

The Parish Post

JULY 2019

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

FLEA MARKET/CAR WASH

Saturday July 20th

7:00 AM



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!

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



First, let me apologize for the late arrival of this month's *Parish Post*, it is totally my fault for getting my article to Kim a week late. I have no good reason, just a combination of procrastination, confusion and forgetfulness. As I often say about church attendance, or lack of it, some folks have reasons (which are valid) and some have excuses, (not so valid). Unfortunately, my timing this month falls into the second category.

Now, to the business at hand. I have come to a new appreciation of Paul's epistles, or letters, written to the churches he founded. Martin Luther found his revelation of justification by grace through faith while studying Paul's letter to the church in Ephesus and, because of that revelation, started a worldwide movement that became known as The Reformation.

I have also come to appreciate a variety of versions of the Bible for the perspectives they offer on scripture. Following are three different versions of the verse that changed Luther's life and led to major changes in the church, including the beginning of the Lutheran Church:

Ephesians 2:8-10 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God — ⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Ephesians 2:8-10 Contemporary English Version (CEV)

⁸You were saved by faith in God, who treats us much better than we deserve.^[a] This is God's gift to you, and not anything you have done on your own. ⁹It isn't something you have earned, so there is nothing you can brag about. ¹⁰God planned for us to do good things and to live as he has always wanted us to live. That's why he sent Christ to make us what we are.

(2.8 *treats us much better than we deserve*: The Greek word *charis*, traditionally rendered <<grace>> is translated here and other places in the CEV to express the overwhelming kindness of God.)

Ephesians 2:8-10 The Message (MSG)

⁷⁻¹⁰Now God has us where he wants us, with all the time in this world and the next to shower grace and kindness upon us in Christ Jesus. Saving is all his idea, and all his work. All we do is trust him enough to let him do it. It's God's gift from start to finish! We don't play the major role. If we did, we'd probably go around bragging that we'd done the whole thing! No, we neither make nor save ourselves. God does both the making and saving. He creates each of us by Christ Jesus to join him in the work he does, the good work he has gotten ready for us to do, work we had better be doing.

Each of these three states the same thing in a little different way. Please note, especially, in the Contemporary English Version the footnote explaining the translation of the Greek word, "charis." I think it is sometimes easy for us to forget what grace is all about. As children of a fallen humanity we certainly do not deserve all the wonderful blessings God grants us. The greatest of these blessings is, of course, salvation to eternal life. This is something we could never earn or gain in any way on our own. As The Message says, "we neither make nor save ourselves."

Works are not meaningless, of course. In his Epistle, St. James tells us, "faith without works is dead." This verse caused some difficulty for Luther, with his emphasis on grace, but we need to understand that works are the reaction to and result of our salvation by grace, not the means to obtain it. Notice that all three versions above make it clear that we have already been saved, that "God has us where he wants us," before we could even think of doing anything to save ourselves.

We do not have to save ourselves, there is no magic formula for becoming justified in the eyes of God, no one on earth has the power to save our souls. We are created for good works and when we do otherwise it is the result of sin and the sinful world in which we live, of which we are a part. That's why I like the CEV rendering of Ephesians 2:10, "God planned for us to do good things and to live as he has always wanted us to live. That's why he sent Christ to make us what we are." **Be who you are!**

Your partner in ministry and mission,

Pr. Jim Person



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.



7th - 13th Lutheran HANDS Mission Trip
19th Flea Market & Car Wash Set-up
9 am - 12 pm
20th Flea Market & Car Wash 7:00 a.m.
28th - Aug. 1st VBS



To each and every one of our "Friday Merry-men",

Thank you for always being here and keeping us on our toes and with lots of "muscle" and laughter!

Have a safe and happy summer!

Wendy, Ken & Julio
Nutri-pack coordinators

St. Mark's Family,

Thank you for all the love and encouragement that you have extended to Suezan and I. The beautiful flowers delivered by Susan Dillahey. Suezan's recent hospitalization occurred on her birthday. Thank you Pastor for your phone call. We send Love and Prayers to all of you.

Lucy & Suezan

Dear St. Mark's Lutheran Church,

What a gift you've given! Thank you for your recent gift of \$830.00 to Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) ministries through ELCA Good Gifts.

In God's abundant grace,
Christina Jackson-Skelton
Executive Director, Mission
Advancement

- 3 Emmalyn Hudson
- 6 Jim Carl
Michael Cleaver
- 7 Nancy Hartman
- 8 Jeanne Flickinger
- 9 Andrew Zingone
- 10 Kyle Eliestad
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 Pat Bethel
Callan Davis
Nancy Rowe
- 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.

SPECIAL DATES

- U.S. Independence Day, July 4, 2019

The **ST. MARK'S BOOK CLUB** has some interesting books to talk about in the next few months. If you enjoy reading, perhaps you would like to read one of the books and join us in the parlor at 10 am for a discussion of the following books:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Book</u>	<u>Author</u>
July 25	Before We Were Yours	Lisa Wingate
Aug. 22	Beneath A Scarlet Sky	Mark Sullivan
Sept. 26	The Radium Girls	Kate Moore

JULY LECTORS

8:15 AM	11:00 AM
7 Men in Mission	Men in Mission
14 Mary Edna Leedy	Zara Bennett
21 Faith Smeck	Tom Stohler
28 Michael Hengst	Susan Smith

JULY ALTAR CARE

8:15 AM	11:00 AM
7 Laurie Womer	Sandy Dinger
14 Sue Bennick	Barb Dudek
21 Laura Young	Sandy Dinger
28 Barb Heym	Marian Person
	Donna Woodrow

JULY FLOWER DELIVERY

- 7 - Peggy Davis
- 14 - Peggy Davis
- 21 - Barb Heym
- 28 - Marian Person

JULY COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

8:15 AM	11:00 AM
7 Men in Mission	Men in Mission
14 Jeannie Flickinger	Tracy Ingram
Lauren Zaccarelli/Hengst	Sandy Sherwood
21 Carla & Randy Whitaker	Sara Jane DeFrank
	Dennis DeFrank
28 Laurie Womer	Lore-Lee Walak
Paul Deibler	Elliott Walak



FREE
First Saturday of every
month.

8:00 - 9:30 am

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

School is out, summer is here and there are continued opportunities to connect at St. Mark's.

Nursery school had a wonderful graduation ceremony. Our youth attended confirmation camp. If you take the opportunity to speak with any of them who have attended you will be amazed at how much it means to them as they continue their spiritual journeys. I have heard so many accounts of our young adults looking forward to seeing old friends and acquaintances as they develop their faith and leadership.

Fellowship held another delicious chicken and ribs BBQ. The next one is scheduled in August so please watch your calendars. They always welcome anyone who would like to join them - more hands are welcome. If you are not able to participate by being there, you could always provide baked goods for dessert or come and purchase dinners or pre-sell dinners to others.

VBS is particularly exciting this year for many reasons! It will be held July 28 to August 1. Especially exciting this year is that the curriculum of the Lower Susquehanna Synod contains music and songs written by Bennett Williams and Jen Joyce with lyrics to those songs performed by some of our own St. Mark's Advent Choir members !!! This is definitely something you won't want to miss! In addition, sessions will begin with a 5 o'clock supper for participants and family - hopefully a way to make coming a little easier for people with children. Each of those meals will be sponsored by some of our St. Mark's ministries. There are opportunities for all members to help sponsor these whether it is contributing some money to help defray the cost or whether you want to come to meet and greet some of the people attending. Please know that there are still many many opportunities to serve during VBS. You could help with set up, a craft, teaching or cleanup. If you have any availability, there is a job for you!

Please remember that "U R" the chURch and we need the support and participation of all as you are able! I look forward to seeing you in church!

In Christian love,
Stephanie Carl

The Stewardship Ministry of St. Marks would like to take this opportunity to promote, and hopefully engage you all in our upcoming Vacation Bible School which will be July 28 until August 1. This year, something different is going to start and that will be to provide meals to the parents, staff and all children attending Bible School and any congregation members that would like to join us before the actual Bible School program starts. Several of the Ministries have already committed to help with meals. We would like as much congregation participation as possible, especially helping to serve the meals and introducing ourselves to the children and their families. (Meals will be prepared by the Fellowship Ministry.) Supplies for the meals (paper products, etc.) or monetary donations would also be appreciated. This year the theme is God's Good Creation which invites children of ALL ages to explore the many gifts God has given our world and the ways these gifts can help end hunger. Rooted in Lutheran theology, the children will learn how God has called them to use their gifts to help their neighbors.

This curriculum is special in that it was designed by the Lower Susquehanna Synod, of which we are a part, and all the music was written by our own Bennett Williams and Jen Joyce and was recorded by the children of St. Marks along with the Spirit and Truth Band. So, you can see how really extra super special this is. Each day will have a working theme and an animal associated with that day. The food choices will also correlate with the animal and theme of the day.

The schedule for the meals and the ministries sponsoring them is as follows:

Sunday

Monday - Men in Mission

Tuesday - Worship, Music and Arts and WELCA

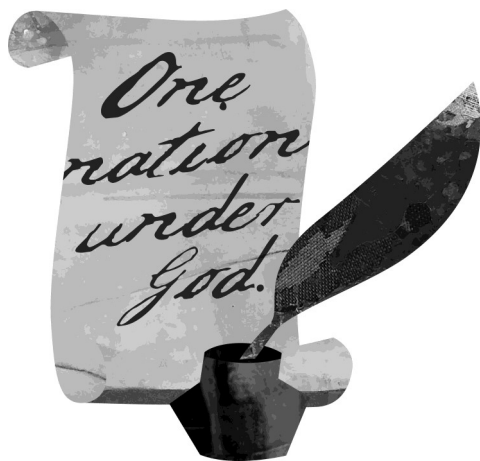
Wednesday - Evangelism and Social Services

Thursday - Council - (pizza and dessert to close out Bible School)

Be sure to check the board in the narthex for donations that are still needed. You can shop directly through the Amazon website link provided and it will be delivered directly to the church. How convenient is that? In addition, there will be sign up sheets if you would like to join us for dinner on an evening even if you cannot participate in any other way. You can also reach Pam Baranowski, Sandy McClain and Rebekah Varga, the ladies who are working very hard to bring this to the children, with your questions and/or offers to help at stmarkshbg.vbs@gmail.com.

The Amazon link is: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2EOGOIKY8Y81C?ref=wl_share. You can go here and see what donations are needed.

Please join us in contributing whatever you can, either as monetary contributions or offers to help in any way or just for good fellowship. The meals will be from 5:00 PM to approximately 6:00 PM with Bible School to follow until 8:00 PM. It's surely going to be a great time!



Loving God, we thank you — the true Father of our country — for the blessings of this land and the gifts of cultures around the world. Prompt us to strive for justice for all, at home and abroad. Remind us, in the words of the hymn, that “this is our Father's world” and that your goodness prevails. Amid tragedies and conflicts, guard us against despair. Help us focus on the kindness evident daily: from generous neighbors to conscientious public servants (because most are). On Independence Day and every day, “O let [us] ne’er forget that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet.” Amen.



Traditional Service Inside at 8:15am



9:45 am



11 am

CHILDREN OF ALL AGES ARE WELCOME!

Picnic immediately following Service.

Please bring your favorite side dish to share with the Congregation!

ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
2019 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
PRESENTS:

**GOD'S
GOOD
CREATION**

July 28th -
August 1st
6-8PM

For God to
lead the world

register at www.stmarksharrisburg.org
4200 Londonderry Road Hbg. Pa 17109 (717) 652-6700

Oink, Oink
Did you
Hear?

God's Good
Creation VBS
need YOU!!
Oink, Oink

Baa, No
what's
GOOOD??

I'd LOVE to
help,
Count me in!

We need YOU too!
July 28th - Aug. 1st

Come help spread the NEWS about God's Good Creation!
VOLUNTEER at VBS
Contact Sandy, Rebekah, or Pam at stmarkshbg.vbs@gmail.com

ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4200 Londonderry Road
Harrisburg, PA 17109

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THE PARISH POST



St. Mark's Church Council

President	Stephanie Carl
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	Joe Baranowski
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	Pastor Jim Person
	Rebekah Varga
	Lore Lee Walak
	Roberta Wege
	Laura Young
	Nick Zingone
Minister of Music	Joyce Van Nieuwkuyk
Minister of Contemporary Worship	Bennett Williams
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Youth/Family Ministry	Kellen Michalowski
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Nursery School Dir.	Pam Baranowski

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