

# The Parish Post

AUGUST 2019

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

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



Saturday, Aug. 17, 2019

Saturday, Sept. 14, 2019

Chicken & Ribs BBQ

10:30 am till gone!

\$9.00 Chicken Dinner

\$12.00 Ribs Dinner

*Reserve your dinner in advance!*

## FLEA MARKET/CAR WASH

Saturday, August 24, 2019

7:00 AM



**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.



For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope. <sup>5</sup>May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, <sup>6</sup>so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Romans 15:1-6 NIV

On July 20, I had the unique opportunity and privilege of speaking at the Pennsylvania Weekend Firefighters' Memorial Service at the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. Over 200 firefighters from all over Pennsylvania, as well as some from other places, attended that service in memory of five PA firefighters who lost their lives in the line of duty in 2018. It was an emotionally moving experience and an extraordinary display of unity and camaraderie. That unity and camaraderie is one of the first things I noticed when I became Chaplain of the Colonial Park Fire Dept. It seems to be a common characteristic of many organizations that work together to face critical, and sometimes dangerous, situations.

Paul calls for the same kind of unity, camaraderie, and cooperation in the church. The church today, just like in Paul's day, is in a critical and sometimes dangerous situation, whether we realize it and/or recognize it or not. The situation is critical because there are many people around us who have not been moved by the Good News of Jesus Christ. They may have heard about Jesus, they may have some experience of church or religion of some kind, but when it comes to the Gospel making a real difference for them, "it just ain't happenin'!" Many of those people, regardless of their personal faith or feelings about God, Jesus, and the Church, turn to us for help in times of need. Most of them have had the experience of the church coming to their aid when they need it, hopefully with no strings attached. What they see when they come to us tells them what Christians are like, and the way we work together determines how well we can fulfill the commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves. Responding with unity, camaraderie, and cooperation is our best hope of fulfilling that commandment to the best of our ability.

The danger the church finds itself in is not so much physical as it is existential. If we fail to work together in unified ministry, there is a danger that the church will become irrelevant and perhaps even cease to exist. Imagine a team of firefighters battling a blaze with each member wanting to do his or her own thing. Imagine an EMS crew trying to save someone's life while performing procedures that conflict with one another. How about National Guard troops attempting to save a community from a flood with each one running off in a different direction while their comrades need their help? Those emergency responders have learned to work together regardless of personal preferences or personality conflicts.

We, of course, are not called to "save" people like those emergency responders, Jesus already did that. We are called to bring that good news to them in a way that makes a real difference in their lives. Like Paul, we must pray that the God who gives endurance and encouragement gives us the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice we may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are not in this alone, nor are we in this for ourselves. God is with us, and the Church exists for the hope of the world; to carry on the mission and ministry of Jesus, empowered by the Holy Spirit, until he returns.

Paul's call to unity of heart and mind is in no way unique to his letter to the church in Rome. As I have been studying the Epistles this summer, I have found that call to oneness to be an often-recurring theme. Perhaps the church hasn't changed much in 2000 years. Perhaps Paul struggled with some of the same issues of human nature we deal with today. We know in our hearts, though, "It has always been that way" is no reason it must continue to be that way. We are doing some great ministry here at St. Mark's. I am encouraged by what we *are* doing and excited about what we *can* do. With an attitude of camaraderie, unity, and cooperation, "one for all and all for one", we can continue to make a real difference in our community and the world.

Your partner in ministry and mission,

Pr. Jim Person



W/ELCA Board Meeting - August 12 @ 4:00 p.m.

W/ELCA is collecting the following items 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., and 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 a 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.

#### **THIRTY SECOND ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE LOWER SUSQUEHANNA SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION**

**WHEN:** Friday & Saturday, August 16 & 17, 2019

**WHERE:** St. Paul Lutheran Church, Lititz  
Anyone that would like to enrich their faith, and grow in their understanding of the purpose of the Women of the ELCA.

**THEME:** "Lead me Where My Trust is Without Borders"

**SCRIPTURE:** Romans 12:2 — *Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God — what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

The facility is handicap accessible. There is an elevator to all floors.

#### **WHAT & WHOM TO EXPECT**

- Registration - Friday 11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.  
Registration - Saturday - 8:00 - 8:45 a.m.
- Bishop James Dunlop will be with us Friday for conversation and Saturday morning worship.
- Angela Bell, Churchwide Representative
- Deacon Emily Myallis, Chaplain
- Friday Opening of Convention - 1:00 p.m.
- Friday Evening Banquet - 6:00 p.m.
- Eucharist Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Saturday
- Workshops held Saturday
- Saturday Lunch - 12:00 Noon
- Closing 2:30 p.m. Saturday

The voting forms can be found on the W/ELCA Bulletin Board.

**Registration Form: (voting members & participants)**  
Kathy Kauffman, 970 Stevens Road, York Haven, PA 17370 **(Monday, July 22 2019)**

**Voting Member Certification Form:** Lois Ann Griffiths, 5576 Edsel Street, Harrisburg, PA 17109 **(Monday, July 22, 2019)**

**Convention Scholarship Form:** Lois Ann Griffiths, 5576 Edsel Street, Harrisburg, PA 17109 **(Friday, June 28, 2019)**

Contact Shirley Johns or Barb Dudek if you are interested in attending.



**3rd - 6th LYF Shore Trip to OCMD**



To My St. Mark's Family,

Somehow, just saying "thank you" doesn't seem like enough. But I hope you know how much your thoughtfulness has meant to me during this difficult time of once again with cancer treatments. I very much appreciate the prayers and caring concerns, the lovely cards, the phone calls, as well as the beautiful altar flowers that Shirley so kindly delivered.

In Christian Love,  
*Linda Dullen*

Dear Friends,

I want to extend my thanks to all my friends at St. Mark's for the best wishes and cards I received for my birthday in June. That is much appreciated.

*Willem VanNieuwkuyk*

Dear Craft Artisans and Supporters of Extravaganza,

Thank you very much for your donation to our organization following your spring sale! As you know, we rely solely on donations from the community in order to continue our outreach to bereaved families. Our comfort bag ministry currently reaches approximately 500 families who are deeply hurting each year, throughout the state of Pennsylvania, and we provide healing to parents whose babies passed away far too soon, either just before delivery or shortly after birth. Parents receive items in the hospital that help them parent their baby and create memories, even though it is not the way they ever imagined. We are honored that you chose our cause as the recipient of your funds, and words cannot fully express how incredibly grateful we are for your support in this way.

Fondly,  
The Queen B Project Board

- 1 Dale Smeck
- 2 Landen Heim  
Andrew Mitchell
- 3 Sandy Sherwood  
Emily Walak
- 5 Nicolas Sultzaberger
- 6 Holly Geizzi
- 7 Kimberly Stanton
- 8 Gene Nicodemus
- 9 Hunter Banks
- 10 Christopher Sultzaberger
- 12 Ethel Oswald
- 13 Dorothy Webber
- 14 Anita Featherman  
Don Flickinger
- 15 Jennifer Phelan  
Sandy Sheaffer  
Marianne Shuey  
Faith Smeck  
David Stanton
- 16 Barbara Dudek
- 18 John Howell  
Don Young
- 20 Kendall Brown  
Joshua Varga  
Terry Woodrow
- 21 Roy Leister  
Stacy Morris
- 22 Jennifer Bargmann  
Margaret Herigan  
Fred Mast  
Delaney McLaughlin
- 23 Lisa Evans  
Charlotte Flook  
Ruth Herbster
- 27 Bill 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.

## COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

St. Mark's continues to be active - even through the summer months. There are still opportunities to become involved so please don't hesitate to participate!

Vacation Bible School will be held from July 28 to August 1. In addition to the excitement of hearing the St. Mark's kids and Spirit And Truth Band who recorded the music for the curriculum, there are still opportunities to volunteer! ALL hands are welcome!

The Flea Market hosted by the youth will be rescheduled. Please watch for a future date when the Flea market will take place and plan to donate some treasures or come look for great finds!

On August 10th Fellowship is hosting Community Day, they are collecting backpacks & school supplies to fill them. Please help in getting involved with the community.

Fellowship will hold one of their famous Chicken and Ribs BBQs on August 17. Don't forget to pre-order because they have been selling out quickly! You are also welcome to join the Fellowship Ministry to help with the day's work!

Please mark your calendars now for Rally Day and our outdoor worship service on September 8. The 8:15 service will be held indoors as usual!

Please take this opportunity to attend or become involved in any of these activities at St. Mark's - it is a great way to meet new people and to volunteer your time and talents!

On a personal note, I wish to thank the many members of St. Mark's for their prayers, support, and good wishes during my recent knee surgery. Jim is gaining strength at the Homeland Center and I want to thank him for his patience during my surgery and recovery. We both have truly seen and experienced God's miracles. We are truly blessed and supported by our St. Mark's family!

We look forward to seeing you in church!

*Stephanie*

## God (Be)Friended Me!

I am constantly amazed at God's wonders. Not only through the beauties of the earth, but through how He lovingly directs my path. He speaks to some people through dreams, others through visions, and still others by direct speech (perhaps by calling out your name).

God speaks to me through words, whether it be through conversations or through something I'm reading. Randomly choosing devotions through a bible app or flipping open the bible and pointing often brings comfort or guidance for something I've been praying on. Intentional fasting and meditation have also been wonderful tools to clear my head and focus only on Him. I don't believe in coincidences anymore. When someone approaches me in conversation, and I've recently thought about that same topic, my ears perk up to the Holy Spirit guiding my path.

I am not a big participant in social media, and only recently have grown my twitter account to follow a couple dozen people or organizations. The latest one is, "Positive News Romania." It caught my eye because of the name (since our news is more often negative) and scenic pictures being posted of various Romanian countryside venues. Earlier this week I read a brief bio about Iana Matei, an Australian woman with a passion to educate and stop sex trafficking in Romania. Reading her bio and exploring her website led me to vetting her with a couple of retired American missionaries to Romania that I have connected with over the past few years. I then emailed Iana, she responded the next day, and we will explore opportunities on building a relationship. Again, God at work. If it weren't for the Holy Spirit guiding me through twitter of all things, we would not have crossed paths.

I am truly thankful for all your prayers and kind wishes as I pursue my next journey as a missionary to Romania. Your supply donations and financial support are heartfelt and will be put to good use. We packed up 6 boxes of coats and shipped them for the Christmas program, along with 2 boxes of my personal items and field supplies. I have a running list of topics and activities inspired by your ideas, including youth games, baptism after infancy, pillow case dresses and women of faith. Please continue to keep me in your prayers as I wade through the preparation of leaving this fall. Peace, Ruth

## AUGUST LECTORS

8:15 AM	11:00 AM
4 Men in Mission	Men in Mission
11 Randy Whitaker	Lisa Hand
18 Bruce Senft	Betty Briner
25 Fred Mast	Tracy Ingram

## AUGUST ALTAR CARE

8:15 AM	11:00 AM
4 Sue Bennick	Marian Person
	Donna Woodrow
11 Laurie Womer	Barb Dudek
18 Laura Young	Sandy Dinger
25 Barb Heym	Barb Dudek

## AUGUST FLOWER DELIVERY

4 Donna Lee
11 Bill & Betty Shook
18 Sue Smithers
25 Zara Bennett

## AUGUST COMMUNION ASST.

8:15 AM	11:00 AM
4 Men in Mission	Men in Mission
11 Jeannie Flickinger	Tracy Ingram
	Sandy Sherwood
18 Randy Whitaker	Dennis DeFrank
	Sara Jane DeFrank
25 Laurie Womer	Lore-Lee Walak
	Elliott Walak



**FREE**

**First Saturday of every  
month.**

**8:00 - 9:30 am**



9:45am **Rally Day Activities**

11:00 am **Contemporary**

**Outside Service**



**Church  
Picnic!**

**September 8, 2019**

8:15 am **Traditional Indoor Service**



**Noon - Picnic**

## Treasurer's Report Summary 6 Months (Jan. – June) 2019

RECEIPTS		EXPENDITURES	
Operating	\$144,222	Operating	\$151,486
Benevolence	<u>11,989</u>	Benevolence	<u>13,343</u>
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>156,211</b>	<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>164,829</b>
Gift Cards	24,725	Gift Cards	27,895
Extravaganza	2,412	Extravaganza	2,050
Mellinger Interest Fd	4,000	Mellinger Interest Fd	1,352
Hunger	640	Hunger	625
Building Fund	30,771	Building Fund	33,699
Nursery Sch Scholarships	180	Nursery Sch Scholarships	384
Youth Designated & I/O	13,506	Youth Designated & I/O	8,515
Memorial Funds	45	Memorial Funds	0
Seasonal Flowers	628	Seasonal Flowers	936
Fellowship	456	Fellowship	1,866
Nursery Sch Payroll	18,720	Nursery Sch Payroll	18,720
Agape Fund	0	Agape Fund	500
Bricks/Mem Garden	370	Bricks/Mem Garden	137
Evangelism	228	Evangelism	645
Lenten Project	830	Lenten Project	830
Men's Fund	255	Men's Fund	134
Harriet Mark Estate	106,018	To Endowment Fund	66,262
Misc	1,438	Misc.	774
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$361,708</b>	<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$330,540</b>

Calvin Smith, Treasurer

## God's house got an up-gradε

**SOCIAL SERVICES NEWS:** God's Little Acre is up and running again. If you have a garden and have any extra produce you would like to share with the congregation you may leave it in the narthex. Members who wish to take the produce are asked to leave a monetary donation. The funds raised are given the Ecumenical Food Pantry. This project will continue through late September.

We are continuing to collect personal care items such as shampoo, soap, toilet paper, toothpaste, toothbrushes, feminine hygiene products, etc. to be distributed at the **Ecumenical Food Pantry**. You may leave your donations in the cart in the narthex. This is project is a year round project.



new energy efficient windows!

# ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

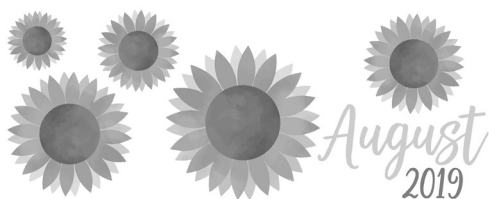
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Harrisburg, PA 17109

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## THE PARISH POST



### St. Mark's Church Council

<b>President</b>	Stephanie Carl
<b>Vice President</b>	Sandy Sherwood
<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
	Rebekah Varga
	Lore Lee Walak
	Roberta Wege
	Laura Young
	Nick Zingone
<b>Minister of Music</b>	Joyce Van Nieuwkuyk
<b>Minister of Contemporary Worship</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

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