



St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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From Pastor Rodney

See page 3 for his report.

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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.org

View from the back of the church:

I would like to share with all of you something I saw happen in church one Sunday. Sitting in the back pew there was a mom and 3 of her kids. This was maybe the second or third time I had seen them there. During the passing of the peace I saw many of our youth go back and speak with her kids. What a reflection this is on all of you! The kids may not always be listening to us (I can attest to that!) but they are always watching everything we do. Awesome job kids! You can be very proud of your behavior.

Deb Palmatier

Prayers Concerns

Please lift the following people up in prayer:

All the flood victims
Mandy Burnett
Marie Campbell
Steve Diamond
Nico

Upcoming Events

November - Socks for soldiers collection project

**November 3 - Youth empty bowl project 6:30 - 8:00.
Come at 6:00 for tacos.**

November 13 - Council meeting 6:00

November 18 - Youth service project for empty bowl fundraiser @ Cobleskill 10:15 - 1:00

Thank You!

The Youth thank everyone that helped to make our bake sale a huge success. We raised \$280.50 for the youth.

Thank you for making the chili/soup dinner a huge success!



St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Phoebe Corner:

Check out the beautiful craft projects in the fellowship hall. They would make wonderful Christmas gifts!

Food Pantry Needs

Nov 4 - soups

Nov 11 - spaghetti sauce

Nov 18 - spaghettiios

Nov 25 - pudding
applesauce/jello

Christian One Liners

Many people want to serve God but only as advisers.

It is easier to preach 10 sermons than to live one.

The good Lord did not create anything without a purpose, but mosquitoes come close.

Quit griping about your church; if it was perfect you couldn't belong.

Coincidence is when God chooses to remain anonymous.

God promises a safe landing, not a calm journey.

Happy Days !!!!!

Birthdays: November

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

Anniversaries: November

November 10 - Ellen and Ted
Langenbahn
November 25 - Toni and Dave
Burnett

Operation Christmas Child

Check out the windows in the fellowship hall to see the project the Sunday school youth are working on for the OCC shoeboxes.

Boxes or items are due back by November 11. If you have questions please see Pat McCoy.

Ambassadors for Christ!

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." 2 Corinthians 5:16-21.

I had the opportunity this month to travel to Denver, Colorado to attend the 12th Annual Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) Gathering. We met under the theme, "Ambassadors for Christ!" There were lots of inspirational and powerful speakers who presented on the theme, and encouraged all those who attended to accept the call of God to be an ambassador. Some of the speakers were Rev. Dr. Gemechis Buba, Rev. Mark Graham, Rev. Amy Selby, Rev. Reggie McNeal, and Rev. Mike Breen just to name a few. Over and over we were challenged to accept this call, and given the tools we needed to go out and make disciples for Christ.

The question that was asked and given to us to reflect on was, "who is an ambassador?" We were told by one of the keynote speaker, the Rev. Dr. Gemechis Buba that an ambassador is a chief of mission. She/he carries out a national mission in a foreign land. Therefore an ambassador is not one who stays in his homeland but travels to share the message of his leader. This resonated with me as a minister who has left my homeland of Guyana and now here in the United States, sharing the message of the Messiah. So I was able to claim my title as an ambassador for Christ and learn that an ambassador is one who is loyal to his leader and in our case, our leader is God.

We were encouraged as Ambassadors for Christ to hunger and thirst for knowledge. Ambassadors need to have an insatiable appetite for knowledge of God and God's word, because that is what we are guided by. I especially appreciated the speaker, the Rev. Dr. Buba when he said, the same way an Ambassador for the United States cannot change the constitution, and we too should not change the word of God. Too often, as Christians we find it ever so easy to choose one part of the Bible that suits our interest and dismiss the other part that is not in favor with us. An Ambassador of Christ needs to have absolute loyalty to God and God's word.

We were reminded in the gospel, that Jesus said to us, that we should learn from him and accept him; because his yoke is easy and his burden is light. We are called to go out into the communities that we are serving and get to know the people and share the Good news of Jesus with them. We are called to go out and knock at the door, don't push, the responsibility of opening the door is not up to us, if the door is open we enter, if it does not open we move on to the next door.

I especially enjoyed hearing the story again about Jesus visit with Mary and Martha in their home. When Jesus arrived we saw that Mary sat at his feet and learn from him, while Martha served him, and was complaining that Mary did not help. We saw that when asked, Jesus was able to say that Mary had chosen the better part. Dr. Buba said, that to Martha Jesus came to eat, but for Mary he came to feed. For Martha she saw that Jesus came to demand while Mary saw that he came to empower. For Martha she thought that Jesus came to be served, while Mary saw

that Jesus came to serve. We see in the Bible that Jesus is always feeding the people, with food, with his word and with healing. An ambassador is someone who often serves in hostile situation, that is why we are called by God to always put on the whole armor of God.

What is the whole armor of God some might ask? Ephesians 6:11-18 tells us, it says, ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

¹³ Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. ¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people."

Jesus wants us to make disciples, he wants us to bear fruits, and we need to have as our focus, the ability to make disciples, who will make disciples. There were so much inspirational materials, speakers, workshops, prayer sessions, services and opportunity for service. There were a few break-out sessions, all very interesting, it was so hard to pick just one. When I had to make a choice I felt like a kid in a candy shop, so much good stuff, but I could only choose two. I was thankful, that generosity prevailed and I got to choose three. I was able to attend, the workshop, "What in Haiti are we doing?" Ethiopia Network and Thriving as a small congregation.

I was happy to learn that the LCMC were involved in mission in Haiti. The people of Haiti have been through so much, and I am happy that there are people who still care. One of my best friends lives in Haiti and I know how hard he works to minister and help the people of that country. I was also happy about the work in Ethiopia that the church is doing for the people and the many missions there. We were also encouraged not to get discouraged when we are part of a small church. Too often we get worried about numbers and not look at how we are growing spiritually. Growth takes many forms, and it's not only about numbers, we can thrive as a small congregation by reaching out more to people in our community, and by giving more to those who are in need.

It is said in scriptures that the harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few. This conference encouraged us all to get into the mission field and join the Lord of the harvest and make disciples, who will in turn make disciples. We are all ambassadors for Christ, we have been called by God to go out and make disciples. I encourage all of us to do likewise, let us remember, that we belong to the Lord, and there is no greater honor for us to accept his call to be one of Christ's Ambassadors.

Submitted by,

Pr. Royan Rodney.



St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Committees:

Property:

Work is continuing on getting the parsonage ready for demolition.

Christian Education/Youth:

The youth group took a trip to a haunted house in October. A great and scary time was had by all. Thanks to Pastor, Heather, Jessica, Terry and Ryan's Dad for chaperoning.

Beginning in October you will see some of the kids serving as ushers. Please encourage them with a smile

Sunday School is open to all children Pre K to 8th grade. **New hours will be 9:15 to 10:15.**

Finance:

Benevolence for October:

\$626.62

NALC 1413.41

Flood victims \$713.34

Checking account:

Income for October 26827.91

Expenses for October 14925.49

Over/under 41372.41

Vision mortgages:

Payments for October 1277.50

Mortgage payments 14048.76

Over/under 12771.26

Servers for November

November 4:

Acolyte - Kaleb/Alyssa

Ushers - Bonnie/Bill

Reader - Ginny

Greeter - Maurice

Prayer - Georgia

Counter - Deb

November 11:

Acolyte - Kobe/Dylan

Ushers - Maurice/Ginny

Reader - Lori

Greeter - Pat

Prayer - Ginny

Counter - Diane

November 18:

Acolyte - Gabby/Jenna

Ushers - Harry/Sharon A.

Reader - Bonnie

Greeter - Janet

Prayer - Chris

Counter - Deb

November 25:

Acolyte - Morgan/Hannah

Ushers - Deb P/Breanna

Reader - Deb A.

Greeter - Gene

Prayer - Gene

Counter - Diane

2012



Youth bake sale at the
Middleburgh Fall Festival.

Top ten predictions for the
upcoming year:

1. The Bible will still have all the answers.
2. Prayer will still be the most powerful thing on earth.
3. The Holy Spirit will still move.
4. God will still honor the praises of His people.
5. There will still be God-anointed preaching.

6. There will still be singing of praise to God.

7. God will still pour our blessing upon His people.

8. There will still be room at the Cross.

9. Jesus will still love you.

10. Jesus will still save the lost when they come to Him.

Sometimes we need the reminder of just "WHO" is really in control!

Phoebe Corner

The leaves have turned to color, the air is a little more crisp, and November 2012 is here with our thoughts turning to Thanksgiving. This is a time for our hearts to be filled with gratitude for the many blessings God bestows on us.

The Phoebe's have so much to be thankful for. This past month St. Mark's was blessed with a donation of fabric which several of the ladies used to cover the kneelers as well as cover Pastor's and the acolytes' seat cushions. So when we kneel at the altar, may we remember to express our gratitude to God for His provision of comfortable kneelers.

All of us are to be grateful for God's Word and the encouragement and guidance it brings. Sharon Amendola found a design that Patti Turner made into a new banner using words from Galatians 5:22 about the fruit of the Spirit. When we see it, may it remind all of us to live by this fruit which is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

We thank God for His gifts, His provision and, especially for His Holy presence surrounding us as we serve Him.

Thought for the Day from Matthew Henry:

Thanksgiving is good, but thanks-living is better.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving and keep giving God the praise!