



The Parish Post

JUNE 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, June 23 - Chicken BBQ/Ribs
10:30 am till gone.

Reserve your dinner in advance.

\$9.00 Chicken BBQ Meal - \$12.00 Ribs Meal

July 21 - Chicken BBQ

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!



Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7

2" So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. 3But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, 4so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. Matthew 6:2-4

1But a man named Ananias, with the consent of his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property; 2with his wife's knowledge, he kept back some of the proceeds, and brought only a part and laid it at the apostles' feet. 3 "Ananias", Peter asked, "why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back part of the proceeds of the land? 4While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, were not the proceeds at your disposal? How is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You did not lie to us but to God!". Acts 5:1-4

One of my responsibilities as Pastor of St. Mark's is to teach and promote Biblical Stewardship. While I don't like to talk about money any more than you like to hear about it, I have come to realize it is time for me to stop shirking that sometimes-difficult responsibility and get serious about what Biblical Stewardship is all about.

First of all, Biblical Stewardship is not about "paying the bills", or "doing my share." Biblical Stewardship is all about giving as God has given to us and giving as God *expects* us to give. Too often, I'm afraid, we, like Ananias, overlook what God expects in favor of what we are comfortable with.

The passages above show some of the difficulty in teaching and promoting Biblical giving. On the one hand, it feels good to give (be a cheerful giver), on the other hand, Jesus tells us not to make a show of our giving, and on the third hand(?) if we don't give as God expects, do we face the fate of Ananias?

I recently read the words below in *No One Gets There Alone* by Dr. Rob Bell. I was immediately struck by how it applies to one of the best kept secrets in most of our lives; how much we give to the church:

We are only as sick as our secrets. Is the culture of our environment one fraught with secrets or transparency? When we hold onto a secret, do not provide credit to someone else, call out someone for a little mistake, or put someone else down, we create a culture of it in our surroundings. Secrets perpetuate this notion of fear, scarcity, self-seeking, selfishness, and not helping others. Although keeping secrets is easy, communicating the truth is more difficult. The number of secrets we have inside of us indicates our overall health. The fewer; the better. The notion of secrets isn't also advocating that we need to tell everyone everything. Is it even possible to be completely honest with another person? We often conceal our own issues or insecurities so we can continue to act in specific ways. And it isn't so much the secret as it is about the story we need to tell ourselves about the secret. We need to believe in the narrative so we can continue the secret. However, when we hold onto secrets, they hold onto us. It is like not bathing, but putting on aftershave or perfume to cover it up. The degree of trust with one another is a large determining factor of success. Information and best practices get shared more, credit is freely given, and the culture of us becomes collective.

Think especially about concealing "our own issues or insecurities" and "the story we need to tell ourselves about the secret". Why do so many of us not give as God expects? What have we been telling ourselves about our giving? Why are we insecure about practicing Biblical Stewardship? Why do we not want others to know how much we give? Pride? Guilt? Our **average annual giving per confirmed member of about \$533** shows that some of each is in order, since some are giving considerably more and others less.

Why are we so secretive about our giving? Much ado was made over the fact that Donald Trump was reluctant to hand over his tax returns; would you allow our church treasurer to go over yours? At the risk of being like one of those hypocrites Jesus warns about, I will disclose that Marian and I regularly give over one-tenth of our income to the church, and if you want proof, I can produce it. While our giving should not be a source for public show, neither should it be anything to be ashamed of.

No one likes to be told what to do with their money and I am not the one to tell you. So, don't listen to me, go to the Bible, find what both Old and New Testaments say about giving as the Lord expects. You won't hear about giving from me often, but then **it is my responsibility** to teach and promote Biblical Stewardship.

Your partner in ministry and mission,
Pr. Jim Person

June 2018 Parish Post Article

From Council President

Growing up in the Catholic church it was common to hear messages promoting discernment of vocations into ordained positions. It was a fairly effective message. On a few occasions I contemplated whether God might be calling me into the priesthood. Instead I felt my calling to serve God was elsewhere as a husband and father. I know others from my home church who did go to seminary and are now ordained priests.

Now we just celebrated Pentecost and a sort of calling to vocations for Jesus's disciples. It seems fitting now to acknowledge the ways in which several of our St. Mark's family are responding to callings of their own. First of which is the calling to affirm the sacrament of baptism. On Pentecost Sunday we had the opportunity to confirm three young men, Christian, Nathaniel, and Tate, who accepted God's call to live lives as followers of Christ.

The second example is the call our youth have heard to act out their faith this summer. From our St. Mark's family we have 26 attending the Harrisburg area confirmation camp; of which ten are serving as staff, seven as counselors, one deacon, and eight others as campers. Through the conformation camp program youth have opportunities to witness to others in their faith journey. Aside from camp, we are also pleased to be sending a number of youth and advisors to the National Youth Gathering in Houston, TX. Alongside thousands of other attendees from across the U.S., they will certainly see God at work in the world and how they can help to fulfill His Mission.

But when it comes to discerning a vocation to serve God and His church, there are two people who certainly have answered yes in different ways. On one hand we have our own Kellen Michalowski, who over the last few years has moved ever closer to a vocation in youth ministry. Kellen's experiences have helped him discern his calling and has accepted the role of Director of Youth & Family Ministry at St. Mark's beginning this summer. Then we have lifelong member Troy Spencer whose next step in God's call is the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago as he begins preparing for his vocation as an ordained minister.

We want to extend our best wishes and Godspeed to all these young men and women, especially Kellen and Troy in their specific areas of vocation.

Other Recent Council Action:

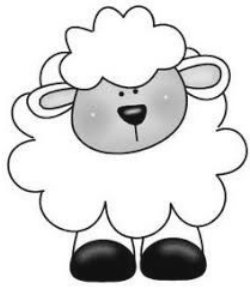
Approved 2018 annual salary contract for Kellen Michalowski with anticipated hire date June 25, 2018.

Approved disbursements from undesignated Mellinger fund income \$105 quarterly for "Have a Good Day" bulletin inserts, \$760 for 2018 Synod assembly registration, and \$500 to Charlie Roberts for his time given in leadership of The Table worship services.

Approved disbursement from undesignated Estates/Outside Benevolence funds \$100 donation to the Colonial Park Fire Company.

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



St. Mark's Nursery School

Hello St. Mark's,

We had an exciting end of the year, and did some amazing and new things. Our 2 and 3 year old classes went on a trip to Zoo America! We had a class where we learned about 5 different animals and their animal families. Winnie the Skunk played peek-a-boo with his towel during our class, and we got to pet the lizard that looks like a pancake, which was also a very popular animal for the kids. They also loved watching the bears play in the water, and seeing the baby prairie dogs. Over all it was a lot of fun! Our 4 year olds wrapped things up with having Carnival Day, even though it rained outside, we enjoyed it inside! They got to play lots of games and enjoy winning prizes. We also had a pizza party and then ended the week with graduation. They did such a nice job with their program and had fun taking photos and eating cake afterwards. As we get ready for next school year we wanted to also let you all know that we will be in need of some help in our class rooms next year. If you are interested in finding out some more information please see or call Pamela Baranowski. Thank You to Everyone for a great and successful year and have a nice summer!

Pamela Baranowski
Director

19th ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT - Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central Pennsylvania. Friday, June 8, 2018 at Honey Run Golf Course, York, PA. 1:30pm Shotgun Start \$90 per golfer \$360 per foursome. Enjoy golf, dinner, and fellowship. Proceeds benefit the Campership Fund. Download a registration form or register online at LutheranCamping.org.

Women of the ELCA

Tuesday, June 5 - 9:00 AM - Projects Day

Monday, June 11 - 6:00 PM - W/ELCA Unified Meeting and Covered Dish

Tuesday, June 12 - 10:00 AM - Esther Circle
Eve Circle - No Meeting

UNIFIED MEETING - MONDAY, JUNE 11 @ 6:00 PM

Bring your favorite picnic food and join us for our last Unified Meeting of this program year on Monday, June 11 at 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. This is a covered dish dinner, so bring your appetite. We will be electing board members for 2018/2019. W/ELCA Board will meet after the Unified Meeting.

Place settings and beverages will be provided. Hope to see you there.

FUTURE MEETING

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



3 LYF Meeting - 5 - 8:30 pm
10 LYF Last Meeting - 5-9 pm
16 - 22nd Confirmation Camp
27 - July 1 ELCA National Youth Gathering in Houston, TX



WHERE IN THE WORLD?

Breathe - relax - read. Doesn't that sound fantastic? We often hear that we need to take time out for ourselves for our own health and sanity. As summer approaches, many of us will plan some quality time with family and friends, whether it be a picnic, day trip or time away. We do things to make ourselves and others happy. I challenge you to do the same on your relationship with God. Be intentional in doing things that make Him happy. In early biblical times unblemished sacrifices were made, offerings that were pleasing to God. He does not want your leftovers, He wants your first fruits, your full attention, your purposeful giving of your time and talents.

One way to build on your relationship with God is through prayer. I encourage you to participate in our prayer chain that specifically acknowledges what our mission team needs during our time in the Ukraine. Although you may not be able to physically give to satisfy these needs, have FAITH (For All I Trust in Him) that the Lord will provide. God allows us to take each breath, to relax in His glory and to read His promises in the bible. Jesus taught us to pray and commanded us to love one another (which happens to be the bible camp theme). Answer the call.

*Prayerfully yours,
Ruth*

ART FOR KIDS AT THE WITTEL FARM

Kids will have an opportunity to explore art, nature, and their faith, making connections with themselves, others, and God. They will create art in a nurturing environment where they will be encouraged to experiment and try out their ideas. Emphasis will be placed on the process and joy of creating!

"Creativity at its core is all about making connections, either with ourselves, our ideas, or those around us. The very act of making allows for a different kind of freedom that can connect us to who we truly are." Meri Cherry mericherry.com "Art is a powerful tool to open up the minds of people to the impossible possibilities that God has in store for our faith community, our world, and us." -Theresa Cho theresaecho.com Kids will have an opportunity to explore art, nature, and their faith, making connections with themselves, others, and God. They will create art in a nurturing environment where they will be encouraged to experiment and try out their ideas. Emphasis will be placed on the process and joy of creating! Questions about Art for Kids can be directed to Abby Leese at abby.lieese@gmail.com or 717.521.2167. @ The Wittel Farm 1753 Mill Rd, Elizabethtown, PA Wednesdays June 20, 27, July 11, 18, 25th 9-12am Preschoolers 1-4pm Elementary Saturdays June 23, July 7, 21 Aug 4 9-12pm PK and Elementary. Register at tinyurl.com/artwittel

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

From Calvin Smith

How do you describe Biblical Stewardship?

Everything comes to us from God and we are his Stewards. He needs to conscientiously take care/manage his gifts. We should faithfully return our tithes generously in appreciation for his generous care for us.

Has biblical Stewardship always been important to you?

Yes, when I was confirmed at age 14 the importance of Stewardship was instilled in my confirmation class we all received envelopes for our weekly contributions. Throughout most of my life, my home church, as well as St. Mark's, had annual Commitment Sundays when

everyone was asked to make commitments for the coming year. Only recently the church has gotten away from asking for these commitments, but we should continue to faithfully support the mission of our church as best we can.

What message would you like to share with others about Biblical Stewardship?

For the last 18 years St. Mark's has offered a program where regular contributions can be made through automatic payments from our accounts (Simply Giving). My family began this practice since inception and continues to this day. It allows the church to receive regular donations even when we are away or not able to be there on Sunday for any reason. I've been blessed with wondrous gifts from God and feel it's important to return generously for his goodness.



- 2 Beth Evans
- 3 Jackson Adams
Anita Fleegal
- 4 Paul Deibler
- 5 Doris Atkinson
Bill Van Nieuwkuyk
- 6 Ashley Sultzaberger
Rebekah Varga
- 7 Jill Lehman
- 10 Mark Banic
- 13 William Dullen
Anthony Sultzaberger
- 14 Jonathan Lee
- 15 Sarah Dinger
Kenneth Sutch
- 15 Aaron Appleby
Ginny Ragot
- 17 Gitta May
Michele Spencer
- 18 Jo-Ann Wahl
- 19 John Amaike
- 21 Kailyn Edwards
- 23 Charles Judd
- 24 Grace Harr
- 25 Jacob Sholder
Connor Smith
- 26 Loraine Mariner
- 27 Luann Johns
- 28 Tanya Betz
- 30 Amy Simpler

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

SPECIAL DATES

- Flag Day, June 14, 2018
- Father's Day, June 17, 2018
- First day of summer, June 21, 2018

JUNE COMMUNION ASST.

8:15 AM	11:00 AM
3 Men in Mission	Men in Mission
10 Jeannie Flickinger Lauren Zaccarelli	Tracy Ingram Sandy Sherwood
17 Alice Graham Roberta Wege	Dennis DeFrank Sara Jane DeFrank
24 Laurie Womer Paul Deibler	Lore-Lee Walak Elliott Walak

JUNE LECTORS CARE

8:15 AM	11:00 AM
3 Men in Mission	Men in Mission
10 Janice Alloway	Sara Jane DeFrank
17 Abigail Zingone	Youth
24 Susan Smith	Lore-Lee Walak

JUNE ALTAR CARE

8:15 AM	11:00 AM
3 Sue Bennick	Barb Dudek
10 Laurie Womer	Margie Stouffer
17 Laura Young	Marian Person
24 Barb Heym	Barb Dudek

JUNE FLOWER DELIVERY

- 3 Shirley Johns
- 10
- 17 Donna Lee
- 24

JUNE GREETERS

8:15 AM	11:00 AM
3 Men in Mission	Men in Mission
10	Nancy Hartman
17	Danielle DiSerio
	Brooke DiSerio
24	George Kaufman

MEMORIALS for Harriet Mark

Kenneth & Carolann Bilger
Theodore & Linda Conrad
Don & Ruth Herbster
John & Margaret Herigan
Ed & Donna Lee
Dave & Emma Mink
Troup Family

ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4200 Londonderry Road
Harrisburg, PA 17109

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St. Mark's Church Council

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	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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