

# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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Church Mouse

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November, 2025

## Upcoming Events

Sat., Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> – 10:00 a.m. - Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Packing Party

**Wed., Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>** – 5:00 p.m. - Net Dinner at St. Mark's (Please note change)

Sun., Nov. 9<sup>th</sup> – Special Congregational Meeting to discuss accessibility ramp

Sat., Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> – 5:30 p.m. – Movie Night

Sun., Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> – 12:00 p.m. – Church Council Meeting

Sun., Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> – 7:00 p.m. – Thanksgiving Service at OLV Catholic Church

## Upcoming Events

Sun, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 p.m. - Community Caroling at Reformed Church

Sun., Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> – 6:30 p.m. – Blue Christmas Vigil at St. Mark's

Wed., Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 p.m. – Christmas Eve Worship Service



Communion Bread for October

## Prayers and Concerns for Oct.

Family of Mike Ruis

Pastor Dave  
Stephanie (Ruland) Hembach  
Lorrie Gordon  
Ron Lower  
Sandi Johnson  
Julie (McCoy) Kulesa  
Adrian Graff  
Nikki Paluzzi's co-worker  
Helen Thomas  
Carol Bell  
Patty Wainwright

## Bible Verse for November:

*For we walk by faith, not by sight.*

- 2 Corinthians 5:7

## Thought for the Day:

*Contentment is not possessing everything but giving thanks for everything you possess.*



## St. Mark's Church Information

Pastor David Houck  
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Email: [pastordave@midtel.net](mailto:pastordave@midtel.net)  
St. Mark's Phone: 518-827-5318  
St. Mark's Email: [stmarks@midtel.net](mailto:stmarks@midtel.net)  
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# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

## Servers for November

### Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>

Reader – Lori  
Prayer – Eric  
Ushers – Lori / Dean  
Counter – Sharon

### Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>

Reader – Deb P.  
Prayer – Ron  
Ushers – Ron / Denise  
Counter – Diane

### Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>

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

### Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>

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

### Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>

Reader – Sharon  
Prayer – Eric  
Ushers – Dennis / Diane  
Counter – Sharon

## November Birthdays:

Karen Berkheimer	Nov. 2
Deb Roberts	Nov. 11
Karen VanDyke	Nov. 12
Kerri Bellinger	Nov. 14
Jay Diamond	Nov. 22
Ron Lower	Nov. 28

## November Anniversaries:

Ellen / Ted Langenbahn	Nov. 10
Linda / Ron Connors	Nov. 11
Richard / Sigrid Wood	Nov. 21
Barb / Russ Elder	Nov. 23
Anne / Bill Miller	Nov. 24

## **St. Mark's Income vs Expenses**

Below is the financial information for the month of September:

Income	Not Available
Expenses	Not Available
Balance	Not Available

## **Holy Humor**

A little boy was asked to say grace for Thanksgiving dinner. He began, "Thank you, God, for all my friends, for Mommy and Daddy, for our turkey, our stuffing, our pumpkin pie..." He went on, thanking God for every dish. After a long pause, he looked up and asked, "If I thank God for the broccoli, won't he know I'm lying?"

## Redemption

Redemption is the act of being saved from sin, error, and evil; it also means to buy back or regain something that was lost. In the Bible, redemption is the act of God "buying back" or rescuing humanity from sin, its consequences and bondage through a costly sacrifice. It is a central theme beginning in the Old Testament and culminating in the New Testament through Jesus Christ's death and resurrection. It paid the ransom for sins and secures forgiveness, freedom, and reconciliation with God for those who believe. Redemption involves liberation from sin's penalty and its power, *Romans 6:23 - For the wages of sin is death*. It is the act of freeing people from their state of alienation from God. Through Christ's sacrifice, we may receive the forgiveness of our sins and be restored to a right relationship with God. The New Testament presents Jesus as the ultimate redeemer. Through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our redemption is accomplished. Redemption is not something we can earn; it is an act of God's grace and love. It is a gift that can only be received through our faith in Jesus Christ. It is through His sacrifice, this act of redemption, that we may obtain eternal salvation. Redemption is the act of regaining or restoring something lost by paying for it through a costly act of love. *"I once was lost but now am found"*.

When we die in this physical life, we are separated from those we loved and shared it with. Spiritual death as a result of unredeemed sin separates us from our God forever, eternally. Separation from God is separation from the true love and peace that only God the Father and the Son can provide. In this life everyone desires to be loved, to find peace, and the comfort they both provide. When we are not comfortable, it is difficult to find rest. Jesus promised that if we come to Him, He will give us rest.

As we approach another season of Thanksgiving, let us be truly thankful for what God has done, not just the quality of life we enjoy and the provisions that meet our needs. Let us praise God for that which tears down the walls of separation between all humanity and between each person and God, our redeemer.

As we approach Christmas, let us praise God for the gift of His only Son, Jesus Christ. A life of miracles as seen by His conception, birth, life, teachings, and the acts of unconditional love He performed while He walked among us. A life that culminated in the ultimate sacrifice to purchase our salvation and restore us in a right relationship with God - our God who created us and who redeemed us. May we boldly sing, as grateful children of God, this hymn written by Fannie Crosby (1882).

### Redeemed, How I Love to Proclaim It

1) Redeemed, how I love to proclaim it! Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb!  
redeemed through His infinite mercy—His child, and forever, I am.

Refrain: Redeemed, redeemed, redeemed by the blood of the Lamb!  
Redeemed, redeemed—His child and forever, I am.

2) Redeemed and so happy in Jesus, no language my rapture can tell!  
I know that the light of His presence with me doth continually dwell. [Refrain]

3) I think of my blessed Redeemer; I think of Him all the day long.  
I sing, for I cannot be silent; His love is the theme of my song. [Refrain]

4) I know I shall see in His beauty the King in whose law I delight,  
who lovingly guardeth my footsteps and giveth me songs in the night. [Refrain]

In God We Trust / Love and Prayers, Pastor Dave and Melody

# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

## A New Outreach Project – Adopt-a-Family

More than any other time of the year, Christmas is when our thoughts turn to the needs of others. This year St. Mark's is participating in a new outreach project... the Joshua Project's Adopt-a-Family program. Through this project we will bless one entire family by fulfilling their Christmas gift wishes.

Our Needs Tree will soon be decorated with tags that provide information about what each child in the family would like to receive such as toys, crafts, etc. as well as sizes for clothing. As God leads, please take one (or more) tags to make a purchase of that Christmas gift.

We ask that your gift be wrapped with the word "boy" or "girl" and their age written on a tag. Please bring your gift to St. Mark's and place it under the Christmas tree no later than **Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**.

If you would like to participate, but are not able to shop, please consider making a monetary donation in any amount and give it to Carrie Foland who has volunteered to make the purchases in your behalf.

Thank you for your generosity in blessing a family at Christmas!

## Special Congregational Meeting

Some of us are finding ourselves using the ramp in the front of our church more than we used to. As Pastor says, "It's that A-G-E thing." ☺ When anyone walks on it, it is easy to see how steep the incline is and makes it very challenging especially for those with mobility issues.

Council would like to replace it with a new accessibility ramp to be placed on the front walkway of the church. They have received a quote from Prime Care Medical Equipment (copy included in this newsletter). Since the cost will be more than \$2,500, they require approval from our congregation so please plan to attend a special meeting on **November 9<sup>th</sup>** immediately following our worship service to discuss this project and vote on the proposed ramp.

## Movie Night



The feature at our November movie night will be "The Letter Writer". It is a story about a rebellious and troubled teenager who receives an old-fashioned letter in the mail from an unknown source and she sets out to find the author. Please join us on **Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup>**, at **5:30 p.m.** for an enjoyable night out.

# PRICE QUOTE

Date:  
10/15/25



16 Walker Way  
Albany, NY 12205  
John Hyde  
518-456-6192 X6116  
Fax 518-456-6193  
jhyde@primecaremedequip.com

Customer:  
St. Mark's Lutheran  
Church  
326 Main St.  
Middleburg, NY  
12122

Qty		Unit Price	Line Total
1	Breeze Open Mesh Aluminum Modular Ramp System with Handrails: 15' of ramp starting on the front porch straight out over the steps ending on the walkway.		\$3,795.00
1	Installation		\$595.00

**Total** \$4,360.00

**Special Notations:** The 15' of ramp meets the ADA standard for the 15" rise of the porch. End loops will be installed at the top and bottom of the ramp. The church will provide someone to cut the existing handrails as necessary at the time of installation.

**Thank you for choosing Prime Care!**

# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

## Operation Christmas Child

It's party time!!! Saturday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, at 10:00 a.m. our fellowship will be filled with the sights and sounds of people packing and stacking our Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes.

Thank you to all who made donations! Imagine the excitement on the faces of the children as they open their boxes to see all the wonderful gifts you have given.

Thank you to Ruth Palmer and Barbara Coons who have jointly led this wonderful outreach ministry during the past year. May God bless you!



## More Holy Humor

What sound does a turkey's phone make? Wing wing wing!

What do sweet potatoes wear to bed? Yammies.



## Gift Cards for Native American Children

Each year Wings As Eagles Ministry located in South Dakota delivers Christmas gifts to Native American children. Because they do not have the funds to give gifts to all of them, they are requesting help through donations of Walmart and/or Target gift cards with which to make their purchases.

**Please prayerfully consider making a donation of a gift card in any amount before November 24<sup>th</sup> to help make Christmas special for the children. Our collection box is located in the front of St. Mark's sanctuary.**

We have supported WAEM for many years and would like to continue making this one of our outreach ministries where we can touch the lives of children. May God bless you for your generosity in helping to make a child's Christmas a little happier.

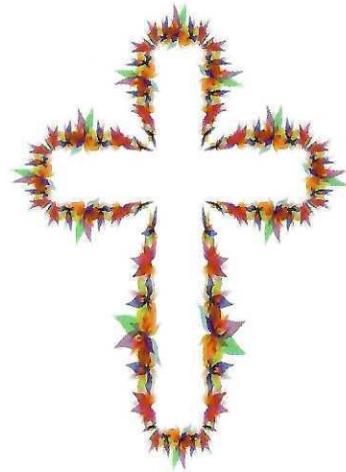
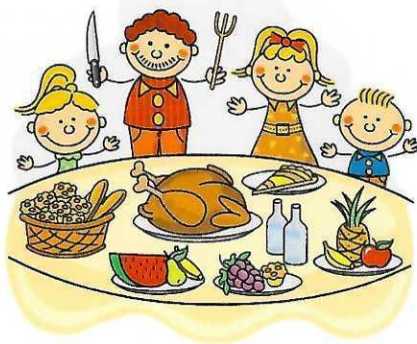
# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

## Joshua Project Thanksgiving Basket Program

Joshua Project's Thanksgiving Basket Program is a blessing for so many people who need a little extra assistance. This year they are asking for help from our congregation through donations of the following non-perishable items:

- Instant potatoes
- Cranberry sauce
- Canned gravy (no glass)
- Canned vegetables
- Box stuffing
- Canned yams

Let's share our blessings with those less fortunate by making a donation for the food baskets. Please bring your item(s) to St. Mark's no later than **Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you!



## Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service

We have so much to be thankful for and what better way to express our gratitude to our Lord than through worship. An ecumenical worship service will held on **Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 7:00 p.m.** in the **Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church**. Let's join with our brothers and sisters in Christ to praise, honor and glorify our God as we thank Him for all His blessings!

## Needs Tree

On November 6<sup>th</sup> our Needs Tree will once again lose it's "leaves". Thank you to all who have donated to our collection of hats, mittens, gloves and scarves that are being donated to Schenectady City Mission. May you carry joy in your heart knowing your gift will help someone stay warm in the cold weather months ahead.

# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

## NET Dinner

We make plans and sometimes God changes them for us. This is what happened when St. Mark's hosted their first NET dinner of the season on Wednesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. While we planned to serve a meal of tuna noodle casserole, Christian Community Church blessed us with a complete chicken and biscuit dinner. However, Cheryl was disappointed they did not send any chips. 😊 What a blessing that approximately 90 people met in our fellowship hall to enjoy this delicious meal. Thank you, Christian Community Church!



**NOTE:** Due to Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, our **upcoming NET dinners** at St. Mark's will be held on:

**Wednesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

## Seeing Red

When someone says they are "seeing red", it can mean they are angry. However, on Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, our congregation saw a lot of red, but not in anger. This was Reformation Sunday when we remember the occasion in 1517 when Martin Luther followed the leading of the Holy Spirit and posted his 95 Thesis on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany.



# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

## A Heart for People



There are people in our lives who quietly touch our lives in profound ways through their generosity of time. Always willing to listen to you, to pray with you and to help in any way is how one could describe Pat McCoy. Pat has a deep love for the Lord... a love she shares with others as she strives to meet both their physical and spiritual needs through our food and clothing pantries. As an extension of the clothing pantry, Pat has been instrumental in working with Joshua Project in their annual Coats for Kids and Adults outreach program.

Although the kick-off for **Coats for Kids and Adults** was in October, there is still time to make a coat selection on the following dates / times. Remember the cost is free.

November 6<sup>th</sup> – 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
November 8<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Thank you, Pat, for your social ministry that glorifies our Lord!



Where's Pat???

## Celebrating Pastor Dave

*Here I Am, Lord, is it I, Lord,  
I have heard you calling in the night,  
I will go, Lord, where you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.*

For Pastor Dave, this could be his theme song for he did hear God's call upon his life and said "yes" to being God's servant. On Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated Pastor Dave's love and dedication to God and us as we expressed our appreciation for all he does as our spiritual leader.

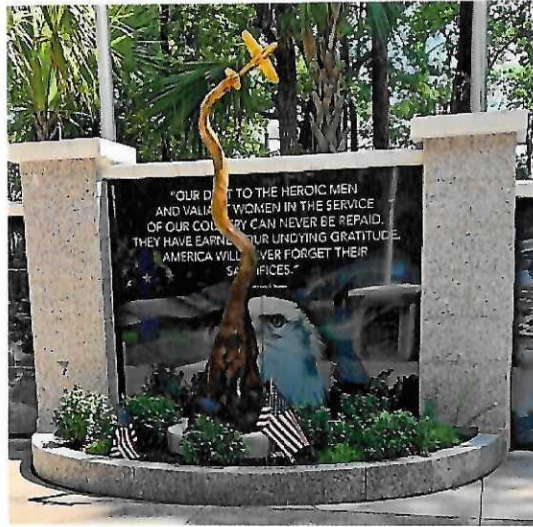


In addition, we had a very large choir, namely our congregation who sang "Happy Birthday" to Pastor Dave.

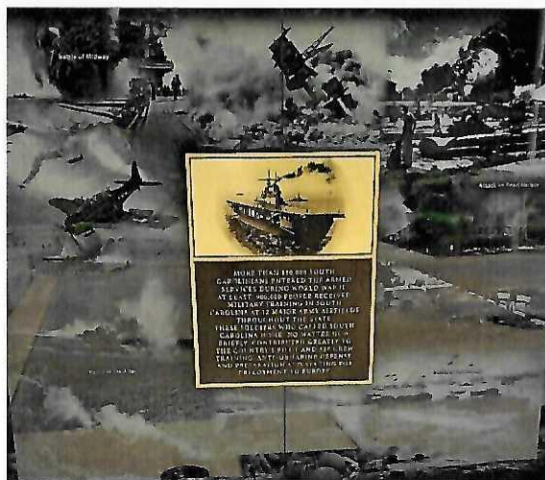


Thank you, Pastor, for all you do!  
We love you!

# St. Mark's Lutheran Church



"OUR DEBT TO THE HEROIC MEN AND VALIANT WOMEN IN THE SERVICE OF OUR COUNTRY CAN NEVER BY REPAYED. THEY HAVE EARNED OUR UNDYING GRATITUDE. AMERICA WILL NEVER FORGET THEIR SACRIFICES."



- Warbird Memorial Park, Myrtle Beach, SC



*Let us remember all our veterans...those who bravely fought for our freedom and our country.*

*Please pray for our armed forces.*