



# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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## From Pastor Rodney

See page 3 for his report.  
E-mail: [Pastorrodney@midtel.net](mailto:Pastorrodney@midtel.net)

## New website

Our new webpage is up and running.  
Check it out. It is awesome! Thank  
you Angela. The address is  
[www.stmarkslutheran  
middleburgh.com](http://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 April  
please bring in boy toys. The box is  
up front near the cross.

## Youth:

In the hallway by the music room are  
sign up sheets for the 30 hour famine,  
roller skating, building owl houses,  
zoom flume and Fright fest. If you  
would like to participate please sign  
up.

## Prayers Concerns

Please lift the following people up in  
prayer:

All the flood victims  
Marie Campbell  
Families of Loreen Duncan and  
Thelma Serrie  
Cindy  
Family of Marc A.  
Bill  
Bonnie and Bill's grandson  
John

## Upcoming Events

**April 9 - Council meeting 6 PM**

**April 13 - Youth roller skating  
@ Interskate 88. Meet at church  
at 1:00**

**April 27-28 - 30 Hour famine.  
Meet at church 8:30 Saturday**

**May 4 - Make owl houses**

**May 14 - Council meeting 6 PM**

**May 18 - Volunteer at Mr.  
Laraway's refuge farm**

**June 1 - Youth families summer  
picnic and bingo night**





# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

## Food Pantry Needs

Apr 7 - soups

Apr 14 - spaghetti sauce

Apr 21 - spaghettiios

Apr 28 - pudding  
applesauce/jello

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God is like - Bayer aspirin - He works miracles.

God is like Wal-Mart - He has everything.

God is like Alka - Seltzer - Try Him, you'll like Him.

God is like scotch tape - You can't see Him, but you know He is there.

God is like Delta - He's ready when you are.

God is like Allstate - You're in good hands with Him.

God is like Hallmark cards - He cares enough to send the very best.

God is like Coke - He's the real thing.

God is like Chevrolet - the heart beat of America.

## Happy Days !!!!!

### Birthdays: April

April 1 - Virginia Peterson

April 3 - Pat Becker

April 5 - Nikki Gordon and Julie Sammons

April 11 - Carolyn Wyckoff and Marie Cater

April 19 - Hannah Martin

April 20 - Diane France

April 24 - Maurice Van Dyke

April 26 - Lori Warner and Liam Grapes

April 28 - Bill Gordon

April 30 - Virgil Cater

### Anniversaries: April

March 15 - Ted and Debbie Palmatier

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### Food Pantry Blessing:

In February, our food pantry received \$423.38 from the Broome Fire Department. The money was raised by the Westerlo Reformed Church community. The fire department was asked to select people in need or agencies that helped meet the needs of area residents. The food pantries at St. Mark's and the North Blenheim Methodist Church were the recipients. St. Mark's council and congregation are truly thankful for this generous donation. We have been blessed to be a blessing!



## A Blessed Easter to Everyone!

The Apostle wrote in **1 Peter 1:3-5** *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."*

On Sunday March 31, 2013 we will be celebrating the resurrection of our Lord. It is a time of great rejoicing and a season for us to be glad. The resurrection of Christ signifies for us as Christians, hope and newness of life. The long season of Lent is over, and it gave us a chance to reflect on the sacrifice of Christ our Lord and; we were able to journey with him through these forty days.

Easter celebrates the victory of light and life over darkness and death. God re-creates and redeems all life from dead, dry, and destroyed bones. We are released from the bonds of self-obsession, addiction, and whatever would steal away the radical freedom of God-with-us. Our lives re-center in what is most holy and creative, the new thing God is continually doing in our midst. Practicing vulnerability toward the need and hunger of others around us, we have cultivated compassionate hearts. We join in baptismal rebirth in the midst of Jesus' own passing-over.

The wonder of the resurrection is upon us once more. May we embrace God's ever-new life with every cell of our being, every yearning of our soul, and every muscle of our will. Christ is risen, death is vanquished, humanity is restored to holy and creative relationship with God's ongoing and eternal liveliness. Praise God who brings light out of darkness, life out of death, and newness out of the stale and moribund. Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Pastor Royan Rodney.







# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

## Committees:

### Christian Education/Youth:

6 adults and 13 youth went to the indoor water park @ Great Escape on March 9 and had a great time.

Beginning March 3 the confirmation class will meet every Sunday from 12-1 for class. This is for youth 7<sup>th</sup> grade and up. Please be sure your child attends worship services as they will need to take sermon notes for class. See Pastor Rodney with questions. Bring a bag lunch to eat during the coffee hour.

Sign up sheets for roller skating, 30 hour famine, building owl houses, volunteering at Wildlife Refuge, zoom flume and Fright fest are hanging in the hall by the music room.

Sunday School is open to all children- all ages. **New hours will be 9:15 to 10:15.**

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Finances:	
Benevolence for February	
\$395.85	
NALC	\$197.53
Life Savers	\$197.92
Checking account: 1/1/2	
Income for Feb	\$1441.32
Expenses for Feb	\$5861.42
Over/under	(\$4420.10)
LSP - 9/1 - 1/1	
Vision mortgage	
Receipts for Feb	\$612.00
Mortgage payment	\$1045.00
Over/Under	(\$4308.10)
LSP 10 - 2/1	

## Servers for April

### April 7:

Acolyte - Mary/Jenna  
Ushers - Dennis/Diane  
Reader - Marie  
Greeter - Maurice  
Prayer - Gene  
Counter - Diane

### April 14:

Acolyte - Kenny/Brianna  
Ushers - Georgia/Nikki  
Reader - Allison  
Greeter - Harry  
Prayer - Beth  
Counter - Deb

### April 21:

Acolyte - Gabby/Morgan  
Ushers - Beth/Chris  
Reader - Nanette  
Greeter - Pat  
Prayer - Georgia  
Counter - Diane

### April 28:

Acolyte - Logan/Vivian  
Ushers - Aaron/Alyssa  
Reader - Ethel  
Greeter - Janet  
Prayer - Ginny  
Counter - Deb

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Please join us as we celebrate the life of Lorene Duncan with a memorial service followed by a luncheon on April 20<sup>th</sup> at 3:00



# **Kiss a Cow Fundraiser for World Hunger**

**Here how it works!**

**During the month of April vote for the candidate of your choice to kiss the cow – either Pastor Rodney or Pat McCoy.**

**Along with your vote please consider making a donation to World Hunger. The person with the most votes “wins” (or loses) and gets to kiss the cow.**

**Kissing will take place Sunday April 28<sup>th</sup> at 12 noon.**

**The youth will also be collecting donations and the goal is to collect \$1000. If they do not reach that goal all the youth will kiss the cow too!**

**Vote Often – Donate Often**

**Voting table is in the fellowship hall.**





About the program Realities of hunger Taking action Voices for hope

Tell your friends



Español

Helping end child hunger starts with a code.

ConAgra Foods Food you love

TOGETHER WE'RE FEEDING AMERICA

Join our cause.  
Download Cody's version of Fill a Heart today.



Look for codes on these participating ConAgra Foods brands.

Nearly 17 million children face hunger in the U.S.\*  
ConAgra Foods is working with Feeding America to change that.

## Here's how you can help.

1

Look for participating ConAgra Foods brands.

[See the brands](#)



2

Locate the red push pin and 8-digit code.

[Where's the code?](#)



98029950

Submit code

1 code = 1 meal\*

**902,070**  
children face hunger  
in New York.\*

544,739  
codes entered  
since 1.11.13

Goal: 3 million  
meals

Code entry by state

Select your state



See how many children  
are affected in your county.

[View the map](#)

## Stay connected to the cause.

Join the conversation, and help spread the word on Twitter and Facebook. Together, we can all make a difference.

### Child Hunger Ends Here. Join the fight!

As part of the youth 30 hour famine we are going to be looking for the ConAgra food codes and submitting them on their website.

Please help us out by collecting the codes. We will go to their website and enter them for free meals.





About the program

Realities of hunger

Taking action

Voices for hope

Tell your friends



Español

Helping end child hunger starts with a code.



ConAgra Foods

FEEDING AMERICA

## ConAgra Foods is committed to ending child hunger.

Food is not something any child should have to worry about, but in America nearly 17 million\* do. We want to change that. **And you can help.**

The Child Hunger Ends Here program is part of ConAgra Foods' ongoing commitment to help end child hunger in America. For every code entered by 8/31/13, **ConAgra Foods will donate the monetary equivalent of one meal\*\*** to Feeding America, the nation's largest domestic hunger-relief organization.

Thanks to the help of caring people like you, ConAgra Foods donated the monetary equivalent of **3.4 million meals** to Feeding America as part of the previous Child Hunger Ends Here campaign, which included online, school and retailer programs. With your help, we can make the 2013 campaign just as successful.

### Get involved

Follow us on Facebook

Follow us on Twitter



Learn more about the ConAgra Foods Foundation.



Discover more ways to help through Feeding America.



Help a local food bank. Remember to key-in your zip code.

### Contact us

## Participating brands

Look for the red push pin and 8-digit codes on these participating ConAgra Foods brands.



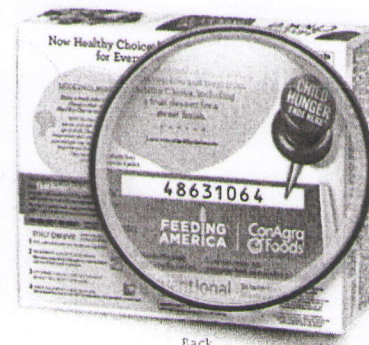
There's a good chance that someone in your neighborhood is struggling to put food on the table tonight. These ConAgra Foods brands have made a commitment to ending child hunger in the U.S. They're in this fight for the long haul. Which means there's a lot to like about the food you love.



Front

## Where's the code?

Find the 8-digit code on the back or side of specially marked ConAgra Foods packages. Just look for the **red push pin**.



Back



# ELCA Disaster Response

**ELCA churchwide response to disasters in the U.S. and around the world; look for sections of this blog related to specific disaster locations. Comments are welcomed and moderated.**

## [Hurricane Irene/Tropical Storm Lee: You are the SALT of the Earth](#)

Posted on March 1, 2013 by Joseph Chu



From Left: Marriane Roberts, SALT Staff; Pr. Joe Chu, LDR; Pr. Elaine Berg, Conference Dean, Josh DeBartolo, Schoharie Recovery Inc. Director; Pr. Sherri Meyer-Veen, SALT President; Sarah Goodrich, SALT Executive Director; Ken Dingee, SALT Staff; Patsy Glista, Upstate New York Synod Assistant to the Bishop

Committee meetings are rarely interesting material for storytelling. But how a meeting is conducted and how participants interact with one another during the meeting can help tell the bigger story of the personalities of those involved and the level of their collective accomplishments. In the past few months, I have had the opportunity to attend and observe a number of Long Term Recovery Committee meetings that seek to help those affected by disasters in various communities. I am truly amazed by how different these committees can be: Some are highly organized and effective and some are dominated by one or two strong personalities. Unfortunately, some are still finding ways to become a coherent body after a long period of time. The board meeting of Schoharie Area Long Term (SALT) at Cobleskill, New York, in the early morning hours of February 5, 2013, definitely belongs to the first kind – highly effective and exciting.

The Schoharie Basin, through which the Schoharie Creek flows, is an idyllic area with hilly meadows and small farmsteads in Upstate New York. When Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee ravaged the Northeast in August and September of 2011, the basin was hard hit with more than 2,000 properties affected. As the result, local governments lost an upward of 70% of their tax base. Soon afterwards, community leaders and faith-based organizations came together to form SALT – The Schoharie Area Long Term – to serve as a “...coordinating council or regional coalition in order to provide Interfaith and inter-agency resources, advocacy, healing, support, and recovery assistance to those affected by disaster.”

Several things stood out for me at that meeting. It was conducted in a very organized and effective manner; the meeting agenda and past minutes were well prepared and were sent to participants in advance. Pastor Sherri Meyer-Veen, the Chair of the SALT Board, chaired the meeting with grace and ease and was very good at inviting members to participate in discussions. Sarah Goodman, the Executive



Director of SALT, was very knowledgeable and exhibited a high level of professionalism. Those in attendance were from all stripes of community leadership: business people, clergy, professors and government leaders, each representing their respective community needs and assets. The deliveries and discussions were very thoughtful and courteous – something that's not always easy to accomplish, particularly in the very early morning hours. Undoubtedly, people around the table were highly accomplished professionals but yet no one tried to dominate the discussion. Instead, they tried to give of their best for the group and for those affected. At one point, members of the unmet needs committee presented a highly sophisticated decision-making flowchart to map how they make tough calls when considering requests from devastated local residents.

One of the things that struck me was that these leaders probably would not have been at the same table before Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee; but they rose up to the common challenge after the disaster and humbled themselves to work together to be a part of the whole for the sake of the shared future of their community. My subsequent meetings with the staff of SALT and other community stakeholders as well as my tours of the rebuilding projects confirmed these impressions.

The following are just a few of the points that helped me in forming this impression:

- Over 500 damaged properties received assistance from SALT and area partners and over 150 families have returned home.
- Over 120 faith based groups, 20 corporations, 35 schools, 15 labor unions and construction companies and 30 community service groups have volunteered.
- Over 25,000 volunteers have contributed 128,877 hours of labor worth over \$4 million.
- The Fenimore Asset Management investment firm offered a \$250,000 matching grant to SALT and the community was able to raise the sufficient fund to double this gift.
- Sarah Goodrich, the Executive Director of SALT, was named as the 2012 Times-Journal Star, a great honor for local residents.
- On the day of my visit, the Rev. David Meyers, Director of the Federal Department of Homeland Security's Center for Faith-Based & Neighborhood Partnership also visited SALT. SALT invited the media to talk to David Meyers, who represents the President Obama, as well as SALT leaders and representatives from various faith based organization. When Rev. Meyers was asked about how well he thought SALT was doing, he uttered a very important word, "Exemplary!"

We want to thank the many lay and ordained leaders of the Upstate New York Synod. It was my great pleasure to meet with some of them during my visits – Bishop Marie Jerge; Patsy Glista, Assistant to the Bishop for Operations; Gary Roller, Volunteer Coordinator; Pastor Elaine Berg, Dean of Foothill Conference, and many others. Through their tireless good work, Lutheran Disaster Response has been accompanying the residence in the Schoharie Basin since the beginning of the disaster response work in their community. In fact, LDR was among the first to support the creation of the SALT recovery group with a \$45,000 initial grant for staffing and administration. This initial investment and subsequent grants have indeed yielded enormously fruitful results. Thanks be to God!





## St. Mark's Lutheran Church

### 30 hour famine for World Hunger:

April 27 and 28 - meet at the church Saturday 8:30. We will be doing a community service project first so wear work clothes, bring work gloves and bring a leaf rake with your name on it. If it can be arranged bring a bathing suit, flip flops and towel for swimming. You will need a sleeping bag and a pillow for spending the night. Bring extra clean clothes and any personal care items you will need. Breakfast will be served Sunday morning at 8:30. On the 28<sup>th</sup> at noon we will have the results of the "Kiss a Cow" fundraiser and who gets to kiss the cow. Please bring your donations that you collected with you because if we did not raise \$1000 all the youth will have to kiss the cow too! Any questions see Debbie Palmatier.

SWD @ TUBING  
MAYHONIC  
MOUNTAIN







SNO-TUBING  
@  
WINDHAM  
MOUNTAIN



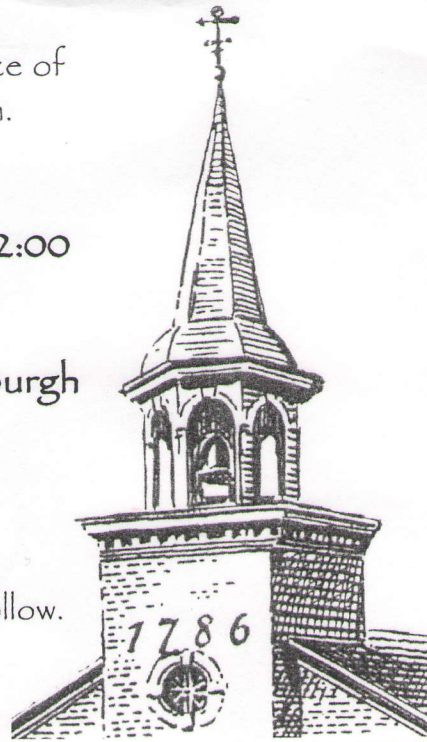


You are invited to attend a service of  
thanksgiving and rededication.

Saturday, April 13, 2013 at 2:00

Reformed Church of Middleburgh  
178 River Street  
Middleburgh, New York

Refreshments and fellowship will follow.



Hello, Sisters and Brothers in Christ!

It is with great JOY that I am able to inform you that I will be going to Zambia with Samaritan's Purse in May on a shoe box distribution trip! When I explained to a dear friend once that such a trip was offered to area coordinators and I would probably not have the opportunity to ever go on such a trip, she said some very wise words. "If God wants you to go, He will make a way."

God has made a way, and I am thrilled to have this opportunity to be able to participate in placing tangible representations of God's love into the hands of children! I ask all of you to please cover this trip in prayer. Pray for:

all volunteers and staff to be spiritually and physically prepared to be used according to God's purpose

the logistics involved

children's hearts to be prepared to receive the Good News

families to be open to having their children attend a distribution and later *The Greatest Journey* classes

local pastors and volunteers to be equipped to share God's love

I am confident that the Holy Spirit will lead you to pray for aspects of the trip I have not included. Thank you for your vital support of this wonderful ministry. All that we do must be grounded in prayer.

I am also asking you share my news in your churches and community groups. I look forward to being able to share my experiences with you after I return from this amazing gift from God!

Blessings!

Mary Lou

Dear Friends,

As we approach Easter Sunday, we are filled with the Hope of the Resurrection. Imagine how a hurting child feels when he or she learns that hope is possible for him or her too. A simple shoe box gift placed in a child's hands is a way to introduce a child living in darkness to the Light of the World. I wish to take this opportunity to thank you again for all you do to support Operation Christmas Child throughout the year.

May you and yours enjoy a blessed Easter!

Mary Lou

Relay Center Coordinator and Church Relations Team Member for Operation Christmas Child