



The Parish Post

JANUARY 2019

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church
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The Rev. James E. Person, 717-712-8191



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.



Every time I think of you—and I think of you often! —I thank God for your lives of free and open access to God, given by Jesus. There's no end to what has happened in you — it's beyond speech, beyond knowledge. The evidence of Christ has been clearly verified in your lives. Just think—you don't need a thing, you've got it all! All God's gifts are right in front of you as you wait expectantly for our Master Jesus to arrive on the scene for the Finale. And not only that, but God himself is right alongside to keep you steady and on track until things are all wrapped up by Jesus. God, who got you started in this

spiritual adventure, shares with us the life of his Son and our Master Jesus. He will never give up on you. Never forget that. *1 Corinthians 1:4-9 The Message (MSG)*

Lately we've been talking a lot about stewardship, and not always in a positive sense. I once heard someone say the funny thing about money is, when you have enough you don't think about it, but when you don't have enough, it's all you think about. I guess that may be as true for the church as it is in our homes. I'd like to take a different approach this month, though, and talk about the good side of our stewardship here at St. Mark's.

First, I want to thank all the people who give generously of their time and talent as well as their money. Many of you do so much behind the scenes and in support of our ministry and are never properly thanked for your ministry. In fact, there may be no way to fully express my gratitude and that of the church for all you do. Like Paul in his letter to the Corinthian Church, I think of you often and I give thanks for all the good things that happen here and beyond our walls. Worship, community breakfasts, collections for the less fortunate, sharing of our space with groups that benefit the community; none of these things would be possible without the generous giving of many people. Too often we focus so intently on what we don't have or what we are not doing, that we lose sight of the many good and generous things we do have and are doing. God has been good to St. Mark's and we are doing a lot to share that goodness. To quote Paul, **"it's beyond speech, beyond knowledge. The evidence of Christ has been clearly verified in your lives."**

As I write this, we are in the middle of the season of Advent, a time of anticipation and preparation, a season of waiting, as we look forward to the day when Christ comes to make all things new. Paul talks about this expectant waiting in his greeting to the Corinthian church; **"Just think—you don't need a thing, you've got it all! All God's gifts are right in front of you as you wait expectantly for our Master Jesus to arrive on the scene for the Finale."** Now, I'm sure we could argue about Paul's statement that we don't need a thing. I think a big part of the discussion would come down to the difference between what we need and what we want. But we certainly can't deny that God's gifts are right in front of us, especially as we have just received his most wonderful and precious gift, Jesus the Messiah! Once we realize the abundance with which God has blessed us, it is only natural that we want to share that abundance with others, whether in be financial, physical, skills, time, or any other resource we are able to share.

"And not only that, but God himself is right alongside to keep you steady and on track until things are all wrapped up by Jesus. God, who got you started in this spiritual adventure, shares with us the life of his Son and our Master Jesus. He will never give up on you. Never forget that." When it seems as if we've given all we can, or that we simply can't afford to do more, we need to remember this reassurance of God's walking with us, to help us along and continue his abundant blessings. Jesus promises that God will care for us and, in my experience, that promise is true. As long as we are not wasteful, greedy, or just plain stupid with what God provides, God will see that our needs are met. Again,

this is true in the church as well as in our individual lives. The church may experience tight financial situations, this has been true in the past and unfortunately probably will be true in the future as well. But, even in those situations we must not be afraid to be about the ministry God calls us to as the Body of Christ. Christ has called us together as a body that strengthens its members by working together, with each one doing what they can to make the whole body strong. It is that spirit of strength and unity that has kept St. Mark's, as well as the Lutheran Church in general, going for so long. It is that same spirit of strength and unity that will keep us strong far into the future.

Every time I think of you—and I think of you often! —I thank God for you!

Your partner in mission and ministry,



Pr. Jim Person



What can I say that you haven't already heard? Perhaps a tale more reflective of how the Romanians may view these 5 Americans as packages are prepared for the children in their city and neighboring villages may be of interest. These quips are purely my observation, not substantiated by any facts.

- * None of the Americans are fluent in Romanian. However, a traditional greeting in Romanian is truly appreciated.
- * These Americans are rich. They can travel to this country and purchase all these items for our children.
- * Moving or carrying a lot of large items is expected to be completed by men. They will drop everything they are working on to help a female.
- * Home cooked meals are often pre-plated and presented in front of you. You are expected to finish your plate, or else your hosts will feel they did not cook to your liking. The meals are usually 4-5 courses, so pace yourself.
- * Even the littlest ones are extremely observant. They will know if you are annoyed, impatient or angry. Keep your emotions in check and count to ten.
- * Remember that your own way doesn't mean it's the best way. You're a guest on their turf and you have to go with it.
- * Being an active part of a mission team takes patience and FLEXIBILITY. Without being able to manage these key concepts, you will surely fail and bring the team down with you.
- * Past decades brought 5,000 orphans some Christmas joy. This year was only budgeted for 2,500 care packages. With God's help, we were able to stretch those funds and prepare 3,300. I can't help but think about the remaining 2,100 kids who received something last year, but will receive nothing but our prayers this year. It is heartbreaking. May the Lord bring them comfort in knowing they are not forgotten.

Peace,

Ruth

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 75,000th 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

- New Year's Day, *January 1, 2019*
- Epiphany, *January 6, 2019*
- Baptism of the Lord, *January 13, 2019*
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, *January 18-25, 2019*
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day, *January 21, 2019*



Tuesday, January 8 - 10 am - Esther Circle

Monday, January 14 - 4 pm - W/ELCA Board

Tuesday, January 22 - 6:30 pm - Eve Circle

NO Projects Day this month.

THANK YOU NOTES

I want to express my heartfelt appreciation to the young man (10 yrs old) who won some money as a door prize at the Lower Paxton Lions Club Christmas dinner and donated the whole amount to the church's current fund. It shows great character on his part, a sense of true biblical stewardship and generosity, and is a shining example to us all.

God bless you,
Pr. Jim

CONGRATULATIONS!

Robert Lee Coburn was nominated and received the annual Craig Webb fire award. Annually, one Dauphin County fire, police, and EMS person is the recipient of the award during the Dauphin County Commissioner's meeting. The award was presented Wednesday, December 19th at 1000 hours at the Dauphin County Building - 2 S 2nd Street, Harrisburg PA.

Thank you to everyone who helped Nathaniel and I through our surgeries with rides, meals and prayers.

Liz Harris

Dear Ministry Supporter:

The cookies you provide are distributed to approximately 40 locations throughout the Carlisle area touching thousands of individuals with your generosity and God's love.

Please accept our thanks for your generous support of our cookie distribution ministry - and for making it a great success!

May God bless and keep you all.

Chaplain Craig
Chaplain Dave
The Board of Directors
Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry, Inc.

JANUARY LECTORS

8:15 AM

6 Men in Mission
13 Mary Edna Leedy
20 John Herigan
27 Laura Young

11:00 AM

Men in Mission
Tacy Ingram
Youth
Sandy Sherwood

JANUARY ALTAR CARE

8:15 AM

6 Sue Bennick
13 Laura Young
20 Laura Young
27 Barb Heym

11:00 AM

Sandy Dinger
Barb Dudek
Marian Person
Barb Dudek

JANUARY GREETERS

8:15 AM

6 Men in Mission
13 Don & Jeanne Flickinger
20 Shirley Johns
Loraine Mariner
27 Doug & Laurie Womer

11:00 AM

Men in Mission
Don & Donna Gutshall
Marian Person
Donna Woodrow
Barb Dudek

FLOWER DELIVERY

6 Marian Person
13 Barb Heym
20 Lucy Weaver
27 John & Margaret Herigan

LESSONS IN WISE FAITH

"The Magi teach us true faith," said Martin Luther. Given the obstacles they encountered, we would understand if they had given up altogether!

First, the travelers were "off the mark," coming to Jerusalem to seek a newborn king in a "royal palace." Then, directed to Bethlehem, the wise men found a sight "so utterly out of keeping with a king" — a poor young woman and child, in a "poor hut" — that one might expect them to head straight home. "But," declares Luther, "with a great, strong and full faith they ... follow the word of the prophet and the witness of the star in all purity of heart," bowing to worship and honor the Savior.

—Based on Luther's sermon for the Festival of the Epiphany (1522), Luther's Works



Birthdays of the Month

- 2 Phyllis Mengel
- 3 Troy Spencer
Roberta Wege
- 4 Alice Graham
- 5 Kenny Baranowski
- 6 Janice Alloway
Elizabeth Baranowski
- 7 Courtney Miller
- 8 Andrew Simpler
- 9 Samuel Flook
- 11 Pearl Engleman
- 12 Marcia Forlizzi
- 13 Brent Spencer
Clay Spencer
Fritz Ulrich
- 15 Deb Banks
Christina Dinger
Jeffrey Weldon
- 21 Sue Smithers
- 22 Teaghan Davis
- 27 Rebekah Hengst
- 28 Bonita Lengel

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



6th - LYF Jr. Meeting - 12:30 - 3 pm
LYF Meeting - 5 - 9 pm
13th - Bethesda Mission Workshop
5 - 9 pm
19th - LYF Day Trip

St. Matthew, Hanover, to Host Women's Retreat



"A DAY AT THE BEACH" is the theme of the Annual Women's Retreat Saturday, January 26, 9:00 to 3:30 p.m. All women of all ages are invited to spend a day at the "beach" with Bible study, worship, our special speaker (to be announced), a craft and our famous lasagna lunch with dessert bar. Please bring a dessert if you are able—everything else will be provided. Bring a Bible, a note pad and something to write with, too! Friends and relatives are welcome to attend with you. Please complete the registration form and return it with your \$15.00 check at the church office at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 30 W. Chestnut St., Hanover, PA 17331 by Sunday, January 20, 2019.

"A DAY AT THE BEACH" WOMEN'S RETREAT REGISTRATION" forms are available on the bulletin board outside the W/ELCA room.



January 6, 2019



FREE

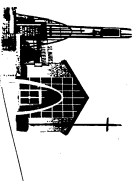
First Saturday of every month.

8:00 - 9:30 am

All are welcome!

JANUARY 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 OFFICE CLOSED 1:30 pm Pot & Saute/Trant Dinner 6:30 pm ALANON	2 10:00 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Family Support Group 6:30 pm Christian Education 7:30 pm Bible Study 7:30 pm ACA	3 6:00 pm CODA 6:15 pm Mission Bells 6:30 pm NA 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	4 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 7:30 pm OA	5 6:00 am Community Breakfast
Epiphany 8:15 am Worship 9:15 am Coffee Hour 9:45 am Sunday Church School 11:00 am Worship 12:30 pm LIT Jr. Meeting 5:00 pm LIT Meeting 7:30 pm AA	6 6:00 pm CODA 6:00 pm Fellowship Ministry 6:00 pm Worship/Music/Arts 6:30 pm NA	7 10:00 am Esther Circle 6:30 pm ALANON 6:30 pm Property Committee 6:30 pm Stephen Ministry	8 10:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm ACA Study Group 6:30 pm Advent Choir 7:00 pm Bible Study 7:30 pm ACA	9 1:00 pm The Craft Artisans 6:00 pm CODA 6:15 pm Mission Bells 6:30 pm Evangelism Ministry 6:30 pm NA 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	10 7:30 pm OA	11 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 7:30 pm OA
12 6:00 am Queen "B" Project 5:00 pm LIT Day Trip	13 8:15 am Worship 9:15 am Coffee Hour 9:45 am Sunday Church School 9:45 am Alternative Worship "The Table" 11:00 am Worship 4:00 pm ACA Study Group 5:00 pm LIT Bethesda Mission 7:30 pm AA	14 4:00 pm W/ELCA Board Meeting 6:00 pm CODA 6:30 pm NA 7:00 pm Idleness Meeting	15 6:30 pm ALANON 7:00 pm Council	16 10:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm Family Support Group 6:30 pm Advent Choir 7:00 pm Bible Study 7:30 pm ACA	17 Food Pantry 1:00 pm The Craft Artisans 6:00 pm CODA 6:15 pm Mission Bells 6:30 pm NA 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	18 6:00 pm Girl Scouts 7:30 pm OA
19 9:00 am Queen "B" Project 5:00 pm LIT Day Trip	20 8:15 am Worship 9:15 am Coffee Hour 9:45 am Sunday Church School 11:00 am Worship 7:30 pm AA	21 6:00 pm CODA 6:30 pm NA 7:00 pm Pax Christi	22 6:30 pm ALANON 6:30 pm Eve Circle	23 10:00 am Bible Study 6:00 pm ACA Study Group 6:30 pm Advent Choir 7:00 pm Bible Study 7:30 pm ACA	24 10:00 am Book Club 1:00 pm The Craft Artisans 6:00 pm CODA 6:15 pm Mission Bells 6:30 pm NA 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	25 7:30 pm OA
26 9:00 am Rob Blezard (FH)	27 8:15 am Worship 9:15 am Coffee Hour 9:45 am Sunday Church School 11:00 am Worship 4:00 pm ACA Study Group 7:30 pm AA	28 6:00 pm CODA 6:30 pm NA	29 6:30 pm ALANON	30 10:00 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Advent Choir 7:00 pm Bible Study 7:30 pm ACA	31 1:00 pm The Craft Artisans 6:00 pm CODA 6:15 pm Mission Bells 6:30 pm NA 7:30 pm Chancel Choir	



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THE PARISH POST



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