

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Publisher
Church Mouse

Issue Number
156

Date
May 2024

Upcoming Events

Wed., May 8th – 5:00 p.m. – NET Dinner
at OLV Catholic Church

Sat., May 11th – 9:00 a.m. – Men's Breakfast

Sun., May 19th – 200th Anniversary Worship
Service

Sun., May 19th – 12:00 p.m. – Church Council
Meeting

Wed., May 22nd – 5:00 p.m. – NET Dinner
at St. Mark's Church

Fri., May 24th – 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. –
4th Friday

Save the Date

Sun., Jun. 2nd – 7:00 p.m. – Middleburgh
Church Community Concert at Reformed
Church

Thurs., Jun. 6th – 7:00 p.m. – Taize Style Prayer
Service at St. Mark's

Sun., Jun. 9th – 7:00 p.m. – Baccalaureate at
St. Mark's

Sun., Jun. 23rd - Joint Worship Service with
Christian Community Church at Gobbler's
Knob

July 29th – Aug. 2nd – 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon -
Creation Care Camp Wild Wonder for
children at Reformed Church

Prayers and Concerns for April

Family of Joe Haskin
Family of Donna Thurman

Ralph Mordacco
Samantha Petrosino
Jackson Bywater
Tom Nesbitt
Sharon Nesbitt
John Motta

Bible Verse for May:

*Honor your father and your
mother, that your days may be
long upon the land which the
Lord your God is giving you.*

Exodus 20:12 (NKJ)

Thought for the Day:

B - I - B - L - E

**Basic Instructions Before
Leaving Earth**



St. Mark's Church Information

Pastor David Houck

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St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Servers for May

May 5th:

Reader – Cathy
Prayer – Carolyn
Ushers – Dennis / Carrie
Counter – Diane

May 12th:

Reader – Edna
Prayer – Cheryl
Ushers – Aaron / Allison
Counter – Carrie

May 19th:

Reader – Bob
Prayer – Ron
Ushers – Dan / Doreen
Counter – Deb P.

May 26th:

Reader – Deb P
Prayer – Carolyn
Ushers – Lisa / Nannette
Counter – Sharon

Humorous Church Announcements

Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 p.m. –
prayer and medication to follow.

The church will host an evening of fine
dining, super entertainment and
gracious hostility.

May Birthdays:

Gloria Falcone	May 2
Helen Thomas	May 3
Bill Miller	May 6
Mary Schaffer	May 8
Dennis France	May 11
Marlene Towne	May 13
Kayla Estro	May 13
Debbie Brigadier	May 13
Barbara Coons	May 18
Sharon Nesbitt	May 22
Ruth Palmer	May 25

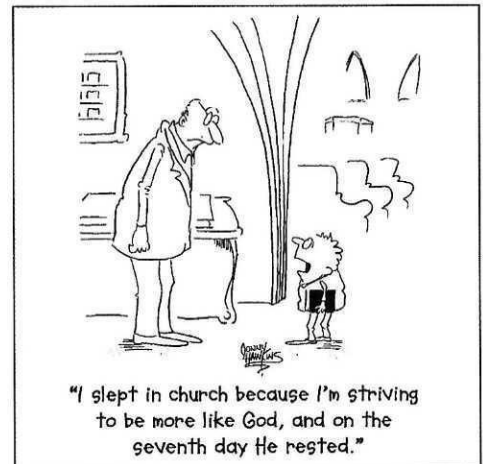
May Anniversaries:

Ron / Jodi Barnes	May 3
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St. Mark's Income vs Expenses

Here is the summary of income
and expenses for March 2024:

Income	\$ 8,213.00
Expenses	15,163.16
Balance	(\$ 6,950.16)



Hope For The Future

When we think about our future, we often think about preparing for our physical futures. We attempt to make plans to ensure our physical health, our comfort, and our security for the rest of our days. That is our earthly life, of course. We've worked hard to provide the comforts and conveniences we enjoy in our lives and would like them to continue to the end of our days on earth.

It is the "what happens next" that may not always get the time and attention that it should have. In our worship time together since Easter, we have revisited what it means to admit we need and then decide to follow the "Good Shepherd". We have examined our connectedness to the true vine so that we as branches of the true vine receive what we need from Him to produce "good fruit". We heard it read again: *Ephesians 2:8 - For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.* It is by our faith and trust in God and the sacrifice made for us by Jesus Christ that we can secure our place in the family and the Kingdom. A secure future for our "what happens next" life.

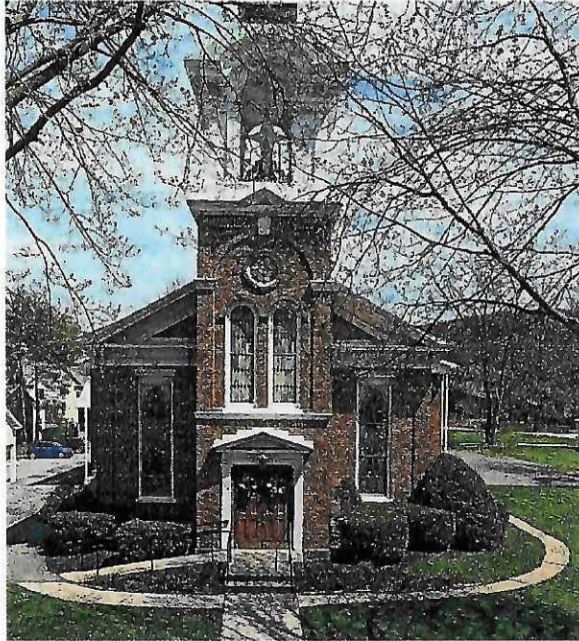
As it is written in *James 2:26, For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.* The works that we are able to do is in response to Jesus' commands to "love one another as He loved us". We are to give of ourselves walking and working side by side to build up God's kingdom on earth. When we share in the opportunities to serve, it both glorifies and pleases God very much. Jesus mentioned two specific opportunities for us to do. *Matthew 25:40 - And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me* (food, drink, shelter, covering, welcoming, visiting). *Matthew 28:19 - Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit* (sharing the Good News of the Gospel). In the one verse Jesus is addressing physical needs, what is needed for the here and now. The second verse not only helps while living in the here and now but gives direction to prepare and plan for the "what happens next". When these are applied in the spirit of truth and in the fruit of the spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control), they will produce a great yield to God from His garden.

Romans 10:13 - For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." ¹⁴ *How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?* ¹⁵ *And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!'"*

We have been blessed to, and very successful at, meeting the physical needs of God's children. We also know that it must go further since every living breathing person is created with a mind, body, and soul. Let us embark together to reach out to everyone with a place to shelter from the storms of life, coverings that protect from the attacks of the evil one, and nourishment for the spirit which helps sustain during times of trial. As we enter our summer months, I challenge us to plan for the next season of life. To think about and build hope for the future. Let us research, plan, acquire, and institute curriculum programs and volunteers to begin a Sunday School program at our church in the fall. We know that the future depends on the young people who both want and need something good in their lives. It cannot and should not be our excuse that "if only we had children, then we would have Sunday School". Jesus said the fields are ripe for harvest and I believe that still small voice is whispering "If you build it, they will come". The resurrected Jesus told Peter if you love me, "Feed My Lambs, Tend My Sheep, Feed My Sheep". I believe that we can and should do the same. Together we can for it is written: *Philippians 4:13 - I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*

In God We Trust / Love and Prayers, Pastor Dave and Melody

St. Mark's Lutheran Church



200th Anniversary Celebration

In 2024, St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church reaches a major milestone. This year we are excited to be celebrating the 200th anniversary of the founding of our church.

If the walls of our church could talk, they would share with us the blessings of baptisms, weddings, celebrations of life, children laughing and singing at Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and Psaltery plays, Bible studies and praising God through word and music. It would tell of the 33 pastors who have been called to serve in our church and the sacraments they administered.

Please join us on Sunday, May 19th as we give God the glory, honor and praise due to Him in a special celebratory service.

4th FRIDAY STREET FESTS
MAY 24 • JUNE 28 • JULY 26 • AUG 23
5:30-8:30pm
Stores Open Late-Vendors
Evenings of Family Fun!

More Middleburgh Fun in 2024!
• May 24: **Slaughter 5k**
• July 27: Arts & Crafts Festival
• Aug 17: Village Wide Yard Sales
• Oct 12: Timothy Murphy 10K
• Harvest Festival & Parade
• and Oktoberfest
• Dec 6: Parade on Main Street
5, 24 & 10/12 - Expect Traffic Delays

“Hot dogs! Get your hot dogs!”

Middleburgh's 4th Fridays will begin on May 24th at 5:30 p.m. Once again, St. Mark's will have the grill set up on the front lawn where people can get hot dogs, chips, and water. (BTW – Cheryl will be taste-testing the chips to ensure they are fresh. 😊) The suggested price is: **donation**.

Volunteers to help set up, serve and tear down are always welcome. (We meet at 4:00 p.m. to start the set up.)

Please stop by to see us!

Thank you, Mittel!!!

A special thank you to Mittel for hanging our 200th anniversary banner over Main Street for us. May God bless you for your willingness to support not only us, but the Middleburgh community.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

NET Dinner

On April 24th the aroma of baking tuna noodle casserole was floating through the kitchen and fellowship hall in preparation for our monthly NET dinner. Many friends and neighbors came together to enjoy this delicious meal.

Our next NET dinner and last one until October is being held on **Wednesday, May 22, at 5:00 p.m.**



See you on May 22nd!

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Movie Night



Sometimes in our lives, God asks us to extend grace just as He does to us. There are moments when that may seem difficult and almost impossible, yet through our Lord, we are able to do it.

April 20th we witnessed the power of forgiveness and grace as we watched "The Grace Card". To quote from the movie, "God shows His mercy; we need to show grace every day."

GRACE CARD

**I promise to pray for you every day,
Ask for forgiveness,
Grant you the same,
And be your friend always.**

G – R – A – C – E

God's Riches At Christ's Expense

Please note there will be NO movie night in May.

Operation Christmas Child

It's that time again... time to start thinking and picking up gifts for the children's shoeboxes.

The month of May our focus is on the WOW gift. It is that special item to bring comfort, encourage the imagination or join others in play. Suggestions are: stuffed animals, games, dolls, soccer balls, books, small kit Legos, art supplies, and match box cars. Remember all items must be new to avoid custom regulations and extra fees. No liquids are allowed.

If your children or grandchildren, ages 2-14 like the item, so will others.

Thank you for your participation!
Without you, we could not be part of this mission.



A young lady and her "WOW" gift!
They can really make a difference.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Miles Sonny Shoemaker

St. Mark's was blessed to witness the baptism of Miles Sonny Shoemaker, son of Sydney and Nate Shoemaker on Sunday, April 14th. Miles is the grandson of Leonard and Marie Cater and Rich and Kim Shoemaker and great-grandson of Cheryl Cater and Nanette Amendola. Welcome, Miles, to the family of God!



New Members

During the past few years, Bill and Holly Pierce have been faithfully attending and serving our Lord as members of St. Mark's choir. So it was with great joy that on Sunday, April 21st, we welcomed them as St. Mark's newest members.



May God bless you as you continue to serve Him!

Congratulations, Ron Lower!



As you can see, Ron is very talented at creating beautiful quilts. This year he was the recipient of the Vendor's Award at the Empire Quilt Fest Show held on April 27, 2024.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

City Mission Banquet

The ball room at Glen Sanders Mansion in Scotia, NY, was filled to overflowing as many people gathered to participate in Schenectady City Mission's 118th Anniversary banquet on Sunday, April 28th. After a delicious dinner, Mike Saccocio, Executive Director, shared an update on ways City Mission has touched many lives, changes they have made to provide additional services as well as presented several awards.

Of note they are now leasing a building at 301 Lafayette Street, which gives them 34 additional starter apartments. They also opened a new headquarters on Jay Street for their Ambassadors and April 18th was declared "Ambassador Day" by Schenectady Mayor McCarthy.

To quote Mike, "God's still in the life changing business". Thank you to all who donate to City Mission whether it be monetary, clothing, or by volunteering. As one man said in his interview, "Without you, there's no me."

We would also like to congratulate Mike for his 35 years of serving at City Mission in June 2024. Mike truly has a heart for the Lord and for the people whose lives he touches through City Mission.



Comfort Birds



Comfort Birds were placed on each table at the banquet. Created by Don Foust's father created them as a way to bring peace and comfort to those who are struggling and to help spread the gospel, Don carries on his father's tradition and donates the proceeds of his sales to City Mission.



St. Mark's Lutheran Church

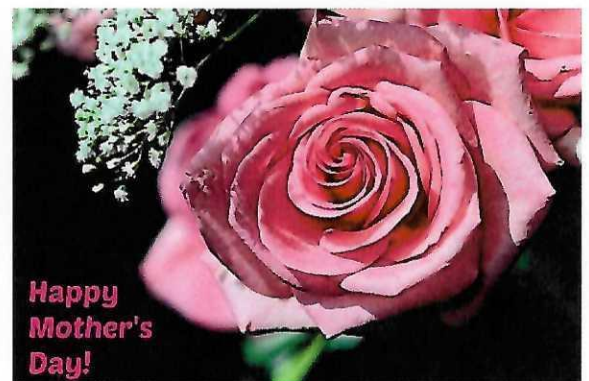
Please keep our armed forces, our country and our leaders in your prayers.



The Images of Mother

- 4 years of age > My Mommy can do anything!
- 8 years of age > My Mom knows a lot! A whole lot!
- 12 years of age > My Mother doesn't really know quite everything.
- 14 years of age > Naturally, Mother doesn't know that, either.
- 16 years of age > Mother? She's hopelessly old-fashioned.
- 18 years of age > That old woman? She's way out of date!
- 25 years of age > Well, she might know a little bit about it.
- 35 years of age > Before we decide, let's get Mom's opinion.
- 45 years of age > Wonder what Mom would have thought about it?
- 65 years of age > Wish I could talk it over with Mom.

May God bless all mothers on their special day!



Middleburgh Church Community Concert

June 2, 2024

7:00 PM

Reformed Church

ALL ARE WELCOME

Free will offering to benefit
Joshua Project



TAIZE-STYLE PRAYER SERVICE

Thursday June 6, 2024

7:00pm

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Main Street, Middleburgh, NY

**With our busy schedules, it can be difficult to set
aside time to be quiet and present to the Lord.**

**We invite you to spend 45 – 60 minutes in meditative
song and prayer, where Christians of any
denomination can come together to pray.**

This service is appropriate for ages 14+

**** This is a Taize-style prayer service ****



Creation Care Camp

Wild Wonder

Middleburgh Reformed Church is hosting Creation Care Camp Wild Wonder this summer from July 29 – August 2, 2024.

Wild Wonder is a Vacation Bible School (VBS) style curriculum that invites children to delight in God as creator, redeemer, and sustainer of all things by immersing them in the wonders of the created world. Through daily devotions, nature study, and play, children will learn that all of God's works are good and that they themselves are beloved creations.

The Wild Wonder lessons and activities are designed to minister to the whole child—body, mind, and spirit. Children study the science of creation through experiments and observation, they spend time being still and listening for God's voice, and they laugh and play and eat good food. Children are reminded that they are wonderfully made, and that it is good and pleasing to the Father when they enjoy his good gifts of creation with their whole being.

Wild Wonder is designed for school-aged children (ages 5-10) and is a 5-day camp with lessons and activities.

This exciting program for children can only happen if we say "yes" to God's call to be a volunteer. Positions that are available include station volunteer, group leader, group helper, set up and clean up, kitchen, other, and "Wherever I am needed".

If you are interested in being a part of Wild Wonder, please fill out the Volunteer Form which is located in the church office.

We may never know how the seeds we plant in the hearts and minds of young people about Jesus will grow, but God does!