



The Parish Post

MARCH 2018

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

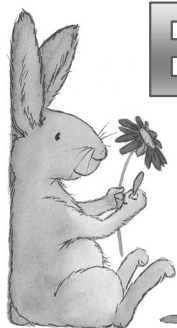
www.stmarksharrisburg.org
e-mail: stmarksharrisburg@gmail.com
The Rev. James E. Person, 717-712-8191



EXTRAVAGANZA

March 8, 9 & 10

10:00 am - 4:00 pm



Bunny Breakfast

Saturday, March 17, 2018

8:00 - 10:00 am

Adult tickets: \$4.50 in advance, \$5.00 at door
Children tickets: \$3.50 in advance, \$4.00 at door
Call 717-761-4855 for tickets in advance.

- Breakfast
- Carnival Games
- Visit with Easter Bunny
- Egg Hunt
- Raffle/Silent Auction

Wednesday Lenten Services

Soup & Salad @ 6:00 pm

Worship @ Noon & 7:00 pm

Sign-up sheet at both entrances to the sanctuary if you would like to help with a soup, bread, drinks or dessert.



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.



3/25 Palm Sunday - 8:15 & 11:00 AM
3/29 Maundy Thursday - Noon & 7:00 PM
3/30 Good Friday - Noon & 7:00 PM
3/31 Easter Vigil - 7:00 PM
4/1 Easter Sunday - 8:15 & 11:00 AM



The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. First Corinthians 1:18

You may have heard the joke about the Atheist that went to court complaining that all other religions get holidays, but there are none for Atheists. The judge threw the case out, explaining to the Atheist that they do, indeed, have their own holiday; April Fools' Day!

While Paul was not trying to be facetious in his letter to the Corinthian church, his message is pretty much the same as the judge in the joke, "The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing...". Paul's message is actually somewhat of a two-edged sword. On one hand the message that the One who came to save the world would be willing to die on a cross makes no sense to those who lack faith in Jesus. On the other hand, for those of us who walk by faith, it is foolishness to not believe in the One who gave his life for the sake of the world.

Lent and Holy Week, especially, are wonderful opportunities to not only reflect on, but also to strengthen our faith in this "foolish" message. During Lent we have been hearing the stories of God's covenants with his people, covenants God kept but his people too often failed to live by. In our Gospel readings we travel with Jesus to Jerusalem where he will suffer, be killed, and on the third day rise from the dead. During the weeks of Lent, like the rest of the Church year we travel at warp speed through the Jesus story. We leap from Jesus' birth to his public ministry some thirty years later. From his baptism we rush along through about three years of miracles, healings, exorcisms, preaching and teaching in less than twelve months. Holy Week, though, is different! The week before Easter Sunday, the week of Jesus' most intense persecution and suffering, as well as his most profound teaching, is lived in real time, from the high of Jesus' triumphal entry into

Jerusalem through the deep valley of his suffering and death, pausing for the anxious waiting outside the sealed tomb, then, finally, on Easter day, celebrating the marvelous news of his glorious resurrection.

During that week, this year March 25 thru April 1, we will have some wonderful opportunities to come together, with Jesus and the disciples, to relive that fateful, wonderful, tragic, triumphant week.

Wednesday of Holy Week we will have a prayer vigil that lasts most of the day. Prayers will be lifted up for the world, the Church, our community, and individual needs and concerns. Maundy Thursday we will come together at both Noon and 7:00PM to receive the Body and Blood first offered by Jesus in remembrance of him. At the Thursday evening service several of our young members will receive their First Holy Communion, putting them in the very place of the disciples as the first recipients of that Holy Meal. Friday will be traditional Good Friday worship, a solemn time of remembering that the day is not "Good" because of what happened; the death of Jesus. It is "Good" because of the effect of his death; ransom for our sins and the coming resurrection to eternal life.

This year we will be adding a new opportunity to experience the full range of emotions of Holy Week as we observe Easter Vigil, a time that begins outside, in darkness, by the light of a fire, watching to see if Jesus will keep his word. From there we will proceed to the church where the light slowly rises and we receive the assurance that his promise has been kept.

Holy Week is an intense time in the Christian year that should not be ignored. If we hope to truly appreciate both the joy and sacrifice upon which our faith is founded, Holy Week is essential to our faith formation. I might even say you would be a fool to miss it!

Your partner in ministry and mission,

Pr. Jim Person

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

When I prepared my letter for January I did not yet have financial results for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2017. We had been running an operating deficit (expenses exceeded income) most of the year. But God provides, which is why I am incredibly grateful to all of you. Thanks to your generosity all year, especially during December, gifts of support rose sufficiently to cover our operating expenses.

That's a great place to be starting a new year. With all our financial obligations for 2017 covered we began 2018 with a clean slate. When starting the year like this it really leaves wide open the possibilities of what we can do with our ministry. It also lends the opportunity to reflect upon the gifts God has given each of us and how He wants us to use them.

St. Mark's is incredibly active in many ways. Our Ministries and programs touch countless people of all backgrounds throughout the year. We can't possibly know how many people have come to love God and find belonging in this community of Christ by way of St. Mark's Ministries. So many more are certain to experience it in 2018. As long as we always focus on loving our neighbors and sharing God's Word, our gifts will be put to good use.

God gives gifts of talent with which we serve His church locally and globally. Here at St. Mark's we've established standing Ministries to lead and guide the church in its initiatives. Each serves an important role in the overall mission of the church. The structure and organization of our Ministries can be likened to any complex machine - each part has a purpose and all parts must be operating for the whole to function. Your car, for example, simply will not function if

critical components like wheels, engine, transmission, or electrical systems failed. Sure, you'd still have what mostly looks like a car, but it wouldn't serve its purpose of transporting you from one point to another.

The same is true of the twelve established Ministries of St. Mark's. I firmly believe that St. Mark's is best succeeding in its mission when a dedicated individual is leading others in fulfilling the specific objectives of each Ministry. We're not there yet, but we have been making good progress toward reinvigorating Ministries that have lacked leadership and direction for years. The members of Council recognize and appreciate those who are serving St. Mark's in this capacity. We also invite and encourage others to discern how you are called to use your talents to serve the church.

Next month I'll use this forum to focus on God's gifts of treasure and how we choose to use those gifts.

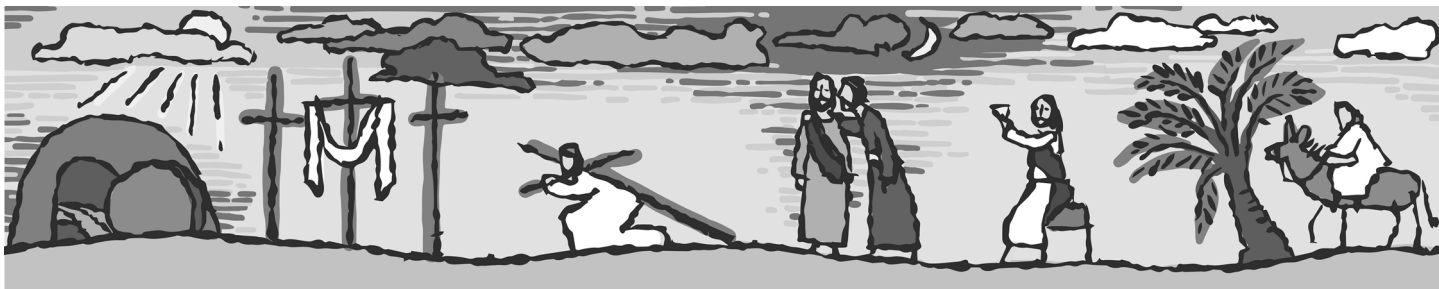
Recent Council action:

Accepted Audit Committee review and recommendations from fiscal year ending December 31, 2016

Approved proposal from Stewardship Ministry to make memorialized bring pavers available to purchase for meditation garden rehabilitation project.

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



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CLASS will be held Sunday March 25 (Palm Sunday) at 9:45AM in the sanctuary. Children in first grade and above whose parents feel they are ready to receive Communion should attend this class along with their parents in order to receive First Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday (March 29) at the 7PM service.

A LENTEN DAY APART at The Wittel Farm Saturday, March 3, 2018 9am - 3pm Casual, comfortable clothing will be appropriate. A \$15 registration fee covers program and meal costs. To register for this event, visit www.LutheranCamping.org or call the Camping Office at 717-677-8211.

A SPRING QUILTING RETREAT The Lutheran Camping Corporation presents... A gathering of women to share fellowship and talents. Camp Kirchenwald Friday, March 16 Sunday, March 18 Cost of the full weekend (Fri-Sun) is \$150. Two days (Fri-Sat or Sat-Sun) is \$85. One day (Sat, 9am-4pm) is \$55. Registration forms are available at LutheranCamping.org or by calling the Camping Office at 717-677-8211

SUMMER CAMP OPEN HOUSE -You are invited to visit Kirchenwald or Nawakwa on March 18 or April 8 from 2:00 - 4:30 PM. Take a tour of camp with members of our summer staff and see what camp is all about. As a bonus, we will give a \$10 gift certificate for the camp store to every brand new camper! For more information, visit www.LutheranCamping.org or call the Camping Office at 717-677-8211.

WHAT ON EARTH AM I HERE FOR?

I've always admired the manner in which Charlie Roberts is able to connect with youth and adults alike. He has charged us to share our "God Moments" openly (that's right, step out of our comfort zones!) This charge happened to be spot on with one of my devotions that day that I'd like to share with you from Pastor Rick Warren on my Bible app:

"Put God's Word into Practice. James says it is self-deception when we merely listen to God's Word and don't let it change us. We think that just gaining knowledge makes us spiritually mature, but the test of maturity is not knowledge. The test of maturity is character. We need to put God's Word into practice. We need to continually apply it in our lives. In fact, knowledge increases responsibility. The more we know, the more we're accountable for. What am I doing about what I know? Jesus said, 'Much is required from the person to whom much is given' (Luke 12:48). The simplest definition of maturity is to be a doer of the Word. You do what the Bible says. We must not only read the Word; we must also heed the Word. Every single one of us knows more spiritual truth than we're putting into practice right now. We don't need to know more, we already know enough. We just need to put into practice what we already know. Be a doer of the Word."

You don't have to be a preacher, missionary or Sunday School teacher to "be a doer of the Word." This Lenten season, get back to basics. Renew your dialogue with God. Spread the love that God embraces with us.

"And this is love: that we walk in obedience to His commands. As you have heard from the beginning, His command is that you walk in love." (2 John 1:6)

May your Lenten season be purposeful in sharing His Love. – Ruth Cheng

THANK YOU NOTES

To Our Family at St. Mark's,

Thank you so much for your prayers and cards while our mother was ill. They meant a lot to her and made her smile.

Thank you also for your prayers, kind words and hugs after her death.

Pastor Jim - your visit to her, and giving her communion was very meaningful. Thank you.

God Bless you all!
Jan Mills

We would like to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers while Anita was in the hospital. Pastor Jim's visits were greatly appreciated and the flowers brightened her days.

Sincerely and with Love,
Terry & Anita Fleegel

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Ecumenical Food Pantry, and those who benefit by your generosity, I would like to thank you for your generous contribution of \$75.00 we received in December 2017.

Sincerely,
Jacqueline Young
Corresponding secretary

Dear St. Mark's Family,

February 25 was a very special day for our family as Julia Rose was baptized into the Body of Christ. What a special day it was! We especially appreciate everyone who participated in the service, shared music, and provided gifts like the embroidered baptismal napkin and blanket. We're blessed to have this wonderful community in which to raise our children.

The Zingone Family



Tuesday, March 6 - 9:00 AM - Projects Day
Monday, March 12 - 4:00 PM - W/ELCA Board
Tuesday, March 13 - 10:00 AM - Esther Circle
Tuesday, March 27 - 6:30 PM - Eve Circle

ATTENTION The Christmas Angel Tree has become the W/ELCA Spring Service Project. Watch for details in the April Parish Post.

DAY OF RENEWAL - Saturday, April 21 at Memorial Lutheran Church, Shippensburg, PA. Dr. Jean Godsall-Myers will be the speaker. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of the German Society of PA. Cost is \$20.00 that includes lunch and program. Time 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM. Contact Shirley Johns for more information if you are interested in attending. Deadline is April 9. Theme: "In Katie's Footsteps."



3/4 LYF Meeting - 5 to 8:30 PM
3/10 LYF Jr Outing - 10:00 AM
*A day trip/outing chosen by the LYF Jr youth.
Parents are welcome!*
3/11 LYF Senior High Meeting - 5 to 8:30 PM
3/17 Bunny Breakfast Fundraiser - 8:00 AM
3/18 LYF Jr - 12:30 to 3:00 PM
LYF Meeting - 5 to 8:30 PM

DOING SOMETHING NEW

In the fall, I asked, Why church?

Why do you attend?

What is the value of church in 21st century America, where there seems to be a growing sentiment away from the institutional church of our youth?

If you've been attending "The Table," or meetings that I have attended in the recent months, you would also hear me asking why St Mark's exists.

I don't have any doubts myself. If you know me, you know I have strong opinions on why. But I'm curious about YOUR answers, and so is Pastor Jim.

Many American Lutheran churches are declining. Not only in attendance, but in relevancy. The reasons they were started have long since faded, and their ministries seem to exist merely to serve the needs of those who still attend. Is that reason enough to exist? Maybe in some cases, yes. But we are not a church in decline. In fact, compared to many synod congregations, we are quite healthy, some might say even "vibrant."

So why worry? Why even ask these questions? Because God is doing something new here! God is stirring the Spirit in this place, which seems to be leading us towards that vibrancy, a vitality perhaps. Churches grow by invitation. You invite a friend! However, **people stay because of authentic community**, a sense that I am not only welcome, but have a role to play here. My gifts are valued and important. I have a chance to contribute to something bigger than myself, an opportunity to be part of God's plan, in this place and time.

So please take a moment between now and Easter to answer these questions:

Where do you see God in our congregational life together?

If St Mark's ceased to exist, what would this community lose? What would be missing?

What do you believe is our mission as a church?

You'll sometimes hear me ask, "what is the Spirit up to in our congregation?" Which is simply another way to ask, where is God calling us, or what is our mission. We have some exciting ministries here right now, but if they are not the ministries that we feel God is calling us to do, or if we are not responding passionately as the people of God, then we may need to rethink our direction.

I'm excited to hear your answers, and even more excited to see where God is leading us. Write, speak, and listen to one another. Let the conversations begin!

Faithfully submitted, *Charlie Roberts*, The Table worship leader

I am
about to do
something NEW
- God,
Isaiah 43:19



- 1 Alyse Ulrich
- 2 Donna Lee
Michael Martellaro
- 3 Fred Hoover
Alison Keith
Luther Lengel
Arlo Powell
- 4 Heather Lee
- 5 René Carpenter
- 7 Lorie Cleaver
Resta Deppen
Doug Womer
James Walak
Colin Smith
- 8 Joyce Van Nieuwkuyk
- 10 Hailey Himelright
- 11 Sara Jane DeFrank
- 14 Lauren Heckert
- 17 Jennifer Towsen
- 21 June Judd
- 23 Randy Whitaker
Bonnie Morris
- 25 Pamela Baranowski
- 26 Betty Briner
- 27 Lore-Lee Walak
Aaron Lichtenwalner
- 28 Miriam Glosser
- 30 James Dullen
Robert Gill
- 31 Tania Brown
Carrie Appleby

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

MARCH COMMUNION ASST.

8:15 AM	11:00 AM
4 Men in Mission	Men in Mission
11 Jeanne Flickinger Lauren Zaccarelli	Tracy Ingram Sandy Sherwood
18 Alice Graham Roberta Wege	Dennis DeFrank Sara Jane DeFank
25 Laurie Womer Paul Deibler	Lore-Lee Walak Elliott Walak
29 Jeanne Flickinger (Noon)	Laurie Womer (7:00) Paul Deibler (7:00)

MARCH LECTORS CARE

8:15 AM	11:00 AM
4 Men in Mission	Men in Mission
11 Alice Graham	Sandy Sherwood
18 Nick Zingone	Youth
25 Bruce Senft	Dennis DeFrank

MARCH ALTAR CARE

8:15 AM	11:00 AM
4 Sue Bennick	Sara Jane DeFrank
11 Laurie Womer	Marian Person
18 Laura Young	Barb Dudek
25 Barb Heym	Sara Jane DeFrank
29 Barb Heym (Noon)	Laurie Womer (7:00) Barb Dudek (7:00)

MARCH FLOWER DELIVERY

- 4 Barb Dudek
- 11 Barb Heym
- 18 Donna Lee
- 25 Sue Smithers

SPECIAL DATES

- World Day of Prayer, *March 2, 2018*
- Third Sunday in Lent, *March 4, 2018*
 - Fourth Sunday in Lent, *March 11, 2018*
 - Daylight-Saving Time begins, *March 11, 2018*
 - Fifth Sunday in Lent, *March 18, 2018*
 - First day of spring, *March 20, 2018*
 - Palm/Passion Sunday, *March 25, 2018*
 - Holy Week, *March 25-31, 2018*
 - Maundy Thursday, *March 29, 2018*
 - Good Friday, *March 30, 2018*

ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Harrisburg, PA 17109

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St. Mark's Church Council

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Treasurer	Calvin Smith
Financial Secretary	Mary Sultzaberger
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

THE PARISH POST MARCH 2018



"I'm playing a crowd member in the
Passion Play. I was going to play Pilate 'til
I found out I'd have to wash my hands."