



The Parish Post

JUNE 2020

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

www.stmarksharrisburg.org

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The Rev. James E. Person, 717-712-8191



"Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes. Matthew 6:34, The Message Copyright © 1993, 2002, 2018 by Eugene H. Peterson

It can be surprising sometimes where inspiration comes from, but then, I've always said that if you look for God everywhere, God might show up anywhere. For example, I'm reading

Iron in My Hands by Dave Draper (former Mr. America, now 78 years old) and Dan John (well-known strength coach) and I wanted to share this quote with you:

"The world situation: Who can fix it? We've been trying forever, here we are today and it's still a beautiful mess. Still, our individual participation is vital. Don't do anything to make it worse, and maintain a positive and productive atmosphere around you. Contribute where you can with your talents, knowledge, awareness and energy, and recognize in your head and heart that you're doing just that. You count. You influence your surroundings far more than you realize. Your smile can light up a room; your glare can darken it. Imagine what your laughter can accomplish right about now. Earthshaking.

The local situation: it's called daily living. We all face it, endure it and cope with it. Now is the time to recall we have also loved it, applauded it and could not get our fill of it. The road is winding and rough, and then it's a highway. There's the storm and there's the calm, the steep climb and the mountain's peak. One cannot be without the other, you note, if you're paying attention. Here it comes again. Breathe deep; grab on, hold tight and go with the flow. Look up; observe, learn and grow. This too will pass."

This book was published in 2016, but it could very well be addressing the situations around us this week. We have

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.

Coronavirus, police brutality, violent protests, and the usual host of disasters, natural and otherwise, going on in the world. All those things plus concerns about jobs, finances, school schedules, and whatever personal issues we are dealing with, are part of our local situation. Yet, in the midst of it all, we hear Jesus say, “do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.”

Depending on your own situation, you might react differently to Jesus’ assurance. I have been fortunate to not have my life too disrupted by the goings-on of the past several months. I have sorely missed being in worship with all of you each Sunday, but other than that, things have been better for me than for many others. I have been able to come to my office on a regular schedule, prepare Bible Study and sermons as usual, and “visit” with many of you by telephone. It has also been a time of learning how to use social media and construct email mailing lists, etc. But for others, I know life has been far from what they have been used to. Layoffs, cutbacks, delays in unemployment compensation, neighborhoods in turmoil, and boredom and doldrums from lack of places to go, people to see, and things to do, have had a dramatic effect on many of the people we know and love. Yet, in the midst of it all, we hear Jesus say, “do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.”

Jesus was addressing a crowd that was concerned about many of the same things that worry us; money, security, even food, clothing and shelter. He wasn’t just spouting platitudes, he gave good reason for not worrying, “indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.” Faith in our heavenly father means trust in God’s ability and desire to provide for us, his children. Like Martin Luther in his commentary on the Ten Commandments, Jesus also gives a positive response to offset the admonition against worry, “But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

“Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.” It’s not just “don’t worry, be happy”, it’s “DON’T WORRY, BE FAITHFUL!”

Your partner in ministry and mission,



Pr. Jim Person

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

We are indeed experiencing challenging times and one of those involves the reopening of St. Mark’s. Our goal is to have our first worship services in person in the church on June 14, 2020. While this is an exciting and comforting thought in some ways, it is also a cautious time knowing the COVID-19 virus is still at work in our community.

To assess the situation and ensure that the proper mitigation measures are taken, we formed a task force for the reopening of St. Mark’s. This task force consists of Pastor Jim, Sandy Sherwood, Nick Zingone, Tom Graham, Rebekah Varga, Chris Bair and Stephanie Carl. The goal of the task force is to ensure that we are taking the necessary steps for the safety and well-being of all of our members. This will be a work in progress and will change as our government health services provide different guidelines. All of us on the task force thank you in advance for your compliance with the guidelines that we have established for the safe reopening of Saint Mark’s. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to any member of the task force. During this time, Pastor Jim will also continue to make his message available virtually for those who do not feel comfortable worshipping in person.

We look forward to working through this difficult time with God's help and with the guidance of medical and scientific experts and the cooperation of our members.

Looking forward to seeing you in church as we reopen safely.

In Christian love,
Stephanie

LECTOR COORDINATOR NEEDED

What does the job entail?

Get people to commit to reading – either by calling or securing them in person. I will provide a list of all those wonderful people that have volunteered over the past 10 years.

Readers need secured for the 8:15 am and 11 am service. In addition, all special services –

Pastor Jim will let you know what is needed.

Mail or email the readings to the secured volunteer readers.

Give list of readers to church secretary by the bulletin deadline.

If you think this is something you might be interested in – please let Lauren Zaccurelli (Hengst) or Pastor Jim know. I promise, we will walk you through it and help you get started.

Thank you for your consideration!

*Thank
you*

Dear Pastor Jim,

Just a note of thanks to you and your church family for all of the kindness and support you gave Pearl and our family over the past few months. We can never repay you for the many hours of time, care and

labor you provided Pearl in her last days.

We also want to thank you for and the others who traveled to Frackville for her burial. Your words and prayers meant so much and brought comfort to all of us. I know it would have meant a lot to Pearl as well. We are forever grateful to all of you.

May God Bless you and the wonderful family of St. Mark's.

Karin Graziano & Engleman family

ST. MARK'S AGAPE' FUND, from which we provide help for members and others in immediate need, is running low on funds. This is a designated fund supported by members' contributions. If you would like to contribute to the Agape' fund, please mark your check or envelope "AGAPE FUND and place it in the offering plate, drop it off or mail it to the office, or give it to Pastor Jim. Thank you.



JUNE

MEMORIALS

- 3 Jackson Adams
Anita Fleegal
4 Paul Deibler
Carla Kolter
5 Doris Atkinson
Willem Van Nieuwkuyk
6 Ashley Sultzaberger
Rebekah Varga
7 Jill Lehman
9 Lincoln Miller
10 Mark Banic
11 Samuel Lang
13 William Dullen
Anthony Sultzaberger
14 Jonathan Lee
15 Sarah Dinger
Kenneth Sutch
16 Aaron Appleby
Lucy Weaver
17 Margit May
Michele Spencer
18 Jo-Ann Wahl
21 Kailyn Edwards (McClenahan)
Sherry Davis
23 Charles Judd
24 Grace Harr
25 Connor Smith
Jacob Sholder
26 Loraine Mariner
27 Luann Johns
28 Tanya Betz
Beth Evans
29 Janice Alloway
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.

Beginning of JULY

- 3 Emmalyn Hudson
6 Michael Cleaver
7 Nancy Hartman
8 Jeanne Flickinger



Judee Leister

Carla & Randy Whitaker
Sandy & Dennis Dinger
Nick & Abigail Zingone
Linda Hardy
Sara Jane & Dennis DeFrank
Lucy & Mike Nusz
Stan & Susan Simpler
Ed & Donna Lee
Don & Ruth Herbster
Bill Shook
Mike & Lauren Hengst
Mary Reeser
Barb & Vaughn Heym
Jo-Ann Wahl
Ed & Carolyn Shadle
Emma & Dave Mink
Sue & Wayne Smithers
Jeanne & Don Flickinger
Faith & Dale Smeck
Zara Bennett
Shirley Johns
Carol Buck & Brian Linton

Connie Wise

Carla & Randy Whitaker
Sandy & Dennis Dinger
Donna & Ed Lee
Jeanne & Don Flickinger
Kathleen & Martin Kovach
Sara Jane & Dennis DeFrank
Mike & Lauren Hengst
Margaret & John Herigan
Richard Stone
Raymond Davis
Zara Bennett
Shirley Johns
Walter & Bonnie Naef

Pearl Engleman

Carla & Randy Whitaker
Nick & Abigail Zingone
Sara Jane & Dennis DeFrank
Jeanne & Don Flickinger
Stan & Susan Simpler
Ed & Donna Lee
Barb & Vaughn Heym
Ed & Carolyn Shadle
Zara Bennett
Mary Reeser
Mike & Lauren Hengst
Faith & Dale Smeck
Lucy & Mike Nusz
Shirley Johns
Susan Seitz
Sue & Wayne Smithers

Donna Lahr

Vaughn & Barb Heym
Carolyn & Ed Shadle
Zara Bennett
Renee Carpenter
Carla & Randy Whitaker

Alice Dormer

Jean Sharkey
Gilbert & Ruth Snyder
Carolyn Daley

Paul Stouffer

Deb Banks

Special dates

- Trinity Sunday, *June 7, 2020*
- Flag Day, *June 14, 2020*
- First day of summer, *June 20, 2020*
- Father's Day, *June 21, 2020*

MEMORIALS

Betty Shook

Jim & Anna Marie Neutrelle
Stan & Susan Simpler
Thomas & Anna Shope
Eleanor Weber
Arden & Jeanne Hoopes
April McClaine
Michelle Gable
Suzanne Goetz
Michael & Barbara Nagle
Dallas & Donald Stoy
Frank & Etta Zaccarelli
Andra Marotta
John & Maria Serio-Melvin
Matthew & Shelley Johns
Gabrielle Sebastian
Wayne & Sue Smithers
Grover & Mary Herr
Mary Ann Maguire
Shirley & Luann Johns
Jeaanne & Don Flickinger
Mike & Lucy Nusz
Carolyn & Ed Shadle
Ed & Donna Lee
Roy Shook, Jr
Robert Hengst
Sharon Spencer
Alvin Myers
Loretta Coyne
St. Mark's Choir
Thomas Duszak
Esther Circle
Deb Banks
Renee Carpenter
Sandy & Dennis Dinger
Zara Bennett
M/M Glen Graber
Earl Zimmerman
Jeanne & Don Flickinger
Bill Shook
Carla & Randy Whitaker
Dave & Emma Mink
Faith & Dale Smeck
Sara Jane & Dennis DeFrank

Jim Carl

Steve & Winnie Wetzler
Vaughn & Barb Heym
Zara Bennett
Burton Hendricks
Joyce & Bill Van Nieuwkuyk
Designated to St Mark's Nursery School
Mike & Lucy Nusz
Carolyn & Ed Shadle
Karen & Calvin Smith
Renee Carpenter
Emma & Dave Mink
Carla & Randy Whitaker
Sue Bennick
Sandy Sherwood
Sandy & Dennis Dinger
Dale & Faith Smeck
Don & Nancy Orlowski
Peggy Schmidt
Sara Jane & Dennis DeFrank
Robert Holtzapple
Tracy Ingram
Nick & Abigail Zingone
Deb Banks

Bob Zeigler

Zara Bennett
M/M Joseph Mancuso
June Miller
Jay & Nancy Krevsky
Suzanne Goetz

Alice Houck

Stan & Susan Simpler
Sue Benick
Zara Bennett
Jo-Ann Wahl
Deb Banks

Miriam Glosser

St. Marks WELCA
Shirley Johns
Donna & Ed Lee
Emma & Dave Mink
Vaughn & Barbara Heym
Patricia & William Veith
Carla & Randy Whitaker
Sara Jane & Dennis DeFrank
Carolyn & Ed Shadle
Renee Carpenter
Zara Bennett

Dear St. Mark's family,

What a beginning of 2020 this has been. None of us could have been prepared for the challenges the Corona-virus and physical distancing has brought to our "normal" lives. Many of us, myself included, have felt the fear, anger, shock and the feeling of just being overwhelmed. So much feels different. I pray that all of you are doing well as can be expected and staying safe.

While so much feels different, some things remain constant. The love of God, our connections of friendship and prayer and our commitment to each other. Through the wonders of technology and his dedication to all of us as congregants and beyond, Pastor Jim has been providing us with wonderful messages each week through virtual worship and Wednesday bible study sessions. One of the best things we did in my mind was to have a "drive through" graduation for our nursery school Pre-K Sheep class as they prepare for Kindergarten. Many thanks to Pam Baranowski and her dedicated crew for that. Thereby proving we don't need a building to be St. Mark's...we need each other.

I want to thank you for your financial commitment to St. Mark's. Your gifts have helped to sustain the mission and ministry of our congregation. Your support is critical. I hope your circumstances will enable you to continue your usual contributions. We do know what devastating personal economic challenges have been occurring so please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers.

If you are able to make an additional donation, no matter it's size, it is deeply appreciated and empowers us to carry out our church's ability to make a difference.

Together we can support each other through this difficult time and be spiritually together while physically apart.

In God's Love,
Sandy Sherwood, Stewardship Chair



Choices

Decisions, decisions, decisions. We make them every day, some taking split seconds, while others require deeper thought about advantages, disadvantages and consequences. After a little over 2 months of Romania's declaration of a state of emergency, the government has downgraded the level to "state of alert." Masks and social distancing are mandatory, but the curfew has been lifted. Stores are open for business if their public entry ways lead directly outside (in other words, only some stores within a mall qualify). Restaurant seating is still closed. Churches are closed, but parishioners can worship outside, following social distancing regulations and observing mandatory signage with directions for sanitization and social distancing.

So, I went for a walk for the first time (without groceries) in the past 65 days. In previous outings, I guesstimate about 75% of the people I saw had masks, and no more than 2 people were seen together at a time. Surprisingly, today demonstrated a much lower regard for social distancing protocols. Only about 50% of people were wearing masks, and groups of 4-10 people were roaming around (mostly late teens/early twenties). This makes me feel disheartened that exposure to COVID-19 will be increased beyond control in the upcoming weeks.

Please continue to pray for me as I patiently await decisions this week. Specifically, I'm waiting to hear when I can safely return to the 2 shelters that I connected with, as well as from my travel agent to postpone my plans to return home this summer. For now, I'm scheduled to food shop for needy church families at the end of the week.

You must act according to the decisions they give you at the place the Lord will choose. Be careful to do everything they instruct you to do. (Deuteronomy 17:10)

Peace,

Ruth



As the COVID-19 pandemic stretches on, it continues to affect our youth group events. Unfortunately, most of our summer events have been cancelled, like Confirmation Camp, a May Sr. High Retreat, and our Shore Trip in August. While having to cancel these events was hard to do, we would never want to jeopardize the health and safety of our group! I can report that Confirmation Camp in particular is working on ways to still cultivate and foster our community this summer, and many of them will be accessible to all, not just current campers!

On a lighter note, our Zoom Youth Group meetings are going well! We terribly miss being in person and having our usual meetings, but we are finding many different ways to connect online. Every week, we share happies and crappies (AKA Good thing and Bad Thing) for the week. While, on the whole, this pandemic is definitely a crappy, I think one happy that has come for me, at least, is seeing our youth come together and support one another, even when we are not able to meet in person. Our youth are brave, resilient, and absolutely ridiculous. The community they have built during this time is unquestionably amazing.

Thank you all so much for the words of thanks and support after our Youth Sunday Online Worship went out! The group worked very hard on it, and those words mean a lot!

Now, some reader participation- We have been playing a game for several weeks and it may or may not cause extreme debate withing your family. The rules of the game are simple- you may only categorize the following object as either a Salad or a Sandwich. You must chose one of those two options. For example, the youth group decided, after a literal week of debate, that a plain sausage is, in fact, a sandwich. The more you think about it, the harder it becomes. For this round, ask your family: Are Raisinets (chocolate covered raisins) a Salad, or a Sandwich?

Thank you all so much for the support!

Kellen Michalowski

Director of Youth & Family Ministry

Hello everyone!! Hope you all have been well and taking care of yourselves. I want you to know how much I miss seeing you and look forward to being among you again. It has been too quiet here.

I was witness to something wonderful back in May. I was just roaming around when I heard some commotion outside. And the most wonderful thing was taking place. I saw the teachers from preschool and they were having graduation for the older students. Course it was different from years past, but as I watched from the meditation garden I saw cars driving thru and the students got their diplomas. I was overjoyed to see the kids again. Disappointed that no snacks were here, but happy for the kids. Guess I cannot have everything I would like at once.

I heard a rumor while roaming around the halls of the church building one day. I sure hope it comes to fruition. What I overheard has to do with opening the church back up. In the not so distant future you may be coming back. There are things going on here that must have to do with that. I have been sleeping on the empty pews at night since they were not getting used. Each night I would choose a new pew and sleep. But now the cushions are gone. So I guess I will not be doing that again. I like softness not a hard pew to lay my little head on. So back to my mouse hole at night now. But if it means you are going to be coming back I will sleep in my mouse bed again.

I look forward to seeing everyone soon and hearing the organ play again and hope I hear voices singing. And hearing the message with everyone together instead of me by myself watching pastor do his thing in an empty church. Until then it's just me your friendly church mouse saying God bless you and welcome back!



Following the Lamb...

4200 Londonderry Rd.

Harrisburg, PA 17109

REGISTRATION is now OPEN

for the 2020 - 2021 School Year

2020 - 2021 School Info & Monthly Tuition

4/5 year old class : MWF 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM - \$135.00

3 year old class : T/TH 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM - \$115.00

2 year old class : T/TH 9:15 AM - 11:15 AM - \$115.00

****\$30.00 Non-Refundable Registration Fee Due with Application****

For More Information - Call or Email Pamela Baranowski Director

717.671.4855 stmarknurseryschool@gmail.com

Applications can be found on-line or you can call/email for one to be mailed to you!

Website: stmarkharrisburg.org/Nursery

Rev. James E. Person, Pastor

4200 Londonderry Rd.

Harrisburg, PA 17109

Phone: (717) 652-6700

E-Mail: stmarksharrisburg@gmail.com

Fax: (717) 652-0951

June 4, 2020

Alleluia! Christ is Risen He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

St. Mark's is planning to resume worship in our Nave on June 14, 2020

In order to best prepare for safe gathering, after reading these guidelines, please call the church office before 3:30PM, Thursday, June 11 to let us know if you will be attending and which service, 8:15 or 11:00 AM

Thank you for your prayers and patience as we go through the COVID-19 pandemic. On March 13, when we made the difficult decision to worship remotely, we joined with people around the globe in an effort to save lives and keep people safe. While we were successful in "flattening the curve," lives were still lost, and the economy took a hit. We are ever grateful for the leaders and staff of this congregation who enabled us to quickly develop a consistent online presence through Facebook and through our website. We are also grateful to our Bishop and his staff for their guiding hands.

Now it is time for us to look towards the weeks and months to come. This letter specifically addresses how we will worship our God. We expect that these recommendations will be too stringent for some and not stringent enough for others. We fully trust that the good people of this congregation will continue to live together in respect and care for one another as we seek to come back to worship.

As has you may have heard, Bishop Dunlop recommended that no in person worship take place before May 31st, Pentecost. Further, our Council affirms following government guidelines for social distancing. Since Dauphin County entered the Yellow Phase, in accordance with state recommendations, St. Mark's will move towards having people sitting in the pews.

Here are our Task Force recommendations, which will be reviewed several times in the coming weeks and months. None of what is offered here will be permanent but will remain in place as we work together:

We will worship in the Nave, to allow for maximum spacing and fresh air. Social distancing must be observed.

We will use a full bulletin which will be placed on the pews. All hymnals and pencils have been removed from the pew racks and placed in storage for now.

(cont'd)

We will require that all worshippers wear masks, especially while speaking or singing. Masks will be available if someone does not have one. Even if we are not concerned about getting sick, we are concerned about not getting other people sick.

Entry and exit will be through Handicapped entrance only. Doors will be propped open.

Hand sanitizer and offering plates will be available in the Narthex. Members are asked to sanitize upon entering the building and drop their offering in the plate when entering the Nave. The ushers will bring the offering forward at the appropriate time and place it on the credence table by the organ.

In order to maintain social distancing, congregants will only sit in every other pew leaving one empty pew between all worshippers. Pews will be marked accordingly. Within the pew, social distancing will be maintained. Members of the same household may sit together.

We will sing but will minimize the amount of singing. Anyone who chooses to sing must wear a mask.

Passing the Peace: Worshippers will stay in place. They may speak a word of peace, nod, smile, use peace sign, use American Sign Language, touch their heart, etc.

For communion, we will use wafer only; Pastor will be masked and will sanitize prior to distribution; Pastor will come to the pews using the center aisle. Congregants will be encouraged to wear masks for Pastor's safety; Pastor will place wafer in communicant's hand; and, once Pastor has moved on, congregant can pull down mask and consume wafer.

Following the last hymn, worshippers will be instructed to be seated. Pastor will dismiss by pew.

Restroom availability will be limited to those near the choir room. Worship space and restrooms will be sanitized between uses.

Regarding outside groups using the building: Prior to the shutdown, groups using the building were advised to make their own decisions regarding meetings. Following the sanitization of the building, outside groups were advised to cancel all meetings. No outside groups have used the building in the past several weeks.

Regarding virtual presence: We will continue online presence for several weeks once we reopen and maybe beyond. There will be many of us who are at high risk and cannot join us, or may not feel safe to return even if precautions are in place. We will be working to put a team in place to provide this ministry on an ongoing basis.

Should there be a surge in virus cases, we will follow Good Shepherd's long tradition of following government guidelines. If the Governor asks us to be closed, then we are closed. If anyone in our community is tested positive, the congregation will be notified immediately.

Again, these recommendations will be reviewed frequently and adjusted accordingly.

God bless the flexible, for they will never be bent out of shape!

Peace be with you all,

Pr. Jim and members of St. Mark's COVID 19 Task Force

ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4200 Londonderry Road
Harrisburg, PA 17109

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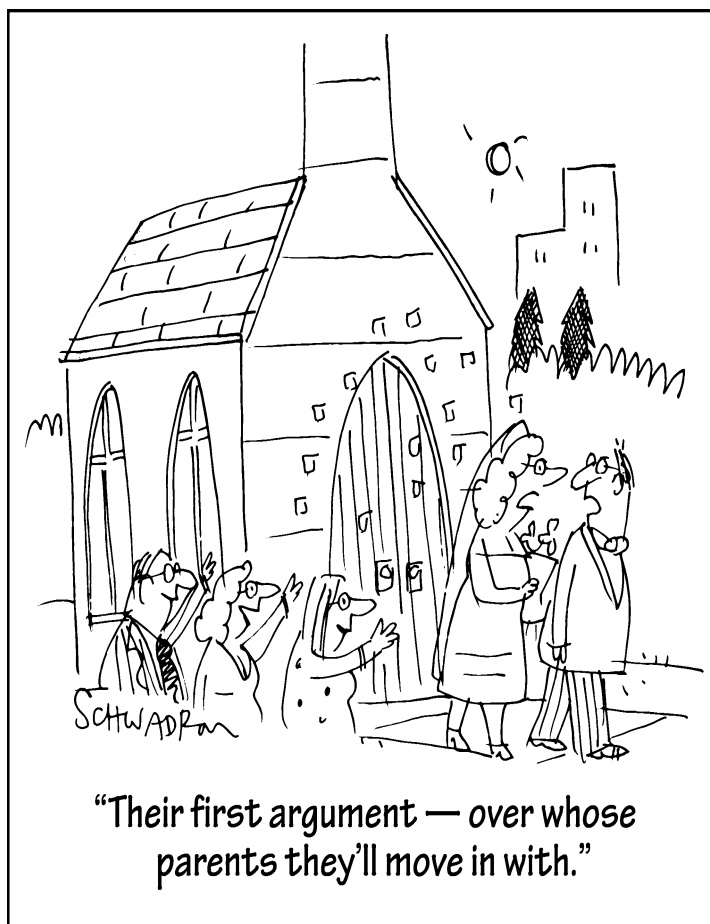


THE PARISH POST

JUNE 2020

St. Mark's Church Council

President	Stephanie Carl
Vice President	Sandy Sherwood
Secretary	Loraine Mariner
Treasurer	Calvin Smith
Financial Secretary	Mary Sultzaberger
Council Members	Chris Bair Deb Banks Joe Baranowski Paulette Beverly Dave Featherman Tom Graham Pastor Jim Person Rebekah Varga Laura Young Nick Zingone
Minister of Music	Joyce Van Nieuwkuyk
Minister of Contemporary Worship	Bennett Williams
Administrative Assistant	Loraine Mariner
Youth/Family Ministry	Kellen Michalowski
Sexton	Donald Young
Nursery School Dir.	Pam Baranowski



**"Their first argument — over whose
parents they'll move in with."**