

# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Publisher  
Church Mouse

Issue Number  
151

Date  
December 2023

## Upcoming Events

Sat., Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> – 3:00 p.m. – Movie Matinee –  
Sight 'n Sound "Miracle of Christmas" --  
\*\*Note date and time

Sat. Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> – 9:00 a.m. – Men's Breakfast

Sat., Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> – 10:00 a.m. – Decorating  
St. Mark's sanctuary for Christmas

Wed., Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> – 5:00 p.m. – NET Dinner  
at OLV Catholic Church

Sun., Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> – 12:00 p.m. – Church Council  
Meeting

Sun., Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> – 6:30 p.m. – Community  
Christmas Caroling at Reformed Church

Wed., Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> – 5:00 p.m. – NET Dinner  
at the Reformed Church

Thurs., Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> – 7:00 p.m. – Blue Christmas  
Service at Reformed Church

Sun., Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> – 6:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve  
Service

Wed., Dec 27<sup>th</sup> – 5:00 p.m. – NET Dinner  
at St. Mark's Church

### **Mark your calendars...**

Sun., Jan. 21<sup>st</sup> – Annual Congregational  
Meeting immediately following worship  
service and potluck lunch

## Prayers and Concerns for November

Family of Tina Czysczon  
Family of Charles R. Decowski Sr.

Gabby Capone  
Katie Miner  
Pastor James Klockau  
Robert Thivierge, Jr.  
Gabriel Gordon  
Margaret Tompkins  
Virginia Ferguson  
Shelby

### **New Christmas Tradition**

Beginning December 1st read one chapter  
of the book of Luke in the Bible each  
evening.

There are 24 chapters.

On Christmas Eve you will have read an  
entire account of Jesus's Life and wake up  
Christmas morning knowing WHO and  
WHY we celebrate!!



### **Thought for the Day:**

The world hopes for the best, but the  
LORD offers the best hope.



### **St. Mark's Church Information**

Pastor David Houck

Home Phone: 518-827-6386

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

St. Mark's Email: [stmarks@midtel.net](mailto:stmarks@midtel.net)

Website:

[stmarkslutheranmiddleburgh.com](http://stmarkslutheranmiddleburgh.com)

# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

## **Servers for December**

### **Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>:**

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

### **Dec. 10<sup>th</sup>:**

Reader – Eric  
Prayer – Carolyn  
Ushers – Lisa / Nannette  
Counter – Sharon

### **Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>:**

Reader – Ted  
Prayer – Cheryl  
Ushers – Ted / Ellen  
Counter – Diane

### **Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>: (10:30 a.m.)**

Reader – Edna  
Prayer – Ron  
Ushers – Deb R. / Marie  
Counter – Carrie

### **Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>:**

### **(Christmas Eve-6:00 p.m.)**

Ushers – TBD

### **Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>:**

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

## **December Birthdays:**

Terry Minton	Dec. 1
Bessy Korth	Dec. 2
Jim Nattrass	Dec. 3
Edna Lowers	Dec. 5
Deb Palmatier	Dec. 11
Linda Connors	Dec. 15
Holly Pierce	Dec. 16
Ellen Langenbahn	Dec. 18

## **December Anniversaries:**

Mike / Claudia Shaylor	Dec. 3
Pat / Skip Becker	Dec. 17
Bill / Bonnie Morton	Dec. 27

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

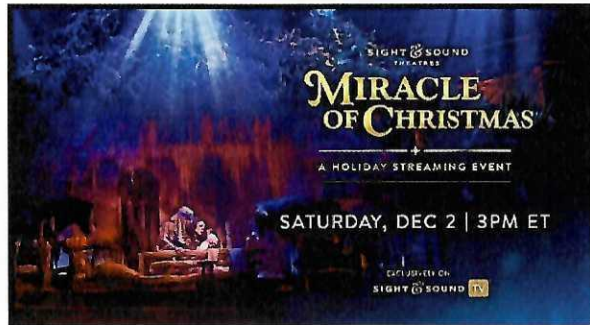
Here is the summary of income and expenses for the month of October 2023:

Income	\$8358.86
Expenses	4730.39
Balance	\$3628.47



# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

## "Miracle of Christmas" Matinee



St. Mark's December movie night is going to be a little different from our previous ones. This month it will be a showing of Sight 'n Sound Theater's "**Miracle of Christmas**" during the afternoon.

Please come to watch the Christmas story unfold before us as they stream their production on **Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 3:00 p.m.** You will be truly blessed as you witness first-hand the greatest miracle of all...the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.



## Movie Night

Our movie feature in November was "The Girl Who Believes in Miracles".



This was the story of a young girl who responded to insurmountable problems with prayer that God would meet those in need with a miracle. It reminds us that no situation, no matter how dire or painful, is beyond the reach of God and His ability to hearten and heal. It all begins with putting our faith into action through prayer.



# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

## Decorating the Church



At Christmas time, St. Mark's sanctuary is always so beautiful with the nativity, the tree, the candles, the poinsettias, etc. Please come to St. Mark's on **December 9th at 10:00 a.m.** if you would like to volunteer to decorate the church for Christmas.

The men attending their monthly breakfast at 9:00 a.m. on the 9<sup>th</sup> have already been "volunteered" to help...so, gentlemen, please enjoy a delicious breakfast before Marie Whittaker begins leading the decorating. 😊 😊

## ❄️ Christmas Poinsettias ❄️

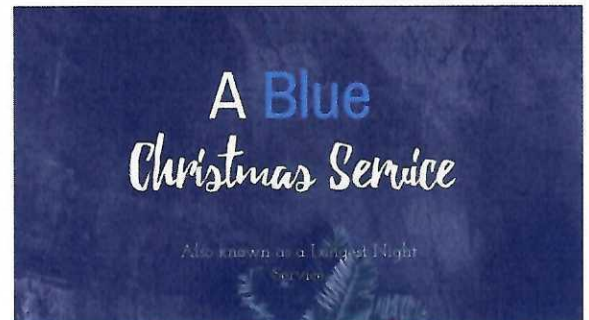
If you wish to purchase a poinsettia in memory of a loved one, please see Georgia VanDyke. We are requesting a donation in any amount to cover the cost. Thank you!

## Community Christmas Caroling

Sunday, **December 17, 2023**, at Middleburgh Reformed Church  
**6:30 p.m.** (in the sanctuary)



All are welcome. Come join in the fun. Refreshments will be served.



Do you know someone who's having a hard time this season? Are you? The Middleburgh Reformed Church is hosting a **Blue Christmas Service** to be held on Thursday, **December 21<sup>st</sup>** at **7:00 p.m.** We are gathering together to acknowledge the hope we have in this season, even in the midst of challenges, losses and struggles. The service is followed by light holiday refreshments.



# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

## NET Dinner

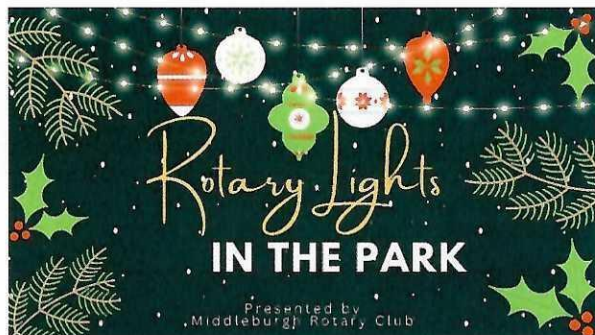
As the weather gets colder, there is nothing like a bowl of hot soup to warm us from the inside out. With the warmth of fellowship and a variety of homemade soups that was what we did for those who attended our November NET dinner.

If you would like a respite from cooking for your Christmas celebration(s), please join us at our next NET dinner being held on Wednesday, December 27<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00 p.m. We will be serving Swedish meatballs along with other delicious food (especially the desserts 😊). Looking forward to seeing you there!

## Upcoming Middleburgh Events



Miracle on Main Street – December 8<sup>th</sup> – 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.



Lights in the Park will be on display on December 1, 2, 8, 9, 15 and 16 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

## Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, we will hold our annual congregational meeting immediately following our worship service and a potluck lunch. All are invited to join us to share our meal and attend our meeting.

This year we have the positions of president, secretary and one member-at-large to fill. If you are interested in serving on Council in any of these capacities, please contact a member of our nominating committee.

Nominating Committee: Lori Roney, Georgia VanDyke, Edna Lower

If you are interested in becoming a voting member of St. Mark's, please contact Pastor Dave or Ron Lower.

Committee Leaders - PLEASE NOTE:  
All reports are due to the church office on or before December 29<sup>th</sup>.

## Building Maintenance Update

Many thanks to those who changed the lights in the first-floor restrooms to be motion sensor activated. Also, thank you to those who lowered the Bible / hymnal racks on the pews in the sanctuary.

# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

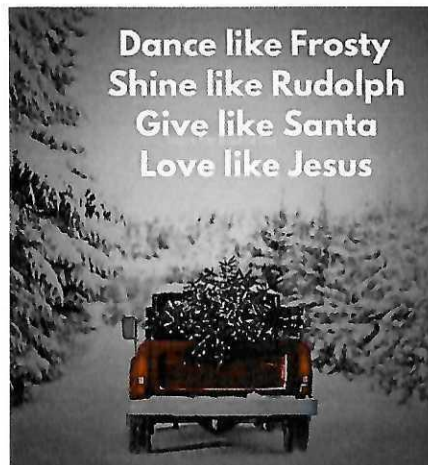
## Outreach Projects Updates

This has been a phenomenal year with your response to our outreach projects. We sent to OCC the greatest number of shoeboxes we have ever done. In addition, we sent to Wings As Eagles Ministries 20 Walmart gift cards for the Native American children's Dream Boxes and 12 quilts for their senior citizens. But the generosity does not stop there...

The joint outreach projects with Joshua Project were also blessed. 99 children and 44 adults will be warm this winter through our "Coats for Kids and Adults" and Thanksgiving dinners were provided for those families in need through your food donations.

A simple "thank you" does not seem to be enough to express our gratitude for your generosity to touch the lives of others with our love and the love of Christ, but... **Thank you!!!**

NOTE: There are still warm coats available so please contact Pat McCoy if you or someone you know needs one.



## Christmas Card "Postal Crate"

Getting Christmas cards from people whom we know and love is exciting. St. Mark's is now delivering Christmas greetings through Christmas cards in their very own "Postal Crate".

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 and 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 either Cheryl or Carolyn, who will be happy to include one for you.



*Have a blessed  
Christmas!*



# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

## Honoring our Veterans

During our worship service on Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, St. Mark's honored those veterans in attendance. Thank you to all who have served and are serving our country. Please continue to keep all of them and our country in prayer.



Pastor Dave shared with us about why we celebrate Veteran's Day



Russ Elder, Tom Nesbitt,  
Bob Meunier, Bill Morton,  
Jules Fernandez, Doug Chichester

**Thank you for your service!**



**This Christmas please blanket our country, our military, and their families with your prayers!**





# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

## Operation Christmas Child "Packing Party"

It has been said a picture is worth a thousand words and these pictures tell of the generosity of our congregation for our OCC project. Our "packing party" was a huge success (plus the lunch was delicious, too). This year we sent 68 shoeboxes from St. Mark's and the total number of boxes sent from Middleburgh was 2,476. Thank you, Ruth Palmer, for leading us in this outreach project and thank you to all who supported this endeavor.



Thank You, Packing Volunteers!

