



St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Publisher
Church mouse

Volume Number
2013

Issue Number
25

Date
June 2013

From Pastor Rodney

See page 4 for his report.
E-mail: Pastorrodney@midtel.net

Pastor now has office hours Tuesday through Friday from 9-1. Please call ahead in case he had to leave.

New website

Our new webpage is up and running. Check it out. It is awesome! Thank you Angela. The address is www.stmarkslutheranmiddleburgh.com

Operation Christmas Child

We are going to try something a little different this year. Rather than waiting until fall to start our collection of items for the kids we are going to collect different items on a monthly basis. For the month of June please bring in boy clothing items. The box is up front near the cross.

Looking for new members!

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

Prayers Concerns

Please lift the following people up in prayer:

Pat Cooper
Bob Varella
Skip Becker
Bob Payne
Deb Brigadier
Thomas

Upcoming Events

June 1 - Youth families summer picnic and bingo night 6 PM - Congregation is invited - bring a dish to pass.

June 8 - Church workday 9 AM

June 11 - Council meeting 6 PM

June 16 - Happy Father's Day

Month of June: Pet food drive for animal shelter - youth project

Food Pantry Needs

Month of June

Peanut Butter
Toiletries

June 9 - jelly and juice
fish
June 30 - canned vegetables



St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Committees:

Christian Education/Youth:

6 adults and 6 youth spent a Saturday night building owl house for Laraway's Rescue Farm. Wes joined us later and brought with him 2 owls and a falcon for the kids to see. 9 kids and 3 adults then went to his farm for a tour and some volunteer work painting fences. I think Kobe and Breanna got more paint on themselves than they did the fences! Mr. Laraway was very thankful you came and helped.

Sign up sheets for the Zoom flume, apple picking and the Zip Line at Howe Caverns are hanging in the hall by the music room. Remember if you did not build owl houses or paint fences you have until July 1 to go back to Mr. Laraway's and work so you can go to these events.

During the month of June the youth will be collecting pet food to donate to the animal shelter as our community service project. There will be a collection box in the back for donations if you would like to help us.

Work has begun on the youth room - No peeking!!!

Servers for June

June 2:

Acolyte - Vivian/Brianna
Ushers - Jeremy/Kobe
Reader - Peggy
Greeter - Pat
Prayer - Gene
Counter - Deb

June 9:

Acolyte - Mary/Logan
Ushers - Deb/Breanna
Reader - Lori
Greeter - Janet
Prayer - Beth
Counter - Diane

June 16:

Acolyte - Kenny/Gabby
Ushers - Marie/Ryan
Reader - Bonnie
Greeter - Jessica
Prayer - Georgia
Counter - Deb

Finance:

Benevolence for April: \$ 399.45

NALC \$190.00

Supp Kitchen in Trinidad \$190.00

Supp for deacons \$18.45

Checking account:

Income for April: \$4068.29

Expenses for April: \$6742.21

Grand total: (\$1879.92)

Finance - year to date figures:

Year to date income: \$20,115.48

Year to date expenses: \$30,291.63

Balance YTD: (\$10,176.15)

We have just about used our entire balance carried forward from December 31, 2012 of \$12,791.00.



St. Mark's Lutheran Church

June 23:

Acolyte - Kaleb/Alyssa
Ushers - Maurice/Ginny
Reader - Georgia
Greeter - Deb
Prayer - Ginny
Counter - Diane

June 30:

Acolyte - Morgan/Marilyn
Ushers - Jessica/Brianna
Reader - Ginny
Greeter - Harry
Prayer - Gene
Counter: Deb

CONFIRMATION:

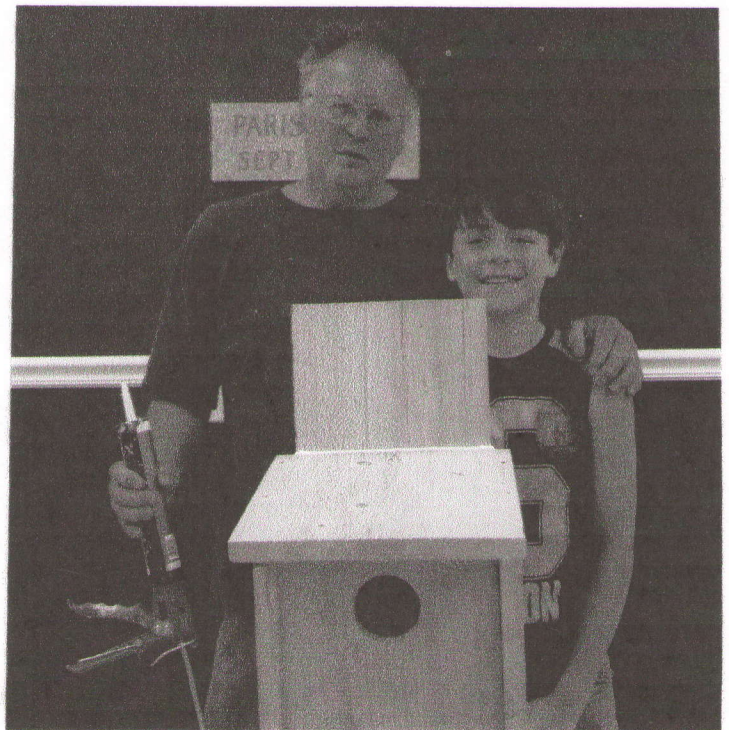
The confirmation class along with Pastor and 3 adults will be going to camp August 13-16. Each youth will be asked to pay \$75.00 The total cost of the camp will be \$1545 not including our food. We are asking the congregation to help with the cost by sponsoring "a camper" - any amount will be greatly appreciated. A donation container will be in the fellowship hall by the kitchen. The kids will also be doing a fundraiser to help with the costs.

The kids will be collecting special box tops from General Mills foods to help support the Regional Food Bank which in turn helps our food pantry. If they collect 1000 box tops they earn a free pizza party. Watch for more details next month.

YOUTH:

The youth group is looking for donations of interior latex paint for the new youth room. Any color - any amount. I'm sure we all have that 1/2" left in the bottom of a paint can from a job we did around the house. Please leave your donations by the boiler room. We are also looking for a ping pong table and a foos ball table for the youth. Used is fine - free or a reasonable price. If you have one or know someone that does please see Debbie Palmatier.

Thanks!



Building owl houses

A Call to Action.

In the gospel of Matthew 25:31-37 we read these poignant words, “³¹ “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. ³⁴ Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?’”

We cannot read the gospels without recognizing Jesus’ compassion for the materially impoverished, the physically afflicted and the socially unaccepted. He calls us, his disciples to take action and do these things to all those people who are looking for compassion. We are called to be a blessing to them.

This is what Jesus did and he did not allow anything or anyone to deter him from doing His Father’s will. Jesus calls all of us to take action and continue the mission he started for us. We who are faithful to his call and to his mission will be rewarded with his salvation. We will hear him say to us, “Come you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.” (25:34).

On the other hand the goat’s destiny, those who fail to minister to Jesus’ followers shall suffer eternal loss. Desmond Tutu, an Anglican bishop in South Africa, is typical of many contemporary interpreters: He says, “In this story Jesus declared that it would be whether we fed or did not feed the hungry, whether we clothed or did not clothe the naked, whether we visited the imprisoned or did not, which would say what our final destination was going to be” (“Christian Witness in South Africa,” Reformed Journal, Oct 1985, p. 13).

We need to understand that we are called to serve God’s world. Our congregation is extended to include all those who have no place to call a home. SO the question for us to ponder is, “How can I help?” The answer should never be, I have no time. We always make time for things that are important to us, and I can’t think of anything more important than doing the will of God and serving his people.

SO I am calling all men of this church to get involved in the creative men’s ministry. I am open to your suggestions on how we can be of service to all and bless our community through this ministry.

I also call on all women of this church to get involved in the creative women’s ministry and bring your ideas to the committee.

The children are our future so I call on all parents and guardians to make an effort to send your children to Sunday school and all our youth events. Together we can make a difference and become a global church reaching God's people wherever they are. Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink?' The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'

So come and tell me your ideas and let me know that you are willing to start working for the Lord and be a blessing to His people. So don't assume others will come and bring me their ideas, I want you to come, yes you! We are all in this together!

Submitted By

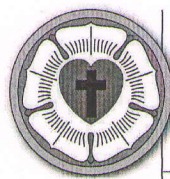
Pr. Royan Rodney.



YOUTH BUREAU COMMUNITY
SERVICE DAY 4/27/13

Nominating Committee Report

The 2013 Nominating Committee of the North American Lutheran Church is pleased to announce those who have been nominated to serve on the NALC Executive Council and the NALC Court of Adjudication:



NALC

North American Lutheran Church

Executive Council - Lay Member (4-year term)

- + Matthew Burkhart - Columbus, Ohio
- + Richard Jansak - Hendersonville, North Carolina
- + Paul O'Malley - Auburn, Indiana
- + Frank Polkowski - East Amherst, New York

Executive Council - Ordained Minister (4-year term)

- + Pastor Bassam Abdallah - Hammond, Indiana
- + Pastor Cathi Braasch - Elwood, Nebraska
- + Pastor Phillip Gagnon - St. Albert, Alberta
- + Pastor John Hopper - Hot Springs, South Dakota
- + Pastor Eddy Perez - Miami, Florida
- + Pastor Royan Rodney - Middleburgh, New York
- + Pastor Amy Schiffrin - Elkader, Iowa
- + Pastor Donna Smith - Champaign, Illinois
- + Pastor Solveig Zamzow - Grafton, Iowa

Court of Adjudication (4-year term)

(Two persons to be elected.)

- + Jon Evans - Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- + Pastor Jeffray Greene - Rantoul, Illinois

The 2013 NALC Convocation August 8-9 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, will elect one lay person and one pastor to the Executive Council and two members of the Court of Adjudication.

The Nominating Committee requested nominations from NALC congregations and NALC members by sending a request to congregations and by including requests for nominations in the *NALC News*.

Those who were nominated were asked to provide biographical information using a form developed by the committee.

This biographical information on the candidates is provided in accordance with the NALC Constitution which requires the Nominating Committee to provide biographical information on the candidates 90 days prior to the Convocation. The biographical information was posted on the NALC website, published in the *NALC News* for May, and sent by e-mail to NALC congregations.

The responsibilities of the Nominating Committee are mostly clerical: to request nominations and then receive them; to request biographical information from the candidates and to provide it to NALC congregations and Convocation delegates.

The Nominating Committee also received nominations for the 2014 Nominating Committee and forwarded those names to the Executive Council for consideration. The Executive Council submits proposed members of the Nominating Committee for confirmation by the Convocation.

We were grateful to receive the names of so many well-qualified individuals for service to our church. God has blessed the NALC with many dedicated servants. Please pray that God will raise up the leaders who will best serve us at this time in the life of our church.

2013 NALC Nominating Committee

- Pastor David Baer - Whitewood, S.D. (Chair)
- Richard Jansak - Hendersonville, N.C.
- Christopher Nevins - Fredericksburg, Texas
- Victor Stevens - North Ridgeville, Ohio
- + Pastor Michael Tamorria - Rockford, Ohio

Royan Rodney

Nominee for Executive Council - Clergy

Name:

Rev. Royan Rodney

Address:

Middleburgh, New York

Congregation:

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
Middleburgh, New York

Occupation:

Pastor



Please share some basic biographical information that will help us get to know you:

My name is Royan Rodney and I am an ordained pastor serving St. Mark's and Christ the Shepherd Lutheran Churches. I am a graduate of United Theological College and Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. I was ordained in 2005 in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana. I served several churches in Guyana before accepting a call to serve in Illinois where I was for six years. I am now serving St. Mark's Lutheran Church in upstate New York where God is very active at work.

Experience within the Body of Christ that has prepared you for service in this position:

I was fortunate to receive the call of God at a very young age, and I became ordained at 25 years old. My eight years of experience as an ordained pastor prepared me well to serve in this capacity. I have served churches in Guyana, Jamaica and the United States. I have attended numerous mission trips, and I have a deep passion for missions and outreach.

What spiritual gifts and skills has God given you to bless this ministry?

I am blessed with the gifts of preaching and teaching. I served as a school teacher for four years before going into the ministry. I have

compassion for the poor and those who are living in difficult conditions. I am gifted in youth and family ministry.

What should be the NALC's most important ministry priorities over the next few years?

I strongly believe that the most important ministry priorities for the NALC should be evangelism and mission. As a relatively young church, our focus should be on equipping leaders to go out and plant churches. And support the other churches who would like to join the NALC but need courage.

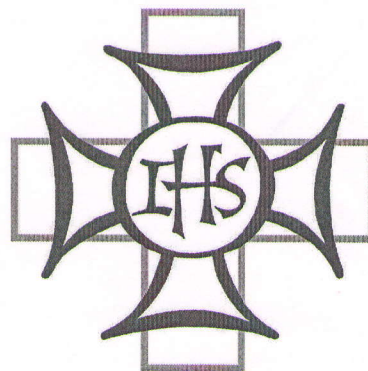
What tangible actions can the NALC, its mission districts, and its member congregations take to live out our commitment to be a Mission-Driven church body?

We need to go into the community and speak with the people and let them tell us what their needs are. They are communities that are waiting for someone to come and listen to their needs and we can be that listening ear.

List a favorite Scripture verse and tell why it has meaning for you.

"You did not choose Me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask Him in my name." — John 15:16.

This is my favorite verse because it assures me that I am chosen by God and He is always with me.



'On Being the Church in These Precarious Times' is theme of Theological Conference

"On Being the Church in These Precarious Times" is the theme of the annual Theological Conference sponsored by the North American Lutheran Church and Lutheran CORE.

The conference will take place Aug. 6-7 at the Sheraton Station Square Hotel in Pittsburgh, Pa. The Theological Conference will be part of a week of activities with the Lutheran CORE Convocation preceding on Aug. 6 and the NALC Convocation following on Aug. 8-9.

"Churches are badly divided in spite of the efforts of the ecumenical movement to achieve church unity. Lutherans, for their part, have a lot of work to do to reach agreement on the doctrine of the Church. Our hope is that this conference will make a solid contribution to that end," explained the Rev. Dr. Carl E. Braaten, conference organizer.

Together with many Christian denominations, Lutherans have experienced significant division and disunity in recent years. Issues that have caused such turmoil are the authority and understanding of Scripture, the name of the Triune God, human sexuality and marriage, as well as abortion and the value of human life. In light of this turmoil, Lutheran CORE and the NALC are committed to the renewal of Lutheranism and Christianity in North America.

In addition to Prof. Braaten, presenters at the conference include the Rev. Dr. James A. Nestingen, professor emeritus of church history at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn.; the Rev. Dr. Frank Senn, liturgical scholar and pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Evanston, Ill., as well as Senior of the Society of the Holy Trinity; the Rev. Dr. Stephan Turnbull, Senior Pastor of First Lutheran Church in White Bear Lake, Minn.; the Rev. Dr. Sarah Hinlicky Wilson, editor of *Lutheran Forum* and assistant research professor at the Institute for Ecumenical Research in Strasbourg, France; Dr. David Yeago, professor emeritus of systematic theology at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, S.C., and the Rev. Dr. Nathan Howard Yoder, pastor of St. Martin's Lutheran Church, Maiden, N.C.

"'Precarious' is an appropriate word choice to describe these times and our culture," said NALC Bishop John Bradosky. "When the church as institution merely follows the 'times' and absorbs the culture, it also finds itself in a precarious position. ... The presenters at this year's theological conference will certainly deal with the real and present dangers we face, but will provide us with powerful insight, direction and encouragement, renewing the hope that is ours in Christ Jesus."

"We are excited to offer solid theological reflection for both pastors and laity on such a timely topic," said the Rev. Steve Shipman, Director of Lutheran CORE. "There is probably no event like this for Lutherans in North America, maybe even the world, which packs so much content into a day and a half."

Watch the NALC and Lutheran CORE websites for more information on the conference.

Women of NALC gathering to focus on missions

Are you passionate about missions or do you feel clueless? Either way, the annual gathering of the Women of the NALC has something for you.

Come join us Aug. 7 in Pittsburgh, Pa., to explore missions. We will have a time of devotions, speakers and small groups. We will also be electing new members to The Women's Council of the WNALC.

Come be a part of a day of fellowship and faith. Information about the NALC Convocation and hotel will be available soon. If you have any questions please contact Jeanne Wallace at jeannewallace.wnalc@gmail.com.

Thank you for your love in Christ

Dear friends in Christ,

We will never be able to express adequately our deep thanks to you, the members of the Body of Christ, for your love and care for our family.

Within hours of Kevin's death we began receiving a flood of messages, calls and cards from people not only in our NALC churches, but other Lutheran, Protestant and Catholic churches from all across North America. Your immediate outpouring of love helped us bear the shock of losing Kevin and your continuing prayers and love help us bear our grief.

The Body of Christ is literally wrapping us in His arms and gently carrying us through our grief. We have been enveloped in a powerful cloud of witnesses from the moment we learned of Kevin's death.

We give thanks that within two days of Kevin's death Pastors A.J. Domines and Steve Bowser offered the use of their ELCA churches for Kevin's service. Their care for us was essential because our congregation, Reformation Lutheran Church, worships in the Eastern Mennonite Mission in Lancaster County and the building was inadequate for Kevin's service.

The burial service for Kevin was awesome. Bishop John, Pastor Luke Seamon (our pastor), and Pastor Domines



Kevin Michael Chavez, the 19-year-old son of NALC General Secretary Mark Chavez and his wife Jocelyn, died on Monday, April 8. He was killed in a tragic accident. Funeral services were Saturday, April 13. Bishop John Bradosky's sermon from the funeral is posted on the NALC website.

planned and led an inspiring service. What a sight to see the choir filled with pastors and the pews packed with people! We were surrounded by the glorious singing of the pastors in front of us and the people behind us.

If you have not read Bishop John's sermon (which is posted on the NALC website), we encourage you to do so. We are forever indebted to John for preaching the Gospel with such love,

care and power on that day.

Thank you for your prayers, comforting words, and offers of assistance. We cannot imagine grieving the loss of a child without being surrounded by the members of the Body of Christ and without having the hope of the Resurrection.

Many of you said to us apologetically, "I don't know what to say," but in truth your words were very comforting. You didn't know what to say and neither did we. The loss of a child is indescribable. We now have a much deeper appreciation for what Mary experienced in watching Jesus die, and what our Heavenly Father experienced in losing His only Son.

Most of all we thank the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We thank our Heavenly Father for sending His Son to die for us so that we might live forever in His Kingdom. We thank Jesus for giving up His life for us to defeat sin, death and the devil. We thank the Holy Spirit for keeping us in true faith in Jesus. We hold onto the promise that once we are placed in the hands of the Good Shepherd, no one can snatch us from His hands.

In the love of Christ,

**Jocelyn and Mark Chavez
and family**