

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Publisher
Church Mouse

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Date
December, 2025

Upcoming Events

Wed., Dec. 7th – 5:00 p.m. - Net Dinner at St. Mark's (Please note change)

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

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

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

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

Upcoming Events

Annual Congregational Meeting

Please plan to attend our annual congregational meeting on **January 18th**. The meeting will be held immediately following our worship service and a potluck lunch.

Committee leaders – if you have not already done so, please submit your reports to the church office no later than **Monday, January 5th**. Thank you!

Prayers and Concerns for Nov.

Family of Britney Hulbert
Family of Harold Guest, Jr.
Family of Alton Rowe, Sr.
Family of Gary Ramundo
Family of Irene Schmidt
Family of Alan Bessinger

Terry Lacey
Bryan Coombs
Jay Diamond
Dan Kircher
Theresa Charland
Joe Cooper
Sharon Nesbitt
Linda Connors

Bible Verse for December:

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests.

- Luke 2:14

Thought for the Day:

When the "Son" shines in us, darkness has no choice but to flee.



St. Mark's Church Information

Pastor David Houck

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Servers for December

Dec. 7th

Reader – Chris
Prayer – Cheryl
Ushers – Aaron / Allison
Counter – Diane

Dec. 14th

Reader – Dennis F.
Prayer – Ron
Ushers – Lisa / Nannette
Counter – Carrie

Dec. 21st

Reader – Cathy
Prayer – Carolyn
Ushers – Deb P. / Pat
Counter – Deb P.

Dec. 24th (Wed., Christmas Eve)

Ushers – Bill M. / Jay
Counter – Sharon

Dec. 28th

Reader – Eric
Prayer – Eric
Ushers – Diane / Helen
Counter – Diane



Communion Bread for November

December Birthdays:

Terry Minton	Dec. 1
Bessie Korth	Dec. 2
Jim Nattress	Dec. 3
Debbie Palmatier	Dec. 11
Niles McCoy	Dec. 13
Linda Connors	Dec. 15
Sigrid Wood	Dec. 16
Holly Pierce	Dec. 16
Ellen Langenbahn	Dec. 18
Todd Bartholomew	Dec. 31

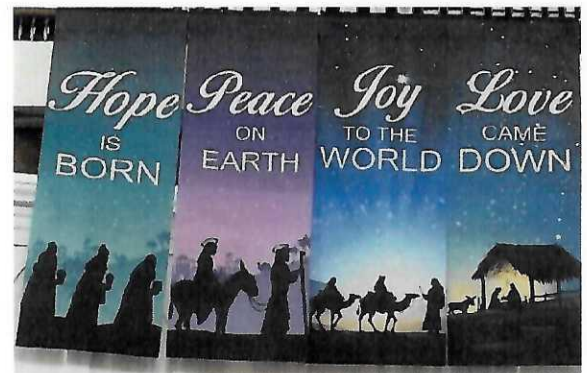
December Anniversaries:

Mike Sharkey / Claudia Shaylor	Dec. 3
Pat / Skip Becker	Dec. 17

St. Mark's Income vs Expenses

Below is the financial information for the month of October:

Income	Not Available
Expenses	Not Available
Balance	Not Available



St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Christmas Card "Postal Crate"



St. Mark's own "post office" is now open! If you wish to extend a Christmas greeting to your brothers and sisters in Christ at St. Mark's, please place their card in our "postal crate" located in the back of the sanctuary. Also, please remember to pick-up your own cards. If your name has accidentally been overlooked and you would like to have a postal folder, please contact Cheryl, who will be happy to include one for you.



Christmas Poinsettias

Colorful poinsettias are now surrounding our altar as we decorate our sanctuary for Christmas. If you would like to help finance the purchase of these flowers, **please put a donation of any amount in an envelope and write "Poinsettia Fund" on the front, then place it in the collection plate.** Thank you for helping to make our sanctuary so beautiful.

Christ the King Sunday

Christ is King! Let us draw near and worship Him!
Christ is King! Let us honor His Name!
Christ is King! Let us bow down before Him!
Praise and adore our King!...
Jesus Christ is King!

On Sunday, November 23rd, St. Mark's congregation heard the lyrics of "Christ is King", a beautiful choral piece sung by our choir as we celebrated Christ the King Sunday.



St. Mark's choir accompanied by
Ron Lower and Kerri Bellinger

Thank you choir for the musical reminder that Jesus is our king and he reigns in our hearts.

Community Christmas Caroling/Hymn Sing

Sunday, December 14, 6:30 PM

An Evening of Holiday Instrumentals & Hymns

Middleburgh Reformed Church

Light Refreshments to follow



**** This is an indoor gathering ****



**Sunday December 21st the
longest night of the year**

**Join us for A Vigil for All the World's
Children: A Non-Denominational Blue
Christmas Advent Service of Hope**

When: Sunday December 21, 2025

Time: 6:30 – 8pm

Place: St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Main Street

**All are welcome regardless of faith affiliation, including
well-behaved children**

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Thank You!

It has been said that it is more blessed to give than to receive. Thank you for listening to the Lord and being obedient to His leading to help others through our Outreach Programs, especially at this time of year. Thank you for your donations so generously and freely given. Many beautiful gifts adorned the front of St. Mark's sanctuary, waiting to be distributed to those in need.



Thanksgiving Baskets – Many food donations were received for those who could use a little assistance to provide a Thanksgiving dinner for their family.

Adopt-a-Family – The “wish list” tags were quickly removed from our Needs Tree for our adopted family's Christmas gifts. Reminder – the gifts are due by December 7th.



Wings As Eagles Ministries - 24 gift cards were sent to WAEM to help them purchase Christmas gifts for the Native American children living on the reservation.

Operation Christmas Child – On Friday, November 21st, 74 shoeboxes were delivered to the collection center in Gallupville.



Coats for Kids – This year Joshua Project / St. Mark's were blessed to give 192 coats to those who needed warmth for the winter months ahead.

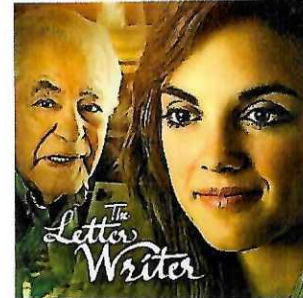
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NET Dinner

Sounds of laughter and conversation could be heard the evening of Wednesday, November 5th, in St. Mark's fellowship hall as we hosted our monthly NET dinner. Approximately 60 to 70 people dined on a delicious tuna noodle casserole and Cheryl was delighted that we also served potato chips 😊. Our next **NET dinner** will be held at 5:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, December 3rd**, when we will be serving ham, mashed potatoes, applesauce, salad, bread and a variety of desserts. As always, any help is greatly appreciated.



Movie Night



The smell of popcorn greeted those who attended our Saturday, November 15th, movie night. Our feature that evening was "The Letter Writer" which was about a teenager whose world was crashing down around her when she receives an encouraging letter from an unknown writer. In her quest to find who the author of the letter was, she was able to find herself, learned to use her own talents to bless other people and to let go and let God. Our lesson is "words can hurt... words can heal... choose your words wisely".

NOTE: Our next movie night will be held in January 2026.

Holy Humor

What do Christmas trees get when they go numb? Pines and needles!

What happened to the man who stole an Advent Calendar? He got 25 days!

What do gingerbread men use when they break their legs? Candy canes.



Fallen Soldier Table

This table is reserved to honor our missing comrades in arms.

The table is round - to show our everlasting concern for our missing men.

The tablecloth is white - symbolizing the purity of their motives when answering the call to duty.

The single red rose, displayed in a vase, reminds us of the life of each of the missing and their loved ones and friends of these Americans who keep the faith, awaiting answers.

The vase is tied with a red ribbon, symbol of our continued determination to account for our missing.

A slice of lemon on the bread plate is to remind us of the bitter fate of those captured and missing in a foreign land.

A pinch of salt symbolizes the tears endured by those missing and their families who seek answers.

The Bible represents the strength gained through faith to sustain those lost from our country, founded as one nation under God.

The glass is inverted - to symbolize their inability to share this evening's toast.

The chair is empty - they are missing.

Let us now raise our glasses in a toast to honor America's POW/MIAs and to the success of our efforts to account for them.

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Prayer is one of our strongest and most important spiritual weapons. We are called to pray for those in authority so that God's will, not Satan's plans, might be fulfilled in their lives; the destiny of more than one nation has been changed because God's people have fervently prayed.

- Warren W. Wiersbee

Please pray for our country, for our leaders and our armed forces!



St. Mark's Tribute for Veterans

On Sunday, November 9th, we honored all those who have served and are currently serving our country. Do you know which branch of the military wear these hats?



Navy, Coast Guard, Air Force, Army, Marines



Wearing Red, White and Blue



"U.S. Armed Forces Medley"
was sung by our choir

***To our Veterans --
Thank you for your service!***