St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Publisher
Church Mouse

Issue Number
165

Date
February 2025

Upcoming Events

Sun., Feb. 2nd – Annual Congregational Meeting

Wed., Feb. 12th – 5:00 p.m. – NET Dinner at OLV Catholic Church

Sat., Feb. 15th – 5:00 p.m. Movie Night

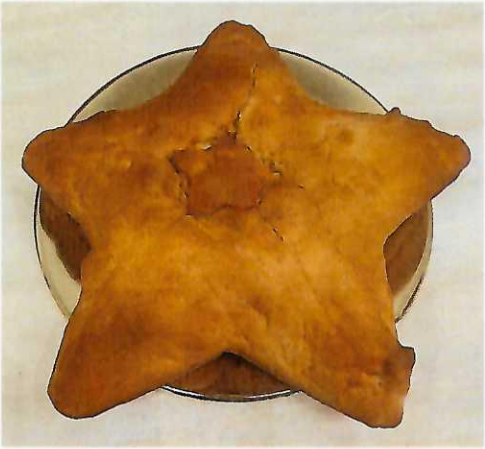
Sun., Feb. 16th – 12:00 p.m. – Church Council Meeting

Wed., Feb. 19th – 5:00 p.m. – NET Dinner at the Reformed Church

Wed., Feb. 26th – 5:00 p.m. – NET Dinner at St. Mark's Church

Annual Congregational Meeting

Please plan to attend our annual congregational meeting following our worship service and a pot luck lunch on **Sunday, February 2nd.** Also, **please be sure to read the Committee Reports sent to you via e-mail on Sunday, January 26th**.



Communion Bread for January

Prayers and Concerns for Jan.

Family of Jimmy Mattson
Family of Thomas Chichester
Family of Carl Stefanik
Family of Leonard Testa
Family of Tony Hoos
Family of Evalyn Conway
Family of Georgia VanDyke
Family of Katie Miner
Family of David Priest

John Palmatier
Ruth Palmer
Sharon Nesbitt
Andreanna Blesser
Baby Collin Shaul
Jeremy
Deb Roberts
Pat McCoy
Robert VanDyke
Shawn Clemens

Bible Verse for February:

Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives.

- Galatians 5:25

Thought for the Day:

Fools say whatever comes to mind; wise people think before they speak.

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St. Mark's Church Information

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St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Servers for February

Feb. 2nd
Reader – Ted
Prayer – Ted
Ushers – Ted / Ellen
Counter – Diane

Feb. 9th
Reader – Lori
Prayer – Ron
Ushers – Doug / Dan
Counter – Carrie

Feb. 16th
Reader – Marie
Prayer – Carolyn
Ushers – Cathy / Barb C.
Counter – Deb P.

Feb. 23rd
Reader – Sharon
Prayer – Cheryl
Ushers – Dan / Doreen
Counter – Sharon

Alex Martin (Cheryl's great grandson) directing the clean up of the fellowship hall after his own birthday party 😊

February Birthdays:

Bob Meunier	Feb. 1
Eric Mattson	Feb. 13
Bill Morton	Feb. 23
Kaleb Minton	Feb. 24
Greg Howland	Feb. 24

February Anniversaries:

Ron / Edna Lower	Feb. 16
Mark / Judi Beeler	Feb. 17

St. Mark's Income vs Expenses

Below is the financial information for the month of **December**.

Income	$8,214.00
Expenses	7,228.10
Balance	$985.90

Church Bulletin Board

This evening at 7pm there will be hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

In my Father's house there are many mansions… (John 14:2)

Our sister in Christ, Georgia VanDyke, moved into one of our Father's mansions early the morning of January 22nd. She now walks the streets of gold hand-in-hand with our Savior no longer having to use her walker.

On Sunday mornings one could find Georgia sitting in her "reserved" velvet cushioned chair in the back of St. Mark's sanctuary. It was there she greeted people as they arrived for our worship services.

As a faithful servant of the Lord, Georgia served on Council, was an integral part of the Altar Guild, worked at our NET dinners, facilitated joint worship services at Gobblers' Knob, was instrumental in installing the defibrillator and willingly performed whatever tasks God called her to do.

For several years, Georgia was St. Mark's representative at NALC Atlantic Mission District convocations. A special memory that Georgia liked to share happened during one of her trips to Abington, PA. Traveling with her were Carolyn and Pastor Rodney. Both of them quickly learned she did not like to drive the speed limit. Her philosophy was the faster she drove, the faster we would get there. On the trip back to Middleburgh, Georgia was driving along I-81 and as she got beside an exit, she decided at the last moment she needed to purchase gas. Her quick move off the interstate found Pastor Rodney flying around the backseat so all she could see in her rearview mirror was his arms and legs in the air. She broke out in laughter and continued to laugh each time she relayed the story. 😊

Georgia touched the lives of many people at St. Mark's; she will be greatly missed by all of us. Thank you, Lord, for allowing us the privilege of knowing her.

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Georgia's celebration of life is Saturday, February 1st, at St. Mark's with the Phoebes and friends hosting a reception following the service.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

"SOUPer Bowl" Sunday

Many eyes will be focused on TV screens across the U.S. on Sunday, **February 9th**, as two football teams play in the 2025 Super Bowl. But…at St. Mark's all eyes will be focused on the number of cans of soup being placed in the front of the sanctuary as we play our own "SOUPer Bowl" game.

Please be a member of the winning team at St. Mark's by donating a can(s) of soup of any kind to our worship service on the 9th. Then the ultimate winner of the game will be those you are blessing through your donation to our food pantry.

GO TEAM!!!

Fight Hunger Bag Program

A Message from Hannaford

We are excited to announce that **St. Mark's Food Pantry** has been selected as a nonprofit partner in the **Hannaford Fight Hunger Bag Program** for February 2025.

This means your organization will receive a $1 donation for every $2.50 reusable Fight Hunger Bag sold during February 2025 at:

11140 Western Turnpike
Esperance, NY

So…calling all Hannaford shoppers… please consider helping our food pantry by purchasing a bag this month.

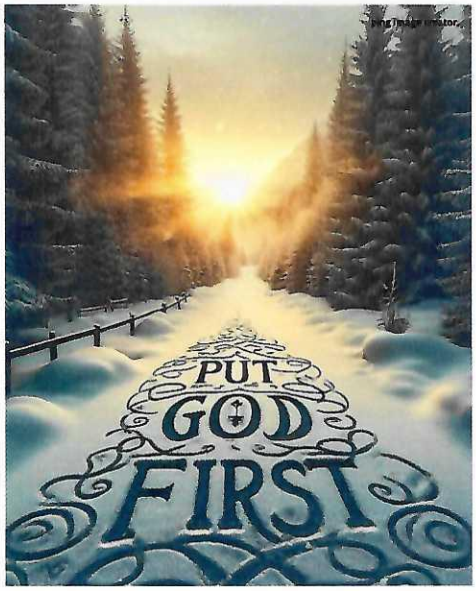
St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Movie Night

Keeping faith when others doubt…
Hearing God's voice…
Power of deep faith…
Let go and let God…
Repentance, forgiveness and
submission to God's will…

These are only a few of the messages in the January 18th movie night feature "Breakthrough" – but the main theme is that love is the most powerful force on earth and that the power of God's love makes all things possible. Watching "Breakthrough" we definitely witnessed a miracle

Please mark your calendar for our next movie night will be at **5:00 p.m**. on **Saturday, February 15th**. Information about the feature we will view is forthcoming.



Please keep our armed forces and their families in your prayers.

Please keep in prayer all those who have suffered from natural disasters with a special prayer for the firefighters in California.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

NET Dinner

The SOUPer Bowl teams were lined up at center field, poised, ready for the game to begin. The crockpots of soup stepped onto the field and on Wednesday, January 22nd, the SOUPer Bowl challenge began. All evening thirteen soups made play after play and at the end of the game, touchdowns were made by:

Diane France (1st place)

Dolores Wenzel (2nd place)

Bill Morton (3rd place)

AND… the winner of the **Golden Ladle trophy** is:

Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church

Our next NET dinner is on **February 26** when we will serve macaroni and cheese and chips for Cheryl. ☺

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Operation Christmas Child

Although our OCC coordinator, Ruth Palmer, is currently in Rochester, her heart is here with us and the children who will be receiving shoeboxes at Christmas time. As we enter a new year, Ruth says…

"Yes, it is OK to start shopping for Operation Christmas Child! You may want to start by purchasing WOW gifts. Another suggestion is looking for items after Christmas and Valentine's Day like toys or stuffed animals when items are on sale. And remember…we can always use tote bags. Thank you as always for your support."

Love to all,
Ruth

Update: Barbara Coons has volunteered to be co-coordinator of OCC until Ruth returns. Thank you, Barb!

WOW gifts include 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.

Altar Flowers

Every Sunday beautiful flowers adorn our altar. To help defer the cost, we are asking members of our congregation to sign-up for the purchase of these flowers (the cost is $20). To make a payment to cover the cost of the week(s) for which you signed up, please put your check or cash in an envelope with your church envelope number and the date for which you are donating the flowers, then place it in the offering plate. Thank you!

Thank you to Marie Whittaker who uses her God-given talent to make these beautiful arrangements.

Coffee Hour

Gathering together after our worship services for coffee hour is a wonderful time of fellowship with each other. We are asking people to provide refreshments for the coffee hour. It may be you as an individual or consider teaming with a few friends to furnish them. Our sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board in the hallway. Thank you!

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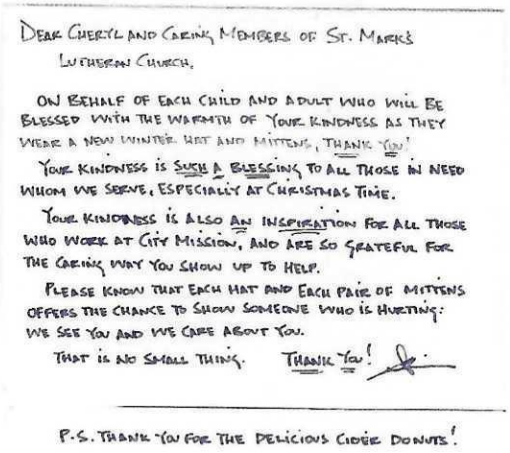
Thank You Messages

From City Mission



Dear Cheryl and Caring Members of St. Mark's Lutheran Church,

On behalf of each child and adult who will be blessed with the warmth of your kindness as they wear a new winter hat and mittens, Thank You!

Your kindness is such a blessing to all those in need whom we serve, especially at Christmas time.

Your kindness is also an inspiration for all those who work at City Mission, and are so grateful for the caring way you show up to help.

Please know that each hat and each pair of mittens offers the chance to show someone who is hurting: we see you and we care about you.

That is no small thing. Thank You!

P.S. Thank you for the delicious cider donuts!

From Wings As Eagles Ministries

Happy New Year!! We pray your year is a healthy one and full of peace, joy and love. We are thankful for all you do.

Thank you for your giving and the miracle financial gift! We are praying for you and send our love and deep gratitude for remembering our work here on the reservations.

We hope you will continue on this journey with us in 2025. God Bless you and your family, we send you love for the New Year!

Gary and Lori

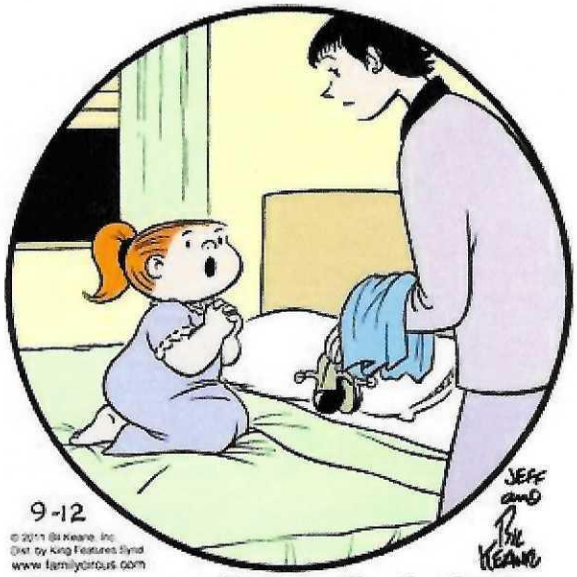
and

WAEM family

Thank you so much for all the get cards!! Love you all!

Three Kings

Epiphany Sunday, January 5th, St. Mark's was visited by "royalty" when our choir featured tenor and bass soloists as they sang "We Three Kings".



"How many 'Talk to God' minutes does our family plan allow?"