

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Publisher
Church Mouse

Issue Number
150

Date
November 2023

Upcoming Events

Wed., Nov. 1st – 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. –
“Coats for Kids” and Adults

Sat., Nov. 4th – 10:00 a.m. – OCC Packing Party

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

Wed., Nov. 8th – 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. –
“Coats for Kids” and Adults

Sat., Nov. 11th – 9:00 a.m. – Noon –
“Coats for Kids” and Adults

Sat. Nov. 11th – 9:00 a.m. – Men's Breakfast

Wed., Nov. 15th – 5:00 p.m. – NET Dinner
at the Reformed Church

Fri., Nov. 17th – 6:30 p.m. – Movie Night –
movie feature to be determined

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

Sun., Nov. 19th – 3:00 p.m. – Ecumenical
Thanksgiving service at Huntersland
Methodist Church

Wed., Nov. 29th – 5:00 p.m. – NET Dinner
at St. Mark's Church

Please Note:

**NET dinner at St. Mark's is rescheduled
to Nov. 29th due to the Thanksgiving
holiday.**

Thought for the Day:

Our sins can be forgiven and washed
away, but their consequences are ours
to pay.

Prayers and Concerns for October

Family of Freda Fancher
Family of George Johnson
Family of Frank Purcell
Family of Bob Tolmes

Kathryn Kauffmann
Anne Priest
Bryan Combs
Jay Rumph
Kris Palmatier
Matt Assini
John Palmatier
Darcy Smida (Your Way Café)
Ellen Snowdon
Austin Roney
Marilyn Riviere
Pastor Peter DeBartolo
Country / people of Israel



**REMINDER – turn your clocks back at
2:00 a.m. on November 5th**



St. Mark's Church Information

Pastor David Houck
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St. Mark's Email: stmarks@midtel.net
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St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Servers for November

Nov. 5th:

Reader – Marie

Prayer – Cheryl

Ushers – Dennis / Carrie

Counter – Deb P.

Nov. 12th:

Reader – Sharon

Prayer – Ron

Ushers – Tom / Dylan

Counter – Sharon

Nov. 19th:

Reader – Lori

Prayer – Carolyn

Ushers – Bob / Peggi

Counter – Diane

Nov. 26th:

Reader – Ginny

Prayer – Cheryl

Ushers – Aaron / Allison

Counter – Carrie

**Have a Blessed
Thanksgiving!**

November Birthdays:

Karen Berkheimer	Nov. 2
Julius Ferandez	Nov. 8
Deb Roberts	Nov. 11
Karen VanDyke	Nov. 12
Bonnie Morton	Nov. 13
Jay Diamond	Nov. 22
Ron Lower	Nov. 28

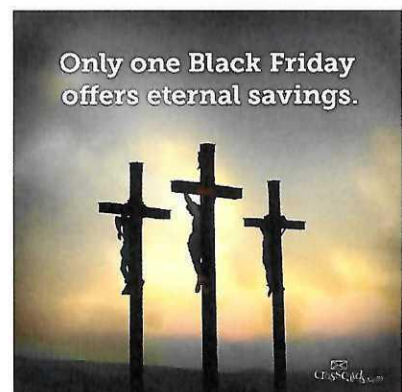
November Anniversaries:

Ted / Ellen Langenbahn	Nov. 10
Ron / Linda Connors	Nov. 11
Barb / Russ Elder	Nov. 23
William / Anne Miller	Nov. 24

St. Mark's Income vs Expenses

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

Income	\$6878.58
Expenses	4042.49
Balance	\$2836.09



The Season of Giving and Receiving

The last two months of the year contain the holidays most thought of for giving and receiving. November is the month in which we in the United States celebrate Thanksgiving Day. In 1621, the Plymouth colonists from England and the Native American Wampanoag people shared an autumn harvest feast that is acknowledged as one of the first Thanksgiving celebrations in the colonies. Since its start in New England, a day of giving thanks has been designated and held at different times and in different ways. Currently there is approximately twelve nations that hold a day of giving thanks. It is generally around the autumn harvest season acknowledging the blessing of a bountiful yield from their crops that year. Each Thanksgiving has a different origin and meaning, but they're all celebrations of gratitude. In the Bible, thanksgiving means devotion, sacrifice, praise, or an offering. Thanksgiving is to glorify God as an act of worship, giving thanks for all things as part of God's providence. Wherever it is celebrated, it is often celebrated by coming together and sharing in worship and food. However we may choose to celebrate, I pray that everyone considers the reasons for this season - to give thanks to God through our giving and our sharing and to be grateful for all that we have by being a blessing to those who don't have. I remember a young woman who stated through her tears, "I had thought everyone lived as I do" after an eye-opening experience from seeing the presence of extreme poverty in our world for the first time. As a true act of giving thanks, let us show our devotion to and praise of God by considering what sacrifices we can make and what we have to offer to those who do not have the chance to "live as we do". Remember, "I complained that I had no shoes until I met a person who had no feet"..

December is the month in which many people from many nations around the world celebrate Christmas. Although it has become known or understood through different traditions and interpretations, the word Christmas literally means 'the Mass of Christ or Christ's Mass'. In the Anglican tradition, Mass is one of many terms for the Eucharist. More frequently, the term used is either Holy Communion, Holy Eucharist, or the Lord's Supper. Christ-mass was being celebrated in Rome by 350AD and this is probably the place that the celebration of Christmas originated. It was celebrated to praise God for the gift of Christ both at His birth and at His sacrifice on the cross for our salvation. We receive and share in the body and the blood of Christ to remember this gift from God. Although Christmas has become secularized and hailed as the greatest event in consumeristic and economic advances, each year we must be reminded of the search for the "true meaning of Christmas". We can find it through examples shown in "A Christmas Carol", "A Charlie Brown Christmas", and "It's a Wonderful Life". For Scrooge, it was realizing what is truly important in life and not to misuse it before death comes knocking at the door. For George Bailey, it was facing his own feelings of hopelessness after giving up his dreams to benefit others and then being taken advantage of. George also realized what is truly important in life when he was supported and helped in his darkest hour by those who had benefited from how he lived his life. Then there is Charlie Brown's famous question: "Isn't there anyone who knows what Christmas is all about?" To which Linus Van Pelt responded: "Sure, Charlie Brown, I can tell you what Christmas is all about."

The true meaning of Christmas is love. God loved His own and provided a way—the only Way—for us to spend eternity with Him. He gave His only Son to take our punishment for our sins. He paid the price in full, and we are free from condemnation when we accept that free gift of love. It is a time of God showing His great love for us. It is a time of hope, peace, healing, renewed strength and goodwill to all. It is a time to remember the arrival of this gift which Linus read for everyone to hear in the Gospel of Luke 2:8-14. It is a time to shout once again "Merry Christmas" as Scrooge and the Peanuts gang did. It is a time to give thanks to God; a time to receive God's gift to us again and to offer the blessing Tiny Tim proclaimed, "God bless us everyone".

In these seasons may we praise God and give thanks for all that we have been given. May we open our hearts to the true meaning of Christmas as we share with the world how love came down at Christmas.

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas, Pastor Dave and Melody

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

REMINDERS....

It's "Packing Party" Time!!!

Operation Christmas Child shoebox packing party is being held on **Saturday, November 4th, at 10:00 a.m.** in our fellowship hall. Ruth is providing a light lunch so please let her know if you are planning to participate. Her contact number is: 910-849-5252.



"Coats for Kids" and Adults

We are pleased to announce that "Coats for Kids" and Adults outreach had a good start. Saturday, October 21st, we gave away almost 50 coats. Donations of new and gently used coats are still being gratefully accepted as we have three additional giveaway dates.

November 1st – 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

November 8th – 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

November 11th – 9:00 – 12:00 noon

If you have any questions, please contact Pat McCoy at 518-231-4632.



Wings As Eagles Ministry (WAEM) Christmas Gift Cards

WAEM is a non-denominational ministry and relief organization working with Native Americans living on reservations. Since Operation Christmas Child does NOT support WAEM with their shoeboxes, Christmas gifts are given to the children through their own shoebox project called Dream Boxes. For those of us who are logistically far from South Dakota, we have the opportunity to bless the children by sending Walmart and/or Target gift cards to WAEM and the pastors will make the purchases for us.

Please prayerfully consider supporting this outreach through a donation of a gift card in any denomination no later than **Sunday, November 12th**.



Thank you and God bless you for your generosity!



St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Joshua Project Thanksgiving Basket Program

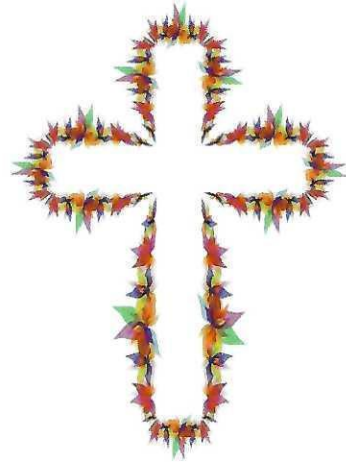
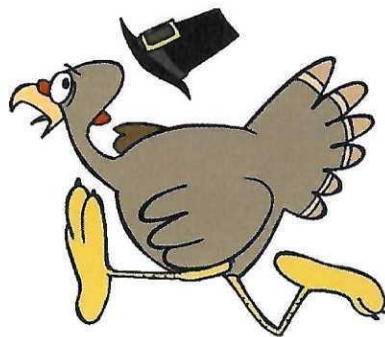
Joshua Project's Thanksgiving Basket Program is a blessing for so many people who need a little extra assistance. This year they are asking for help from our St. Mark's congregation through donations of the following non-perishable items:

- Instant potatoes
- Cranberry sauce
- Can gravy
- Can vegetables
- Box stuffing
- Can yams

NOTE: Please no glass

Monetary donations are also gratefully accepted.

Please prayerfully consider bringing a donation for their baskets to St. Mark's no later than **Sunday, November 12th**. Thank you!



Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service

We have so much to be thankful for and what better way to express our gratitude to our Lord than through worship. An ecumenical worship service will held on **Sunday, November 19th, at 3:00 p.m.** in the **Huntersland Methodist Church**. Let's join with our brothers and sisters in Christ to praise, honor and glorify our God as we thank Him for all His blessings!



St. Mark's Lutheran Church



Movie Night

Decisions ... every day we make decisions ... some that are simple and some that can be life altering. It is during those times when we should remember to ask ourselves "What would Jesus do?"

On October 20th we were blessed to watch a movie in which a pastor, a newspaper editor, a real-estate business owner, and a singer were challenged by a drifter to ask themselves... "What would Jesus do" when they were faced with trying to save a dying church and its building. We saw how subtly Satan tried to work through a politician to derail them by touching upon things that were important in their personal lives. Then we witnessed the power of God as they joined together to make a commitment to ask the question "What would Jesus do" in both their personal lives and in their endeavor to end the destruction of their church, to follow the Lord's direction and how ultimately the mighty hand of God defeats the devil. "WWJD – What Would Jesus do?" has a thought-provoking message that leads one to do some introspection on how we live.

Our next movie night will be **Friday, November 17th at 6:30 p.m.** The feature is yet unknown so we are calling it a "mystery" movie...because the mystery is what it will be. 😊 We look forward to seeing you there!

Special Visitors



Ella and Scarlett assisted Pastor Dave during A Time for the Child in All of Us



What a blessing to have Sharon Amendola singing with the choir during her recent visit with us from Florida!

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

NET Dinner

Wednesday, October 25th, St. Mark's fellowship hall was filled with people and good conversations as we hosted our first NET dinner. Mark your calendars .. our next dinner will be at **5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 29th**.



Ready to serve



Dinner menu was kielbasa, sauerkraut, potatoes, bread, and tossed salad.



Yummy desserts
(with little or no calories??)



Enjoying the meal



Our excellent clean-up team

Please Note:
NET dinner at St. Mark's is
rescheduled to Nov. 29th due to the
Thanksgiving holiday.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Reformation Sunday

When people say they "see red", they don't usually mean what was seen at St. Mark's on Sunday, October 29th. There was a great deal of red everywhere as we celebrated Reformation Sunday. It was indeed a very colorful worship service!



Why Veterans Day is on the 11th

Ever wonder why Veterans day is on the 11th and does not change ? World War I ended on the 11th month on the 11th day on the 11th hour. Today I saw a man selling poppies stop a lady and asked if he could re-position her poppy. While doing so he told that lady she should wear the poppy on their right side; the red represents the blood of all those who gave their lives, the black represents the mourning of those who didn't have their loved ones return home, and the green leaf represents the grass and crops growing and future prosperity after the war destroyed so much. The leaf should be positioned at 11 o'clock to represent the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, the time that World War I formally ended. He was worried that younger generations wouldn't understand this and his generation wouldn't be around for much longer to teach them. We must remember those from our current wars too!

For those that do not know, the eleventh day of the eleventh month is Veterans Day! I copied this from someone else. Please do the same to pass this knowledge on to those who don't know the meaning and who care enough to know. 🇺🇸

Community Church Picnic



Middleburgh Reformed Church was the place to be during the afternoon of Sunday, October 8th, as they hosted a community church picnic and vesper service. What a wonderful way to be bring brothers and sisters in Christ together!



Pastor Jeff and Alyssa





This goes out to the men and women in uniform who have served our country.



Saint Paul Lutheran, York, PA

October 13 & 14, 2023

Seventy-eight disciples of the Atlantic Mission Region gathered over two days at Saint Paul's Lutheran Church, York, PA on October 13 & 14, 2023 for the annual regional Convocation. The theme for this year was "Life-to-Life Discipleship in Action." Seventy-six gathered in person and six attended virtually.

Presentations were made by the General Secretary of the NALC, the **Rev. Dr. Amy Little**, who lead a plenary session about the NALC's Life to Life Disciples process and how we can instruct the young and old in becoming disciples of the faith using the Small and Large Catechisms of Luther. **The Rev. Ray Scheck** led the assembly in demonstrating how to lead a discipleship Bible study.

The 2024 Ministry Spending Plan was approved. The assembly approved the \$63,950 Ministry Plan as presented.

Lutheran Lay Renewal was the spotlight Ministry Partner this year. Bill Oehlschlager, Executive Director of LLR and Pastor Raymond Kaija, Lutheran Church of Uganda (LCoU) spoke to the assembly about LLR and the work they do with the LCoU. The group has helped raise funds to enable churches to buy land, fund health clinics, and support missionary and ministry training programs. There are indeed good works and discipleship happening with LLR and LCoU.

Financial gifts were given to the Lutheran Lay Renewal (\$1400) and Disaster Response (\$1400). The NALC also received \$500 from the AMR as an honorarium for the work done at this Convocation by our General Secretary the Rev. Dr. Amy Little.

We heard a presentation entitled **Our Journey through Life to Life Discipleship – What Worked... and What Didn't**, which was led by members of Emanuel Lutheran, Elmer, NJ; Holy Cross, Nazareth, PA; St Matthew, Middle River, MD; and Reformation, Lancaster, PA. The

members shared their journey using Life to Life Discipleship and how it has helped members to be strong disciples of Jesus Christ.

Stuff the Truck for NALC Disaster Response! The truck was filled with health kits, school kits, flood buckets, blankets, Bibles, rakes, shovels, and gift cards. **THANK YOU!** All donations were taken to the warehouse in Elmer, NJ. Thanks to Wayne Knerr for towing the trailer and all who helped to load the donations.

Worship: We opened the Convocation with a traditional Eucharist with the Rev Paul & Rev Sally Gausmann presiding and our assistant to the Bishop, the Rev. Dr. Bill White, preaching. The Rev. Brett Jenkins led us in Compline on Friday evening. We opened Saturday with a contemporary Eucharist with the Rev Paul & Rev Sally Gausmann presiding and the Rev. Dr. Amy Little preaching.

Mission District Meetings: The assembly broke into Mission Districts on Friday night and enjoyed fellowship with each other.

Fellowship! There were plenty of opportunities for fellowship at this year's Convocation. There was scheduled free time for networking and to visit the Ministry Partner and vendor displays. We also enjoyed a cupcake social on Friday evening where we celebrated the Rev. Steve Shipman, our AMR Regional Dean's 50th anniversary of ordination.

Informal Bible Study: Mr. Bill Oehlschlager from Lutheran Lay Renewal led an informal Bible study on Friday morning for anyone interested in attending before the Convocation began.

Women's Conference: The Women of Atlantic Mission Region held their fifth Women's Conference on Friday morning in which they worked together to assemble 234 health kits for NALC Disaster Response. They also had sharing time, worship, and a Bible study led by the Rev. Dr. Amy Little.

The 2024 AMR Convocation will be held on October 18-19 at St Luke's Lutheran Church in Bloomsburg, PA. A **Women's Conference** is also being planned for October 18 prior to the Convocation. Mark your calendars!