



The Parish Post

JULY 2018

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

www.stmarksharrisburg.org
e-mail: stmarksharrisburg@gmail.com
The Rev. James E. Person, 717-712-8191



Saturday, July 21, 2018 - Chicken BBQ
10:30 am till gone.

Reserve your dinner in advance.

\$9.00 Chicken BBQ Meal
September 15 - Chicken/Ribs BBQ

Flea Market/Car Wash



July 14
8:00 AM

Spaces available

Call or Text Lisa at 717-319-5435



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.



July 16 - July 19, 2018
6 - 8 pm

Needed teachers & donations or if you
plan on attending please contact
Sandy, Pam or Rebekah at:
stmarkshbg.vbs@gmail.com
for more info!



Opening now for a **Teacher!**

We are looking to fill a spot in our 2 year old class.
Part time **Tuesday** and **Thursday mornings**.

Aides for various classes are also needed.

Experience preferred but not necessary.

If interested please email your resume to:

stmarknurseryschool@gmail.com or
mail it to 4200 Londonderry Road Hbg. Pa 17109 or
go online to the church website: www.stmarksharrisburg.org
and fill out our job application



If you are interested in "Going Green" and receiving
your Parish Post via email, please let the church
office know (717-652-6700). We will need your name
and current email address.

Thank You!



If I give everything I own to the poor and even go to the stake to be burned as a martyr, but I don't love, I've gotten nowhere. So, no matter what I say, what I believe, and what I do, I'm bankrupt without love.

Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn't want what it doesn't have. Love doesn't strut, doesn't have a swelled head, doesn't force itself on others, isn't always "me first," doesn't fly off the handle, doesn't keep score of the sins of others, doesn't revel when others grovel, takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, puts up with anything, trusts God always, always looks for the best, never looks back, but keeps going to the end. 1 Corinthians 13:3-7 (The Message)

While you may not have recognized it immediately, the passage above is one of the most often quoted passages in all of scripture, after John 3:16 and Psalm 23. It is the popular "Love Passage" from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, a passage often heard at weddings. What many, if not most, people don't know, however, is the context of Paul's words. They were not written to a love-struck Corinthian couple on their wedding day. They were intended for the whole Corinthian faith community. The church at Corinth, founded by Paul himself, had fallen into near chaos. False teachers had been leading the Corinthian Christians astray and there was discontent, discord, and conflict among the church's members. Paul wrote a letter to his beloved Corinthian brothers and sisters in Christ to help them see the error of their ways and to encourage them to remain in the true Christian faith; faith built on, grounded in, and growing in love.

While the Corinthian church was caught up in concerns over right and wrong, what to do and what not to do, they had forgotten the first and second most important commandments, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength" and "love your neighbor as yourself." The Corinthians had not been doing what "love does" and had gotten caught up in doing what "love doesn't." The guidelines Paul lays down are fitting, not only for a First-Century church in turmoil, but for all Christian communities, all the time, everywhere.

While not as poetic as the familiar New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) of Paul's words, I like Eugene Petersen's paraphrase in The Message. Petersen puts this description of love into words with which we modern-day Christians can identify. When we get frustrated with a situation or person and are about ready to throw up our hands and walk away, remember "Love never gives up." I recently read an interesting proverb that says, "If you have \$5 in your pocket and you ate today, you need to give some money away." "Love cares more for others than for self." When we live lives based on love of God and neighbor, we are content with the many blessings God has given us while not being arrogant or proud if we have more than others. All the attributes of love described by Paul, whether according to Petersen's paraphrase or one of the more familiar translations of the Bible are building blocks of the Church and all should be sought in the building of a strong faith community.

Churches in turmoil are not the only ones that need to be mindful of Paul's description of love as the foundation of the faith community. When churches are doing well, like has been the case here at St. Mark's for some time, it can be easy to lose sight of the real reason the church exists; to bring God's love in Jesus Christ to the world by the power of the Holy Spirit. It can be as easy to give up when we think we are secure as it is when we are frustrated. "Why try so hard," we might ask, "when we seem to be doing alright so far?" Well, one look at our current financial situation says all that needs to be said about the importance of not giving up. Why worry about reaching out to our community when "those people" might never join our church? Because "Love cares more for others than for self." Rather than wish we had what "XYZ Church Down the Street" has we can work with the many assets and blessings we do have to be the church Jesus calls us to be in the place God has put us by the strength and guidance of the Holy Spirit within us. "Love doesn't want what it doesn't have", it makes the most of what it has and is, driven by love of God and neighbor.

Re-read the passage above. If you prefer, read it in a version of scripture you are more familiar with. If you automatically connect it with a marriage ceremony, think of the many times in scripture that talk about the Church as the Bride of Christ. Love is the foundation of a strong marriage, love is the cornerstone a strong church, love is all the things Paul says it is. Love is the key to our future as a Christian community of faith.

Your partner in ministry and mission,

Pr. Jim Person

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

There is a talk radio personality named Dave Ramsey who made a name for himself promoting a personal finance program. The keys to his program include taking drastic steps to eliminate debt from your life and subsequently build up wealth all from a Christian perspective. Such a change in lifestyle is hard, but he reminds his listeners to be intentional about their money saying you have to live like no one else so later you can live (and give) like no one else.

Although I have not adopted Dave's program verbatim, listening to his message has helped me rethink my relationship with money. That's especially true of debt. Our culture teaches us that we can have what we want now and pay for it later. We borrow money now for a car, college, or house and in exchange we get the obligation to repay it in monthly installments over the next several years. That's the danger of debt; that decisions we make about borrowing money determines how we are able to spend our money in the future. We lose our freedom to choose where our money goes because of an ongoing obligation to pay someone else. I could continue on about the money you lose by paying interest as well. Your personal finances don't have to be like that.

We have been talking a lot about stewardship recently, instilling a sense of gratitude and generosity for the gifts God has given us. But it occurs to me that many people might be willing to give more, but face a barrier to doing so. Maybe you want to increase your charitable giving but you're already committed to a \$300 auto loan payment every month. Or maybe you have a practice of eating out three nights a week and charging it to a credit card. I'm really wondering whether people in our congregation and community have a desire to give but have made decisions with their money that limits their freedom to choose.

Perhaps there is a ministry opportunity here. Do we have people around us who face these financial challenges and want to make changes in their lives, but feel overwhelmed or lack some support to do it? Alternatively, do we have congregation members who are more proficient in financial matters and are willing to provide guidance to those in need? If either statement describes you, I invite you to speak with Pastor or me. This may be an emotionally challenging topic, so you can be assured of our respect for your privacy.

Other Recent Council Action:

Approved disbursements from specially-designated funds an amount not to exceed \$25,000 for planned renovations to the Fellowship Hall.

Note Council will not meet during the month of July. The next scheduled Council meeting is August 21.

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.

Faithfully Yours,
Nick Zingone



A PRAYER FOR THE 4TH

Lord Jesus, thou who art the way, the truth and the life; hear us as we pray for the truth that shall make all free. Teach us that liberty is not only to be loved but also to be lived. Liberty is too precious a thing to be buried in books. It costs too much to be hoarded. Help us see that our liberty is not the right to do as we please, but the opportunity to please to do what is right.



FUTURE MEETING

Saturday, August 18, 2018 - Lower Susquehanna Synod Women's Convention, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Carlisle. More in formation to follow regarding deadline.

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.

31st ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE LOWER SUSQUEHANNA SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

When: Saturday, August 18, 2018

Where: St. Paul Lutheran Church, Carlisle, PA

Who: Anyone that would like to enrich their faith, grow in their understanding of the purpose of

the Women of the ELCA, and enjoy fellowship.

Theme: "For Just Such a Time as This"

(based on Esther 4:14)

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


What and whom to expect

- Registration - Saturday - 8:45 - 9:15 a.m.
- Bishop James Dunlop will lead the Eucharist Worship Service. 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
- Lisa Plorin, Churchwide Representative and President of the Churchwide Board
- Jennifer De Leon - Region 8-D Representative Director for Justice, Women of the ELCA
- Rev. Rob Moore, Pastor, St. Paul, Carlisle
- Rev. Nancy Easton, Chaplain, St. Paul
- Saturday Lunch - 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.
- Call to Order 1:45 - 3:30 p.m.
- Formal Closing 3:30 - 4:00 p.m.

Contact Shirley Johns or Barb Dudek if you are interested in attending. Registration Fee \$20, deadline July 17, 2018.

THE FINANCE MINISTRY met recently to discuss the operating shortfall our church experienced for the first five months (through May.) While we have had similar shortfalls in past years, this year is somewhat larger than before. While receipts are only slightly less than last year, our expenses have increased more. The cold winter and spring resulted in much larger electric and gas bills than expected and insurance costs have risen. We are hopeful the generosity of congregation members will result in offerings/gifts that alleviate the shortfall.

Also, there are presently 40 families who make automatic payments regularly through the Simply Giving program. This insures that their gifts come to the church regularly even when they are away. Consider establishing this by filling out a form available in the Narthex.



6 - 7 Magical Mystery Tour
13 Flea Market & Car Wash
set-up 9 am - 12 pm
14 Flea Market & Car Wash
16 - 19 Vacation Bible School

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 Family,

Your concerns and prayers mean so much to me. The Altar Flowers were beautiful and a great "pick me up." The cards and calls, as well as Pastor Jim's visits, made me feel cared for.

I went to Holy Spirit, where my cardiologist suggested I get checked. All tests thankfully were negative. Then I developed cellulitis in my leg before the discharge papers were signed.

I'm now home again and glad to see such caring friends.

Thanks & Blessings
Judee Leister

To My St. Mark's Family,

Thank you for the flowers and gifts I received for my 85th birthday. I really enjoyed it and all the surprises.

In Christian Love,
Gitta May

Dear Friends at St. Mark's,

Thank you very much for your prayers, words of concern and Get Well cards during my hospitalization, in March, for heart failure.

Many thanks, recently, for your cards celebrating my 90th birthday. We are blessed with such caring friends at St. Mark's.

Bill Van Nieuwkuyk

MEMORIAL for Hilda Deibert was given by Susan & Stan Simpler.

NEW ADDRESSES

RYAN SHADLE
210 Long View
Carlisle, PA 17013

MEG RUSANOWSKY
6442 Brittan Road
Harrisburg, PA 17111

TOM POPSON
130 Leonard Lane
Harrisburg, PA 17111

- 3 Emmalyn Hudson
- 6 Jim Carl
Michael Cleaver
- 7 Nancy Hartman
- 8 Jeanne Flickinger
- 9 Andrew Zingone
- 10 Kyle Ellestad
Tate Ingram
- 11 David Mink
- 15 McKenzie Correll
- 16 Ashley Betz
- 19 Carol Weldon
- 21 Stephen Swetnam
Laurie Womer
- 22 Molly Stanton
- 23 Judy Horton
- 24 Sandy Kroah
- 25 Patricia Bethel
Callan Davis
Nancy Rowe
- 26 Paul Stouffer
- 27 Reagan Whitaker
- 28 Meaghan Lang

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



THANK YOU to everyone who helped with NutriPacks.
Your help was greatly appreciated!

JULY COMMUNION ASST.

8:15 AM	11:00 AM
1 Men in Mission	Men in Mission
8 Jeannie Flickinger	Sandy Sherwood
9 Lauren Zaccarelli/Hengst	Zara Bennett
15 Laurie Womer	Dennis DeFrank
Paul Deibler	Sara Jane DeFrank
22 Laurie Womer	Lore-Lee Walak
Paul Deibler	Elliott Walak
29	Tracy Ingram
	Tate Ingram

JULY LECTORS CARE

8:15 AM	11:00 AM
1 Men in Mission	Men in Mission
8 Randy Whitaker	Dennis DeFrank
15 Laurie Womer	Youth
22 Lauren Zaccarelli/Hengst	Zara Bennett
29 Mary Edna Leedy	Sandy Sherwood

JULY ALTAR CARE

8:15 AM	11:00 AM
1 Laura Young	Marian Person
8 Laurie Womer	Laurie Womer
15 Sue Bennick	Barb Dudek
22 Barb Heym	Margie Stouffer
29 Barb Heym (if needed)	Marian Person

JULY FLOWER DELIVERY

- 1 Sandy Dinger
- 8 Sue Smithers
- 15 June Miller
- 22 Donna Lee
- 29 Laurie Womer

JULY GREETERS

8:15 AM	11:00 AM
1 Men in Mission	Men in Mission
8 Jane Shetron	Gene Nicodemus
Jill Lehman	Marsha Nicodemus
15 Dave & Emma Mink	Dave & Molly Stanton
22 Paul & Jonnie Deibler	Mike & Lucy Nusz
29 Sue Senft	Pearl Engleman
	Betty Briner

SPECIAL DATES

- Independence Day, July 4, 2018

ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4200 Londonderry Road
Harrisburg, PA 17109

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U.S. Postage
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CHANGE SERVICE
REQUESTED

DO NOT DELAY DELIVERY
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THE PARISH POST



St. Mark's Church Council

President	Nick Zingone
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Council Members	Chris Bair
	Joe Baranowski
	Tom Graham
	Jim Long
	Pastor Jim Person
	Sandy Sherwood
	Rebekah Varga
	Lore Lee Walak
	Roberta Wege
	Laura Young
Minister of Music	Joyce Van Nieuwkuyk
Church Secretary	Kim DiPaolo
Youth/Family Ministry	Bennett Williams
Sexton	Donald Young
Nursery School Dir.	Pam Baranowski

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