



# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

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## From Pastor Rodney

See Pastor's report.

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

Pastor office hours and days will be changing January 1, 2015. Will advise of new days and times.

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## New website

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

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

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## Looking for new members!

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

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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:

Bill  
Sherry  
Paul  
Val  
Liz  
Middleburgh Fire Department  
Patty  
Joe's family

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## Upcoming Events

Dec 9 - Council meeting 6 PM

Dec 12 - Miracle on Main Street

Dec 20 - Youth meeting 6:30 -  
8:30 - check to be sure  
date and time for  
December

Dec 24 - Christmas Eve service  
7:00

Dec 25 - Merry Christmas -  
Happy Birthday Jesus!

No N.E.T. dinner @ St.  
Mark's for December

Every Thursday 6:00 - Prayer  
meeting in sanctuary

## Advent Blessings

Emma Hughes- Jolley wrote a poem, "Why." Which was a question directed to God after her only son was murdered. She said it is an event that changed her life, her perspective, and her focus. It made her realize just how blessed her life had been even when she did not think that it was. It made her understand the importance of her relationship with God and her family. Here is the poem:

### Why?

© Emma I. Hughes-Jolley

I watch the sun rise in the sky

I ask God the question, Why?

Why is there hatred in the world?

Why are there starving boys and girls?

Why is there addiction everywhere?

Why are there people not willing to share?

Why is there prejudice and fear?

Why are there people not willing to be near?

I say, God please tell me why.

Then he whispers me a simple reply,

You must experience bad to know the good

You must do right just as you know you should

You must love me, yourself, and everyone

You must spread hope, faith, and love until your life is done

You must do unto others as you want them to do to you

You must persevere in all you do

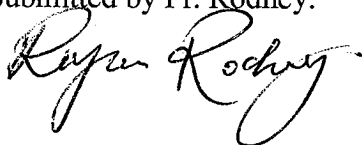
All these things you must embrace

And God assures, everything else will fall into place."

As we prepare for the second coming of the Lord, there are lots of questions that we also have. When will the suffering end? When will Christ come to take us with him? Sometimes these questions can overwhelm us, and take our focus away from what is important. Today inspite of all the questions we may have, one thing we know for sure is that Jesus is the answer, and that he is coming again.

As we journey through this Advent season, let us look to do to make us better, let us read his words to make us stronger and spend each day being alert, watching and praying. I wish you all a blessed Advent as we wait for Jesus to come on Christmas Day. Amen.

Submitted by Pr. Rodney.





# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

## Servers for Dec

### December 7:

Acolyte - Morgan/Madison  
Ushers - Gene/Georgia  
Reader - Jim  
Greeter - Harry  
Prayer - Beth  
Counter - Carrie

### December 14:

Acolyte - Gabby  
Ushers - Bill/Bonnie  
Reader - John C.  
Greeter - Pat  
Prayer - Gene  
Counter - Debbie

### December 21:

Acolyte - Dylan  
Ushers - Dean/Lori  
Reader - Ginny  
Greeter - Janet  
Prayer - Chris  
Counter - Diane

### December 24:

Acolyte - TBD  
Ushers - Gene/Tom  
Reader - Nanette  
Greeter - Maurice  
Prayer - Georgia  
Counter - Carrie

### December 28:

Acolyte - Jenna  
Ushers - Denise/Kaleb  
Reader - Ted L.  
Greeter - Debbie  
Prayer - Ted L.  
Counter - Debbie

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*Never lose hope. You  
never know what  
tomorrow may bring.*

*Always remember that  
your present situation  
is not your final  
destination. The best is  
yet to come.*

Worry vs. Trust

This reminds me of the competition for our concentration: Worry vs. Trust. Today, let's weed out worry and plant trust in Jesus. Let's realize a few keys to understanding and overcoming worry:

1. Why worry? Worry never works. Jesus said, "Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life?" (Luke 12:25, NIV). Let's think about it: Worry never works! Then, in the following verse (v. 26), Jesus pointed something else out: "Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?" God considers the extension of life -the very thing we worry about most- to be a very little thing! Our omnipotent, omnipresent, and omniscient God remains so good -so trustworthy! Why not trust Him?
2. Worry wastes life: It never solves problems, and it dissolves energy and time. Again, it never extends life.
3. Worry never hurries answers. It falsely gives one a feeling of "doing" something. Yet it never does!
4. Trust remains a must: Trust God. His Word, not worry, must reign in our hearts. For every worry, find an applicable Bible verse to memorize and internalize. Instead of denying the fact that you're worrying, face it with God's Word.
5. Trust God more than feelings. And transform typical negative "what if's" into positive, faith-filled "what if's." (i.e. Instead of worrying something in your life might suddenly flop, start wondering whether something in your life might soar and give God glory!) **God never leads us wrong.** Every good and perfect gift comes directly from Him! Jesus said, "If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!" Stop worrying. Instead, start praying and obeying.
6. Unconditionally trust and love God: Remove conditions from your faith walk. (Stop the "If You do this, I'll love You more" syndrome.) God never changes. He unconditionally loves us and plans what's best for us. Let's love Him unconditionally, too.
7. Love God and others without fear or worry of rejection. "There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love" (1 John 4:18, AMP). When we let God's love enter and flow through us, we exit fear.

Think of it: Worry never wins. Trusting God never fails!

**By Stacie Ruth Stoelting.**



# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

## Happy Days !!!!!

### **Birthdays: December**

Dec 1 - Terry Minton  
Dec 5 - Edna Lower  
Dec 11 - Deb Palmatier  
Dec 12- Erin Becker  
Dec 13 - Niles McCoy  
Dec 15 - Gene Wyckoff  
Dec 16 - Freya Karsch  
Dec 18 - Ellen Langenbahn  
Dec 20 - Cody Whittaker  
Dec 21 - Melissa Cater  
Dec 25 - Marilyn Hanley  
Dec 29 - Doris Van Dyke  
Dec 31 - Todd Bartholomew

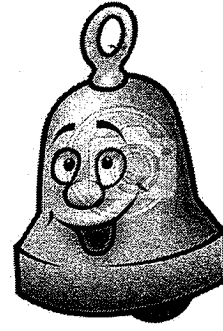
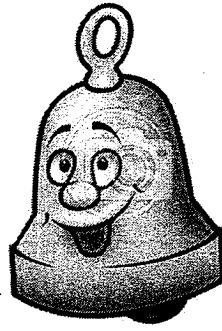
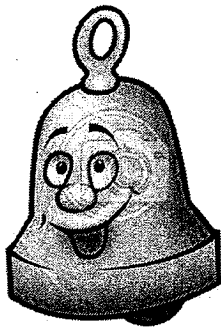
### **Anniversaries: December**

Dec 1 - Mary and Jerry Bowman  
Dec 17 - Pat and Ralph Becker  
Dec 19 - Kathy and Augie Kauffman  
Dec 28 - Bonnie and Bill Morton  
Dec 31 - Sharon and Harry  
Amendola

## **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.

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**THE BELLS ARE RINGING** – for me and my – whoever comes to the Middleburgh Library on Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30p.m. for “Miracle on Main Street”.

Other activities at the Library include: The Depot Lane Singers, The TLC Cloggers, special reading by Jim Spencer as well as our own Middleburgh Ecumenical Bell Choir.

**Come join the festivities!**

*Wishing you  
the blessings  
of peace,  
love and joy  
this Christmas!*



*The Middleburgh  
Ecumenical Bell Choir*

cordially invites you  
to attend a

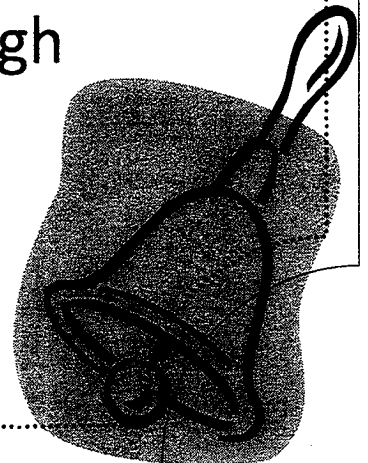
*Concert*

Sunday — December 14 — 3 PM

St. Mark's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall

326 Main Street, Middleburgh

Refreshments will be served





# St. Mark's Lutheran Church

## Two Traveling Angels:

Two traveling angels stopped to spend the night in the home of a wealthy family. The family was rude and refused to let the angels stay in the mansion's guest room.

Instead the angels were given a small space in the cold basement.

As they made their bed on the hard floor, the older angel saw a hole in the wall and repaired it.

When the younger angel asked why, the older angel replied, Things aren't always what they seem.

The next night the pair came to rest at the house of a very poor, but very hospitable farmer and his wife.

After sharing what little food they had the couple let the angels sleep in their bed where they could have a good night's rest.

When the sun came up the next morning the angels found the farmer and his wife in tears.

Their only cow, whose milk had been their sole income lay dead in the field.

The younger angel was infuriated and asked the older angel how could you let this happen?

The first man had everything, yet you helped him, she accused.

The second family had little but was willing to share everything, and you let the cow die...

Things aren't always what they seem, the older angel replied.

When we stayed in the basement of the mansion, I noticed there was gold stored in that hole in the wall.

Since the owner was so obsessed with greed and unwilling to share his good fortune, I sealed the wall so he wouldn't find it.

Then last night as we slept in the farmers bed, the angel of death came for his wife and I gave him the cow instead.

Things aren't always what they seem.

Sometimes that is exactly what happens when things don't turn out the way they should. If you have faith, you just need to trust that every outcome is always to your advantage. You just might not know it until sometime later.