



# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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## From Pastor Rodney

See page 3 for his report.

E-mail: [Pastorrodney@midtel.net](mailto:Pastorrodney@midtel.net)

## New website

Our new webpage is up and running.  
Check it out. It is awesome! Thank  
you Angela. The address is

[www.stmarkslutheran  
middleburgh.com](http://www.stmarkslutheranmiddleburgh.com)

## Prayers Concerns

Please lift the following people up in prayer:

All the flood victims  
Marie Campbell  
Nico  
Ted  
Lorene

## Upcoming Events

January 10 – Community Dinner –  
“Picnic in January” – 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.

January 12 – Youth “Rock and  
Bowl Night” – 8:00 to 11:00 p.m.  
All youth / all ages (see article)

January 15 – Council Meeting –  
6:00 p.m.

Annual Congregational Meeting –  
date to be determined

**Volunteers needed** to provide food for coffee  
hour as well as funding for the purchase of the  
bulletins used during our worship service and  
the flowers that adorn our sanctuary. Sign-up  
sheets are located on the bulletin board located  
in the hallway leading to the Fellowship Hall. If  
you have any questions, please see Pat McCoy.

*Wishing all of  
you a blessed  
New Year!*





# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

## Committees:

### Christian Education / Youth Report:

I hope all of you enjoyed the Sunday School Christmas Program. As the children told us, Jesus gives us many gifts that do not come in brightly wrapped boxes, but from the heart. Remember to pass those gifts on!

I'd like to thank all of you who have supported the Sunday School and the youth group. Our numbers have grown by leaps and bounds! Special thanks to Allison, Pat and Aaron who help with the Sunday School class. Thanks to the parents that assist with our youth group by simply showing up to help. Thanks to Heather and Jessica for leading the youth group. The next youth activity will be "Rock and Bowl" on Saturday, January 12, from 8:00 to 11:00 p.m. We will meet at the church at 8:00 for pizza. See the flyer on the bulletin board or see page 4 the newsletter for more information.

### Property:

The outside of the Youth Center building is enclosed for winter. The rest of the outside will be completed in the spring. The electrical conduit has been installed underground for power to the Youth Center. The wire needs to be run and the sub-panel installed.

We are working to remodel the inside for the youth. Heat is currently being provided through the use of a propane salamander until the wall mount heater is installed. While our goal is to have the inside finished sometime in January, it is still in God's timing and plan.

Please see either Gene or Tom if you can and would like to help. Any help is much appreciated.

## Servers for January

### January 6:

Acolyte – Vivian / Kaleb  
Ushers – Georgia / Nikki  
Reader – Ethel  
Greeter – Pat  
Prayer – Beth  
Counter – Diane

### January 13:

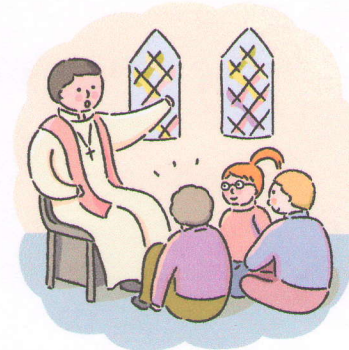
Acolyte – Alyssa / Breanna  
Ushers – Beth / Chris  
Reader – Sharon N.  
Greeter – Janet  
Prayer – Georgia  
Counter – Deb

### January 20:

Acolyte – Brianna / Jenna  
Ushers – Aaron / Allison  
Reader – Terri  
Greeter – Gene  
Prayer – Chris  
Counter – Diane

### January 27:

Acolyte – Hannah / Logan  
Ushers – Sharon / Tom  
Reader – Deb  
Greeter – Jessie  
Prayer – Ginny  
Counter – Deb







# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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## Christmas message from Pastor Rodney!

Happy Advent to all of you and Merry Christmas! I have to say that I enjoy the different seasons of the church because they are filled with so much meaning and power. Of all the seasons as rich as they are, I have to say that if I had to pick one, I will pick Advent. Here is why -- Advent is a time of great joy and hope! Joy that the darkness is about to pass when the Christ child is born, and hope for the transformation of our world as people meet the Christ Child.

This time of year is so nostalgic that we can't help but reflect on the first Advent. The lesson that is chosen for the 4th Sunday in Advent is taken from Luke 1. In verses 42-50 we get to meet Elizabeth, who is Mary's cousin. Here is what Elizabeth said when she saw Mary, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! <sup>43</sup>And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? <sup>44</sup>For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord." <sup>46</sup>And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup>and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, <sup>48</sup>for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; <sup>49</sup>for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. <sup>50</sup>And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation."

It does not matter how many times we read this passage; it always fills us with joy and awe -- so much joy and expectation, so much promise and love, all because a child is going to be born. This is not an ordinary child for in Isaiah 9:6 we read, "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Now we are waiting for this baby that has become our savior to come and take us to that wonderful heavenly home that he has gone to prepare for us. That fact gives us hope.

May we continue to wait for The Lord, and as we wait, let us seek to invite others to come and hear the good news -- that our Lord and savior Jesus Christ is on his way. Happy Advent and Merry Christmas! May you have a blessed and prosperous 2013.

In Christ,  
Pr. Royan Rodney



# *"Rock and Bowl Night"*

*At the Middleburgh Bowling Lanes*

*(All youth are welcome)*

*Saturday January 12th  
8:00 to 11:00 P.M.*

*Meet at the church at 8:00 for pizza*

*Cost to bowl \$10.00 per person*

*Drinks and snacks bring extra money*

*RSVP by January 9 to  
Heather Palmatier @  
[hpalmatier@midtel.net](mailto:hpalmatier@midtel.net)*

*You must RSVP so we know how many  
lanes to reserve. You cannot just show up  
for this event. If you do you will not be  
able to stay.*





# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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## Food Pantry Suggestions

January 6 – tuna fish or soup

January 13 – spaghetti sauce

January 20 – canned fruit or juice

January 27 – cereal

## NET Dinners

(Neighbors Eating Together)

Enjoy food and fellowship on Thursdays  
(except holidays) in Middleburgh.

Each month meals will be hosted by the  
following churches:

1<sup>st</sup> Thurs – Middleburgh United Methodist

2<sup>nd</sup> Thurs – St. Mark's Lutheran

3<sup>rd</sup> Thurs – Middleburgh Reformed

4<sup>th</sup> Thurs – Our Lady of the Valley

5<sup>th</sup> Thurs - \*Huntersland United Methodist

\*5<sup>th</sup> Thursday dinners will be held at the  
Middleburgh United Methodist Church. All  
others will take place in the host church.



## Happy Days !!!

### Birthdays

January 1 – Lorene Duncan

January 4 – Brenda Varella

January 5 – Tom Nesbitt

January 13 – Ted Palmatier

January 18 – Ted Langenbahn

January 20 – Lisa Bartholomew

January 21 – Breanna Palmatier

January 24 – Patti Turner

### Anniversaries

January 2 – Carolyn & Gene Wyckoff

January 2 – Carrie & Dennis Foland

January 8 – Beth & Chris Cash

January 17 – Sharon & Tom Nesbitt

January 27 – Bonnie & Bill Morton

## Opportunities to Bless Others

Please save the **front** of your **Christmas cards** for use in various Sunday School projects. You may leave them in the basket located in the vestibule.

Our special lady who makes the hats and mittens is looking for donations of **yarn** as she has used all that has been given to her. Please give your donations to Sharon Nesbitt or leave them in the church office.

Our mitten tree is undergoing a small transformation to become a sock tree as well. In addition to hats and mittens, we are asking for donations of **children's socks**. These will be given to area elementary schools and other charities.





# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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This poem was written by a person in Pennsylvania and we wanted to share it with you as it has brought comfort to many in the wake the tragedy in Connecticut. Please continue to pray for all of those whose loved ones passed into God's kingdom that day. May we always remember that Jesus is the Light that leads us to everlasting life.

Twas 11 days before Christmas, around 9:38.  
When 20 beautiful children storm through heaven's gate.  
Their smiles were contagious, their laughter filled the air.  
They could hardly believe all the beauty that they saw there.  
They were filled with such joy, they didn't know what to say.  
They remembered nothing of what happened earlier that day.  
"Where are we"? asked a little girl, as quiet as a mouse.  
"This is heaven", declared a small boy" were spending Christmas at God's house.  
When what to their wandering eyes should appear.  
But Jesus, our Savior, the children gathered near.  
He looked at them and smiled, and they smiled just the same.  
Then He opened His arms and He called them by name.  
And in that moment was joy, that only heaven can bring.  
These children all flew into the arms of their King.  
And as they lingered in the warmth of his embrace.  
One small girl turned and looked at Jesus face.  
And as if He could read all the questions she had.  
He gently whispered to her "I'll take care of mom and dad.  
Then He looked down on earth, the world far below.  
He saw all the hurt, the sorrow, the woe.  
Then He closed His eyes and He outstretched His hand.  
"Let My power and presence re-enter this land."  
"May this country be delivered from the hands of fools."  
"I'm taking back My nation, I'm taking back my schools."  
Then He and the children stood up without a sound.  
Come now my children, let me show you around."  
Excitement filled the space, some skipped and some ran".  
All displaying enthusiasm that only a small child can.  
And I heard Him proclaim as He walked out of sight.  
"In the midst of this darkness, I AM STILL THE LIGHT."





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## Phoebe Corner

A song titled "This Is a Day of New Beginnings" written by Brian Wren talks about taking the time to remember the past, then move on in faith and hope, knowing that God is making all things new. In remembering the past, the Phoebes would like to thank you for the wonderful donations of fabric, yarn, etc. and your prayerful as well as financial support in 2012. God was and is continually blessing our ministry through you.

2013 has arrived and we look forward to it being a year of new beginnings. May we remain open to any new ministries God has for us. May we laugh a little more, sing a little louder, serve with willing hearts, strive to be obedient and love beyond human comprehension as we praise and thank God for His many blessings in the year ahead.

Have a blessed New Year!

\* \* \* \* \*

**WOW! ISN'T THIS SOOOOO ME????**

