

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Publisher
Church mouse

Issue Number
60

Date
May 2016

New website

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

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

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.

Council has adopted a new 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.

Prayers Concerns

Please lift the following people up in prayer:

Prayers for our new pastor
Family of Debi Hagadorn

Upcoming Events

May 8 – Men's Mother's Day Breakfast 9:00 am
HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

May 10 – Council Meeting 6:00 pm

May 18 – NET Dinner 5:00 pm

May 22 – Handbell Concert 3:00 pm

Speakers for our upcoming
May services:

May 1 - Pastor Dave Houck

May 8 - Friar Peter

May 15 - Pastor Dave Houck

May 22 - Ron Lower

May 29 - Rich Blodgett

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Committees:

May 29:

Acolyte - TBD
Ushers – Harry/Sharon
Reader – Jim
Greeter - Pat
Prayer – Jim
Counter - Deb

Servers for May

May 1:

Acolyte - TBD
Ushers – Georgia/Marie
Reader - Ted
Greeter - Deb P.
Prayer - Ted
Counter - Carrie

May 8:

Acolyte - Dylan
Ushers – Lori/Dean
Reader - Tamara
Greeter - Ginny
Prayer - Beth
Counter - Deb

May 15:

Acolyte - TBD
Ushers – Diane/Dennis
Reader – Sharon N.
Greeter - Harry
Prayer – Gene
Counter - Diane

May 22:

Acolyte - Dylan
Ushers – Bill/Bonnie
Reader – Deb P.
Greeter - Maurice
Prayer – Chris
Counter - Carrie

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Happy Days !!!!!

Birthdays: May

May 5 - Gloria Falcone
May 8 - Mary Schaffer and Claude Brown
May 11 - Dennis France
May 13 - Debbie Brigadier
May 14 - Augie Kauffman
May 16 - Michael Cinquino
May 22 - Sharon Nesbitt
May 26 - Stephanie Nichol
May 28 - Kobe Gordon
May 30 - Brianna Gordon

Anniversaries: May

May 21 - Jill and Kenneth Hanley

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.

Zumba Classes will be Thursdays at 9:30 in the fellowship hall. Check the calendar in the hallway for more details.

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

Social Ministry News

“We have been blessed to be a blessing.”

Our congregation and the community have been very generous! Recently, a gentleman from Central Bridge, donated many cases of peas, green beans, macaroni/cheese, and tuna fish to area pantries.

The congregation's donations to the food pantry, clothing, and domestic's closet have made a huge difference in the lives of many families. Since January, 49 families have received assistance through St. Mark's food pantry. At the present time, girls and boys clothing is needed (sizes 5-12). If you would like to make a donation, please contact Pat McCoy.

On Easter morning, 15 – 20 people attended the St. Mark's "Sunrise Breakfast." Thanks to all who donated the delicious food.

Mary Townsend from Christ the Shepard Lutheran Church is organizing a "field trip" to Schenectady City Mission. More details to follow. It's a great opportunity to visit the facility and learn more about the Lord's work there.

The Middleburgh
Ecumenical Bell Choir
Concert

Sunday - May 22, 2016
3:00 p.m.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall



Engaging the Aging

NALC Aging Network - Equipping congregations for ministry with older adults

By Pastor Brad Hales

North America is aging at a rapid rate. By 2040 one out of every four people will be 65 and older. But this is only part of the story. The church is experiencing the “age wave” now! The average age of many church members is already 60 or better. So what are we going to do?

Are we going to be like an ostriches with our heads in the sand thinking that nothing will change? Are we going to throw in the towel, believing that this is how it's going to be until the local congregation ultimately folds? Or are we going to renew the church by “engaging the aging,” and help our older members to grow in discipleship and witness?

When I worked for a denominational office, I spent much time in rural congregations with aging populations. When discussing evangelism and church growth, inevitably, many would say, “Let's hire a youth director and our congregations will be teeming with youth and young families.” But this is not always the best solution, is it? Obviously, we need to reach out to children and youth and share the Gospel of Jesus with them. But this is not possible in every congregation. The main constituency in many of our churches is seniors. Why can't we turn this question around? Why can't senior ministry be an essential ministry in our parishes? Why can't we look for ways to share Christ with this population and to help them grow in the faith?

For years we've known that older adults have been the “mainstay” of the church. They worship, provide needed offerings, support missions, and are always around when ministry work is needed. Instead of taking this group for granted, why don't we engage them and help them to grow in their relationship with the Lord Jesus?

In Psalm 71:17-18 it is written, “O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous needs. So even in my old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me; until I proclaim

your might to another generation, your power to all those who come.” And in 2 Samuel 19:32, we learn about an older man named Barzillai who supported King David in his efforts.

So what can we do in our congregations right now to reach out to older adults, and make this a priority? How about modeling this ministry after the “**5 Ss of Senior Adult Ministry?**” These elements include; **Spiritual, Study, Social, Service and Self.**

Practically speaking, how about starting an older adult Bible study or a senior adult Vacation Bible School? What about starting a senior worship service? A weekly “lunch and learning program” or a senior mentoring ministry? Perhaps you could hold a “Senior Celebration” that includes music, Bible study, a speaker, and other topics of interest. Consider joining the NALC Aging Network, and learn about upcoming webinars, resources, and future regional and national conferences on ministry to older adults.

Most of our congregations are filled with seniors who want to grow in discipleship and service. How can we use this energy to renew the local church? When I came to my present call 11 years ago, we had around 30 people with an average age over 60. There were few children and a majority of older adults. So we focused our discipleship ministry on seniors. As this happened, the congregation began to flourish. Our emphasis on mature adults has not waned, but increased. Now we've even added more ministry to younger families that have been led to the congregation. Many of our parishes have a great asset in their midst — older adults. Why don't we intentionally disciple them and witness Jesus to them? This can bring renewal to the church!

Brad Hales is the pastor of Reformation Lutheran Church in Culpeper, Va. He is also the Dean of the Virginia Mission District and Coordinator of the NALC Aging Network. He may be reached at pastorhales@hotmail.com or at 540-270-1026.

Call Committee Report

Chairperson: Marie Whittaker

Members: Dennis Foland, Mary Chichester, Janet Abrams

February 2015

The committee met and reviewed the NALC Manual for Calling a Pastor.

We had a conference call with Pastor David Wendel of NALC, who is the assistant to the Bishop for Ministry and Ecumenism. He gave us an explanation and training for the work of the Call Committee so we would feel prepared to move forward with the responsibilities as the Call Committee of the congregation.

April 2015

We completed and submitted our Congregational Profile to NALC.

July 2015

NALC sent us one Pastoral Candidate Profile. Our committee met to review the profile and Marie attempted to contact the candidate. Although she left a voice message, the candidate did not respond.

Pastor Wendel suggested we consider the NALC Internship program as a way to gain a new spiritual leader. He forwarded information to us about the program and we contact Pastor Hopper who is the leader of the internships. In addition, we received and are completing the NALC Congregation's Application for Internship Program.

To date, we have had limited communication with NALC regarding potential candidates. It is our hope that with the end of the semester for seminary students fast approaching, we may be able to get an intern to be our new spiritual leader.

The next committee meeting will be held in January 2016 to discuss our plans for going forward.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Whittaker

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
2015
Men's Group

The year 2015 saw the inception of a Men's Group that met on the second Saturday of each month in the church hall. The initial meeting was simply to gather men together to share a meal and chat. At the first meeting, the men talked about the organization of our group. As we talked, a plan of action came together for we all understood that men gathering together is good for each other and for our church.

What was our action plan?

We met each month to share a meal and have conversation in the church setting. At each meeting we would listen, talk, and/or share with each other about different topics. We also had a very short topic of devotion about what is God's expectation of us. Many conversations were left with 'What would Jesus Do?'

We discussed working with youth, giving of ourselves, and developing small projects that would engage men with others in the church or the larger community.

The possibility of a Bible study was discussed, but the men simply felt that this group needs to be an open forum for any discussion and friendship in the church setting that gives a venue for all to come and share. Bible study may be an outcome of the group in the future.

Food was supplied and prepared by the men, who wanted to share their gift of cooking. We never left unfilled for we all ate well. At the end of the meeting, we left having learned more about each other and with an understanding that we are all different, but the same.

To God's glory, the Men's Group persists and is evolving with new and continued conversations, with other men joining and sharing their life concerns and interests and with learning about God's Word as it pertains to men of our world.

We look forward to 2016 because there is more to come!

In Christ,
Chris Cash

2015 Ladies Ministry Annual Report

Our Women's Ministry group continues to meet on the fourth Friday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in St. Mark's. In 2015 it has been somewhat of a challenge scheduling visits at local adult care facilities; however, we will move forward in the new year to visit several facilities. We will be scheduling visits to Marchand Manor, Robinson Terrace and Baptist Health and Rehabilitation Center beginning in late January.

The women of our ministry group continue to send out cards as well as contact and visit the homebound in our community on a regular basis. A special thank you to Janet Abrams for promptly sending beautiful, thoughtful cards and to Sharon Nesbitt for her kind and thoughtful actions in some difficult situations.

If you know of any one in our community who would appreciate a visit or a thoughtful note, please let us know.

Respectfully submitted,
Georgia VanDyke
Chairperson