

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Publisher
Church Mouse

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Date
July 2024

Upcoming Events

Fri., July 12th – 8:00 p.m. – Ice Cream Social /
Band Concert

Sat., July 13th – 9:00 a.m. – Men's Breakfast

Sat., July 20th – 5:00 p.m. – Movie Night

Sun., July 21st – 12:00 p.m. – Church Council
Meeting

Fri., July 26th – 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. –
4th Friday

Sat., July 27th – Phoebe Annual Pie Sale

Sun., July 28th – 2:00 p.m. – Community
Worship Service – Timothy Murphy Park

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

**PLEASE NOTE: On July 28th, we will have our
normal 10:30 a.m. worship service in the
church sanctuary; however, we encourage
you to join us at the Community Worship
Service at 2:00 p.m. as well that day.**

Bible Drive

During the month of July, we are collecting Bibles (any version) that will be sent to people around the world. If you would like to donate a Bible(s), please leave them on a table set up in the sanctuary. God bless you for being willing to share His Word with others!

Prayers and Concerns for June

Family of Jerry Cunningham
Family of Vernon Gordon

Tom / Sharon Nesbitt
Gloria Falcone
Janet Meyers
Chris Fowler
Matt Coltrain

Bible Verse for July:

*Anxiety weighs down the human
heart, but a good word cheers it
up.*

Proverbs 12:25

Thought for the Day:

*We extend the hand of the Lord
when we extend our hand to
others.*



St. Mark's Church Information

Pastor David Houck

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St. Mark's Phone: 518-827-5318

St. Mark's Email: stmarks@midtel.net

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stmarkslutheranmiddleburgh.com

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Servers for July

July 7th

Reader – Dennis F.
Prayer – Cheryl
Ushers – Bob / Peggi
Counter – Carrie

July 14th

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

July 21st

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

July 28th

Reader – Edna
Prayer – Ron
Ushers – Allison / Aaron
Counter – Sharon



We are so blessed to have Karen VanDyke share her God-given talent to create and bake our Communion bread. Thank you, Karen!

July Birthdays:

Doreen Heluk	July 5
Mia Howland	July 7
Janet Abrams	July 22
Russ Elder	July 24

July Anniversaries:

Bill / Holly Pierce	July 14
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St. Mark's Income vs Expenses

Unfortunately, the summary of income and expenses for May 2024 is not available at this time.

Income	??
Expenses	??
Balance	??

Humorous Church Announcements

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

A Day To Celebrate

How, when, and what we celebrate is a lot more complicated than I knew. Globally there are many different celebrations. There are month long celebrations, weeklong observances, Day of the Week celebrations, and lastly, celebrations with movable dates from year to year. I won't list them all but counting global celebrations for each of the 31 days in July, there are 125 things to celebrate somewhere on this planet.

For us, the citizens of the United States, it is the 4th of July which is known as Independence Day that is the most widely celebrated. It is the day a declaration was made which sparked a revolution to achieve freedom. Freedom from oppressive rule which was unfair and unjust to many who risked everything for the common good of the masses so that all might know of life, liberty, and have the ability to pursue happiness.

As I mentioned, there are many ways to celebrate each day of the month and throughout each month of the year. Each of us have our own lists of both corporate and personal celebrations that we recognize and enjoy each year. There is one special day that should rise above all other days... a day when personal freedom was secured by each person who took the step of faith to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. I cannot remember the exact date, but I do remember it was on a Sunday. It didn't just happen out of the blue; it is the fruition of a lifetime of preparation. It began with my baptism. I was an infant and my parents committed to raise me in the faith so that I would know the ways and truth of God. Although I did not realize it for a long time, it sparked a revolution within myself that helps me each day to pursue the happiness that can only be found in the freedom from sin. The Sunday of my personal declaration was during the Easter season. I knew about and heard the history of the Lenten and Easter season throughout my life. It was during an experience, an encounter by the Holy Spirit, while revisiting what God had done for all of us through Jesus Christ that I "got it". The feeling that day was overwhelming. I felt completely humbled before my Lord and my God. I was able to see the world, see everything in a new light. To see things with clearer vision because of the one who said that He is "the light of the world".

After being deceived and misled by popular trends in our culture, I found myself in want. I wanted something to really believe in, something secure, something honest and true. *John 8:32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.* *John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."*

I wish I could say one and done in the personal battle for freedom. Satan the oppressor is always looking for an opportunity to attack. To seek out our vulnerability when we are weak, ill, tired, or hungry, his method is to try and feed us deadly poison disguised as something sweet and tasty in an effort to lure us away from God and our only hope, His Son Jesus Christ. Satan can only have a chance if he succeeds in luring us away from God. He has no chance when we decide to bow down before the throne of Christ which began as a cross on a hill. Let us be prepared for each battle through our knowledge and use of the whole armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-18).

Yes, we can find thousands of reasons to celebrate each year. There is only one reason to celebrate every day of every month of every year, and that is the victory over sin and death given to us through the sacrifice, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This July let us celebrate real freedom and our independence from the real oppressor, the prince of darkness. Amen

In God We Trust / Love and Prayers, Pastor Dave

St. Mark's Lutheran Church



Ice Cream Social

An ice cream social is being hosted by St. Mark's at the July 12th band concert. We will be serving ice cream, baked goods and beverages.

We are asking for volunteers to bake items such as cookies, pies, cupcakes, cakes, etc. for us to sell. Please leave your baked goods at the church no later than 6:30 p.m. on the 12th or bring them to the MCS lawn on the night of the concert.

We are also asking for volunteers to help us set up and take down our tables that evening. We will meet at the church at 6:30 p.m. If you have any questions, please contact Pat McCoy on 518-231-4632 or leave a message on the church phone (518-827-5318).

This fundraiser is to benefit our food pantry.



Movie Night: Saturday, July 20th
Time: 5:00 p.m.
Place: St. Mark's Fellowship Hall

Please join us as we gather to watch a Christian movie.

Phoebes Annual Pie Sale

Saturday, July 27, 2024, Middleburgh is hosting its annual Arts and Crafts day. It is also when our Phoebes will hold their annual pie sale. Please leave a message on the church office phone (518-827-5318) if you are willing to make a pie(s) or make a monetary donation. We will also need help on the 27th to set up our table on the MCS lawn as well as sell the pies. Since this is their only fundraiser for the year, your donations and help are greatly appreciated.

(Please leave your pie(s) at the church by 9:00 a.m. on the 27th.)



Phoebe Members Wanted!

Do you know how to sew, would like to be creative or can tie a knot...then our Phoebes have an open position for you. If you currently feel "unqualified", we will gladly teach you. We only ask that you have a heart for the Lord and desire to serve Him as we strive to bless others with the quilts we make.

We meet in the **Phoebe room** on **Monday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon**. Work hours are flexible.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

4th Friday



During the evening of June 28th, our chefs and their servers sold hot dogs, water and chips on the church's front lawn. A huge thank you to all who helped set up, serve and take down. Customers were very generous as we received donations to be used for the shipping of Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes.

Our next 4th Friday event will be on **July 26th** from **5:30 to 8:30 p.m.** Volunteers are always welcome.



Some of our happy servers 😊

Operation Christmas Child



July is hygiene month. Toothbrushes, wash cloths, brushes and combs are suggested items to donate. Please do not purchase soap as it tends to get moldy.



WOW gifts are always needed.



If you are unable to shop, monetary donations are gratefully accepted. Ruth loves to shop for OCC gifts and will gladly shop for you. As always, thank you for your help in filling a box. It is because of you we can bless the children.

St. Mark's congregation received this invitation from Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church to join them on a train ride. Thank you, OLV, for including us.

June 23, 2024

Dear members at St. Marks, the Reformed Church and the Methodist church,

ALL ABOARD!!! Our Lady of the Valley(OLV) is privately chartering the Milford to Cooperstown Railroad Ride on Sunday July 14. The train, which has a capacity of 200 passengers, will depart from the Milford station at 3:00 pm. The train will travel toward Cooperstown and return to the Milford station at 6:00 pm. This will solely be for OLV and Our Lady of Fatima along with interested members of your congregation. The cost will be \$5.00 per adult and children are FREE. You will be responsible to coordinate your own transportation to the Milford station. Some may consider carpooling. It is suggested that you allow approximately 1 hour to arrive in Milford. We at OLV will depart from our parking lot at 1:30. You must arrive by 2:30 at the latest for boarding.

The train will have a dining car available with hot dogs, snacks, beverages, popcorn, etc. You are welcome to bring your own snacks, sandwiches, etc. We encourage you to also consider a purchase at the dining car. Some may choose to stop along the way home for a burger, an ice cream etc. at a place of your own choosing.

Please contact the OLV parish office (518-827-3301) by July 10 to reserve a space and arrange for payment with our office manager, Laura. The office hours are M-W 9:00-1:30 and TH 9:00-12:30. Should you have other questions, feel free to contact Stephanie Tinker (evenings are best) at 518-231-3221.

Should you be uncertain by July 10, please know that last minute riders are most welcome!

This train is operated by volunteers of the Leatherstocking Railway Historical Society. We hope you are able to join us for this adventure along the Susquehanna!

Peace to you,
Our Lady of the Valley Parish
Fr. Tom Zelke



COMMUNITY WORSHIP SERVICE

July 28th at 2:00 p.m.

at Timothy Murphy Park

Please join your brothers and sisters in Christ for a spirit-filled worship service. Because we will be outside, please bring your own lawn chair.

All are welcome!

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

This month we celebrate the birth of our country. Parades, picnics, gatherings of family and friends, fireworks... some events we may choose to participate in on July 4th. As you celebrate, please remember to pray for our country, pray for our military, pray that our country stands on the Word of God and pray for unity in Christ.



This is a thought-provoking exert from Facebook, we have been asked to share...

Why go to church?

I think this is fantastic, I just love the guy's answer, and the interpretation for the word BIBLE. Enjoy and pass it on.

A Church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday.

He wrote: "I've gone for 30 years now, and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons, but for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time, the preachers and priests are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all". This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column.

Much to the delight of the editor, it went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher: "I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

When you are DOWN to nothing, God is UP to something!

Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible & receives the impossible!

Thank God for our physical and our spiritual nourishment!

IF YOU CANNOT SEE GOD IN ALL, YOU CANNOT SEE GOD AT ALL!

B.I.B.L.E. simply means: Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth!

When you are about to forward this to others, the devil will discourage you.

So go on! Forward this to people who are DEAR to you and TRUST GOD.

Shared From a brother in christ service!!!

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Baccalaureate



Sunday, June 16th, St. Mark's hosted Middleburgh Central School's baccalaureate. Those attending were blessed to hear a rendition of "Amazing Grace" by two of the graduates and listened to a message from Ms. Himme, who was one of their teachers. She spoke about her faith and encouraged the seniors to face their fear of the unknown as they move on into the world. Congratulations, MCS Seniors!

As the world fights to figure everything out,
I'll be holding doors for strangers,
letting people cut in front of me in traffic,
saying good morning,
keeping babies entertained in grocery lines,
stopping to talk to someone who is lonely,
being patient with sales clerks,
smiling at a passersby.

WHY?

Because I will not stand idly by and
live in a world where love is invisible.

Join me in showing kindness,
understanding, and judging less.

Be kind to a stranger,

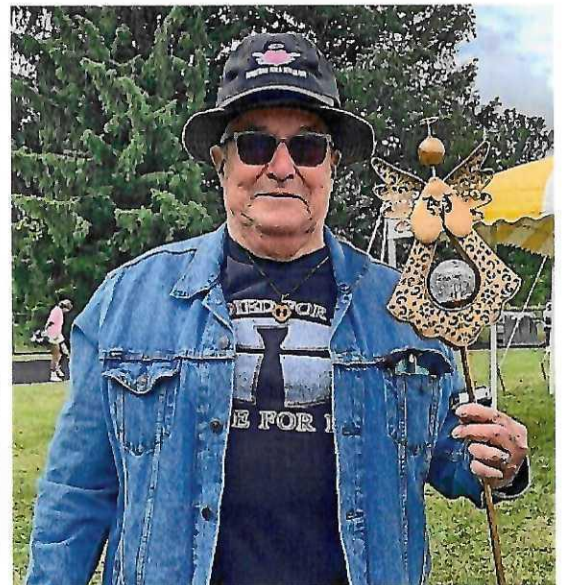
give grace to friends who are having a bad day,
be forgiving of yourself - today and every day

BE the change, BE the light,
start today and never stop.

Audrey Love's Parry

Congratulations, Pastor Dave!

"I believe there are angels among us sent down to us from somewhere up above" – these are words to a song recorded by the vocal group Alabama. If you ever attend Marathon-for-a-Better Life opening ceremony, you will hear this song and witness the recognition of "angels" working among them, namely those who help the Marathon. We are excited that this year Marathon presented one of their Angel awards to our own Pastor Dave.



Congratulations, Dave! While you always give God the glory, thank you for listening and being obedient to His call to help others.

We are pleased to announce that Marathon-for-a-Better Life raised over \$210,000 this year...funds that will be used to help cancer patients in Schoharie County.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Welcome, Blake Alexander Estro

What a joy and blessing to witness an infant baptism on Sunday, June 29th!



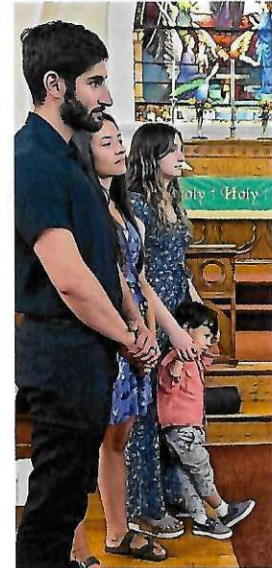
Blake Alexander Estro



Introducing Blake to
St. Mark's congregation



Kayla, Blake, Pr. Dave, Michael



Blake's sponsors

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Annual Church Picnic

St. Mark's and Christian Community Church came together for a spirit-filled worship service on Sunday, June 23rd, at Gobbler's Knob. After the service, attendees enjoyed a delicious picnic lunch with grilled hot dogs, hamburgers and all the fixings



A picture of Pr. Dave taking a picture... SMILE everyone!!!



Pr. Dave preparing to deliver another awesome message. Even the wind blowing his papers off the stand could not stop him. 😊



St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Community Concert

When God inspires us to do something that will benefit others, we want to be obedient. Earlier this year God led Betsy Meredith of the Middleburgh Reformed Church to organize a community concert that would be a fundraiser for Joshua Project. On June 2nd the Reformed Church hosted the concert where various genre of music was performed. Here are pictures of some who participated, including St. Mark's choir and handbell choir.



Bill Pierce singing solo with St. Mark's choir as backup singers



Handbell choir accompanied on piano by Ron Lower



Thank you to all who attended and supported this worthy cause. A donation of \$500 was made to Joshua Project.