

# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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## New website

Our webpage is up and running.  
Check it out. The address is

[www.stmarkslutheran  
middleburgh.com](http://www.stmarkslutheranmiddleburgh.com)

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## Prayer Ministry

You are invited to participate in a new prayer ministry. We meet on Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. in St. Mark's sanctuary. If you are unable to attend and have a prayer request you would like lifted, please contact the church office or feel free to place your written request in the prayer box located in narthex.

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Council has adopted a policy for anyone that wishes to use the fellowship hall for an event. Going forward all requests are to be sent to Lisa Bartholomew. She can be reached at 231-9494. She will handle all the arrangements, scheduling, paperwork and payments. This will allow for a one point person contact rather than having too many people involved.

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**Please get your yearly financial records to Carrie Foland as she will be conducting the 2016 audit for the church.**

## Prayers Concerns

Please lift the following people up in prayer:

Prayers for our new pastor  
Patti  
Janet  
Bob  
Skip

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## Upcoming Events

**Mar 11 - Men's breakfast 9:00**

**Mar 13 - Council meeting 7:00**

**Mar 22 - St. Mark's Net Dinner**

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Speakers for our upcoming February services:

Mar 5 - Pastor Dave Houck  
Mar 12 - Mike Sacocio  
Mar 19 - Pastor Dave Houck  
Mar 26 - Tom Livingston

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## Notes of support:

Janet Abrams  
114 Warrior Way  
Middleburgh, NY 12122

# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

## Happy Days !!!!!

### **Birthdays: March**

March 1 - Carrie Foland  
March 13 - Jill Hanley  
March 14 - Jim Brigadier and Dylan  
              Hillicoss and Mary  
              Chichester  
March 19 - Cheryl Cater  
March 22 - Dean Roney and William  
              Cronin  
March 27 - Virginia Tinney

### **Anniversaries: March**

March 15 - John and Heather  
              Palmatier

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**For those of you that  
were unable to stay  
for the annual  
meeting (you missed  
some delicious food!)  
copies of the  
committee reports  
will be in the next  
few newsletters for  
your information.**

**Did you know St. Mark's offers  
the following opportunities for  
you and your family to  
participate?**

Phoebes - every Monday from 9-2 PM

Youth Sunday School - Held during  
the worship service message

Adult Sunday School - Sundays from  
9:15 - 10 AM

Prayer Ministry - every Thursday  
night beginning at 5:30 PM

After School Program - every day  
from 3 - 5:30 PM following school  
schedule

Men's Prayer breakfast - second  
Saturday of each month

Creative Women's Ministry - Fourth  
Friday of the month at 7 PM

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**If you know of anyone that  
could use an encouragement  
basket please speak with Janet  
or Gloria.**

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**If you have articles you would  
like in the newsletters please  
put them in Debbie's mailbox.**



# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

## Committees:

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### Legend of the Dogwood

An old and beautiful legend says that, at the time of the crucifixion, the dogwood was comparable in size to the oak tree and other monarchs of the forest. Because of its firmness and strength it was selected as the timber of the cross, but to be put to such cruel use greatly distressed the tree. Sensing this, the crucified Jesus in His gentle pity for the sorrow and suffering of all said to it: "Because of your sorrow and pity for My sufferings, never again will the dogwood tree grow large enough to be used as a cross. Henceforth it will be slender, bent and twisted and its blossoms will be in the form of a cross - two long and two short petals. In the center of the outer edge of each petal there will be nail prints - brown with rust and stained with red - and in the center of the flower will be a crown of thorns, and all who see this will remember.

## Servers for March

### March 5:

Acolyte - TDB  
Ushers - Gene/Chris  
Reader - Ginny  
Greeter - Maurice  
Prayer - Georgia  
Counter - Carrie

### March 12:

Acolyte - Dylan  
Ushers - Lori/Dean  
Reader - Nannette  
Greeter - Pat  
Prayer - Gene  
Counter - Deb

### March 19:

Acolyte - TBD  
Ushers - Dennis/Diane  
Reader - Deb B.  
Greeter - Janet  
Prayer - Deb B.  
Counter - Diane

### March 26:

Acolyte - Dylan  
Ushers - Bill/Bonnie  
Reader - Georgia  
Greeter - Debbie P.  
Prayer - Chris  
Counter - Carrie

## A Special Ecumenical Lenten Renewal Program

**Dates: March 14 and March 16**

**Time: 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

Friar Peter Chepaitis and Sister Anna Tantsits are leading special ecumenical Lenten renewal services on Tuesday, March 14, and Thursday, March 16, at 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The March 14 service is a reflection that focuses on how to be Jesus' disciples when He says, "As I have done, so you must do." This session is being hosted by **Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church**.

The March 16 service will focus on the healing light of the Spirit of God and will be hosted by **St. Mark's Lutheran Church**.

Come and let the Spirit renew and heal you - and bring a friend.



## **Social Ministries - 2016**

"Be kind and compassionate to one another." - Ephesians 4:32

This report highlights most of our 2016 social ministries.

### **Food Pantry**

Donations were received from school and community clubs, local churches, Scouts, U.S. Post Office, Hannaford Food Market and other community friends. Our congregation has also been generous with non-perishable and monetary donations.

We continued to purchase food from the Northeast Regional Food Bank and received a \$800 grant from the Hunger Prevention Nutrition Assistance Program. The assistance from these sources and many more made it possible to offer more nutritious foods and maintain our pantry's supplies. Many thanks are extended to Dennis Foland and Dennis France for faithfully picking up the food each month.

The "Jazzy's Place" grant allowed us to purchase food for family dogs. Ten households received dog food throughout the year.

Number of children fed	- 171
Number of adults fed	- <u>330</u>
Total number of individuals fed	- 501

Two Thanksgiving baskets and two Christmas baskets were given away.

Our local Stewart's shop donated bread, rolls, pastries and snacks to our food pantry.

### **Clothing Closet**

Our community and congregation were generous with donations. We answered the needs for clothing, shoes, boots, bedding and household items. A relationship with "The Everything Shoppe", and the Department of Social Services made it possible to meet specific needs.

Number of children served	- 33
Number of adults served	- 36

2016 referrals to our food pantry and clothing closet came from local schools, Head Start, DSS, Berkshire Farms, SCCAP, Catholic Charities, and the Joshua Project.

### **Domestics**

Four families received bedding and small household items.

### **"Coats for Kids" and Adults**

In cooperation with SCCAP, St. Mark's hosted a coat, snow pants, boots, hats, mittens and scarf give-away in which 19 coats were handed out. Again, through the generosity of our congregation, we were able to bless others with either new or gently used items.

### **Summer Band Concert Ice Cream Social**

Delicious desserts and ice cream were served and enjoyed by people attending the summer band concert on the MSC lawn. (Pie with scoops of ice cream on top were the favorite.) It was a wonderful evening of fun and fellowship with the proceeds benefiting our food pantry account.

### **Christmas Appeal**

27 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes were packed with love and delivered to the Samaritan's Purse Relay Center. In addition, Walmart gift cards of different denominations were sent to Wings As Eagles Ministries in South Dakota to bless the Native American children with Christmas gifts.

### **"Neighbors Eating Together" (NET) Dinners (January – June)**

In 2016 on the fourth Wednesday of each month, our congregation prepared and served dinner for our neighbors. It has been a wonderful way for the kitchen crew to enjoy each other and to meet new people.

### **Coffee Hour**

Families and friends prepared delicious refreshments that are served after our Sunday worship services. What a super time for fellowship!

### **Our Prayer**

"Father God, Your heart beats for the vulnerable and for those who are alone. Help us to love Your people as You love them, for we are made in Your image."

(Our Daily Bread, December 3, 2016)

Yours In Christ,  
Pat McCoy



## St. Mark's Christian Care After-School Program – 2016



*After 6 years* we are stilled blessed to be able to continue doing one of God's missions here at St. Mark's with our After-School Program.

We began the school year with 22 children registered and even though some days we have less than other days, we are challenged and rewarded at the same time. The hugs are so **"priceless"**. Our returning employees this year are Cheryl Cater, Patti Bowman, Jessica Miller, Maureen Sniffen, and Jennifer Sniffen. This year we were blessed to add Jordan Miller (a senior from MCS high school) and Bonnie Jorgensen. Bonnie Morton is still volunteering on Thursdays and the children love playing with her. Dennis Foland survived for the first three months also as a volunteer, but has decided to take a break from ASP for awhile. He is **greatly** missed by the youth and the staff. We thank Dennis for all his help. We especially want to thank Vern Gordon for volunteering to help Sharon Nesbitt with our finances/payroll while she was in the hospital and his setting up of a direct deposit payroll through a Christian Program called "MinistryWorks". This will be implemented effective January 2017. Sharon will continue in her role and will be working directly with them.

Our hours are from 3:00 until 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. In our fellowship time, the children share what is important to them that day, read a Bible story which is followed by a prayer given by one of the youths and this year we are memorizing Psalm 23. During the past month, we gave each child an Advent calendar which has a candy for each day of Advent (24 to be exact ☺) After that, we focus on homework time and play time.

We give **God** thanks and praise for His guidance because we cannot do this ministry without Him! PTL!

In Christ,  
Cheryl Cater  
ASP Coordinator

## **2016 Men's Group Report**

The Men's Group met a variety of times in 2017. The group has evolved to having a meal together and a fellowship which has grown out of whatever subject is of interest that day. There is normally a topic of devotion brought to the table as a way to engage in the common discussion of faith.

The Men's Group has ranged from a meeting of 2 to 11 individuals.

The attempt has been made to have the group meet the second Saturday of each month. That has been a challenge due to conflicts in schedules, but the group will continue to try to have a common meeting time each month.

The Men's Group sponsored a Mother's Day breakfast for all who wished to join us in a meal. The breakfast was well attended by many individuals and families and the number of men who helped prepare the breakfast was more than those who attend the regular breakfast gatherings. Another breakfast was held on Labor Day weekend with many men preparing the food and fewer people fed. The great result has been that many men worked together, have contributed to the church as a whole and have shared a time of fellowship.

The Men's Group has also provided the After School Program with a new picnic table. In addition, they have been helping Georgia VanDyke with the seasonal changes in the sanctuary.

The future objective is to have a consistent meeting time, increase the number of men participating, invitations to non- church members, development of projects that can be pursued and meeting the fellowship needs of the people who attend.

Submitted,

Chris Cash

January 9, 2017