

# 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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## Winter Coats for Kids Distribution:

November 13 from 6-8 PM.  
Coats will be available in  
the fellowship hall of St.  
Mark's. If you would like to  
help please see Pat McCoy.

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Ongoing bottle and can drive.  
Please leave **clean** bottles and cans  
by the garage door. Proceeds will  
be used for the mortgage.

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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 the  
narthex.

## Prayers Concerns

Please lift the following people up  
in prayer:

Joe Falcone                      Perry  
Irene Fancher                  Ruth  
Prayers for our new pastor

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## Upcoming Events

Nov 10 - Council meeting 6:00

Nov 13 - Coats for Kids 6-8 PM

Nov 14 - Men's prayer breakfast  
9:00

Nov 18 - NET dinner at St.  
Mark's 5-6:30

Nov 22 - Handbell concert 3:00

Nov 25 - Community  
Thanksgiving worship service  
7 PM at St. Mark's

Nov 26 - May you have a blessed  
Thanksgiving!

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Speakers for our upcoming services:

Nov 1 - Friar Peter Chepaitis

Nov 8 - Mike Saccocio

Nov 15 - Chris Cash

Nov 22 - Pastor Ray Lighthall

Nov 29 - Pastor Don Klob

Special thanks to all our speakers for  
sharing their time with us.

# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

## Servers for November

### November 1:

Acolyte - TBD  
Ushers - Harry/Sharon  
Reader - Sharon N.  
Greeter - Janet  
Prayer - Georgia  
Counter - Carrie

### November 8:

Acolyte - Dylan  
Ushers - Nikki/Al  
Reader - Ted  
Greeter - Debbie  
Prayer - Ted  
Counter - Debbie

### November 15:

Acolyte - TBD  
Ushers - Deb/Marie  
Reader - Georgia  
Greeter - Ginny  
Prayer - Gene  
Counter - Diane

### November 22:

Acolyte - Dylan  
Ushers - Denise/Kaleb  
Reader - Lori  
Greeter - Harry  
Prayer - Chris  
Counter - Carrie

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### November 29:

Acolyte - TBD  
Ushers - Lori/Jenna  
Reader - Debbie  
Greeter - Maurice  
Prayer - Ginny  
Counter - Debbie

# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

## Happy Days !!!!!

### **Birthdays: November**

Nov 8 - Vivian Hanley  
Nov 12 - Karen Van Dyke  
Nov 13 - Bonnie Morton and  
Jenna Warner  
Nov 14 - Taylor Cater  
Nov 20 - Ryan Whittaker  
Nov 24 - Olivia Grapes  
Nov 25 - Heather Palmatier  
Nov 26 - Aaron Wilsey  
Nov 28 - Michelle Nespica, Sydney  
Cater and Ron Lower  
Nov 29 - Ethel Cater

### **Anniversaries ; November**

Nov 10 - Ellen and Ted  
Langenbahn  
Nov 12 - Willard and Freya Karsch  
Nov 25 - Toni and Dave Burnette

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### **Operation Christmas Child and Wings as Eagles:**

**This year we would like to bless  
Operation Christmas Child  
through their shoebox projects.  
Shoeboxes are due by November  
15th and Wings as Eagles gift  
cards by December 1st. See Pat  
McCoy for more information.**

**Zumba Classes will be  
Wednesdays from 1-2 in the  
fellowship hall. Check the  
calendar in the hallway for  
more details.**

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**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

Youth Group - every third Saturday of  
the month at 6:30 PM

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

*The Middleburgh  
Ecumenical Bell Choir*

cordially invites you  
to attend a

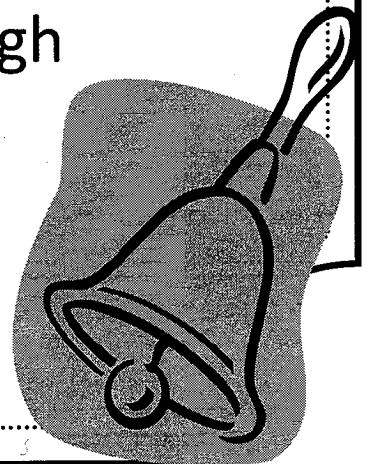
*Concert*

Sunday — November 22 — 3 PM

St. Mark's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall

326 Main Street, Middleburgh

Refreshments will be served



# 'Retired' pastors still actively serving

I hesitate to call them "retired!" I recently had the opportunity to install two octogenarian NALC pastors who have accepted calls to two of our smaller congregations seeking pastors who can serve "part time."

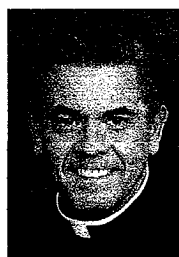
The first was the installation of Pastor Patrick Kelly on June 7 at St. John's Lutheran Church, North Woodbury, Ohio, and the second was Pastor Kenneth Hauge on July 26, at Living Word Lutheran Church, Fredericksburg, Va.

St. John's is a well-established congregation in beautiful, rolling farmland in north central Ohio. Living Word is a small mission congregation in a thriving area between Washington D.C. and Richmond, Va. While very different in ministry and focus, both were in need of regular, faithful pastoral support by pastors who were willing and able to serve with only part-time compensation. These two "80-something" pastors responded to the call to service and are committed to helping these two congregations stabilize, strengthen and engage in mission!

The need for part-time pastoral ministry is a reality that will only increase in the near future. One pastor involved in part-time ministry has written the book,



*Pastor David Wendel presides at the installation of Pastor Patrick Kelly on June 7 at St. John's Lutheran Church in North Woodbury, Ohio.*



## *Ministry Matters*

**Pastor David Wendel**  
Assistant to the Bishop  
for Ministry and Ecumenism

*Part-Time Pastor, Full-Time Church*, having served his first part-time congregation beginning in February, 2001. He reports that 30 percent of all congregations in the United States are served by a pastor who is considered part time. At the time, he thought part-time ministry was unusual, but he finds that is changing. He says, "it seems to me that we are currently sitting on the cusp of even more future changes as more and more churches put the possibility of a part-time pastor out on the table as a potential leadership option."

Although many Lutherans are resistant to such a model, the Southwestern Texas Synod of the ELCA reports in their "Part-Time Ministry Guidelines" that currently over "50 percent of the congregations in our synod are now or will shortly be served by ... ministers on a part-time basis."

Until the middle of the 20th century, many congregations were served by part-time pastors or shared their pastor with one or more congregations in two or three-point parishes. "Rising prosperity plus a push toward professionalism and seminary graduates meant more congregations employed full-time pastors, but that trend has crested." (Associated Press, "Part-time Pastors Juggle Jobs", June 22, 2007)

While full-time pastoral service is and should be the norm, the reality of smaller congregations in rural and small-town contexts, together with the focus of the NALC on planting house churches and mission congregations suggests the need for part-time ministry is present and increasing.

***Continued on Page 17***

Part-time ministry allows for stability, strengthening and long-term growth without financial burden. It can also allow much needed funds to be used for mission and ministry rather than clergy compensation. For these congregations only able to afford part-time ministry, our retired pastors are a cadre of able, experienced, seasoned servants!

In this regard, several aspects should be kept in mind.

1. When a pastor is serving part-time, whether retired or a bi-vocational pastor, the congregation cannot expect full-time service. There may be times when the retired or bi-vocational pastor may not be available, and the congregation must have realistic expectations.

2. This is an opportunity for the congregation to develop folks who have gifts, time and ability to visit, respond and care for one another when the part-time pastor is not available. Many smaller congregations see this as a gift, not a burden!

3. The myth that a "younger" pastor will bring in young families and children is just that — a myth! Many retired pastors have a passion for relating to children, youth, young adults and young families. Younger pastors are sometimes caught up in their own child-rearing and family dynamics. Retired pastors appreciate the "catholicity" — the universality of the Body of Christ — the breadth and depth of the whole Church where young and old are equally important parts of the body, valued and valuable.

4. Finally, I find that many of our retired pastors are not susceptible to the narcissism of younger generations. Our seasoned pastors realize that pastoral ministry is not all about them! They know how to earn the love and trust of the congregation. They know how to respect the congregational members for who they are, taking time with change and transition, not hurrying things too quickly. They often see the value in human relationships, visitation and care, rather than focusing only on numbers, progress and program.



*Participants in the installation service for Pastor Kenneth Hauge on July 26 at Living Word Lutheran Church in Fredericksburg, Va., were, from left, Pastor Cathi Ammlung, Pastor Chris Brown, Pastor and Mrs. Kenneth Hauge, Pastor David Wendel, and Pastor Brad Hales.*

Please understand. I am not minimizing the wonderful gifts and ministry of all our pastors from the newly ordained to those nearing retirement age. I appreciate all our pastors called to the Holy Ministry of Word and Sacrament! I know what it means to offer yourself in sacrifice and service as a pastor in the Church. But I would like to say a word of appreciation to our retired pastors serving part-time and encourage others to be willing to step into active pastoral service again in this important ministry to our smaller congregations and our congregations just getting started!

For your information, several of the congregations needing part-time ministry now are:

- + Leaf Mountain Lutheran Church, Clitherall, Minn.
- + St. Paul Lutheran Church, Evart, Mich.
- + Martin Luther Lutheran Church, Johnson, Neb.
- + St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Middleburgh, N.Y.
- + Sacred Word Lutheran Church, Mobridge, S.D.
- + First Lutheran Church, Tulare, Calif.

If you would like to serve any one of these congregations on a part-time basis, please let me know ([dwendel@thenalc.org](mailto:dwendel@thenalc.org)). And please pray for these congregations and all the retired pastors who are serving to continue and strengthen our ministry in the NALC.

#### HOLY HUMOR

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!"

His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means? The son replied, "I do know!"

"Okay," said his father. "What does the Bible mean?"

"That's easy, Daddy..." the young boy replied excitedly, "It stands for 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.' (This one is my favorite) ===== There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country.

"Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk.

"Only the Ten Commandments." answered the lady.

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"Somebody has said there are only two kinds of people in the world. There are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good morning, Lord," and there are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good Lord, it's morning."

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A pastor parked his car in a no-parking zone in a large city because he was short of time and couldn't find a space with a meter. Then he put a note under the windshield wiper that read: "I have circled the block 10 times. If I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment. Forgive us our trespasses." When he returned, he found a citation from a police officer along with this note "I've circled this block for 10 years. If I don't give you a ticket I'll lose my job. Lead us not into temptation."

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There is the story of a pastor who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: "I have good news and bad news. The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new building program. The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets."

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While driving in Pennsylvania, a family caught up to an Amish carriage. The owner of the carriage obviously had a sense of humor, because attached to the back of the carriage was a hand printed sign... "Energy efficient vehicle: Runs on oats and grass. Caution: Do not step in exhaust."

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A Sunday School teacher began her lesson with a question, "Boys and girls, what do we know about God?"

A hand shot up in the air. "He is an artist!" said the kindergarten boy. "Really? How do you know?" the teacher asked. "You know - Our Father, who does art in Heaven..."

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A priest waited in line to have his car filled with gas just before a long holiday weekend. The attendant worked quickly, but there were many cars ahead of him. Finally, the attendant motioned him toward a vacant pump. "Reverend," said the young man, "I'm so

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sorry about the delay. It seems as if everyone waits until the last minute to get ready for a long trip." The minister chuckled, "I know what you mean. It's the same in my business."

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People want the front of the bus, the back of the church, and the center of attention.

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Sunday after church, a Mom asked her very young daughter what the lesson was about. The daughter answered, "Don't be scared, you'll get your quilt." Needless to say, the Mom was perplexed. Later in the day, the pastor stopped by for tea and the Mom asked him what that morning's Sunday school lesson was about. He said "Be not afraid, thy comforter is coming."

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Last, but not least, a great one:

The minister was preoccupied with thoughts of how he was going to ask the congregation to come up with more money than they were expecting for repairs to the church building. Therefore, he was annoyed to find that the regular organist was sick and a substitute had been brought in at the last minute. The substitute wanted to know what to play. "Here's a copy of the service," he said impatiently. "But, you'll have to think of something to play after I make the announcement about the finances." During the service, the minister paused and said, "Brothers and Sisters, we are in great difficulty; the roof repairs cost twice as much as we expected and we need \$4,000 more. Any of you who can pledge \$100 or more, please stand up."

At that moment, the substitute organist played "The Star Spangled Banner." And that is how the substitute became the regular organist!