



# The Parish Post

AUGUST 2018

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

[www.stmarksharrisburg.org](http://www.stmarksharrisburg.org)

e-mail: [stmarksharrisburg@gmail.com](mailto:stmarksharrisburg@gmail.com)

The Rev. James E. Person, 717-712-8191

## EXTRAVAGANZA

Mother Nature's paintbrush has stopped using green,  
and instead is painting our world in golds, oranges and reds.  
Now... school bells, ghosts, turkeys and of course football are  
reminding everyone to "come one and all" to the Extravaganza.  
The Craft Artisans have created lovely items for the Autumn Season.



**September 6, 7 & 8**  
**10:00 am - 4:00 pm**

*St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church*

*Proceeds to benefit St. Mark's Ministries & Vickie's Angel Foundation*



**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.



## BBQ Chicken & Ribs

Saturday, September 15th  
10:30 till gone!

**LAST BBQ of  
the season!**

Reserve your dinner in advance.

**\$9.00 BBQ Chicken dinner - \$12.00 BBQ Ribs dinner**

## Coming in September!

Bringing the whole congregation together for  
fellowship, good food & witness to our neighbors.

### Treasurer's Report Summary 6 Months (Jan. – June) 2018

RECEIPTS		EXPENDITURES	
Operating	\$133,119	Operating	\$149,346
Benevolence	<u>12,598</u>	Benevolence	<u>13,914</u>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>145,717</b>	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>163,260</b>
Hunger	640	Hunger	665
Building Fund	5,436	Building Fund	0
Nursery Sch Scholarships	320	Nursery Sch Scholarships	315
Youth Designated	7,382	Youth Designated	14,703
Memorial Funds	810	Memorial Funds	1,985
Seasonal Flowers	673	Seasonal Flowers	1,253
Fellowship	4,487	Fellowship	1,754
Nursery Sch Payroll	17,045	Nursery Sch Payroll	17,967
Gift Cards	26,475	Gift Cards	28,500
Senior Trips	3,791	Senior Trips	5,712
Agape Fund	401	Agape Fund	800
Mellinger Interest Fd	3,000	Mellinger Interest Fd	1,615
Brick Memorials	2,625	Brick Memorials	2,222
Fellowship Hall Renovation	7,348	Fellowship Hall Renovations	274
Kegerreis Estate	50,000	Mission Investment Certif's	50,000
Other Designated Funds	<u>2,613</u>	Other Designated Funds	<u>2,990</u>
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$276,138</b>	<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$294,015</b>

Calvin Smith, Treasurer



**For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. Romans 12:4-5**

We received a letter today thanking us for St. Mark's Mission Support to the ELCA for 2017. The letter opened with the verses above and went on to say;

"Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel, and blessings in the name of Christ, who calls us and makes us one body! In the spirit of Paul's teaching, above, the Evangelical Lutheran Church celebrates that we are an interconnected church with three major expressions, each with its own function. Our churchwide expression achieves goals nationally and globally, synods work regionally, and congregations work locally. Together we are strong!"

As I read those words I came to a new realization of just how important every member of the Body of Christ really is. We truly are partners in the Gospel, from each member of a congregation to the whole worldwide expression of the Christian faith. As we think of the church as a body with many functioning parts, the churchwide expression being the body as a whole, with arms, legs, stomachs (of course) and other parts, all the way down to the cells. Each member is a cell with an important part to play in the functioning of the whole. While a body fighting against itself can be like children on the playground each wanting the best spot on the swing set, working together we are strong,

During the recent renovation of Fellowship Hall (which looks "absolutely fabulous!" by the way) we had a wonderful opportunity to see the many parts of this church working together for the good of the whole. Each group, person, or "cell" that gave input has some important function within the church, and all were considered carefully before moving ahead. While not everyone could have everything exactly as they wanted or wished, the finished product, I am confident, is one that will serve St. Mark's well for many years to come.

As with any living organism, the Body of Christ, in all its expressions, is constantly moving, changing, and (hopefully) growing. If the movement is interrupted for too long, if change fails to happen, or if growth ceases to occur, the organism begins to suffer and eventually dies. The renovation of Fellowship Hall, while sometimes an inconvenience, is a major step forward in the future of St. Mark's. It is an outstanding step in the growth of our church. We did the best we could to plan, not only for current needs, but for growth and outreach in the time ahead. I extend a heartfelt thanks to the many people and groups who were involved in this exciting project, either directly or indirectly.

Among those who gave generously of their time and talent were Brian Braidigan, the "General Contractor" for the job, Chris Bair, chair of the Property Ministry, Wayne Smithers, Jim Walak,, Carla, Randy, and Reagan Whitaker, and Don Young. Thanks to Tom Graham for his help in arranging a great agreement with Arko Flooring, and to Kim DiPaolo for her help above and beyond the call of her regular duties, searching for, and ordering, materials online.

Thanks need to be extended as well to Pam Weldon, Rebekah Varga, and Sandy McClain, our Nursery School teachers and the organizers of Vacation Bible School. Their input was important, and their patience was tested, but the body worked together to get the job done. In fact, everyone who helped make VBS a success deserves kudos for making what could have been a very difficult week go as smoothly as possible.

I am sure there are others who were inconvenienced or otherwise affected by the construction in some way. I am sorry for any trouble, but I am sure the results make it all worthwhile.

Of course, no major improvements to our physical body would be possible without funding and fortunately funding for the work on Fellowship Hall came in the form of grants from the Seraph Foundation, Community Aid, and part of a generous bequest from the estate of Helen Keggereis.

We truly are members of one body, with many parts. Functioning together we can continue to grow into the healthy Body of Christ we are meant to be. Together we are strong!

Your partner in ministry and mission,

*Pastor Jim*

## COUNCIL PRESIDENT

We need to talk.

These four words should evoke a certain sense of discomfort, anxiety, and fear. They're four words I don't like to utter either unless it is serious.

Money.

There's one word that probably elicits the same feelings, especially in a church setting.

Now as we are halfway through 2018, I have to take a moment to review our financial standing as a church. As you recall our congregation approved a 2018 operating budget of \$328,926.00, an amount 5% greater than our actual 2017 expenditures. Our Council and Ministries have executed our mission and objectives consistent with our spending plan and as a result our actual expenditures are \$1,200 under budget through the end of June. St. Mark's is spending according to the budget authorized by our congregation at our last congregation meeting. Unfortunately, operating receipts are trailing roughly \$18,000.00 behind budget through the end of June, resulting in an operating deficit of about \$16,000.00 for the year. An operating deficit occurs when actual expenses incurred to operate the church exceed income received from sources such as individual contributions.

It's very important to distinguish operating expenses from special projects we undertake using designated funds. Designated funds are gifts given to the church with specific instructions for their use. These funds generally cannot be used to pay for expenses related to the daily business of the church. Such gifts have been utilized recently to fund projects such as our meditation garden and fellowship hall renovations. Therefore these projects have absolutely no connection to the current operating deficit described above.

I don't want you to panic, but I do want everyone to understand the significance of these numbers. With half the year remaining, there is still adequate time to take corrective action in order to end 2018 without a deficit. In the next month we begin budgeting for 2019. In the budgeting process we must consider and pray about what level of contributions we can anticipate and formulate a spending plan that advances church mission while balancing expense against expected income. We will need to seriously consider changes in 2019 should contributions continue to fall well behind our operating expenses.

For now I want you to be aware of the following proactive steps. First, our Council and ministries have been instructed to take whatever steps necessary to minimize non-essential spending for the remainder of the year. Second, I ask all of you to pray for our church leaders to continue making wise decisions in utilizing the gifts you give. Finally, I pray for our entire congregation that we continue to grow in our understanding of Christian stewardship, recognizing the gifts God has given to us and how we can best utilize them in support of the church's ongoing mission to bring others into the Body of Christ.

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](mailto:nzingone@verizon.net).

Faithfully Yours,  
Nick Zingone

## **Coming in September!**

Kick-off another Program Year.



- 1 Dale Smeck
- 2 Landen Heim  
Andrew Mitchell
- 3 Emily Walak
- 5 Nicolas Sultzaberger
- 6 Holly Geizzi
- 7 Kimberly Stanton
- 8 Pat Nettling  
Eugene Nicodemus
- 9 Hunter Banks
- 10 Jeffrey Smithers  
Christopher Sultzaberger
- 12 Ethel Oswald
- 13 Dottie Webber
- 14 Don Flickinger
- 15 Jennifer Phelan  
Sandy Sheaffer  
Faith Smeck  
David Stanton
- 16 Barbara Dudek
- 18 John Howell  
Donald Young
- 20 Kendall Brown  
Joshua Varga  
Terry Woodrow
- 21 Roy Leister  
Stacy Morris
- 22 Jennifer Bargmann  
Margaret Herigan  
Fred Mast  
Delaney McLaughlin
- 23 Charlotte Flook  
Ruth Herbster
- 27 William Woodworth
- 28 Gavin Bryan  
Barbara Mosel
- 29 Joanna Banic
- 30 Henry Lahr  
Jerry Lang

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



#### FUTURE MEETING

NO circle meeting for the month of August  
Monday, August 13 - W/ELCA Board Meeting @ 4:00 pm  
Saturday, August 18 - LSS Synod Women's Convention  
at St. Paul's., Carlisle

W/ELCA is collecting the following for **LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF** during the months of July and August.

#### Personal Care Kit

- One light-weight bath-sized towel, dark color recommended. (Minimum size 20" x 40"; Maximum size 52" x 27").
- Soap, two or three bath size bars equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in its original packaging.
- One sturdy comb (wide-tooth preferred)
- One metal nail clipper (attached file is optional, but not necessary).

#### School Kits

- (4) 70 sheet notebooks of wide or college ruled paper Approximately 8" x 10½" (NO LOOSE LEAF PAPER)
- (30) centimeter ruler, or ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other.
- (5) unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- Pencil sharpener
- Blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well).
- (5) Ballpoint pens, black or blue ink only (NO gel ink)
- Eraser, approximately 2½" long.
- Box of 16 or 24 crayons.

The items can be placed at either entrance to the sanctuary.

\*\*\*New or gently used, double bed or larger, white flat sheets are needed. Please put in the W/ELCA room.

"To handle yourself, use your head; to handle others, use your heart."

—Eleanor Roosevelt

"If you can find a path with no obstacles, it probably doesn't lead anywhere."

—Frank A. Clark

## FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

The Ecumenical Food Pantry is in need of personal care items (shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, body wash, feminine products; pads, tampons, brushes, combs, toilet paper). Social Services will be collecting donations throughout the summer months. If you have any questions please contact any member of the ministry.



## GOD'S LITTLE ACRE

Social services is again collecting extra produce from your gardens. We ask that you bring any extra produce you do not want to the church to share with other members. When someone takes the produce, we ask for a monetary donation that will go to the Ecumenical Food Pantry. Thank you in advance for your support.

## THANK YOU NOTES:

Dear St. Mark's friends,

Thank you for helping to send me to the Camp Nawakwa mini-camp. I went to camp the beginning of July. I had a lot of fun. I liked everything I did. I am hoping to go back again next year for a whole week of camp.

Thank you again,  
*Hailey Neidig*

children were overwhelmed with all the school supplies available to us during our studies and absolutely loved all the candies and snacks they had never tried. Your funds purchased 2 bibles and additional sports equipment for the 100+ children in attendance. All items were donated to Pastor Alexander's mission after use. Please see some of the thank you cards on the WELCA room bulletin board that the children made for you.

Peace with thanks to you all,  
*Ruth Cheng*

Dear St. Mark's family,

I would like to thank Pastor Jim for his visit and for delivering the flowers and for the delicious dessert that Marian made.

Also, I would like to thank Gitta, and Judee for their phone calls and their prayer concerns, since I fell on Father's Day. I am doing much better.

In Christian Love,  
*Judy Horton*

Dear St. Mark's family,

An abundance of thanks for your prayerful meditations while I was abroad to the Ukraine and Romania. The

**MEMORIAL** for Hilda Deibert given by:  
Bill & Joyce Van Nieuwkuyk



3rd - 6th LYF Shore Trip to OCMD

## Ukraine Mission Trip: Part 1 – The Devil at Work



On this trip, I joined 10 other missionaries from the East European Missions Network (EEMNmissionsblog.org). We represented various parts of the USA, from Albuquerque to Niagara Falls. Just hours before arriving at our dormitory accommodations in Petrodolina, there was a 7th attempt to

overtake the church grounds by force.

During the struggle, our American team leaders, Pastor David and his wife Angela were already on the premises and in the homestead resting. They were unaware of the village “signal” that when the church bells are rung outside of Sunday services, danger is approaching the grounds. As events unfolded, Angela got on her knees in prayer. She later disclosed that she never prayed so hard in her life. As Pastor David debated on how to help in the struggle, Pastor Alexander shouted for him to stay inside. The henchmen thought the grounds were empty, believing that the staff were at the airport already to pick the rest of us up. Once the devil realized that there were already Americans occupying the grounds, they retreated, presumably to avoid an international incident.

During the two-hour struggle, our host, Pastor Alexander Gross, and a church council chairman from the village were injured. Pastor Alexander suffered a fractured arm (which he tried to conceal from us when he came to pick us up; he returned the next day with a cast) and was taken away in handcuffs. The villager was hit on the head with a hammer and hospitalized in a coma. Needless to say, the American Embassy was contacted and made aware of the situation. On Sunday, the Holy Spirit led me to a seat next to a what appeared to be a despondent woman from the village. With the help of Google Translate, I was able to figure out she is the wife of the village chairman who was injured. She stated he would be in the hospital for at least 10 days, and she has no way to visit him. She stated that he was in and out of consciousness, but thankfully seems to have his memory intact. I let her know that the missionaries and many faithful supporters in the USA were praying for her husband’s healing. Remember that the Ukrainians are a stoic people, show of emotion, even a smile, is unusual. She reacted so graciously and amazed that people who don’t even know them could pray for

him. Thank you, Molly, for being our stateside prayer chain coordinator. We are indebted.

Next segment, “Why take over the compound?”

Peace,  
*Ruth Cheng*

Remembering the Holodomor, the man-made famine of 1933 that killed over 7 million people in Ukraine.

## AUGUST COMMUNION ASST.

8:15 AM	11:00 AM
5 Men in Mission	Men in Mission
12 Jeanne Flickinger	Tracy Ingram
Lauren Zaccarelli-Hengst	Tate Ingram
19 Carla Whitaker	Dennis DeFrank
Laura Young	Sara Jane DeFrank
26 Laurie Womer	Lore-Lee Walak
Paul Deibler	Elliott Walak

## AUGUST LECTORS CARE

8:15 AM	11:00 AM
5 Men in Mission	Men in Mission
12 Jeanne Flickinger	Zara Bennett
19 Mike Hengst	Youth
26 Laura Young	Tracy Ingram

## AUGUST ALTAR CARE

8:15 AM	11:00 AM
5 Sue Bennick	Barb Dudek
12 Laurie Womer	Margie Stouffer
19 Laura Young	Marian Person
26 Barb Heym	Barb Dudek

## AUGUST FLOWER DELIVERY

5 Barb Dudek
12 Peggy Davis
19 Peggy Davis
26 Barb Heym

## AUGUST GREETERS

8:15 AM	11:00 AM
5 Men in Mission	Men in Mission
12 Bill Van Nieuwkuyk	Zara Bennett
19 Fred & Alice Hoover	Tom & Terry Stohler
26 Mae Deblasio	Brian & Norma Braidigan

# ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4200 Londonderry Road  
Harrisburg, PA 17109

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 618  
Harrisburg, PA.

CHANGE SERVICE  
REQUESTED

DO NOT DELAY DELIVERY  
DATED MATERIAL

## THE PARISH POST



### St. Mark's Church Council

<b>President</b>	Nick Zingone
<b>Vice President</b>	Stephanie Carl
<b>Secretary</b>	Loraine Mariner
<b>Treasurer</b>	Calvin Smith
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	Mary Sultzaberger
<b>Council Members</b>	Chris Bair
	Joe Baranowski
	Tom Graham
	Jim Long
	Pastor Jim Person
	Sandy Sherwood
	Rebekah Varga
	Lore Lee Walak
	Roberta Wege
	Laura Young
<b>Minister of Music</b>	Joyce Van Nieuwkuyk
<b>Minister of Alternative Music</b>	Bennett Williams
<b>Church Secretary</b>	Kim DiPaolo
<b>Youth/Family Ministry</b>	
	Kellen Michalowski
<b>Sexton</b>	Donald Young
<b>Nursery School Dir.</b>	Pam Baranowski

## THE PARISH POST AUGUST 2018



"Ethel, take a leap of faith!"