

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Publisher
Church Mouse

Issue Number
168

Date
May 2025

Upcoming Events

Thurs., May 1st – 5:30 p.m. - National Day of Prayer – Schoharie County Office Building Courtyard

Wed., May 14th – 5:00 p.m. – NET Dinner at OLV Catholic Church

Fri., May 16th – 6:00 p.m. Movie Night

Sun., May 18th – 12:00 p.m. – Church Council Meeting

Fri., May 23rd – 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. – 4th Friday Hot Dog Event

Wed., May 28th – 5:00 p.m. – NET Dinner at St. Mark's Church



Communion Bread for April

Prayers and Concerns for April

Family of Marjorie Nolte
Family of Kris Palmatier
Family of Michelle Echtner
Pope Francis

Kylie Parslow
Robin Gordon
Amy Varella
Ginny Tinney
Colleen Davidson
Willy Karlau
Willow Dudley
Wendy Weingarten
Claire Evans
Rhonda Margiasso

Bible Verse for May:

We love because God first loved us.
- 1 John 4:19

Thought for the Day:

If you do not fill your mind with God's Word, the enemy will fill it with fear, anxiety, stress, worry and temptation.



St. Mark's Church Information

Pastor David Houck
Home Phone: 518-827-6386
Email: pastordave@midtel.net
St. Mark's Phone: 518-827-5318
St. Mark's Email: stmarks@midtel.net
Website: stmarkslutheranmiddleburgh.com

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Servers for May

May 4th

Reader – Bob
Prayer – Carolyn
Ushers – Bob / Peggi
Counter – Carrie

May 11th

Reader – Deb P.
Prayer – Ron
Ushers – Deb R. / Marie
Counter – Deb P.

May 18th

Reader – Lori
Prayer – Cheryl
Ushers – Dennis / Carrie
Counter – Sharon

May 25th

Reader – Marie
Prayer – Ron
Ushers – Allison / Aaron
Counter – Diane

National Day of Prayer

Pastor Colleen Quirion has invited us to participate in a National Day of Prayer observance in Schoharie on **May 1, 2025**, to be held in the County office building courtyard at **5:30 p.m.** Following the time of prayer, everyone is invited to come to Christ the Shepherd Lutheran Church for a potluck fellowship meal. Barbecue chicken and drinks will be provided. Bring a dish to share. In the event of inclement weather, the service will also be held at Christ the Shepherd Church.

May Birthdays:

Gloria Falcone	May 2
Helen Thomas	May 3
Bill Miller	May 6
Mary Schaffer	May 8
Peter Churiti	May 10
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

St. Mark's Income vs Expenses

Below is the financial information for the month of **March**:

Income	\$7,770.00
Expenses	7,022.72
Balance	747.28

Benevolence \$769.50 was donated to Sheriff's Camp.



The Right Seasoning

Just as we add seasoning to enhance the flavor of what we eat, the seasons add flavor to how we live. How we are perceived and how we are received is greatly affected by how we live. All people live through and are affected by the four seasons of spring, summer, fall, and winter each year. The four astronomical seasons are determined by solstices and equinoxes, marking specific points in earth's orbit around the sun. This orbit determines the amount of light and the amount of dark each day as well as the weather patterns that are attributed to each of these seasons. All of this has varying effects on people and how they feel and act. Each season has its collective group of fans and critics.

As the church, we too have our own seasons based on a liturgical calendar. Each of the church seasons also adds flavor to our lives and can affect our moods and how we feel. The Church year or liturgical year generally begins with the first Sunday of Advent, which is the fourth Sunday before Christmas. The word "Advent" comes from the Latin "adventus," meaning "coming" or "arrival," referring to the arrival of Jesus both in the past (his birth) and the future (his Second Coming). Each week of Advent emphasizes the themes hope, peace, joy, and love, helping us prepare our hearts and minds for the celebration of Christmas. Advent is culminated at Christmas with the celebration of Jesus' birth.

Next comes Epiphany, which comes from the Greek word meaning 'to reveal', as it is when the baby Jesus was 'revealed' to the world. It is the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles as represented by the Magi (Matthew 2:1–12). In Western Christianity, Epiphany traditionally falls on January 6th, the 12th day of Christmas.

Epiphany is followed by a period considered as Ordinary Time, which is a period focused on the life and teachings of Jesus.

The next season in the church is Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday. Lent is a period of fasting and prayer that mirrors the 40 days that Christ spent in the desert at the beginning of His ministry. Ash Wednesday is 40 days before Easter not counting Sundays on which fasting was not allowed in the early church. Lent is the season of preparation for Easter. The final week of Lent, called Holy Week, recounts Jesus week prior to His Resurrection. It has many elements of servitude, betrayal, denial, and sacrifice.

Easter celebrates the fulfillment of prophecies through the resurrection of Jesus. The resurrection reminds us of "the rest of the story" and that there is more beyond what we are only able to see with our eyes. The resurrection of Jesus is evidence of what is offered to each of us when we believe. When we believe, the prophecy will be fulfilled that where Jesus is we may be also, in that place He prepared for each of us.

Pentecost is a Jewish feast that has been celebrated since the Old Testament, being called the Feast of Harvest or the Feast of Weeks in Jewish tradition. The account in Act 2 reports that, after Jesus ascended into heaven, Jesus' followers were gathered together for the Feast of Harvest (aka Pentecost), and the Holy Spirit "filled the whole house where they were sitting" (Acts 2:2). "All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them". Pentecost is celebrated on the seventh Sunday after Easter, which is also the 50th day after Easter. It marks the coming of the Holy Spirit to the apostles and the beginning of the Christian Church's mission.

Another period of Ordinary Time begins the Monday after Pentecost and ends on Christ the King Sunday, the final Sunday before Advent. It is the longest season in the liturgical calendar and is a time focused on the mystery of Christ in all its aspects, including the church's growth and mission. During Ordinary Time, the Church focuses on the teachings of Jesus, his parables, and the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers. It's a time for deepening understanding of the scriptures and growing in Christian discipleship.

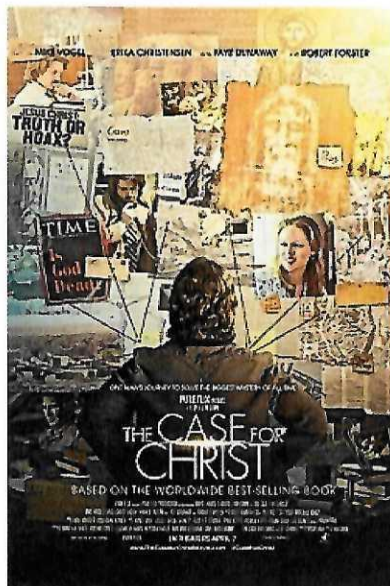
We know what the astronomical and liturgical seasons are. The question is what season are we in in our own lives? May we be well seasoned by the celebrations we share each year in the church. May what we learn from Jesus during the Ordinary Times make us better at sharing it with others.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Movie Night

The feature for our April 12th movie night was "Pilgrim's Progress", a story written over 340 years ago by John Bunyan while he was in prison for being a Christian. It depicts the trials and distractions we face that try to prevent us from reaching our ultimate destination of God's kingdom as we journey through this life.

Our next movie night will be **Friday, May 16th at 6:00 p.m.** when the feature will be "The Case for Christ". This movie was made in 2017 and is based on a true story. It follows an atheist journalist who sets out to disprove his wife's Christian faith, ultimately leading him to confront the evidence for Jesus.



On this Memorial Day, let us remember all those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country as well as all those who have served and are currently serving in our armed forces.



St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Special Congregational Meeting

Sunday, April 13th, a special congregational meeting was held to discuss the replacement of the windows in our church's addition. Quotes were received from Capital City Construction, Window World, Home Magic and Window Town to replace 22 windows with half screens and will be all white inside and outside. After comparing the quotes, a vote was taken and the results were:

Capital City Construction – 0
Window World – 1
Home Magic – 18
Window Town – 1

Council will now proceed with starting this project.

Operation Christmas Child

Please continue to bring donations for our OCC shoeboxes such as stuffed animals, games, dolls, soccer balls, books, small kit Legos, art supplies, and match box cars and other WOW gifts. Please place your gifts on the table in the front of the sanctuary.



4th Fridays



“Hot dogs! Get your hot dogs!”

Middleburgh's 4th Fridays will begin on **May 23rd 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. (Cheryl will be performing quality control on the chips to ensure they are fresh. 😊) The suggested price is: **donation.**

We are seeking volunteers to help set up, serve and tear down. (We meet at 4:00 p.m. to start the set up.) Please stop by to see us!

Special Music

Sunday, April 27th, Pat and Dylan Hillicoss blessed us with rendition of “Go Rest High on That Mountain”, sung in remembrance of loved ones who have passed into God's kingdom.



St. Mark's Lutheran Church

NET Dinner

On top of spaghetti,
All covered with cheese.
I lost my poor meatball
When somebody sneezed....

How many of us remember this song?
Actually, the singing of this song is how
Pastor Dave welcomed approximately 60
people to our NET dinner on
Wednesday, April 23rd, when we served
spaghetti, meatballs, tossed salad, bread
and variety of desserts.

Our last NET dinner will be held on
May 28th at 5:30 p.m. when we will
serve "make your own sandwich",
salads, chips (for Cheryl) and desserts.



"Master Chef" Diane



Preparing to serve



Checking out the dessert table



Some of our
Neighbors Eating Together



Palm Sunday



Sunrise Service



Easter at St. Mark's



The Altar



A Time for the Child In All of Us



The Bulletin



The Benediction

Special Music
St. Mark's Choir
St. Mark's Handbells

