

# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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## From Pastor Rodney

See Pastor's 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.

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## 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)

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## Looking for new members!

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

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The next confirmation class will be starting in September.

Pastor will be contacting parents to set up a meeting soon. Any questions see Pastor.

## Prayers Concerns

Please lift the following people up in prayer:

Debbie and John

Brenda

Sue's brother

Jeff and family

Darin

Pastor's daughter

Hinkley families

Susie

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## Upcoming Events

July 8 - Council meeting 6 PM

July 18 - Ice cream social on front lawn of high school

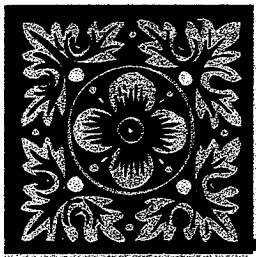
July 19 - Youth meeting 6:30 - 8:30

July 20 - Semi annual church meeting

July 27 - Community Church Service High School lawn 11:00

Every Thursday 6:00 - Prayer meeting in sanctuary

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# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Go Make Disciples.

Myron Butler and Levi Sung an inspiring gospel song entitled, "Jesus saves" It goes like this, "When I think of the goodness of Jesus And all He's done for me My soul cries out hallelujah Thank God for saving me Jesus saved me, Jesus changed me Washed me in the cleansing blood of the Lamb Jesus filled me, sanctified me Right now I am free from sin To the utmost Jesus saves To the utmost Jesus saves"

I am not sure if you are familiar with this song, but it's one that I have sung many times in church when I lived in Jamaica. It's a song that gets you thinking about your life, what would have happened to you, if Jesus did not save you, where would you have been, what you would be doing. And I can tell you that it would not have been anything good, because life without Jesus is no life at all. Life without Jesus is a journey towards destruction and hell.

We thank God for his saving grace, because life with Jesus is sweeter than the day before, to the utmost, Jesus saves, to the utmost Jesus saves, when I think of the goodness of Jesus and what he has done for me, my soul cries out alleluia, thank God for saving me, thank God for saving you, and thank God for saving my daughter Maleah.

I am thankful that God saved her, and literally breathed back into her the breath of life. A sudden asthma attack, that left the doctor baffled as to how quickly it happened and how severe it was. It took her breath away and she had such difficulty breathing to the point where they were considering putting her on a ventilator.

She was doing all that she can to breathe which took so much effort that it sped her heart rate up to 160 and the doctor feared that it was too much for her heart that it might stop. I called upon all of you here and my friends and my family, who assured me that they were praying for her. What comfort those words were to me, "I am praying for your daughter." There were so many people praying for her, and God heard us and he saved her."Thanks be to God.

As I looked at my daughter laying in the hospital struggling to breathe, I started thinking about the breath of God, especially as we prepare for Pentecost. When God sent us his Spirit, we are never the same again, it fills us, it transforms us and it sends us out to make disciples for Christ.

I called upon God, and he was able to fill my daughter with his breath, and she was able to breathe again. When we receive the breath of God, we are never the same again, his Spirit sends us out to do great things in the name of Jesus so that everyone who believes in him, will not perish but have everlasting life.

In the gospel of John 20: 21 Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Jesus was able to breathe his spirit upon his disciples, and sent them out to make disciples, who will in turn make disciples. My friends that is what we are called to do as a Church, to make disciples.

Jesus gave us the great commission, he said, " Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the son and the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always to the end of the age.

Jesus has given us a mandate, we have a job to do we are called to make disciples and one effective way of doing that is by telling our stories, tell people about what God has done for us. Remember it is not about us, or the job that we do, or how important we are. All of us are called to make Jesus known, it is all about Jesus, he has given us his message and it is our job to keep telling people about Jesus so they will know who he is, and what he has done for us, so they too can believe.

All of us are blest with the gift of sharing our faith. The great commission calls us to examine our lives and our walk with Christ. Everything that we do here is wrapped up in the command of Christ... Go and make disciples. We are in the disciple making business and we all have an equal share in bringing the good news of God. This is what it is all about, making people know that life is only worth living when we live for God. In the presence of God there is always fullness of joy, we have so much joy to pass around, today is the day of salvation , the Spirit of God is in this place, let us go forth and bring people in, so they too can hear the good news, Let us not wait for them to come in, the Spirit of God is sending us out to bring them in.

Jesus says, " Go make disciples... what are you waiting for? The Holy Spirit is in you. Go in the name of Jesus! Amen!

Submitted by  
Pr. Royan Rodney



**Make sure you take the time  
this summer to stop and eat the  
watermelon!**

6/20/2014



# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

## Happy Days !!!!!

### **Birthdays: July**

July 7 - Terri Cronin  
July 17 - Michael Harrison  
July 22 - Janet Abrams

### **Anniversaries: July**

July 10 - Jeremy and Jessica Gordon  
July 21 - Terri and John Cronin

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### **Prayer Ministry**

You are invited to participate in a new prayer ministry being led by Pastor Rodney. We meet on Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. in St. Mark's sanctuary. If you are unable to attend and have a prayer request you would like lifted, please contact Pastor or feel free to place your written request in the prayer box located in the Narthex. Let's make St. Mark's a praying church where we can bring our joys and concerns to God.

## **Lent Offerings**

During the season of Lent, special offerings that are collected during that time are dedicated to a special cause as decided by council. This year council agreed to send our gifts of \$368.00 to NALC to be used for disaster assistance.

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## **Sharing Special Gifts at Summer Worship**

Summer is finally here and the St. Mark's choir is on their summer break for the months of July, August and part of September. We are looking for people to share their gifts and talents, such as a reading, a poem, music (vocal and/or instrumental), etc. during these upcoming months. If God leads you to bless the congregation by serving Him in this way, please contact Cheryl or Carolyn to sign-up for a Sunday worship service.

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## **Ecumenical Community Worship Service**

You are invited to our annual ecumenical community worship service that will be held on July 27 at 11:00 a.m. on the Middleburgh High School lawn. Please bring a lawn chair and your picnic lunch. Desserts will be provided. Please feel free to contact the church office if you have any questions.



# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

## Servers for July

### July 6:

Acolyte - Brianna/Mary  
Ushers - Sharon/Tom  
Reader - Ethel  
Greeter - Maurice  
Prayer - Gene  
Counter - Diane

### July 13:

Acolyte - Jenna  
Ushers - Gene/Georgia  
Reader - Sharon N.  
Greeter - Pat  
Prayer - Ginny  
Counter - Carrie

### July 20:

Acolyte - Kaleb  
Ushers - Dean/Lori  
Reader - Georgia  
Greeter - Janet  
Prayer - Chris  
Counter - Debbie

### July 27:

Community Church Service @  
High School

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## Semi annual meeting

Mark your calendars for July 20 for our semi annual church meeting. Our service will be shortened and we will meet right after the service for a brief update on the past 6 months.



# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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## **Church Growth Plan** **By Pastor Rodney**

"As all of you are aware it is very challenging to grow a church in a rural area. No one person can do it alone. God is the one who inspires us and will give us the courage and will bring the increase. We have to be willing to do the work. I have been doing some research on church growth online and I found some ideas that I believe can work for us. Here are 15 ideas and I believe if we dedicate ourselves to the task, it will help us grow this church. It's a lot of work, but I believe we can do it."

Please take some time to read through the list on the next page and listen for a "God nudge" as to what He has planned for you.

1. **The Growth Challenge:** Members commit to personally invite one person—friend or stranger—to church every week this year, until they come.
2. **Sunday Brunch:** Deliver invitations to homes located near the church building inviting them to worship services and to a Sunday brunch beforehand with their neighbors .
3. **Date Night:** Provide complimentary childcare for unchurched couples on Valentine's Day.
4. **Mission Trip:** Plan and participate in a mission trip both locally and internationally.
5. **Friend Day:** Encourage every member to bring an unchurched friend to worship. We can have Friend day every quarter so everyone has enough time to invite their friends.
6. **Stop & Pray Day:** On May 1, every year we celebrate National Day of Prayer, and in March it's World Day of Prayer. For those days, those who are available we can use an outside banner to invite the community to come inside and pray. Play background music, light some candles and create an atmosphere of prayer.
7. **School's Out Celebrations:** Host three last-day-of-school parties. Elementary kids' ice cream party, middle school pizza party and treasure hunt; high school volleyball tournament and/or Christian concert. ( Or something different, the idea is to do something for each age group).
8. **Welcome Wagon:** Deliver welcome baskets to people who move into your community. Include baked goods or pantry items, information about your church, as well as coupons to local businesses. The Chamber of Commerce can provide us with the names and addresses of people who recently have relocated to our area.
9. **Vacation Bible School** is an enormous outreach and we can plan on doing this every year from Next year and possibly collaborate with the area churches.
10. **Explosion Sunday:** Invite guests and unconnected members to join one. Also we invite our family and friends to join us, and invite the business people in our community and honor them for their service to our community.
11. **Breakout and Excel Conference.** High school and Middle School Conference.
12. **Adopt an International Student.** A majority of international students who come to the U.S. to study are never invited into an American home. Work with your local university to host an international student throughout the year. Pick them up at the airport when they arrive. Invite them to dinner once a month and spend time with them during the holidays. This is a great ministry. I was an International student and I benefitted from this kind of ministry.
13. **Christmas Caroling:** Teams blanket the community with caroling then meet later for hot cocoa. We have been doing this, and we can expand on it and make it bigger.
14. **Family Night.** I have been trying and unsuccessfully so, to have a creative men's ministry. I am hoping that the family night can serve this purpose of bring both groups together.

## **JOSHUA PROJECT**

Joshua Project is an ecumenical outreach program to benefit people who live in the villages of Middleburgh and Schoharie as well as children in Schoharie County. Father Joseph Girzone, who envisioned the Joshua Project, has been working with Our Lady of the Valley to create various programs to meet certain needs, including **Summer Lunch Program and Backpack Program**. These two programs will be in place from Monday, June 30, through the end of August.

### **Summer Lunch Program**

This was a very successful program in Middleburgh last year where over 1800 meals were served to families and children. God is once again leading us to continue this program. Lunches will be served Monday through Friday from 12:00 to 1:30 in the MCS high school cafeteria and all are welcome.

### **Backpack Program**

This new program is designed to deliver food to 100 children throughout Schoharie County. The food will be picked up weekly and separated into 100 different bags. Each bag will have enough food to feed one child breakfast and lunch for five days. The bags will be delivered weekly to the child's residence.

Food for these programs is made possible through the assistance of Middleburgh Joint Youth Commission, the United Way and the NE Regional Food Bank.

**Here is your opportunity to help!** In order for these two programs to be successful, volunteers are needed to:

- Prepare and serve lunches (no cooking required) each day between 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.
- Pack food and deliver backpacks to homes

Please prayerfully consider how you may be able to assist in these outreach programs based on your availability.

### **Questions?**

Summer Lunch Program: Stephanie Tinker (827-4352) or Bonnie Jorgensen (827-6430)

Backpack Program: Rick or Karen Conner (827-5013)