if you are willing to make a pie(s) or make a monetary donation. We will also need help on the 22<sup>nd</sup> to set up our table as well as sell the pies on the MCS lawn. Since this is their only fundraiser for the year, your donations and help are greatly appreciated.

(Please leave your pie(s) at the church by 9:00 a.m. on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.)

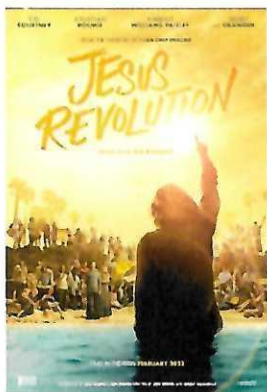




# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

## Movie Night

"The truth is always quiet; the lies are loud." "Truth is simple." "Don't be so arrogant to think God can't work through you." Words spoken in the movie, "Jesus Revolution"; words that can be thought provoking as we contemplate their meaning, not only as they applied to the young people in the late 1960s, but for all of us today as well.



### NOTE:

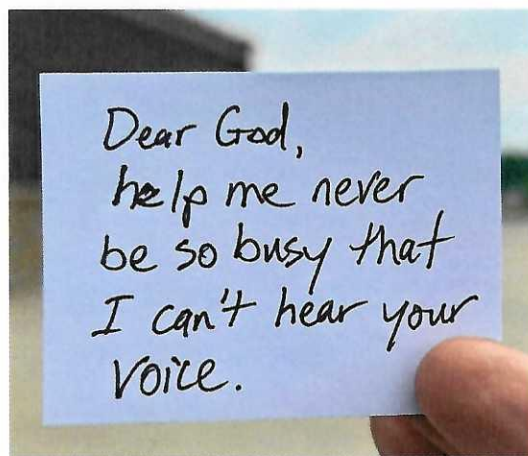
There will be NO movie night in the month of July. Our next showing will be on August 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30.

## 4th Friday

The evening of June 23<sup>rd</sup> the streets of Middleburgh were alive with people strolling through the village to enjoy the events of 4<sup>th</sup> Friday. St. Mark's was once again blessed by the generosity of people for our organ repair fund as we made \$112 in our hot dog sales. We are so grateful for their donations.

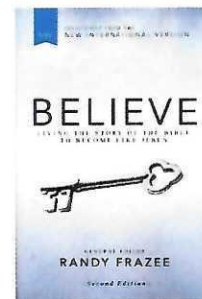
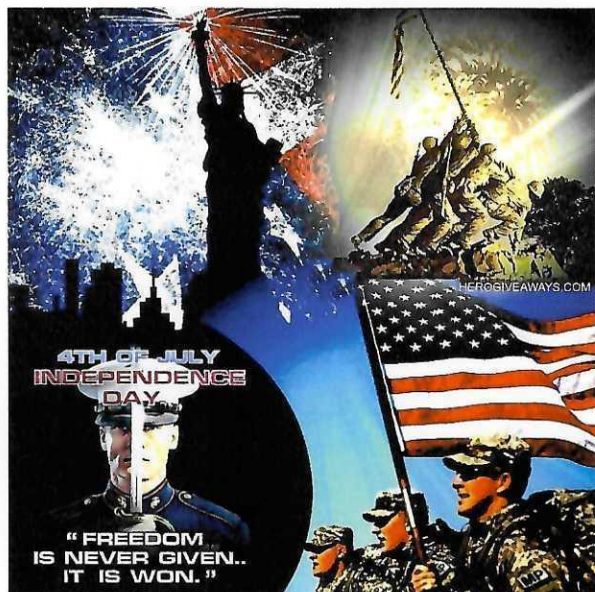
## 2023 MCS Baccalaureate

18 MCS seniors attended this years baccalaureate that was held at the Middleburgh Reformed Church on June 11<sup>th</sup>. Scripture readings, message delivered by faculty member, Jen Adams, music by the MCS vocal group "Music of the Knight" were part of the worship service. We wish God's blessing on every MCS senior and pray for God's guidance and protection as they go throughout their lives.



# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Please pray for our armed forces and those who sacrifice so much for us and our country.



## "Believe" Bible Study

Reminder –Pastor Dave is leading a Bible study based on the book titled "Believe". Classes will begin at 10:00 a.m. in St. Mark's fellowship hall.







## St. Mark's and Christian Community Church Annual Picnic



Pastor Dave & Melody



Happy 96<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Fran VanDeusen



With the sun shining on a beautiful Sunday (June 25<sup>th</sup>), 50 brothers and sisters in Christ from St. Mark's and Christian Community Churches gathered together to worship at Gobbler's Knob. Following the worship service, the congregation enjoyed a delicious potluck picnic and shared in a birthday celebration for Fran VanDeusen, who is 96 years young.



"The food is ready!"



"Yeah! I found the chips!"



Good food; good conversation