



St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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From Pastor Rodney

See Pastor's report.

E-mail: Pastorrodney@midtel.net

Pastor office hours will be
Wednesdays and Fridays from 9:30 to
1:30 and every other Saturday. Please
call ahead to be sure he is in.

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)

Looking for new members!

If you would like to become a
member of St. Mark's Lutheran
Church please speak with Pastor
Rodney.

Ongoing bottle and can drive.
Please leave **clean** bottles and cans by
the garage door. Proceeds will be
used for the mortgage.

Prayers Concerns

Please lift the following people up in
prayer:

Pastor Rodney as he begins a new
ministry

Upcoming Events

Feb 1 - 4 Chaplains service 10:30

Feb 18 - Ash Wednesday service
5:30

Feb 20 - Council meeting 6:00

Feb 21 - Youth Group 6:30-8:30

Feb 25 - NET dinner at St. Mark's

Every Thursday 6:00 - Prayer
meeting in sanctuary.

Prayer Ministry

You are invited to participate in a new prayer
ministry being led by Pastor Rodney. We
meet on Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. in St. Mark's
sanctuary. If you are unable to attend and
have a prayer request you would like lifted,
please contact Pastor or feel free to place your
written request in the prayer box located in the
Narthex. Let's make St. Mark's a praying
church where we can bring our joys and
concerns to God.

Dear Members and Friends of St. Mark's Lutheran Church:

Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. (Isaiah 41:10)

I greet you in the name of our soon coming King Jesus! For three years it has been my joy to serve the Lord with all of you wonderful people. You have welcomed me from the day I arrived in town and was there for me through good days and challenging times. Together we prayed for each other and were able to see God do wonderful things in our church and community. You are truly blessed, and I am touched by your strong faith and love for God. God continues to call us and when he does, our response has to be "yes Lord, send me, send me".

It is in obedience to the call of God that I have to say goodbye to you, and thank you for your support over the years to me and my family. As I go, I will miss you and pray for you as you search for another spiritual leader. I have no doubt that God will send you someone who will love you and serve this community well.

My last Sunday with you will be February 22; please come and let's worship the Lord together. The Lord is still at work at St. Mark's Lutheran and will continue to bless you. The Lord is faithful and will take care of all of you. Please pray for me as I go forward to be faithful to God and serve God's people at Holy cross. Take comfort in the Word of the Lord; He never fails us, and we can always go to Him in prayer.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. (Romans 15:13)

In Christ,
Pr. Royan Rodney



St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Happy Days !!!!!

Birthdays: February

February 3 - Harry Amendola and
Dee Harrison

February 6 - Logan Bartholomew

February 20 - Toni Burnett

February 21 - Butch Przychodny

February 23 - Bill Morton

February 24 - Kaleb Minton

**Did you know St. Mark's offers
the following importuners for
you and your family to
participate?**

Phoebes - every Monday from 9-2
PM

Youth Sunday School - Sundays from
9:15 - 10 AM

Adult Sunday School - Sundays from
9:15 - 10 AM

Prayer Ministry - every Thursday
night beginning at 5:30 PM

After School Program - every day
from 3 - 5:30 PM

Youth Group - every third Saturday
of the month at 6:30 PM

Creative Women's Ministry - Fourth
Friday of the month at 7 PM

**For those of you that
were unable to stay
for the annual
meeting (you missed
some delicious food!)
copies of the
committee reports
will be in the next
few newsletters for
your information.**

**Zumba Classes will be
starting in January on
Wednesdays from 1-2 in the
fellowship hall. Check the
calendar in the hallway for
more details.**



St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Committees:

Servers for Feb

February 1:

Acolyte - Morgan/Madison
Ushers - Sharon/ Tom
Reader - Michelle N.
Greeter - Deb
Prayer - Georgia
Counter - Carrie

February 8:

Acolyte - Logan
Ushers - John/Gabby
Reader - Ted
Greeter - Ginny
Prayer - Ted
Counter - Deb

February 15:

Acolyte - Dylan
Ushers - Gene/Georgia
Reader - Marie
Greeter - Jessie
Prayer - Beth
Counter - Diane

February 22:

Acolyte - Brianna
Ushers - Lori/Dean
Reader - Jim
Greeter - Maurice
Prayer - Gene
Counter - Carrie

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible - Psalm 23 .. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the chapter. Little Rick was excited about the task - but he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line. On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Ricky was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know."

2014 Pastor's Report

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." - John 14:1-3

Worship

We continue to meet for worship every week at 10:30 a.m. We are blessed to celebrate the Lord's sacrament every first Sunday of the month. I have been pleased with our attendance through the way the Lord has been speaking to us and our response by being here each week. It is my fervent prayer that we will continue to make worship a priority and encourage our families and friends to do so as well. Remember that all of us are called to make disciples, who will in turn make new disciples. I am very happy that God continues to grow us in strength, in faith and in numbers, and I rejoice in that fact. Paul wrote to the church in Corinth and said, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God kept everything growing" (1 Corinthians 3:6). We need to keep in mind that we each have a responsibility to share the good news, and God will do His part in growing the church.

Ecumenical Relationship

I am very happy that we continue to enjoy a good ecumenical relationship with the area churches. I belong to the Middleburgh Ministerial Association, the Cobleskill Clergy group and also the Schoharie Clergy group. We meet on a regular basis and plan to do things together as one church. Over the past year, we conducted several joint services together and also had opportunities to pray for each other. My hope is that we will continue to reach out to the community to be a blessing. I also meet every week for Lectionary studies with Pastor Eddy from the Presbyterian Church in Schoharie.

Rotary Club

I was the guest speaker at the Rotary Club in Middleburgh last year, and I also attended a several meetings when invited. I was also a guest at the Rotary Club in Cobleskill and was able to use this opportunity to promote the church and what we do in the community.

Confirmation

Confirmation class meets every Sunday at 12:00; we currently have 4 children in confirmation class. Thank you to Debbie Palmatier for assisting me in teaching the children.

Weddings

I performed two wedding ceremonies last year; one was held at St. Mark's and the other was an outdoor wedding. Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Bywater, and Mr. & Mrs. Ryan.

Funerals

There were no funerals and we give God thanks for that. However, I attended the funeral for the late Roman Catholic Priest, Father Bill, who was the spiritual leader at Our Lady of the Valley Church. May his soul rest in peace.

Youth Ministry

The youth ministry meets every 3rd Saturday at 6:30 p.m. Please encourage your children and grandchildren to attend. Thank you to Denise Minton, Victoria Chichester, and Michele Amendola for your leadership of the youth.

Prayer Ministry

We meet for prayers every Thursday evening at 6:00 p.m. It has been a time of great devotion and reflection as we lift up our joys and concerns to the Lord.

NALC Convocation

I want to thank St. Mark's for sending me to the NALC convocation last year. It was truly a valuable experience and a very timely opportunity for me to get to meet the leaders and other pastors of NALC.

NET Dinners

The NET dinners continue to be an outreach for us here at St. Mark's as we welcome people from the community and share a meal with them. I continue to encourage you to be involved in this ministry.

Resignation

After three years of serving the Lord with you and growing with you, God has called me to serve Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Pennsylvania. I will treasure the good memories I made here, and I will pray for you that God will soon send your new pastor. I want to thank you for your love and for your support to me and my family over the past three years. God bless you and again, thanks a million!

Conclusion

Let us begin this new year with Christ as our guide; let us focus on what God has called us to do and work step-by-step to achieve it. It may take time and effort, but it's worth it. Do not lose hope; God has a plan and I am sure He will make all things good. As I go, I leave with you these encouraging words from the Scriptures: "Cast your cares upon Christ; He cares for you and He loves you."

Faithfully submitted,

...Royan Rodney.....

The Reverend Royan Rodney

St. Mark's Council President's Message

Greetings in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ:

If I had to choose one word for last year, it would be "gratitude". I am truly thankful and blessed to have been able to serve you as Council President for the past four years.

First and foremost, I am thankful to God. During my term as President, we faced many trials, but as a faithful congregation and family of God, we persevered by putting our faith and trust in Him. He promised to never leave us nor forsake us, a promise He has kept. For example, this past year we faced some financial difficulties. He led you be more generous in sharing your gifts, thus keeping those difficulties to a minimum. We praise God for His answer and thank you for listening and responding to His still small voice.

I am thankful for the ministries of our church. They continue to grow and serve many people both in and outside of our community. Several new volunteers have joined the Phoebe Circle and have actively participated in their outreach to those in need as well as to bring comfort and love. Pat McCoy has been faithfully serving in our food and clothing pantries as well as meeting other needs through Social Ministries. Creative Women's Ministry participated in visitations to Marchand Manor with plans to continue with additional visitations. Our Neighbors Eating Together (NET) dinners has become one of our ministries and has been a wonderful way to meet and make new friends in the community. Jesus formed lasting relationships during meals and so have we.

I am thankful for the very dedicated people of God who serve behind the scenes. My gratitude extends to Carolyn Wyckoff and Cheryl Cater for their love of the Lord as shown through the worship and music we share on Sunday mornings. It extends to Georgia VanDyke for her dedication to the altar guild for she never says "no"! Thank you to Tom Nesbitt and Gene Wyckoff for all their work in maintaining our church building and to Dennis France and Dennis Foland (whom we lovingly call our "Dynamic Duo") for their work on the landscaping. A special thank you to you, our congregation, for working together as a family for it enables St. Mark's to continue growing and serving the Lord. You are a light in the community!

2015 will once again bring new challenges as Pastor transfers to another position in the Lutheran Church. A call committee is being formed and we will begin the search for the new pastor. We are trusting God to lead us to the pastor He has already selected for us.

To Pastor Rodney, we pray for your new calling to be blessed and successful. You are a dedicated man of God and will be missed.

Blessings to all of you,

Diane France
Council President

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> TOP TEN PREDICTIONS FOR THE COMING YEAR

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> With all the problems the World is facing, it can be unsettling to the mind.

>ten predictions that are true!

> *****

>

> 1. The Bible will still have all the answers.

>

> 2. Prayer will still be the most powerful thing on Earth..

>

> 3. The Holy Spirit will still move.

>

> 4. God will still honor the praises of His people.

>

> 5. There will still be God-anointed preaching.

>

> 6. There will still be singing of praise to God.

>

> 7. God will still pour out blessings upon His people.

>

> 8. There will still be room at the Cross.

>

> 9. Jesus will still love you.

>

> 10. Jesus will still save the lost when they come to Him.

>

> Isn't it great To Remember Who Is Really In Control, and that;

> "the Word of the Lord endures forever." (1 Peter 1:25)

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