



# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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## From Pastor Rodney

See page 3 for his report.

E-mail: [Pastorrodney@midtel.net](mailto:Pastorrodney@midtel.net)

Pastor now has office hours Tuesday through Friday from 9-1. Please call ahead in case he had to leave.

## New website

Our new webpage is up and running. Check it out. It is awesome! Thank you Angela. The address is [www.stmarkslutheranmiddleburgh.com](http://www.stmarkslutheranmiddleburgh.com)

## Operation Christmas Child

We are going to try something a little different this year. Rather than waiting until fall to start our collection of items for the kids we are going to collect different items on a monthly basis. For the month of August please bring in school supplies. The box is up front near the cross.

### Looking for new members!

If you would like to become a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church please speak with Pastor Rodney.

## Prayers Concerns

Please lift the following people up in prayer:

Ken

Susan

Family of Judy Saddler

Dee and Mike

## Upcoming Events

**Aug 11 -Joint service W/CTS 10 AM @ Gobbler's Knob**

**Aug 13 - Council meeting 6 PM**

**Aug 15: Chicken parmesan dinner fundraiser - 4-5:30 or 6-7. Watch for more details.**

**Aug 18 - Confirmation class trip to Great Escape after service**

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### CPR/AED/First Aid Class:

If interested in taking this class please sign up in the hallway by the music room. Date to be determined soon.

## Risk Prevention Class

A mandatory risk prevention class will be held Monday August 19 at 7 P.M.. This class is for any adults that work with the youth in any way.





# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

## Confirmation Class:

Classes will resume again on September 15. Join us September 7<sup>th</sup> 6-8PM for a get together for hot dogs, hamburgers, s'mores and a bonfire at Breanna Palmatier's house - bring your family! Sign up sheet in hallway by the music room.

The class will be going to the Great Escape on August 18 following the worship service. Make sure you let Pastor know if you are going or not.

## Upcoming Youth Events:

Sept 7 - Confirmation class bonfire  
@ Breanna Palmatier's house  
Sept 14 - Fundraiser @ Walmart  
Oct 5 - Apple picking  
Oct 12 - Fundraiser @ Fall Festival  
Oct 26 - Clark Sports Center  
Nov 2 - Paint bowls  
Nov ?? - Serve soup  
Dec 6 - Fundraiser @ Miracle on  
Main Street  
Dec 16 - Christmas party

## To all youth and their parents:

In the past we have e-mailed a reminder to all of the youth and their parents of upcoming events 2 weeks ahead of time. In the message we inform them about the specific date by when a response and payment are required. This information is also conveyed in the church bulletins and the St. Mark's newsletter. We do this so we can make advance purchases of tickets to ensure we are getting the best prices possible and arrange for chaperones and drivers.

Unfortunately, we are finding that this process is not working and needs to be changed. Therefore, effective immediately, if you do not respond/pay by the requested date, you will not be able to attend the event. Also, no last minute changes will be accepted (unless there is an emergency). In addition, anyone who wants to join us at the last minute will be unable to attend.

Any questions or concerns please see Debbie Palmatier.





# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

## Committees:

### Christian Education/Youth:

11 youth and 4 adults attended the Zoom Flume and had a great time.

We are now collecting box tops from General Mills products. Box located by the altar rail. If we can collect 1000 box tops the youth will get a pizza party.

Sign up sheets for bon fire and smores, apple picking and Clark Sports Center in the hallway.

Sunday School and Confirmation class begins on September 15.

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### Finances:

Benevolence for June: \$534.33  
NALC \$262.17  
Fort Plain flood relief \$262.18

### Checking account:

Income for June \$5620.32  
Expenses for June \$5109.87  
Over/under \$510.45

### Vision mortgages:

Receipts for June \$512.50  
Mortgage payment \$1046.00  
Over/under (\$533.50)

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## Servers for Aug

### August 4:

Acolyte - Hannah/Jenna  
Ushers - Dean/Lori  
Reader - Marie  
Greeter - Jessica  
Prayer - Beth  
Counter - Diane

### August 11:

Acolyte - Kobe w/CTS  
Ushers - Denise w/CTS  
Reader - TBD  
Greeter - N/A  
Prayer - Pastor Rodney  
Counter - Debbie

### August 18:

Acolyte - Kaleb/Alyssa  
Ushers - Dennis/Diane  
Reader - Jim  
Greeter - Deb P.  
Prayer - Gene  
Counter - Diane

### August 25:

Acolyte - Marilyn/Gabby  
Ushers - Marie/Ryan  
Reader - Nanette  
Greeter - Ginny  
Prayer - Georgia  
Counter - Debbie



### Why the church exists?

What is the most important question you should ask in your life? Why am I here?

Many struggle with the reason they are alive. Some wonder if they are some cosmic coincidence. Often people fall prey to the false teaching that we are nothing more than a freak combination of chemicals that accidentally came together and made life.

This leads to the old saying "Eat, drink, and be merry for Tomorrow we die." It is the cancerous idea that we cease to exist after death. Many have allowed themselves based on this idea to become the center of their own miniature universe. It is the Burger King Mentality. My Way. (Jesus is the way so we have his way here.)

There are many false ideas and false teachings that distract us from our real purpose in life. In the letter to the Colossians Paul is dealing with the problem of false teaching.

False teaching will distract us from our course.

False teaching will disturb our faith.

False teaching will diminish our light for the Lord.

In Paul's work to overcome the false teaching he brilliantly shows us our individual purpose as well as the purpose for the Church's existence.

So ask yourself the all-important question: Why does the church exist?

Let's translate that into our church, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, some of you may ask why do we meet, why study the Bible, why, why, why? Let's answer both questions with one Bible verse Colossians 1.16c "all things have been created through Him (the Lord Jesus Christ) and for Him.

We are not some cosmic coincidence, we are not an accident, we were created by God and for God. From the individual to the individual churches. The bible here teaches that God created everyone who has ever lived or ever will. Not only did God create everyone. He created everyone for Himself. Paul said it this way in 1 Corinthians 6.19c – 20 "you are not your own, for you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify (exalt, lift up) God in your body."

To glorify in this passage means to praise, magnify, celebrate, and honor God. It also conveys the idea of getting others to acknowledge God's greatness. The church exists to exalt Jesus. Exalt means to raise in rank, status, or character. To honor glorify and praise.

As the church we are called Christians. A way to understand the definition of Christian is to say we are little Christ's. Let's investigate the bare necessities of lifting Jesus up in rank and status as members of St. Marks's Lutheran.

We are called to follow His lead and reach out to all those who are suffering, those who are hungry, naked and forgotten. Jesus reached out to everyone and as Christians we are called to do likewise. The church exists to serve God. The church exists to shine light in this dark world and the church exists to glorify the name of the Lord. So we all need to be united in mission, ministry and motivation and do the

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things that the Lord is calling us to do. So let us go forward with the assurance that God is always with us and we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. Amen.

Submitted

Pastor Royan Rodney.

7/23/2013



St. Mark's Lutheran Church  
Mid-Year Informational Meeting

St. Mark's Council made a resolution at our Annual Meeting to periodically hold informational meetings with the congregation. On Sunday, July 14, 2013, we held our mid-year meeting to provide an update on our financial status as well as our various ministries. The following is a summary of what was discussed.

**Finance**

Please see the enclosed financial summary sheet, the treasurer's report, a graph of income versus expenses and a summary of Pastor Rodney's compensation package. Debbie Palmatier noted that our year-to-date income is much less than our expenses, that we have no control over some of the expenses such as heating, electricity, etc. and that we have failed to meet our average of \$5600 income each month to break even. Our Vision Fund, which is used to pay our mortgage, is also falling short each month. The extra money we had at the beginning of 2013 is now gone so we no longer have the financial cushion with which we started the year. A reminder was given that even though God provides for us, He also calls us to be good stewards of the blessings He has given.

If anyone would like to become a member of the Finance Committee, please contact Debbie. Currently serving on this committee with her are: Diane France, Sharon Nesbitt and Gene Wyckoff. New people and new ideas are welcome.

**Property**

The stain-glass windows in the sanctuary need to be repaired. Members of the congregation are able to replace the caulking and paint them; however, the lead glass repair is going to be costly so we are seeking a grant and/or will do fundraisers to pay for the work to be done.

Landscaping around all of our buildings is looking great.

**Worship and Music**

The handbells, which were in the flood, are in need of a professional cleaning so we are trying to locate a place where we can get this done.

We are happy that we will have new members join us in September.

### **Altar Guild**

Help is needed to prepare the altar for worship service. Please see Georgia VanDyke if you are interested in serving in this capacity.

### **Christian Education / Youth Activities**

There have been many activities and several community projects undertaken by our Youth since January. Leaders include: Debbie Palmatier, Heather Palmatier and Jessica Gordon.

It was noted that anyone who is currently working with or planning to work with the Youth, must attend an upcoming Risk Management class. Julie Sammons will be leading this class; date(s) to be determined and will be announced as soon as they are scheduled.

### **Social Ministries**

Food pantry donations have been coming in; however, more is needed as we have a number of families in the area who need our assistance. Donations of fresh vegetables from our gardens will be accepted. Any questions, please contact Pat McCoy.

### **Creative Women's Ministry**

This newly formed group is for women who want to participate in outreach ministries as well as have social and fellowship time with each other. Meetings will be held at 6:00 p.m. on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month beginning in September. Any questions, please contact Georgia VanDyke or Marie Whittaker.

### **Creative Men's Ministry**

An invitation was given by Pastor Rodney for the men in our St. Mark's congregation to participate in this group. It was formed jointly with the men from Christ the Shepherd Church and the next meeting will be a bar-be-cue on July 26. Please contact Pastor Rodney for additional information.

### **After School Program**

After two years at the Middleburgh Elementary School, we are returning to the St. Mark's facility in September. There will be a limit of 20 children in this program and ASP will be held from 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Unfortunately, we do not have any playground equipment so we are applying for a grant to purchase the equipment and a fence to surround it. Cheryl Cater is the contact for ASP.



# Chicken Parmesan Dinner



St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Middleburgh, NY

Thursday, August 15, 2013

Purchase your ticket on July 27, 2013  
at St. Mark's Church

**There are two settings:**

**Setting #1 is from 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM**

**Setting #2 is from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM**

**Price:**

**Adult - \$11**

**Children - Age 5 To 12 - \$6**

**Age 4 and younger - Free**

# *"Bon Fire and S'Mores*

*September 7, 2013*

*Time: 6-8 P.M.*

*Confirmation kids - bring your parents to a get together before classes start again. Hot dogs, hamburgers and s'mores along side the bonfire.*

*Location: Breanna Palmatier's house @ 187 Decker Road*

*Questions see Pastor*



# NALC News

North American Lutheran Church

July 2013

## NALC Convocation to meet Aug. 8-9 in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Members of congregations of the North American Lutheran Church from throughout the United States and Canada will gather Aug. 8-9 in Pittsburgh, Pa., for the annual NALC Convocation around the theme, "Come to the Water of Life."

The NALC Convocation is one of four events that will take place Aug. 6-9 at the Sheraton Station Square Hotel in Pittsburgh. The NALC Convocation will be preceded by Lutheran CORE's Convocation on Aug. 6 and by the Theological Conference sponsored by Lutheran CORE and the NALC on Aug. 6-7. The Women of the NALC will meet on Aug. 7.

Convocation delegates will receive information and reports and make decisions about the life and ministry of the NALC.

Among the most significant items to be considered by the Convocation is a recommendation that the NALC establish its own seminary to provide for the theological education of future NALC pastors.

The Convocation will elect one pastor and one lay person to four-year terms on the Executive Council. Four lay people and nine pastors have been nominated for the positions. The Executive Council functions as the board of directors for the NALC, providing leadership for the church body between the annual Convocations.



*More than 700 delegates and visitors gathered for the 2012 NALC Convocation at Calvary Lutheran Church in Golden Valley, Minn.*

There will also be an update on the NALC's application for membership in the Lutheran World Federation and a report on an exciting discipleship initiative being undertaken by the NALC in partnership with The Navigators.

The Convocation will elect members of the Court of Adjudication. Jon Evans of Pittsburgh, Pa., and Pastor Jeffray Greene of Rantoul, Ill., have been nominated for re-election.

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# Women of NALC Annual Gathering

"Connecting in Mission to Share God's Love" is the theme of the Women of the NALC annual gathering on Wednesday, Aug. 7, in Pittsburgh, Pa. All women are invited to join in a day of spiritual formation as they learn of mission ministries.

Pastor Josh Hansen of St. Luke's Lutheran Church of Colorado Springs, Colo., will explain how to define, identify and qualify mission needs so that women's groups may create mission partnerships and develop those mission relationships.

There will be times for fellowship, idea sharing and election of new members to The Women's Council. Meet other sisters in Christ, both in your region and across the country as we come together for a full day to Share God's Love.

During the 9 a.m. registration hour before the meeting, members of The Women's Council will be available for an informal "Question and Answer, Idea Sharing and Brainstorming Session" for women to learn about the WNALC, ask questions and share individual ministries. Registration is \$60 (with lunch) and \$35 (without lunch).

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## *Continued from Page 1*

One of the highlights of the Convocation will be the recognition of Pastor Herb Hafermann for 50 years of mission work in Tanzania. Representatives of the 6-million-member Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania are scheduled to be present to join in the celebration of Pastor Hafermann's work.

Another highlight will be a festive Holy Communion service at First Presbyterian Church, a beautiful Gothic edifice not far from Station Square, which will feature music by the Westmont College Choir of Santa Barbara, Calif., and be preceded by a 30-minute organ and choral prelude.

There also will be numerous displays introducing NALC missions and ministries.

# Lutheran CORE Convocation

The Rev. Dr. Gemechis Buba, NALC Assistant to the Bishop for Missions, will be the keynote speaker for the morning session of Lutheran CORE's Convocation on Tuesday, Aug. 6.

The vision of Lutheran CORE is to connect all orthodox, traditional Lutherans. In keeping with that vision, the Rev. Steven K. Gjerde, pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, an ELCA congregation in Wausau, Wis., will speak in the afternoon about the relationships among traditional Lutherans regardless of church body affiliation. Pastor Gjerde will then participate in a panel discussion with Pastor Mark Chavez, NALC General Secretary; Pastor Scott Grorud, Augustana District of Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ; and Pastor Beth Schlegel of St. Peter's Lutheran Church (ELCA) in York, Pa. The panel will be moderated by Pastor Paul Ulring, moderator of Lutheran CORE.

The Convocation will also include a brief business meeting to elect Steering Committee members and approve a budget. Various workshops will be offered in the afternoon, uplifting opportunities for mission.

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The Convocation is the annual meeting of the NALC. Voting delegates for the NALC Convocation include lay people chosen by their congregations and all NALC pastors. Each congregation is entitled to at least one lay delegate. Those who are not delegates are welcome to attend as visitors.

You may register for the events at [www.thenalc.org](http://www.thenalc.org). Online registration is the preferred method of registration. The registration fee for the NALC Convocation is \$95. The Theological Conference registration fee is \$115, and the Lutheran CORE Convocation fee is \$70.

The registration fee for each event includes lunch during that event. The NALC Convocation fee also includes dinner on Thursday, Aug. 8, but lunch on Friday, Aug. 9, is not included.