

The Parish Post

MARCH 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



Wednesday, March 6
Services at Noon & 7:00 pm

Wednesday Lenten Services
March 13, 20, 27, 31 & April 3 & 10
6:00 pm Soup & Bread
Services at Noon & 7:00 pm

Holy Week

Sunday, April 14 - Palm Sunday

Services 8:15 & 11:00 am

Thursday, April 18 - Maundy Thursday

Friday, April 19 - Good Friday

Services at Noon & 7:00 pm

Saturday, April 20 - Easter Vigil

Service 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday, April 21

Services 8:15 & 11:00 am



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.



From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded. Mark 12:48b

The passage above is from Jesus' parable of "The Faithful or Unfaithful Slave". In telling that story, Jesus gives a very graphic description of what will happen to the "one who knew what his master wanted but did not prepare himself to do what was wanted." Let's just say, you don't want to be that one!

What really hit home for me in this story, though, is Jesus' statement of what is expected of those to whom much has been given and to whom much has been entrusted. Those blessings of abundance also come with a duty to manage and share that abundance according to the will and way of Jesus. I have been thinking about this during the past week because I have seen several examples that illustrate the many ways in which St. Mark's, which has certainly been given and entrusted with much, is sharing our abundance as Jesus would both require and demand. ("Require" and "demand" are words we might not often associate with Jesus, but his language here shows the seriousness of his message.)

Recently, thanks to Chris Bair, we have become the recipient of "leftover" pizza from the local Little Caesar's. The number of pizzas will vary from week to week, but in just the first two weeks we have been given enough to use for LYF, Advent Choir, and to donate some to a needy family as well as Girls Scouts and another local youth group. Leftover pizza might not sound like much, but it is one resource we have been blessed to be able to share.

We also have some well established "assets" that we have been in the practice of sharing as expected by Jesus. One of the most prominent is our music program. Everyone involved in the music here at St. Mark's, from Joyce and Bennett as leaders, to the musicians and singers, have been blessed with talents and gifts that many of us would like to have. As Jesus requires and demands, they give up a lot of their time to practice and are committed to leading worship here and in other churches. We might not realize what a blessing it is to have Advent Choir, Chancel Choir, Bell Choir, Spirit and Truth Band, and many individuals who proclaim the Good News in word and music, and to have the resources to be able to share that gift with others.

I think of the leadership skills which so many of our members have been given and give thanks that they use those gifts for the proclamation of the Gospel in both word and deed, in our church, community, and even internationally. Every ministry of this congregation is important to the greater ministry of the Body of Christ. While we struggled for a while finding chairs for some of our ministries, we now have a full slate of leaders and, I'm sure, we'll soon have full and thriving ministries carrying out the work of the Church. (Of course, I have to offer at least one little guilt trip, if you have gifts that you are not using, pull out your Bible and read Luke 12:41-48.)

One way of living up to Jesus' requirements and demands that we may not think of is distribution of our blessings when we leave this life. We recently received a generous bequest earmarked for building and capital improvements from the estate of Helen Kegerreis. That helped with our renovation of Fellowship Hall and with the remainder we should be able to replace the 60-year-old, inefficient windows in much of our building. We have received word of another generous endowment to be received soon and you will hear more about that when it becomes final. While the money needed for ministry now is needed now, some of us will end life with "cups overflowing" and the church can see that those blessings are put to good use promoting the Gospel.

I encourage you to think about the abundance with God has blessed St. Mark's in both people and resources. Think then about the many ways we have used those blessings to be a blessing to others. Perhaps you can think of some blessings we could be using better. Please don't be afraid to get involved in the distribution of those gifts. I encourage you to also think about the many blessings you have received as an individual or family. How might Jesus "require" you to use those gifts; what "demands" might the Holy Spirit be making of you in sharing your blessings? In Luke 12:41, Peter asks Jesus, "Lord are you telling this parable for us or for everyone?" What do you think?

Your partner in ministry and mission,

Pastor Jim

Eniko Ambrus Memorial Service
Thursday, March 7, 2019
11:30 am to 1:00 pm - Viewing
1:00 to 1:30 pm - Remembrance & Expression
Hoover Funeral Home
6011 Linglestown Road
Harrisburg PA



Tuesday, March 5 - 9:00 am - Projects Day
Monday, March 11 - 4:00 pm - W/ELCA Board
Tuesday, March 12 - 10:00 am - Esther Circle
Tuesday, March 26 - 6:30 pm - Eve Circle

LENTEN PROJECT 2019

The Social Services Ministry is collecting donations for the **ELCA GOOD GIFTS program**.

This year we are asking for funds to supply a community in need with a **FRUIT TREE NURSERY**. "You know what they say about an apple a day." This gift keeps the doctor and hunger away year after year. Fruit tree seedlings are specially selected for each location and climate and can include varieties, like mango trees, that are known to thrive in the driest of conditions, even drought.

The cost of one nursery is \$150, that is our goal. If we receive more funds than the above amount, we will purchase more individual trees or another nursery.

Your donations can be given to any member of the Social Services Ministry or placed in an envelope, marked Lenten Project 2019, in the offering plate. Thank you in advance for your support.

Ministry Members:

Barb Heym
Cal Smith
Carolyn Shadle
Emma Mink
Jan Smith
Judee Leister
Judy Horton
Pr. Jim
Ruth Cheng
Sue Senft
Molly Stanton - Chairperson





Thank you to Pastor Jim and the whole congregation for all your prayers, spiritual support, meals, meal preparation, and health care help during my illness and recuperation.

With deepest gratitude,
Eniko Ambrus & Family

Dear St. Mark's Family,

Indeed you are a blessing to all of us who have had hospital stays. The beautiful flowers, visits and prayers from Pastor Jim indeed brought much joy to my heart. Thanks to all who make it possible for flowers to be delivered.

With Christ's Love,
Judee Leister

Dear Pastor & St. Mark's Church,

Thank you for the lovely flowers and the visit from June Miller who brought them. I will come to church when the snow is gone and my sight is improved. I miss you all.

Sincerely,
Helen Drothler

Thank you for all the cards, prayers and support for our family during the passing of my mother. The hugs and kind words are of great comfort to me!

Ruth Cheng & family

Dear Members at St. Mark's,

All of us at the Queen B Project thank you for your support of our organization over the past year! We are so grateful to be able to use the WELCA room for our Comfort Bag Workdays and to have many of you come and help us in our outreach efforts. We have no doubt that we would not be able to positively impact as many families as we do without your support. Our bags bring comfort to families who are grieving their sweet, precious babies, something no parent should ever have to go through. Please mark the following dates of our 2019 workdays on your calendar: March 23rd, June 8th, September 7th and November 2nd. We work from 10 AM to noon and would love to see you there, for as long as you are able!

Sincerely,
Abigail Zingone

Thank you Pastor and St. Mark's for the gift to help me address a medical situation. God is good all the time! All the time God is good. You can't beat God Giving no matter how hard you try. For just as sure as you are living and the Lord is in Heaven on high, the more you give the more he gives to you. So just keep on giving because it's really true that you can't beat God Giving no matter how hard you try.

Cahrolie' G. Parker



17th - LYF Meeting 5-8:30 pm
24th - LYF Meeting 5-8:30 pm
Joint Meeting w/SPYG @ St. Mark's
31st - LYF Jr. Meeting 12:30-3 pm
LYF Meeting 5-8:30 pm

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>
March 28	The Great Alone	Kristin Hannah
April 24	Clementine: The Life of Mrs. Winston Churchill	Sonia Purnell
May 23	PA Stories Well Told	William Ecenbarger
June 25	Varina	Charles Frazier



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

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

NEW ADDRESS:

KEN & DOROTHY SUTCH
6810 Clubhouse Dr. Apt. A
Harrisburg PA 17111

MARCH LECTORS

8:15 AM

- 3 Men in Mission
- 6 Noon - Jeanne Flickinger
- 10 Randy Whitaker
- 17 Susan Smith
- 24 Bill Shook
- 31 Bennett Williams

11:00 AM

- Men in Mission
- 7 pm - Michael Hengst
- Judy Horton
- Youth
- David Stanton
- Lisa Hand

MARCH ALTAR CARE

8:15 AM

- 3 Laurie Womer
- 6 Noon - Sandy Dinger
- 10 Sue Bennick
- 17 Laura Young
- 24 Barb Heym
- 31 Laurie Womer

11:00 AM

- Barb Dudek
- 7 pm - Barb Dudek
- Marian Person,
Donna Woodrow
- Marian Person,
Donna Woodrow
- Barb Dudek
- Sandy Dinger

MARCH FLOWER DELIVERY

- 3 Shirley Johns
- 10 Barb Dudek
- 17 Sue Smithers
- 24 Lucy Weaver
- 31 Sandy Dinger

Extravaganza Report for 2018

The Extravaganza was open in March, September and December. The total income for 2018 was \$7,870.67.

St. Mark's received \$5,902.99. Hershey Hearts, Christ Lutheran Church Health Ministries and Vickie's Angel Foundation received \$1,967.68.

Since 2009, the Extravaganza had made \$97,595.08. St. Mark's received \$73,173.18, while other groups have received \$24,421.90.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Lee, treasurer



St. Mark's Nursery School

Hello St. Mark's,

We have had some very exciting events going on and are also getting ready for more to come. Please come out and join us for some of the up and coming events:

Join us on March 6th for our annual Student Art Show and Dinner. It will be a fun relaxing and delicious evening. The show will be in our Fellowship Hall from 5 - 6:45 pm. Meet some of our Students and their families while enjoying dinner and some amazing art work. Then following the show will be Ash Wednesday Service upstairs at 7 pm.

Also it is getting that time of year again and we are getting ready for our Annual Bunny Breakfast. This year it will be held on Saturday April 6th from 8 - 10:30 AM. The St. Mark's Nursery School's mission is to provide an affordable Christian-based preschool. As an outreach we provide scholarships to financially challenged families who otherwise would not be able to send their children to preschool. The profits from our breakfast are used to support the scholarship fund, as well as, enhancing our program. Please come and help support our school by enjoying a good meal, playing some games, checking out our Raffle and Silent Auction.

If you are interested in purchasing tickets or raffle tickets please see one of our board members at the end of services on March 24th and March 31st. You can also call into the school at 717.671.4855 and pre-order tickets and we will gladly having them waiting for you at the door on Saturday April 6th.

Thanks, and hope you all have a Blessed Month,
Pamela Baranowski,
Director St. Mark's Nursery School

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

Tuesday, March 26

Small items can be brought to the church anytime.
Large items can be picked up. See Pastor Jim or Chris Bair to make arrangements.

WHICH WAY?

How many times have you walked or ridden somewhere and gotten lost? As a child, I remember our family getting lost driving through Philly all the time (this is before GPS existed). What do you do when you get that sinking feeling in the pit of your stomach? Some people would stop and ask for directions. Others may pull over and break out a map from the glove compartment. Still others will continue wandering until they stumble upon something familiar and work themselves out.

The same can be said in our journeys with Christ. Too often we stray from the Lord. Sometimes we cry out in anguish, asking, "Why Lord?" Sometimes we dust off our bibles in the hope we can make sense of the situation. Sometimes we go rogue and try to take credit for figuring things out "all by myself."

Remember, the Lord already knows what you are doing and when you are doing it, even though your free will may have altered your course. The Lord feels your pain, and never leaves your side, even when you feel abandoned. The Lord speaks to us and we need to hear Him through fasting, meditation and living our lives with intent. Reflect on the life of Christ. His life was not easy, and yet His purpose was to sacrifice Himself for us.

I ask that you keep me in your prayers as I explore the upcoming opportunity for full time mission work. The devil's work is entangled in this world, and we must be strong in our actions to stay the course.

"Let us not love with words or speech, but with actions and in truth." (1 John 3:18)

Prayerfully yours,

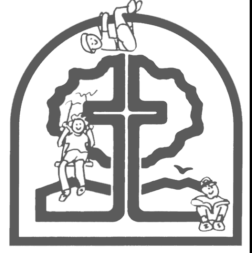
Ruth Cheng

SPECIAL DATES

- World Day of Prayer, March 1, 2019
- Transfiguration of Our Lord, March 3, 2019
- Ash Wednesday, March 6, 2019
- First Sunday in Lent, March 10, 2019
- Daylight-Saving Time begins, March 10, 2019
- Second Sunday in Lent, March 17, 2019
- First day of spring, March 20, 2019
- Third Sunday in Lent, March 24, 2019
- Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 31, 2019



The Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central Pennsylvania
Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, and The Wittel Farm
PO Box 459, Arendtsville, PA 17303
717-677-8211 • www.LutheranCamping.org



WOMEN'S QUILTING WEEKEND at Kirchenwald

Friday, March 15, 7:00pm - Sunday, March 17, 2:00pm

Bring your own projects or learn techniques from experienced quilters. Enjoy a weekend apart with the ladies.

Cost of the full weekend (Fri-Sun) is \$155

Two days (Fri-Sat or Sat-Sun) is \$90

One day (Sat, 9am-4pm) is \$55

SUMMER CAMP OPEN HOUSE at Kirchenwald & Nawakwa

Sunday, March 17 & Sunday, April 7, 2:00-4:30pm

You are invited to visit Kirchenwald or Nawakwa on March 17 or April 7. 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!

Free

Just let us know that you'll be there!

LENTEN DAY APART at The Wittel Farm

Saturday, March 30, 2019, 9am-3pm

Begins with registration and gathering at 9:00 AM

Registration includes lunch and is \$15 per person.

Retreat led by Pastor Sharron Blezard

Please join us for the 6th annual ...

St. Mark's Nursery School

Student Art Show & Dinner



Wednesday, March 6, 2019

5:00 - 6:45 pm

Fellowship Hall



7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service

ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Harrisburg, PA 17109

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Minister of Contemporary Worship	Bennett Williams
Church Secretary	Kim DiPaolo
Youth/Family Ministry	Kellen Michalowski
Sexton	Donald Young
Nursery School Dir.	Pam Baranowski

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"Who knew St. Peter had fact checkers?"