



The Parish Post

APRIL 2018

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church
4200 Londonderry Road, Harrisburg, PA 17109
(717) 652-6700

www.stmarksharrisburg.org
e-mail: stmarksharrisburg@gmail.com
The Rev. James E. Person, 717-712-8191



Spaghetti Dinner & Talent Show

Saturday, April 7, 2018
5:00 PM



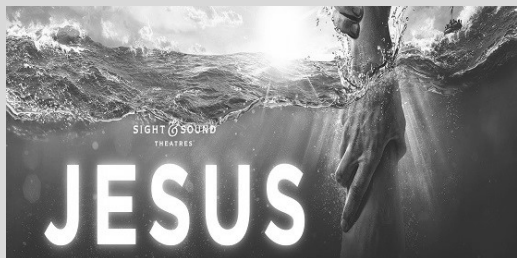
May 19 - Chicken BBQ

June 23 - Chicken/Ribs BBQ

July 21 - Chicken BBQ

September 15 - Chicken/Ribs BBQ

SAVE THE DATE



Tuesday, July 10, 2018

9:30 am Depart St. Mark's
10:30 am Sight & Sound
11:00 am Showtime
1:30 pm Depart for Dinner
2:00 pm Huckleberry's
4:30 pm Arrival back
—more information to follow—



Worship, Music and Arts is hosting a breakfast
between services on Sunday, April 29.

Look for sign up sheets at entrances to Sanctuary.

Ministry Meet & Greet - Pastries & Coffee Sunday,
May 6th between services.

MISSION STATEMENT: Nourished by Word and Sacrament, the mission of the members of St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church is to spread God's Word in Jesus Christ through our thoughts, words, and actions, proclaiming God's good news for all to hear and live.



Then Amalek came and fought with Israel at Rephidim. ⁹Moses said to Joshua, "Choose some men for us and go out, fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the staff of God in my hand." ¹⁰So Joshua did as Moses told him, and fought with Amalek, while Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. ¹¹Whenever Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed; and whenever he lowered his hand, Amalek prevailed. ¹²But Moses' hands grew weary; so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held up his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side; so his hands were steady until the sun set. ¹³And Joshua defeated Amalek and his people with the sword. Exodus 17:8-13 NRSV

As I sit down to write this article, it is the Monday before Palm/Passion Sunday. In the coming two weeks I have Wednesday Lenten services, a wedding on Saturday, which also means a rehearsal on Friday night. Then, Sunday is Palm/Passion Sunday, a special Sunday in the church that kicks off Holy Week, a week that will include two services each on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday and the recently added Easter Vigil, to which I am really looking forward, on Saturday night, Easter Eve, if you will. Then the glorious and exciting Easter Sunday when we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord.

All this is pretty common in the life of a Pastor, it is a cycle that repeats every year. The difference this year, though, for me, is that as I look forward to these exciting two weeks in the life of the Church, I am nursing a sore throat, feel the distinct symptoms of a head cold coming on, and my tummy is beginning to feel as if I might have swallowed something that desperately wants out! You can't tell me God doesn't have a sense of humor!

When I questioned God's provision of cold, windy weather on one of my recent morning runs with my dog, I got an almost audible answer: "It is to make you stronger." Perhaps that's what God has in mind now, as well. I am not seeking sympathy, I already am aware of how much members of St. Mark's care about my well-being. I am sharing my current situation as a way of saying "Thank you" to everyone in our congregation that steps up and does so much of the ministry that wouldn't happen without their leadership and participation.

I have always thought of the passage cited above as an important lesson in leadership. Even Moses, possibly the closest thing to a super-human there ever was, next to Jesus, needed help in leading the Israelites. He had Aaron and Hur to stand beside him, provide the stone for him to sit, and hold his arms in the air to muster God's support for Joshua in his battle with the Amalekites. Likewise, I and other church leaders who are blessed, as I have been, have people around us who allow us to sit, nurse sore throats and manage busy schedules, while they "hold up our arms" and keep the church moving in the right direction.

Lately I have been impressed with the initiative taken by our Congregation Council to revitalize some of our struggling Ministries, as well as keep the non-struggling ones strong. Their enthusiasm and example lead me to truly believe that they have been called to the ministry of leadership, and they are answering that call with energy, skill, and hard work. Also, the work of the non-council members of various ministries is impressive. I know and appreciate how busy everyone is these days and your stewardship of time and talents is a wonderful demonstration of faith. There is always room for anyone who would like to be more involved, please don't be afraid to ask how you might be able to help.

As I write about the leadership of St. Mark's, I must hold up a shining example I recently experienced from our Council President, Nick Zingone. I know that Nick genuinely feels that the lesson he taught me on a recent Sunday morning is no big deal, but it is one I will never forget, and I hope he doesn't mind me sharing.

As I sat in my office between services one Sunday morning, Nick came to me and said, "There's someone foraging through our dumpster." My first reaction, I am now embarrassed to say was, "So, there's nothing in there I want", to which Nick replied, "Well, I thought maybe he could use our help." WOW! The Pastor had just received a lesson on Christian caring. The best part is, for Nick, this was just a natural reaction, as I said, no big deal. We went down, talked to the young man who had just been released from the hospital with some mental health issues, did what we could for him, which was mostly guide him to downtown Harrisburg, where he was going to meet his brother, along with a little food and a map. It didn't seem like much, but it made a difference to him, opened our eyes to the need that is often literally at our own back door, and changed forever the way I will react to people foraging in dumpsters.

The event recounted in the passage above was not the only time Moses needed help in his mission and ministry, just as all pastors need support often in keeping a church healthy and vital. I am thankful that at St. Mark's there are those

who "provide the stone for me to sit on" and "hold up my arms" as we move ahead in our mission and ministry to our community and our members.

Your partner in ministry and mission,



Pr. Jim Person

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

There's a website called "The Onion" that creates satirical news stories. Most articles make light of current events by pointing out some irony. Meanwhile, other stories are just completely fabricated but presented as if it were real news. Such was the case when I spotted one such article titled "Report: Majority of Money Donated at Church Doesn't Make it to God." The story purports that about 65% goes to pay administrative expenses with another 25% to cover payroll for "angelic hierarchy." The remaining amount (10%) then is what God supposedly receives.

Of course, we know that money we give to the church doesn't *literally* go to God. We encourage good stewardship of the gifts God gives us. God gives us money, just as He gives us gifts of time and talent like I discussed last month. So we're taught to give some of that money back to God. The reality is that you can't physically give money to God himself. Therein lies the dilemma that The Onion so appropriately identified. Since we can't express our gratitude for these gifts by giving back to Him directly, we give to His church on earth. The church then does God's work.

Speaking of the church's work, it's important to understand how your gifts of money are utilized. The distribution formula 65-25-10 isn't completely out of line when we look at how gifts to St. Mark's are utilized. The largest portion by far covers our administrative expenses, the staff and physical facilities of St. Mark's without which we could not exist. The allocation to angelic hierarchy could be likened to the members of this congregation and the various ministries and programs we undertake. Then the remaining 10% is akin to our congregation tithe to the larger

church, the synod, and ELCA to support God's work around the world.

In closing I leave you with this question, is my giving to the church proportionate to the gratitude I feel for what God has given me? That question is important to your faith because it should help guide decision you make about how you use money. It's also important to our Council and Ministries so we know what level of financial support to expect when pursuing future ministry initiatives. One thing I want to find out is whether this congregation can commit the financial resources above and beyond our normal operating expense to pursue new initiatives. That might be establishing a new outreach program, hiring additional staff, or starting a capital campaign to make major renovations to our building. It's time to start looking ahead and decide where we need to be in 5-10 years and start making the necessary investments of money to get there. Please talk with your elected Council representatives and share what you would be willing to support, or "vote" with your money by designating your giving to a specific purpose. That way the leaders of this congregation can better guide the direction of St. Mark's to do God's work over the coming years.

We want to hear your questions or concerns. Please speak with any member of Council, join us the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm for our Council meetings, or e-mail me at nzingone@verizon.net.

Faithfully Yours,
Nick Zingone



- 7 Spaghetti Dinner @ 5:00 pm
- 8 LYF Meeting @ 5:00 - 8:30 pm
- 13th - 15th St. Mark's Family Retreat @ Kirchenwald
6:00 pm *All are welcome to attend.*
- 22 LYF Jr. Meeting @ 12:30 - 3:00 pm
- LYF Meeting @ 5:00 - 8:30 pm

SUMMER CAMP OPEN HOUSE -You are invited to visit Kirchenwald or Nawakwa on March 18 or April 8 from 2:00 - 4:30 PM. Take a tour of camp with members of our summer staff and see what camp is all about. As a bonus, we will give a \$10 gift certificate for the camp store to every brand new camper! For more information, visit www.LutheranCamping.org or call the Camping Office at 717-677-8211.

EARTH DAY CELEBRATION 2018 Sunday, April 22, 2018 from 2-6pm Kirchenwald Enjoy an afternoon of environmental activities, games, and crafts at one of your favorites places within God's creation: CAMP! An evening meal is included in the \$10 fee. All ages welcome. RSVP to 717-677-8211 or LutheranCamping.org by April 13.

WORK DAYS AT CAMP Saturday, May 5, 2018, 8:30am Kirchenwald & The Wittel Farm Saturday, April 28, 2018, 9:00am Nawakwa Volunteers needed to do general housekeeping, gardening, painting, carpentry, and other tasks. A noon meal will be provided. Please call the Camping Office to volunteer 717-677-8211.

MISSION TRIP TO UKRAINE

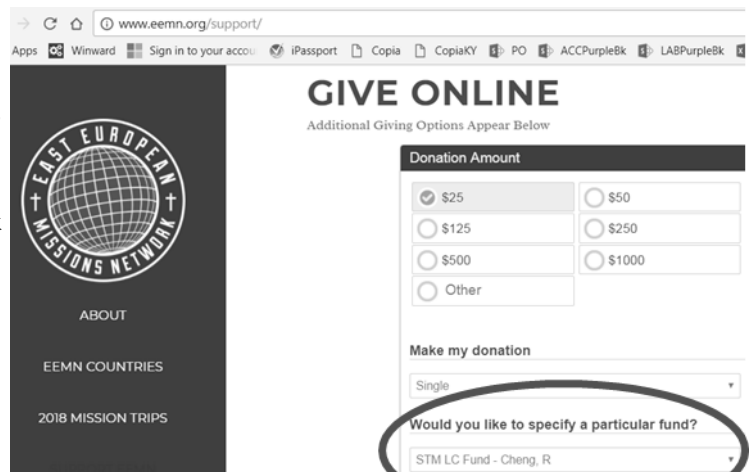
My next mission trip will be in June to Odessa, Ukraine. Our mighty team of 10 will be conducting an English-speaking Bible camp for elementary school children. We will also be conducting a weekend youth group camp for high school students.

There are a few things that I need as I train with the team and prepare for the trip abroad. I appreciate any assistance you are able to provide as I pursue this latest journey in mission!

East European Missions Network (EEMN) will be posting a blog with special prayer requests during the mission trip. I would like folks to monitor the blog and someone stateside to forward the prayer requests to a prayer chain at church. Never underestimate the power of prayer!

Please keep me in your prayers as I learn and blend with this team. We meet weekly with a structured curriculum (including homework!) to spiritually explore the WHYs and WHATs of the mission trip. I'm a little intimidated since there will be 4 pastors on the American team. I petition the Holy Spirit to ease my anxiety and allow Him to flow through my thoughts and speech.

I am adding 3 days at the end of the Ukraine trip to visit Romania and touch base with some of the families in need that I previously met. Although our group was discounted at 34%, the total flight expense was higher than I expected. Please prayerfully consider a monetary donation to help offset these costs. Дякую (Thank you in Ukrainian, although I found out I have to learn a little Russian for the area we will be in. Blessings, Ruth Cheng)



Flea Market/Car Wash

July 14 starting at 8:00 AM

Spaces available

THANK YOU NOTES

Dear St. Mark's,

Thank you so much for the yummy food you sent me. It was so nice of the church to think of me. I hope everyone had a great Valentine's Day.

Thank you!

Megan Hauf

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your thoughts, prayers and the Altar Flowers. The flowers are still very pretty.

We would appreciate your continued prayers for Paul and also our son Dale who lives in Arizona. They are both having health problems at the time and certainly know God is caring for them every day but we know the power of prayer certainly helps.

Thank you so much.

Sincerely,

Paul & Marie Stouffer

Thank you so much for the Valentine's Day treat box. I enjoyed all the candy and snacks inside.

Nathan Smithers

St. Mark's Family,

Suezan and I would like to thank you all for the flowers, cards, phone calls and hugs during Suezan's latest hospitalization and recovery. Thank you Pastor Jim for your words of God's love and encouragement.

Love in Christ,

Lucy & Suezan

Thank you to The Gleaners Sunday School Class for sponsoring 6 new highchairs. And a thank you also to Carol Weldon for providing 2 new booster seats for our next generation of church members.

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Ecumenical Food Pantry, and those who benefit by your generosity, I would like to thank you for your generous contribution of \$96.00 we received in February 2018.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline Young

Corresponding Secretary



Tuesday, April 3 - 9:00 am - Project Day

Monday, April 9 - 4:00 pm - W/ELCA Board

Tuesday, April 10 - 10:00 am - Esther Circle

Saturday, April 21 - Day of Renewal

Tuesday, April 24 - 6:30 pm - Eve Circle

DAY OF RENEWAL - Saturday, April 21 at Memorial Lutheran Church, Shippensburg, PA. Dr. Jean Godsall-Myers will be the speaker. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of the German Society of PA. Cost is \$20.00 that includes lunch and program. Time 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM. Contact Shirley Johns for more information if you are interested in attending. Deadline is April 9. Theme: "In Katie's Footsteps."

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP DINNER

The Women's Fellowship Dinner will be held on Friday, May 4 beginning at 6:30 pm. There will be a program following dinner. Randy Whitaker will be the guest speaker. A catered dinner will be served. Suggested donation is \$15.00.

The dinner is open to all women of the congregation. Guests are also welcome.

Tickets will be available Tuesday, April 10 from W/ELCA Board members: Barb Dudek, Sue Bennick, Carla Whitaker, Shirley Johns, Anna Gabor or the church office. Deadline for picking up tickets is Sunday, April 29.

W/ELCA SPRING SERVICE PROJECT

A tree decorated with suggested items for donation will be collected for Christ Lutheran Church Health Ministries. The tree will be located in the narthex beginning Sunday, April 8 until Sunday, May 20.

Gifts can be placed in the wooden boxes in the

St. Mark's Family Retreat 2018

St Mark's Annual Family Retreat is coming closer! April 13th-15th at Camp Kirchenwald, Family Retreat is open to all ages! Younger and older and in-between, all of St Mark's is invited to attend! Family and friends of the congregation are invited as well!

We stay in Schreiber Haus Lodge, a modern that sleeps 4 to a room, each with its own bathroom and shower. The Lodge is Handicap Accessible. You can come for the whole retreat, stay only one night, or come up for just a few hours, whatever works best for you. To sign up for Family Retreat, use the contact info below.

What happens on Family Retreat? Well, we have campfires, music, scavenger hunts, great food, interesting and unique bible study, friends new and old, s'mores, sports, arts & crafts, card games, the moving of the Holy Spirit, and an intergenerational retreat that everyone will enjoy and remember for years to come! Pastor Jan Mills will be there as our retreat chaplain and will administer communion Sunday morning. Many of the youth here at St. Mark's help to write and run the retreat, as well.

Our Family Retreat theme this year is Relationships. We'll focus on our relationships with our family, our friends, our congregation, and, of course, our relationship with God. Retreat gives us, as a congregation, a chance to dive deeper into our faith and into our relationships, strengthening existing relationships and creating new ones.

Our Family Retreat will cost \$75 per person this year, or \$125 per family. If you cannot afford this, please don't let the cost deter you from coming! Pay what you can, we'll find a way to cover the rest.

Contact lyfstmarks@gmail.com with any questions or Bennett Williams at 717-512-0079

STEPHEN MINISTRY REFLECTIONS

When my soul is overwhelmed with trouble, let me hear Your loving kindness in the morning. For I trust in You. Teach me the way in which I should walk, for to You I lift up my soul. (Psalm 143:8)

Thoughts from a Care Receiver (person in need):

"When asked if I would like to have a Stephen Minister, I immediately said, 'yes.' I look forward to having someone visit and share a Christian relationship. I especially like having someone that will share a word of prayer and bring me communion. Most of all, my Stephen Minister helps me to feel connected to the church."

Thoughts from a Stephen Minister (trained Care Giver):

"My Care Receiver is a long-standing member of the St. Mark's Church family, and I feel that I help my Care Receiver feel less isolated, bringing her the Good News. We share memories of the church and a love of our Lord."

Think about how you would feel if you needed to share your burden with someone, but no one was available. It is disheartening, seemingly hopeless, and not a comfortable feeling. Currently St. Mark's has double the persons in need than we have available Stephen Ministers. Answer His call – become a Stephen Minister today.



SPECIAL DATES

- Easter Sunday, April 1, 2018
- Administrative Professionals Day, April 25, 2018

The next HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP of Oakgrove Road is scheduled for Saturday April 14. (Meet at the entrance to Resurrection Cemetery at 9:00.) Those interested may meet for breakfast before the clean-up at Skyline Family Restaurant at 8:00 a.m. Anyone planning to help please contact Calvin Smith (652-3808.)



- 1 Stella Baker
- 2 George Shultz
Owen Smith
Madeline Varga
- 3 Janet Peter
Jane Shetrone
Charles Walak
- 4 Caden Bryan
Casianne Frey
Valerie Martellaro
- 5 Michelle Sultzaberger
- 8 Connie Schwartz
- 12 Linda Dullen
- 13 Donald Herbster
Christian McClain
Kenneth Shillingsford
- 15 Susan Simpler
- 16 Harriet Mark
Anthony Weldon
- 17 Lauren Briner
- 18 Carol Watkins
- 20 Danielle DiSerio
Alice Dormer
Patty Ernest
Keri Miller
- 21 Chris Bair
- 23 Kristy Shoaff
- 24 Lauryn Edwards
Kimberly Klick
- 26 Denise Harr
Melva Neifert
Karin Senft
- 27 Zachary Lee
Calvin Smith
- 29 Jackson Lee
April Trout

If your birthday is in April and we missed it, please let us know. We hope you have a happy birthday anyway.

APRIL COMMUNION ASST.

8:15 AM	11:00 AM
1 Men in Mission	Men in Mission
8 Jeanne Flickinger Lauren Zaccarelli/Hengst	Sandy Sherwood Tracy Ingram
15 Alice Graham Roberta Wege	Dennis DeFrank Sara Jane DeFrank
22 Laurie Womer Paul Deibler	Lore-Lee Walak Elliott Walak
29	Tracy Ingram Tate Ingram

APRIL LECTORS CARE

8:15 AM	11:00 AM
1 Men in Mission	Men in Mission
8 John Herigan	Tracy Ingram
15 Laura Young	Betty Briner
22 Bill Shook	Dave Stanton
29 Calvin Smith	Tom Stohler

APRIL ALTAR CARE

8:15 AM	11:00 AM
1 Sue Bennick Barb Heym	Marian Person
8 Laurie Womer	Barb Dudek
15 Laura Young	Sara Jane DeFrank
22 Barb Heym	Marian Person
29 Sue Bennick	Barb Dudek

APRIL FLOWER DELIVERY

- 1 Lucy Weaver
- 8 Laurie Womer
- 15 Sandy Dinger
- 22 June Miller
- 29 Tracy Ingram

APRIL GREETERS

8:15 AM	11:00 AM
1 Men in Mission	Men in Mission
8 Don & Ruth Herbster	Anna Gabor
15 Dave & Emma Mink	Nancy Hartman
22 Shirley Johns Lorraine Mariner	Tom & Terry Stohler
29 Laura Young	Dave & Anita Featherman

ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

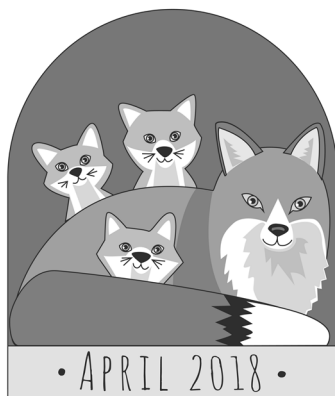
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St. Mark's Church Council

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Vice President	Stephanie Carl
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	Joe Baranowski
	Tom Graham
	Jim Long
	Pastor Jim Person
	Sandy Sherwood
	Rebekah Varga
	Lore Lee Walak
	Roberta Wege
	Laura Young
Minister of Music	Joyce Van Nieuwkuyk
Church Secretary	Kim DiPaolo
Youth/Family Ministry	Bennett Williams
Sexton	Donald Young
Nursery School Dir.	Pam Baranowski

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