



# The Parish Post

FEBRUARY 2018

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

[www.stmarksharrisburg.org](http://www.stmarksharrisburg.org)  
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The Rev. James E. Person, 717-712-8191

## Begin the journey to the Cross

Ash  
Wednesday

February 14, 2018

Worship

Noon & 7:00 pm

Remember that you are dust,  
and to dust you shall return.

Genesis 3:19



Wednesday Lenten Services  
Soup & Sandwich @ 6:00 pm  
Worship @ Noon & 7:00 pm



Sign-up sheet at both entrances to the sanctuary if you would like to help with a soup, bread, drinks or dessert.

**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.



<sup>6-7</sup> Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life. **Philippians 4:6-7** *The Message*

In my reading recently, I came across the following quote:

**"Remember: What you focus on expands. If that's problems, you'll see more problems. If that's potential solutions to problems, you'll start to see more solutions. Not always right away, but eventually the brain will start to see new things and make connections that you could not have made before."**

While this quote comes from a book about fitness, I found it to be quite profoundly appropriate for many areas of life, including life in the Church. While things here at St. Mark's are, for the most part, going quite well, we occasionally come across a situation that might be considered a "problem" if we allow ourselves to think of it that way. What often determines the difference between a problem and an opportunity is the way we look at, and think about, the issue. For instance, for much of last year our receipts were coming up short of our expenses, sometimes by thousands of dollars. What might have been seen as a problem, though, turned out to be an opportunity for us to not only step up and meet the challenge but especially to see how God can work when we turn to him for help. I, and I think most of the members of the Congregation Council, felt that a balanced budget for 2017 was out of the question, but God proved us wrong by stirring the hearts of faithful stewards to generous giving. The opportunity now is to keep up the spirit of Biblical stewardship throughout the coming year(s).

While it is easy to see the Church as having, and sometimes even causing, many problems, the Church is a gift from God that is designed to be a solution, not a problem. The Church is God's answer to questions like:

"How do we best share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with a world in need?"

"How do we best care for one another in times of need and celebrate with one another in times of joy?"

"Where do we meet Jesus in the midst of this

world to worship, praise, and give thanks to him?"

"Where can we turn for solutions to the many concerns of daily living which we face?"

"What tool do we have to help us meet the needs of 'the least of these', our brothers and sisters?"

The earliest Church came to together to answer those questions and more. One question in particular was how to carry on the ministry and mission of Jesus once he had physically left this world. The solution was The Church, the Body of Christ, come together with its many parts to carry on the work that Jesus had begun; work that will not be finished until he comes again in glory to make all things new. As followers of Jesus today, 21<sup>st</sup> Century disciples, we are now charged with carrying on that work, not for what is in it for us, but for what we have to offer others.

In another book I am reading, the author talks about how the world is designed by God to work through what he calls "other centered circles." Everything from our stewardship to Creation itself operates in a constant cycle of receiving and giving. When that cycle is broken life ceases and death results. One example is the cycle of breath; oxygen in, carbon dioxide out. If we decide to "hoard" our carbon dioxide by breathing into and out of a plastic bag, we suffocate. As we receive many blessings from God, we carry on the natural cycle of life by sharing those blessings in whatever way we can.

As a church seeking potential solutions, the quest doesn't end at our doorstep. The community around us has many needs for which we might be the solution. It is easy for us to look out at our church neighborhood and see many problems. And since the church neighborhood may not be the neighborhood in which many of us live, it might be just as easy to think those problems don't concern us, but they do. As St. Paul tells us, when one part of the Body hurts, we all hurt. As children of God our neighbors are just as much a part of the Body as us.

We have been doing a good job of recognizing needs and seeing potential solutions. As time goes on I expect us to do as much and more. Why focus on problems and have them expand when we can focus on solutions, especially those promised and provided by God, and expand our ministry instead.

Your partner in ministry and mission,

Pr. Jim Person



- 1 Carolyn Shadle  
Lori Ulrich
- 3 T. J. Bryan  
Jenna Spencer
- 4 Karen Smith
- 5 Dona Yedlock
- 8 Zachary Dullen
- 9 Xavier Webber
- 11 Griffin Phelan  
Grace Phelan
- 13 Emma Malette
- 16 Cindy Lang  
Kenneth Lang
- 22 Jackson Fleegal  
Logan Fleegal
- 24 Edward Shadle  
Terry Stohler  
Jenny Sustak
- 26 Donna Woodrow
- 27 Matthew Dudek  
Matthew Johns
- 28 Paulette Beverly

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



February 19, 2018

## SPECIAL DATES

- Transfiguration of Our Lord, *February 11, 2018*
- Ash Wednesday, *February 14, 2018*
- Valentine's Day, *February 14, 2018*
- First Sunday in Lent, *February 18, 2018*
- Presidents Day, *February 19, 2018*
- Second Sunday in Lent, *February 25, 2018*

## FEBRUARY COMMUNION ASST.

8:15 AM	11:00 AM
4 Men in Mission	Men in Mission
11 Jeanne Flickinger Lauren Zacarelli/Hengst	Sandy Sherwood Tracy Ingram
18 Alice Graham Roberta Wege	Dennis DeFrank Sara Jane DeFrank
25 Laurie Womer Paul Deibler	Lore-Lee Walak Elliott Walak

## FEBRUARY LECTORS CARE

8:15 AM	11:00 AM
4 Men in Mission	Men in Mission
11 Faith Smeck	Mary Edna Leedy
14 Noon - Jeanne Flickinger	7 pm - Michael Hengst
18 Bob Gill	Madi Swartzlander
25 Laurie Womer	Lauren Zacarelli

## FEBRUARY ALTAR CARE

8:15 AM	11:00 AM
4 Sue Bennick	Barb Dudek
11 Laurie Womer	Marian Person
14 Noon - Barb Heym	7 pm - Laurie Womer
18 Laura Young	Sara Jane DeFrank
25 Barb Heym	Barb Dudek

## FEBRUARY GREETERS

8:15 AM	11:00 AM
4 Men in Mission	Men in Mission
11 Bill Van Nieuwkuyk	Nancy Hartman
18 Frank & Sue Dillahey	Dave & Molly Stanton
25 Bill & Sandy Kroah	Judy Horton

## FEBRUARY FLOWER DELIVERY

- 4 Shirley Johns
- 11 Laurie Womer
- 18 Lucy Weaver
- 25 Frank & Sue Dillahey

# Happy Valentine's Day



**A LENTEN DAY APART** at The Wittel Farm Saturday, March 3, 2018 9am - 3pm Casual, comfortable clothing will be appropriate. A \$15 registration fee covers program and meal costs. To register for this event, visit [www.LutheranCamping.org](http://www.LutheranCamping.org) or call the Camping Office at 717-677-8211.

**A SPRING QUILTING RETREAT** The Lutheran Camping Corporation presents... A gathering of women to share fellowship and talents. Camp Kirchenwald Friday, March 16 Sunday, March 18 Cost of the full weekend (Fri-Sun) is \$150. Two days (Fri-Sat or Sat-Sun) is \$85. One day (Sat, 9am-4pm) is \$55. Registration forms are available at [LutheranCamping.org](http://LutheranCamping.org) or by calling the Camping Office at 717-677-8211



**Please join us for the 5th annual...**

# **St. Mark's Nursery School**

**Student Art Show & Dinner**

**Wednesday February 14th, 2018**

**5:00 PM - 6:45 PM Fellowship Hall**

**7 PM Ash Wednesday Service**



Do you have high cholesterol or high blood pressure? Have members of your family suffered from these ailments? Do you have a poor diet? If you answer "yes" to any of these questions, you may want to consider being screened for your risk of stroke through the services of Life Line Screening. Life Line Screening uses ultrasound technology to view the plaque build-up in your carotid arteries, the main arteries that carry blood to the brain. Blockages in these arteries are a leading cause of stroke. We are pleased to host this Life Line Screening event 2/19/2018 at St Mark's Lutheran Church . Register for a Wellness Package with Heart Rhythm for \$149. All screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. Your Health is in Your Hands, so call 1-888-653-6441 or go to: [www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle](http://www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle) or text the word circle to 797979 for more information or to pre-register.

## THANK YOU NOTES

St. Mark's,

The DeBlasio family would like to thank Pastor Jim for his visit. Barb for delivering the flowers and any other acts of kindness.

Fondly,  
DeBlasio family

I would like to thank those that volunteer for Flower delivery. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,  
Gitta May

Dear St. Mark's Family,

Thank you to all of you for your kind expressions of sympathy, cards and altar flowers on the recent death of my mother. The support is truly appreciated at a difficult time like this.

Sincerely,  
Sandy Dinger

**THANK YOU** We offer a special thanks to everyone who helped St. Mark's achieve a balanced budget for 2017. The generous stewardship of the many members who made extra contributions or increased their giving is greatly appreciated. This facilitated positive year-end results.



4 - LYF Super Bowl Party - 5:00 pm  
8 - Talent Show Rehearsal - 6:30 - 8:30 pm  
9 - Spaghetti Dinner & Talent Show - 5:00 pm  
18 - LYF Jr - 12:30 - 3:00 pm  
LYF Meeting - 5 - 8:30 pm



Tuesday, February 6 - 9:00 am - Projects Day  
Monday, February 12 - 4:00 pm - W/ELCA Board  
Tuesday, February 13 - 10:00 am - Esther Circle  
Tuesday, February 27 - 6:30 pm - Eve Circle

W/ELCA is in need of full or queen flat sheets (no twin). You can drop them off in the office or put them in the W/ELCA room.

## St. Mark's Nursery School Following The Lamb ...



Hello St. Mark's,

Our students are adjusting back after our little holiday break. Our three and four year olds enjoyed learning about different farm animals during our Farm Show unit and hearing the bible story about the Lost Shepherd.

Our two year olds have been adjusting nicely as we welcomed Kim Klick as a long term sub for the school year. Please help us by welcoming her! Our three year olds have also been busy reviewing shapes and making shape monsters. Stop by downstairs to see all of them. We have been super busy starting our ABC writing unit with our four year olds. They have been working hard on practicing to write their own names.

Coming up in February will be our annual Student Art Show on Wednesday February 14th from 5:00 - 6:45 pm. We will have dinner along with our show thanks to the Fellowship Committee. We hope you are all able to come out and see what awesome art work our students have made so far this school year, as well as get to meet some of the artist themselves.

Bunny Breakfast Save the Date : Saturday March 17!

Have a Blessed Day!  
Pamela Baranowski Director

Reflection. Decompression. Two critical actions that are needed upon return from a mission trip. I welcome your prayerful participation in these actions by your continued reading.

After 21 hours of traveling, I met with Pastor David Breidenbach of the East European Missions Network at the airport in Bucharest, Romania. Our paths previously crossed after reading about his organization in a newsletter from our sister church, Zion Lutheran, in Harrisburg. Since he was already in Europe at the same time, he opted to meet me in person and lend a hand to the Romanian version of feeding the five thousand.

Within 2 hours of landing, we were at the work site, greeting 5 Romanians and 4 Americans knee-deep in a circuitous route of packaging. Plastic bags were color-coded (red for girls, white for boys) and labeled with the child's age (ranged from infant to adult). We packaged one location at a time. Each bag was supposed to contain: candy/gum (age dependent), toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, underwear, socks, hat/gloves, scarf (girls), shirt/pants set, religious coloring book (created/printed by Eugen), pencils/pens/crayons (age dependent), notebook/bible (supply dependent), handmade cloth doll and one additional toy (puzzle, stuffed animal, key chain, Happy Meal toy), costume jewelry bracelet. If the kids were on the "special" list, they received extra clothing and a winter coat. At distribution, the recipients also received a banana and a chocolate bar.

The process broke down when a language barrier existed to communicate various needs, such as lack of supplies, switching locations, a person left their workstation, questionable sizes vs. ages and locations coming to us to pick up their packages. In addition, our workspace was divided into multiple locations, 3 adjacent rooms on the third floor, 1 outside, and 1 in the bomb shelter (which was 3 rooms in the basement). As you can imagine, we limited the amount of times we had to run up and down the stairs. Also, using the rest rooms was an adventure. Since we were in a kindergarten, we had to keep silent in the common areas during their nap time. Sometimes we had to wait for the rest room because the adult facilities were connected to the children's area, so if a child was in there, you couldn't walk through. Also, you had to bring your own toilet paper (theft is an issue, so no toilet paper or paper towels are stocked in the bathrooms.)

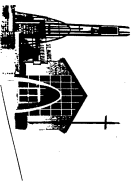
Visitations really pull at your heart strings. My healthcare background has allowed me to develop skills in detaching my emotions from the task at hand, and using these skills is always challenging.

- Visiting mothers with their babies in hospitals – It's always tough to care for a young one who isn't feeling well, and there's not much you can do besides holding them to make them feel better.
- Visiting patients with end-stage HIV – The forgotten were teary-eyed as we made rounds, hoping we would stop and talk to them, and they would receive a package like the others did. Those who couldn't talk managed a weak smile, even if it was only with their eyes.
- Visiting impoverished families – I was fortunate to reunite with some families that I spent time with on previous visits and meet new families. It was beautiful to see extended families visiting and enjoying time together, sharing some tea, much like we visit our loved ones during the holiday. The noticeable difference is, the gathering place is smaller than the size of our Narthex, with minimal furniture and heat.
- Visiting orphanages – I met with orphans who had multiple siblings, some in the same orphanage, some spread out in different orphanages, and some with unknown status if their siblings were alive, incarcerated, homeless, etc. I met orphans who are doing well in school, and others who quit because they couldn't succeed. I met orphans with aspirations to be on a future Olympic team, singer/actor, and teacher. I watched a short program presented by
- mentally challenged boys, who were so happy to be able to recite a phrase for us, and delighted in our reaction of smiles and "bravos". I cried as a 23-year old boy with muscular dystrophy was teary as he relayed to me why he was not able to draw and paint like he did as a teenager due to the progression of his disease.

My grasp of the Romanian language continues to improve over time thanks to the tutelage of our sister in Christ, Eniko Ambrus. Thank you, St. Mark's and Zion Harrisburg families. Because of your prayers and \$1055 in monetary support, we were able to feed and clothe over 5400 children and adults in need, surpassing the Romanian's goal of 5000. For pictures, stop by the bulletin board in the Gleaner's (WELCA) classroom. Thanks for helping me to decompress. I am most certainly blessed to have you walk this journey with me.

Sora ta în Hristos, (Your sister in Christ)  
*Ruth Cheng*

# FEBRUARY 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>  <b>ST MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN</b> </div>						
<b>4</b> <b>8:15 am Worship</b> 9:15 am Coffee Hour 9:45 am Sunday Church School <b>11:00 am Worship</b> 5:00 pm LYF Super Bowl Party 7:30 pm AA	<b>5</b> 6:00 pm CODA Fellowship Ministry 6:30 pm NA	<b>6</b> 8:30 am Men's Breakfast 9:00 am Projects Day 6:00 pm Worship/Music/Hrs 6:30 pm ALANON 7:00 pm Social Services Ministry	<b>7</b> 10:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm ChoirChymes 6:00 pm Family Support Group 6:30 pm Advent Choir 7:00 pm Bible Study 7:00 pm Christian Education 7:30 pm ACA	<b>1</b> 1:00 pm The Craft Artisans 6:00 pm CODA 6:15 pm Mission Bells 6:30 pm NA 6:30 pm Overeaters Anonymous 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	<b>2</b> 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 7:30 pm Overeaters Anonymous	<b>3</b> 8:00 am Community Breakfast 9:00 am Queen "P" project
<b>11</b> <b>8:15 am Worship</b> 9:15 am Coffee Hour 9:45 am Sunday Church School <b>9:45 am Alternative Worship</b> <b>"The Table"</b> <b>11:00 am Worship</b> 4:00 pm ACA Study Group 7:30 pm AA	<b>12</b> 8:30 am Men in Mission/ Central Penn Food Bank 4:00 pm W/ELCA Board 6:00 pm CODA 6:30 pm NA	<b>13</b> 10:00 am Esther Circle 6:30 pm ALANON 6:30 pm Property Committee 6:30 pm Stephen Ministry	<b>14 Ash Wednesday</b> 10:30 am Bible Study <b>12:00 pm Lenten Worship</b> 6:00 pm ChoirChymes 6:00 pm Lenten Soup & Sandwich 6:00 pm ACA Study Group 6:30 pm Advent Choir <b>7:00 pm Lenten Worship</b> 7:30 pm ACA	<b>15 Food Pantry</b> 1:00 pm The Craft Artisans 6:00 pm CODA 6:15 pm Mission Bells 6:30 pm NA 6:30 pm Overeaters Anonymous 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	<b>16</b> 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 7:30 pm Overeaters Anonymous	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> <b>Parish Post Deadline</b> <b>8:15 am Worship</b> 9:15 am Coffee Hour 9:45 am Sunday Church School <b>11:00 am Worship</b> 12:30 pm LYF Jr 5:00 pm LYF Meeting 7:30 pm AA	<b>19</b> 8:30 am Life Screening - F.H. 6:00 pm CODA 6:30 pm NA 7:00 pm Pax Christi	<b>20</b> 6:30 pm ALANON 7:00 pm Council	<b>21</b> 10:30 am Bible Study <b>12:00 pm Lenten Worship</b> 6:00 pm ChoirChymes 6:00 pm Family Support Group 6:00 pm Lenten Soup & Sandwich 6:30 pm Advent Choir <b>7:00 pm Lenten Worship</b> 7:30 pm ACA	<b>22</b> 10:00 am Book Club 1:00 pm The Craft Artisans 6:00 pm CODA 6:15 pm Mission Bells 6:30 pm NA 6:30 pm Overeaters Anonymous 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	<b>23</b> 7:30 pm Overeaters Anonymous	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> <b>8:15 am 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>26</b> 6:00 pm CODA 6:30 pm NA	<b>27</b> 6:30 pm ALANON 6:30 pm Eve Circle	<b>28</b> 10:30 am Bible Study <b>12:30 pm Lenten Worship</b> 6:00 pm ChoirChymes 6:00 pm ACA Study Group 6:00 pm Advent Soup & Sandwich 6:30 pm Advent Choir <b>7:00 pm Lenten Worship</b> 7:30 pm ACA			



# 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>	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>Church Secretary</b>	Kim DiPaolo
<b>Youth/Family Ministry</b>	Bennett Williams
<b>Sexton</b>	Donald Young
<b>Nursery School Dir.</b>	Pam Baranowski

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