



# The Parish Post

DECEMBER 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



## Advent Services

Wednesdays  
Noon & 7:00 pm



Noon  
6:30 & 8:30 pm

## Christmas Eve Services



2019

New Year's Day  
Pork & Sauerkraut Dinner  
1:00 pm

**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.

# EXTRAVAGANZA



**St. Mark's Lutheran  
4200 Londonderry Rd**

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

**Proceeds to benefit St. Mark's Ministries & *Christ Lutheran Health Ministries***

## SAVE SOME TAXES?

Taxpayers who are 70 ½ or older can transfer up to \$100,000 from a traditional IRA account tax free to a charitable organization, such as St. Marks, with all or part of their Required Minimum Distribution. This is called a "Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)" and any bank or investment advisor should be able to help you do this. It is a convenient way to support charities and get a tax break while meeting tax requirements for IRAs. Why not do something to help the charitable work that is done here at our church and reap the benefit of paying less taxes as well. If you have any questions see our Treasurer or any member of the Finance Ministry.



**The Lutheran Camping Corporation of  
Central Pennsylvania  
Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, and The Wittel Farm  
PO Box 459, Arendtsville, PA 17303  
717-677-8211  
[www.LutheranCamping.org](http://www.LutheranCamping.org)**



**ADVENT DAY APART** at The Wittel Farm Saturday, December 8, 2018 10am - 2pm All are invited to a day of prayer and meditation in preparation of the birth of the Christ child. There is a \$15 registration fee. Lunch will be provided. Please call 717-677-8211 or visit [www.LutheranCamping.org](http://www.LutheranCamping.org).

**WINTER YOUTH RETREAT AT KIRCHENWALD - January 4-6** Enjoy Kirchenwald in the Winter! Play broom hockey and other games on the frozen pond. Have fun sledding, playing snow soccer and other winter games. Creative Bible studies and worship experiences led by our summer camp counselors are an important part of this retreat. Meet new friends and catch up with your summer camp friends. Other indoor and outdoor activities may be included, as the weather dictates. For youth in grades 3 through 9 \$135 per person.



[Jesus prayed] “And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.” John 17:11 NRSV

I enjoy reading. I read religious journals and church-oriented material. I also enjoy reading about health and fitness, (in fact I know much more about health and fitness than you might guess by how healthy and fit I am!) I also enjoy biographies, adventures, and many other genres of literature. Recently I decided that it is time for me to begin reading some of the classics that are often quoted in the literature I read, some of which, I am sure I read, or was supposed to have read, in Junior high and

High school. So far, I have made it through *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*, and found them both to be quite interesting, if you don't mind a little blood and gore! I am now reading *The Once and Future King* a four-part fantasy by T.H. White based on the life and times of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table. You are likely sort of familiar with the first book of the four, *The Sword in the Stone* made famous in an animated classic by Walt Disney. The second book of the series, *The Queen of Air and Darkness*, shares the pivotal character with *The Sword in the Stone*, Merlin the Magician, a wise but comical wizard.

All this is a rather long introduction to a bit of Merlin's wise advice to King Arthur that I found not only profound but very applicable to our modern times. It also reminded me, as much good literature often does of a well-known Bible passage; Jesus' prayer, quoted above.

In talking to Arthur about the future of his kingdom, Merlin tells him, “The destiny of Man is to unite, not to divide. If you keep on dividing, you end up as a collection of monkeys throwing nuts at each other out of separate trees.” A little later he goes on to say, “And do you know another thing, Arthur? Life is too bitter already without territories and wars, and noble feuds.” How could one read this and not think of Jesus' prayer, “**Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.**”

What the wizard Merlin calls the “destiny of Man”, Jesus reveals as God's ultimate will for humanity. Unity, oneness, connectedness, interconnectedness, and even interdependency, with our Triune God and with one another is what will prevent us from becoming “a collection of monkeys throwing nuts at each other out of separate trees.” We have heard this same message many times, in many ways, from many sources. From Jesus to the Apostle Paul, to any number of ancient and modern authors, the message resounds, “united we stand, divided we fall.”

This message is important to our society and to civilization as we know it. It may be especially important, though to the Church. The Christian Church is to be an example for society, not merely reflection of it. From the message and ministry of Jesus himself, throughout history, the Church has been a radical departure from the norms of society. We are probably most familiar with the work of our namesake, Martin Luther, who initiated radical reformation in the Church and society. Unfortunately, the word “radical” has gotten such a negative connotation these days we fail to hear, or perhaps ignore, the call for the Church today to make a radical difference in the lives of members and non-members alike.

Outsiders who would be critical of the Church, as well as insiders who have some twisted agenda in mind, can find plenty of ammunition. In the popular hymn written by Samuel John Stone we hear:

Though with a scornful wonder  
Men see her sore oppressed,  
By schisms rent asunder,  
By heresies distressed

Those schisms and heresies are not, of course, God's intention for the Church. Jesus prayed that we may be one as he and the Father are one and that oneness should be the example we set for the world. The ELCA has done much to foster ecumenical cooperation worldwide. The Lower Susquehanna Synod has followed suit in Central PA. St. Mark's, too, can make a radical difference in our community and the world. It all begins under our own roof, working together with a strong sense of cooperation and unity we can do wonders. St. Mark's mission and ministry is not the work of one group or another, it is the *whole* congregation working *together*. We are not separate entities; Fellowship Ministry, Youth Ministry, Stewardship Ministry, etc. We are not “a collection of monkeys throwing nuts at each other out of separate trees.” We are one congregation, one church, one member of the Body of Christ, in which all the members, large and small, work together in the oneness of faith.

It sometimes amazes me how often classic and popular literature is so reflective of scripture. But then, timeless truth is timeless truth, no matter how many times or how many ways we hear it. Let us be one, as our Triune God is One.

One with you in ministry and mission,

*Pastor Jim*

## OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

If you would like to be a Lector, please contact Faith Smeck, 717-673-0368 by December 9th to be scheduled during January, February & March 1019.



## WHAT'S OUR MISSION?

On the front of our Sunday bulletins it states that EVERY MEMBER is a minister. What does that mean? It means we have an obligation to minister to each other as members of the body of Christ.

In July 2018, Stephen Ministry reached an incredible milestone by training the 75,000<sup>th</sup> Stephen Leader, Andrew Sutter from Cross Brand Cowboy Church in Tyler, TX. He joins two other Stephen Leaders at his church to lead a team of 18 Stephen Ministers. Andrew recently shared his congregation's mission in a Stephen Ministry Care Mail that I received. Here are some excerpts:

"Cross Brand Cowboy Church is a church for both the unchurched and for those who have been going to church their entire lives."

He goes on to quote his Pastor, Mike Morrow. "All are invited to be a part of our unique way of worship. We don't have steeples, stained glass, or pews – but we do have a group of caring folks coming together to help and encourage each other."

Shouldn't we all practice these same fundamentals to bring Christ's healing love to those who are hurting? It doesn't matter if you live in a mansion or a shelter. We are all God's children, equally loved by Him. If you are a good listener and feel passionate about helping others, becoming a Stephen Minister may be for you. If you are in need for a shoulder to cry on, please reach out to Pastor Jim or Ruth Cheng to request a Stephen Minister. We are here to support you in Christ's love!

## WARM COATS AND WARM HEARTS COAT DRIVE (Nov. 7 through Jan. 21)



Stephen Ministry/HEROES Care at St. Mark's is proud to partner with Delivering Good, Burlington Stores, and Good Morning America to provide warmth to our community in the upcoming months. Folks from Evangelism, Social Services and Stephen Ministries will work together to pick up coats weekly from Burlington stores in York and Hanover. Deliveries to Zion Lutheran/Harrisburg, St. Matthew/York, Union Lutheran/York and St. Mark's will be coordinated. If you would like to help pick up coats or know of families in need, please give sizing information to Pastor Jim, Ruth Cheng or Molly Stanton.

## SPECIAL DATES

- First Sunday of Advent, December 2, 2018
- Second Sunday of Advent, December 9, 2018
- Third Sunday of Advent, December 16, 2018
- First day of winter, December 21, 2018
- Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 23, 2018
- Christmas Eve, December 24, 2018
- Christmas Day, December 25, 2018



Tuesday, December 4 - 9:00 am - Projects Day  
Monday, December 10 - 4:00 pm - W/ELCA Board  
Tuesday, December 11 - 10:00 am - Esther Circle

## THANK YOU NOTES

Our St. Mark's Family,

Thank you for your prayers, kind thoughts, and expressions of sympathy following the death of David's father.

David, Molly, James, and Kimberly Stanton

Saint Mark's Nursery School would like to thank Cahroliê Parker for her generous donation of supplies.

## ADDRESS CORRECTION

Alice Graham  
34252 Spring **Brook** Ave  
Lewes DE 19958

## ADDRESS REMINDER

John & Margaret Herigan  
6130 Springford Drive, Apt. D-1  
Harrisburg PA 17111

Margie is living at Messiah Life Ways in Mechanicsburg. Currently, you are still able to contact her using 717-545-7477 but if for some reason you cannot reach her try 717-798-5787.

Margie Stouffer  
Rm. 189 Messiah Circle  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Margie is doing really well for all that she has had to deal with over the last month! This would be a great time to reach out to her and say Hello!

## CHRISTMAS COLLECTION:

The Social Services Ministry is asking for donations of food for (5) families. Canned vegetables, fruit, desserts, potatoes, and hams. We will also be asking for gifts for each family; please watch the bulletin for more details. Thank you.



We will be Caroling at the Colonial Park Mall on Monday December 17 from 7:00-8:00pm. We are in need of volunteers to hand out candy canes to shoppers. Please let any member of the Social Services Ministry know if you are interested in helping.

## DECEMBER LECTORS

8:15 AM	11:00 AM
2 Men in Mission	Men in Mission
9 Susan Smith	Lisa Hand
16 Jeanne Flickinger	Youth
23 Janice Alloway	Lore-Lee Walak
24 6:30 pm - Bob Gill	8:30 pm - Fred Mast
30 Abigail Zingone	Tom Stohler

## DECEMBER ALTAR CARE

8:15 AM	11:00 AM
2 Laurie Womer	Barb Dudek
9 Sue Bennick	Marian Person
16 Laura Young	Barb Dudek
23 Barb Heym	Marian Person
24 Noon - Sue Bennick	6:30 pm - Barb Dudek
	8:30 pm - Marian Person
30 Laurie Womer	Sandy Dinger

## DECEMBER GREETERS

8:15 AM	11:00 AM
2 Men in Mission	Men in Mission
9	Dave & Anita Featherman



Nov. 30 - Dec. 2 LYF Winter Retreat  
8th - 9th - Winterfest  
16th - Christmas Program 10:00 am  
LYF Jr. Christmas Party 12:30 pm  
LYF Christmas Party 5:00 pm  
19th - Christmas Caroling 6:30 pm



- 1 Taylor Trout
- 2 Jonnie Deibler
- 4 Suzan Seitz
- 6 Caroline Gill  
Dolores Magaro
- 7 Michael Nusz
- 9 Ryan Shadle
- 10 Mary Ann Kane  
Doreen Steinmacher
- 11 Adam Appleby  
Jacob McClenahen
- 12 Alexis Ulrich
- 13 Vaughn Heym
- 14 Pat Ashbrook
- 15 Mercedes Bretz  
Connie Wise
- 16 Brandon Dinger  
Harold Sultzaberger
- 18 Emma Betz  
Sue Senft
- 19 Linda Gingell  
Clint Harr  
Alice Houck  
James Miller
- 20 Michael Betz  
Colin McClenahen
- 21 Judith Leister
- 22 Austin Fleegal  
Bruce Senft
- 24 Sarah Neidig
- 25 Christine Kroah
- 27 Liz Harris
- 30 Frank Dillahey  
Madison Spencer

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

## COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Our Congregational Meeting is history and the new slate is ready to serve.

I am humbled and honored to serve as your new Congregational Council President.

In that role, I look forward to serving God and the people of St. Mark's.

We have so many things to celebrate at St. Mark's. We have used our beautiful and versatile Fellowship Hall to host our Congregational Meeting and host Bishop Dunlop.

Our Youth and Family program has a busy agenda. Nursery School has enthusiasm shown by the students, parents and staff. We have a vibrant music program.

Extravaganza is full of the labor of love of our members and friends. Our Fellowship Ministry exhibits boundless energy and enthusiasm. I could go on and on — just look around and you will see and feel that things are happening at St. Mark's! Please know that if something interests you and you would like to learn more about how you can volunteer your time and talents, all are welcome to serve!

As we go from celebrating God's abundant blessings to waiting for the Miracle of Christmas, please look at the calendar so you can plan to schedule time for St. Mark's. On behalf of the entire Congregational Council, we look forward to seeing you at church!

In His service,

*Stephanie Carl*

**MEMORIALS for:** Marie DeFrank  
Ed & Carolyn Shadle

**MEMORIALS for:** Paul Stouffer  
Dennis & Sara Jane DeFrank  
Frances Mummert  
Ed & Carolyn Shadle  
William & Patricia Strobel



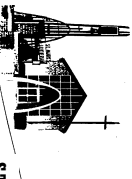
**FREE**

**First Saturday of every month.**

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

*All are welcome!*

# DECEMBER 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Advent 2</b> 8:15 am <b>Worship</b> 9:15 am Coffee Hour 9:45 am Sunday Church School <b>11:00 am Worship</b> 1:00 pm Medicate Workshop 7:30 pm AA	<b>3</b> 8:45 am Hunterdon Hills Bus Trip 6:00 pm CODA 6:00 pm Fellowship Ministry 6:00 pm Workshop/Music/Arts 6:30 pm NA	<b>4</b> 8:30 am Men's Breakfast 9:00 am Projects Day 6:30 pm ALANON 7:00 pm Social Services Ministry	<b>5</b> 10:30 am Bible Study <b>12:00 pm Advent Worship</b> 6:00 pm Family Support Group 6:30 pm Advent Choir 6:30 pm Christian Education <b>7:00 pm Advent Worship</b> 7:30 pm ACA	<b>6</b> 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Extravaganza 6:00 pm CODA 6:15 pm Mission Bells 6:30 pm NA 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	<b>7</b> 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Extravaganza 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 7:30 pm Overeaters Anonymous	<b>**1**</b> 8:00 am Community Breakfast 10:00 am Lifetouch Photo's 11:00 am Lisa Hand (TH)
<b>Advent 9</b> 8:15 am <b>Worship</b> 9:15 am Coffee Hour <b>9:30 am Alternative Worship</b> 9:45 am Sunday Church School <b>11:00 am Worship</b> 11:30 am Pageant Rehearsal 4:00 pm ACA Study Group 6:00 pm NCDAF/Compassionate Friends 7:30 pm AA	<b>10</b> 4:00 pm W/ELCA Board Meeting 6:00 pm CODA 6:30 pm NA 7:00 pm Lioness Meeting	<b>11</b> 10:00 am Esther Circle 6:30 pm ALANON 6:30 pm Property Committee	<b>12</b> 10:30 am Bible Study <b>12:00 pm Advent Worship</b> 6:00 pm ACA Study Group 6:15 pm Pageant Rehearsal 6:30 pm Advent Choir <b>7:00 pm Advent Worship</b> 7:30 pm ACA	<b>13</b> 6:00 pm CODA 6:15 pm Mission Bells 6:30 pm NA 6:30 pm Evangelism Ministry 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	<b>14</b> 7:30 pm Overeaters Anonymous	<b>15</b> 9:00 am Put up Christmas Tree/ decorate the Nave 10:00 am Pageant Rehearsal
<b>Advent 16</b> 8:15 am <b>Worship</b> 9:15 am Coffee Hour 9:30 am Children's Pageant 10:00 am LYF Christmas Program <b>11:00 am Worship</b> 12:30 pm LYF Jr. Christmas Party 3:00 pm LYF Christmas Party 7:30 pm AA	<b>17</b> 6:00 pm CODA 6:30 pm NA 7:00 pm Pax Christi	<b>18</b> 6:30 pm ALANON 7:00 pm Council	<b>19</b> 10:30 am Bible Study <b>12:00 pm Advent Worship</b> 6:00 pm Family Support Group 6:30 pm Advent Choir 6:30 pm LYF Christmas Caroling <b>7:00 pm Advent Worship</b> 7:30 pm ACA	<b>Food Pantry 20</b> 6:00 pm CODA 6:15 pm Mission Bells 6:30 pm NA 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	<b>21</b> 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 7:30 pm Overeaters Anonymous	<b>22</b>
<b>Advent 23</b> 8:15 am <b>Worship</b> 9:15 am Coffee Hour 9:45 am Sunday Church School <b>11:00 am Worship</b> 4:00 pm ACA Study Group 7:30 pm AA	<b>Christmas Eve 24</b> <b>12:00 pm Worship</b> (Family Service) 6:00 pm CODA 6:30 pm NA <b>6:30 pm Worship</b> 8:30 pm <b>Worship</b>	<b>Christmas Day 25</b> Office Closed 6:30 pm ALANON	<b>26</b> Office Closed 6:00 pm ACA Study Group 6:30 pm Advent Choir 7:30 pm ACA	<b>27</b> 10:00 pm Book Club 6:00 pm CODA 6:30 pm NA	<b>28</b> 7:30 pm Overeaters Anonymous	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 8:15 am <b>Worship</b> 9:15 am Coffee Hour 9:45 am Sunday Church School <b>11:00 am Worship</b> 7:30 pm AA	<b>31</b> 6:00 pm CODA 6:30 pm NA					

ST MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN

# ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4200 Londonderry Road  
Harrisburg, PA 17109

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Harrisburg, PA.

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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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