



# The Parish Post

MAY 2020

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

[www.stmarksharrisburg.org](http://www.stmarksharrisburg.org)

e-mail: [stmarksharrisburg@gmail.com](mailto:stmarksharrisburg@gmail.com)

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



So Jesus told them this story: A rich man's farm produced a big crop, and he said to himself, "What can I do? I don't have a place large enough to store everything." Later, he said, "Now I know what I'll do. I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones, where I can store all my grain and other goods. Then I'll say to myself, 'You have stored up enough good things to last for years to come. Live it up! Eat, drink, and enjoy yourself.'" But God said to him, "You fool! Tonight you will die. Then who will get what you have stored up?" Luke

12:16-21 Contemporary English Version (CEV)

I am currently reading *Spring Chicken* by Bill Gifford (73% done as of this writing, according to my Kindle). It is basically a study of numerous attempts to find the secret to increasing the longevity of human life. So far most of what have seemed like promising options have proven to be not-so-promising after all. The extreme outer limit of human lifespan seems to be about 120 years, which doesn't surprise me. According to Genesis 6:3, "Then the LORD said, "My spirit shall not abide in mortals forever, for they are flesh; their days shall be one hundred twenty years."" While I don't believe everything in the Bible is to be taken literally, it seems to me the scientists may be fighting a losing battle. In fact, some have turned their attention from quantity to quality in their studies of aging, which seems to me to be a good move.

Reading this book during the COVID-19 stay-at-home order, I was lamenting the fact that I was gaining weight and having trouble mustering the motivation to do anything about it. Then I came across Chapter 9, "Phil vs Fat." There, among other evidence of the dangers of overweight and obesity, I came across this statement, "Indeed, there is growing evidence that our fat tissue itself might literally be shortening our lifespans." Talk about motivation! Taken as a whole, what this chapter is saying is that excess fat doesn't just hang around, it is actively trying to kill us. But, while that's an important message, it's not the point of this article. There is a Biblical connection, please read on.

As I pondered the idea that excess fat is harmful to our health, it me struck that the same principle applies to a myriad of life's circumstances. Often, when we have more of something than we need, not just food, it ends up doing more harm than good.

Continued on next

**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.

If we drive a larger vehicle than we really need, we end up wasting gas and polluting the environment. If we live in larger homes than we need, we waste resources and spend more of our hard-earned income heating, cooling, and lighting unnecessary space. Even too much free time can be harmful, as we are unfortunately finding out during forced and voluntary Coronavirus quarantines. We've heard the saying, "idle hands are the Devil's workshop", and reports are that domestic violence has been on the increase since folks are forced to spend time together with little or nothing to do.

What it all boils down to is proper care and management of the wonderful creation God has entrusted to our care, in other words, stewardship.

A big part of stewardship is trusting God to keep his promise to love us and care for us every day; to give us our "daily bread." When God fed the Israelites with manna in the wilderness, he told them to gather just enough for each day. Those who doubted God gathered excess, only to see it rot and become useless. While we should not be wasteful or arrogant, we should trust that, if we make proper use of the many blessings God provides, we will have sufficient for our needs, and often much to share, and sharing is one key to good stewardship.

During the stay-at-home order, St. Mark's was able to provide food and other necessities to several families, mostly participants from our Afterschool Program. Thanks to those who have been faithful in their offerings, we are able to be here for those who need whatever help we can provide.

Holding on to excess fat tissue, or anything else (like toilet tissue!) does no one any good and may be doing harm. God has put us in charge of a magnificent Creation that, in the end, belongs to God. Let's honor our Creator by honoring that Creation.

Your partner in ministry and mission,



Pr. Jim Person

## **COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

It seems like such a long time since we've all been together for fellowship and to worship. I think that one of the things that we value and have found out through this change in our daily living is how much we rely on our interaction with others. This is definitely a huge change for many of us to spend more time in solitary activities and quiet contemplation. Throughout this pandemic we are learning what will become a new normal for our society. One of the things that is a constant and will not change is our faith. As we look around us, we see examples of our faith in action, serving our families, friends and neighbors. Pastor Jim has gone to sharing the word through virtual worship services which have increased viewership on a weekly basis.

St. Mark's Youth meet virtually and stay connected and discuss timely topics. St. Mark's Nursery School conducts zoom meetings with classes and activities for the students. It is a good way to make sure they are connected to their church school family.

The Church Council met virtually and acted on items of business necessary in the life of the church. Members from extravaganza have made and shared fabric facemasks for people needing those. The after school program continues to accept and distribute food to families from the afterschool program and to people in need in our community. Volunteers continue to serve at the ecumenical food pantry. Our members are calling members, sending cards and even sharing meals. There is a spirit of helping our neighbors during this challenging time. Look around - see how you can put your faith to work showing love for one another. Continue praying for those in need. We look forward to being together as we worship in what will become the "new normal".

In Christian love,  
Stephanie

**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.

#### **SOCIAL SERVICES NEWS**

**SOCIAL SERVICES REQUEST:** The Ecumenical Food Pantry is in need of personal care items. We are asking the congregation to donate the following items: Toilet paper, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, feminine napkins, tampons, soap, shampoo, conditioner, and diapers. You may leave your donations in the cart in the Narthex. This collection will continue throughout the year. Any help would be greatly appreciated. Thanks in advance for your support.

#### **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!

<p>The <b><u>ST. MARK'S BOOK CLUB</u></b></p> <p><b>IS SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE</b></p>
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## MAY

1 Morgan Adams  
Mia Brown

2 Dennis DeFrank  
Lucy Nusz  
5 Christopher Smith  
6 Kris Kiner  
7 Nathan Banic  
8 Connor Ellestad  
10 Dwayne Geiger  
12 Stephanie Carl  
14 Mary Sultzaberger  
16 John Herigan, Sr  
19 Marian Person  
Christie Senft  
24 Joshua Heym  
27 Lori Bargmann  
28 Shirley Johns  
30 Landon Brown  
Robert Haines  
31 Alice Hoover  
William Kroah  
Ethan Appleby

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

## Beginning of JUNE

3 Jackson Adams  
Anita Fleegal  
4 Paul Deibler  
Carla Kolter  
5 Doris Atkinson  
Willem Van Nieuwkuyk

## MAY LECTORS

### 8:15 AM

3 Men in Mission  
10 Youth Sunday  
17 Mike Hengst  
24 Bill Shook  
31 Abigail Zingone

### 11:00 AM

Men in Mission  
Youth Sunday  
Susan Shultz  
Judy Horton  
Tom Stohler

## MAY ALTAR CARE

### 8:15 AM

3 Laurie Womer  
  
10 Barb Heym  
17 Laurie Womer  
  
24 Barb Heym  
31 Sue Bennick

### 11:00 AM

Marian Person  
Donna Woodrow  
Barb Dudek  
Marian Person  
Donna Woodrow  
Sandy Dinger  
Marian Person  
Donna Woodrow

## MAY FLOWER DELIVERY

3 Sue Smithers  
10 Sandy Dinger  
17 Donna Lee  
24 Zara Bennett  
31 Zara Bennett

## MAY GREETERS

### 8:15 AM

3 Men in Mission  
10  
17  
24  
31

### 11:00 AM

Men in Mission

## MAY COMMUNION ASST.

### 8:15 AM

3 Men in Mission  
10 Jeanne Flickinger &  
Lauren Zaccarelli-Hengst  
17 Laurie Womer & Deb Banks  
24 Laurie Womer & Paul Deibler; Lore-Lee & Jim Walak  
31 Carla & Randy Whitaker;

### 11:00 AM

Men in Mission  
St Mark's Youth Group  
Dennis and  
Sara Jane DeFrank  
Sandy Sherwood &  
Zara Bennett

## Pandemic Life in Romania

What a difference a month makes! A majority of people are masked, gloved and social distancing. Curfews enforced for seniors (only permitted outdoors between 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM) and non-medical personnel (10:00 PM to 6:00 AM). Fines issued for lack of identification and travel documents (up to \$4500), and are not appealable. Grocery selections are limited. Some days no bread, produce or meat is available. Cleaning products like disinfectant wipes, alcohol, hand sanitizer and bleach are non-existent. I asked my kids to send me 4 hairbands so I could make a mask out of a bandana, and the mail carrier said it would cost them over \$100 to mail a small envelope to me. The EEMN team sent me a manual for our weekly Ukraine training sessions, but it was rerouted to a post office on the other side of the city. I can get there by metro, but not during the pandemic lockdown. I will be charged for a storage fee when I am finally able to pick it up.

As expected, the EEMN short-term mission trips in eastern Europe have been cancelled. However, we are exploring ways to reformat a curriculum that respects social distancing and quarantine regulations. I heard from one of the shelters, and they are happily tucked away at their lavender farm, weeding, planting and enjoying the outdoors. The church that runs the other shelter is having technical difficulties, so they were unable to keep everyone informed through their website.

I have been enjoying Pastor Jim's sermons, and attending Pastor Karin's services online. It has been a blessing to hear God's message and be connected during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is good to feel some sense of unity, strength and love for all of humanity. We all relate to the same feelings of isolation, anxiety and boredom. Remember that Jesus was sent to experience these same feelings, and suffered so much more for our sake. May you continue to feel the immense love of Christ in your hearts. As a pastor recently said, "No social distancing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus!"

Check out the latest reflections at <https://liftupmysoulblog.wordpress.com/blog/>

Peace,  
Ruth

Remembering our Brother & Sisters that passed this year

Pastor George Buechner  
Alice Dormer  
Connie Wise  
Judee Leister  
Pearl Engleman



## Special dates

- National Day of Prayer, *May 7, 2020*
- Mother's Day, *May 10, 2020*
- Armed Forces Day, *May 16, 2020*
- Victoria Day (Canada), *May 18, 2020*
- Ascension Day, *May 21, 2020*
- Memorial Day, *May 25, 2020*
- Pentecost, *May 31, 2020*



A big "Thank You" to all my Friends at St. Mark's for all the prayers and get-well-wishes after my surgery and the flowers and Christmas cards.

They were very much appreciated and adorned my window sill in the hospital and rehab.

Also "Thank you" to Pastor Jim for his visits, listening and the prayers

In Christian Love,

Gitta May

P.S. Sorry this is a little late!

We would like to thank all our church family and friends for their prayers, cards and condolences during the difficult time of my dad's illness and passing.

Also a big thank you for your ongoing prayers for my son Bobby during his recent surgeries and kidney issues. He is at home and recovering.

With gratitude and love

Laura & Don Young

Dear St. Mark's Family

The altar flowers that I received were beautiful and lasted almost two weeks.

The many cards, phone calls and visits were greatly appreciated. Thank You.

In Christian Love

Shirley Johns

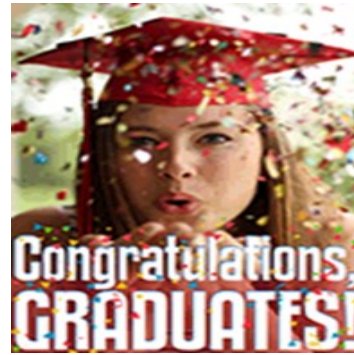
A special big "THANK YOU" to Pastor Jim for taking his time and videoing his sermons every week for us, so we don't miss out on the word of the Lord, during these days when we are quarantine to our homes due to covid-19.



## A prayer for Memorial Day

We remember, O Lord, all those people throughout the years who have made the supreme sacrifice for our country, for liberty, for us. Whenever we breathe the air of freedom or claim the right to justice or enjoy the privilege of worship, fill us with gratitude for those who selflessly gave the last full measure of devotion — their very lives — for our benefit.

May these brave men and women now know the joy of eternity and your presence. And may the families of the fallen receive comfort and peace amid their grief. Help us as we minister to their needs. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Youth and Family Ministry

Hello All!

Despite our inability to meet in person right now, our youth are still going strong! We are having weekly LYF meetings over Zoom. While it is certainly different from what we are used to, the group is still as strong and as chatty as ever. We still play games, have lessons, and do candle prayer, all over Zoom. We're even going forward with our theme for the year, "Fear Not." A theme that is even more prevalent in many ways than when we started the year, we talk about our fears, how we view them, and how we deal with them. We recently did a "prayer partner" session, where pairs meet and go through a more in-depth exercise. This was our first time doing them over the internet! We may not be able to meet in person, but even that cannot stop us from strengthening our relationships with each other and with God. Normally, we meet twice a month, but with these uncertain times, we have started meeting every week! We are also in the planning stages of our first LYF Jr. Meeting!

Unfortunately, we had to postpone an R&K sub sale, which will come back as soon as it is safe to do so! We also were not able to do our annual chocolate egg fundraiser this year, due to the pandemic. Once we are all able to meet and worship in person again, expect to see some more fundraisers from the youth group!

For the foreseeable future, all youth group events will take place online, until such a time that we are able to safely meet again. We would like to thank all our youth and their families for adapting to this new way to doing youth ministry so quickly! We are all still in the process of learning what works best, but it always brings me a smile when I log on and see everyone from LYF smiling back.

I asked our senior, Mia Brown, to write a few words about what youth group means to her for this article. Mia is a fantastic young leader in our group. She was recently named as a counselor for Confirmation Camp, she assists in worship from time to time, she sings in our band for The Table service, and she recently gave an absolutely incredible message at our last Table service. We are all incredibly proud of her, and we cannot wait to see what she does in life.

Thank you all for the love and support during this time! Check out the youth group Facebook and Instagram pages to see what we are up to!

Kellen Michalowski, Director of Youth and Family Ministry

### **What Youth Group Means To Me - Mia Brown**

To me, youth group is like my security blanket. If I want to feel comfortable and loved that's where I run to. I know if I'm going through anything they will give advice or just listen to what is on my mind. Before LYF I really never had that. I never had people where I can share and listen and talk about life to and many things and issues I encountered in life I wouldn't have gotten through without their support whether they know it or not. And at the end of a hard week, yg would wash all the stress away. Once I graduate I plan on going to Harrisburg University to pursue computer science. Ever since I was little I loved tech and I wanted to do something with it. I always want to have a focus in cyber security so I plan on taking the five year CompSci program to get my bachelors and masters.



## Do you remember the tv show "Car 54 Where Are You?"


Well I keep asking St Mark's people where are you? Being a rodent I am not sure I understand this virus thing going on. But whatever it is, it is making me sad and lonely.

What should have been a wonderful time of the year, except for one week of true devotion to your faith, it has been a complete letdown. I was looking forward as I do every year to the bunny breakfast. You know how much fun that is and lots of stuff gets dropped on the floor and I am able to get to it before I am seen. The ladies should have had their Extravaganza and no one was here.

Where are the little kids who should be learning about God and numbers and letters? No one comes after what should be the end of the school day any more. Where are you??

The church has been so empty without you. No church services, no coffee hour, no Sunday school classes, no nursery school, no nothing!! I do see our new secretary but I try to stay out of sight so I don't scare her. It's been slim pickings for too long now. I just wander around the church and the building looking for anything to occupy myself. The teddy bears and I are not happy. We do see pastor coming and filming himself. At first I thought it quite strange watching him preach to an empty church. But then it dawned on me what he was doing. So I listened to his message and they have been pretty good but I miss you the people. Guess even mice take things for granted. My mouse wish is for all of you to stay healthy and safe and hopefully soon, very soon, I will see you in church with the sounds of music, laughter, love, and the words of God.

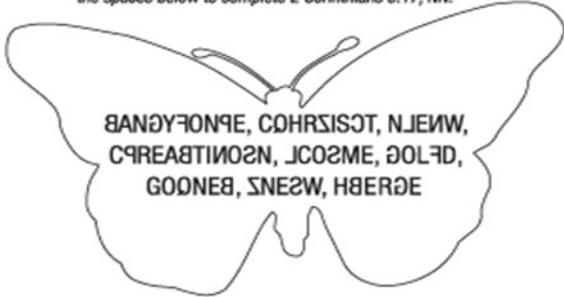
Your one & only,  
Lonely Church Mouse



### TransformationPOWER

Just as the caterpillar becomes a butterfly,  
God transforms us from old to new.

Directions: Cross out the backward letters. Write the remaining letters in order in the spaces below to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV.



Therefore, if \_\_\_\_\_ is in \_\_\_\_\_,  
the \_\_\_\_\_ has \_\_\_\_\_:  
The \_\_\_\_\_ has \_\_\_\_\_,  
the \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_!


2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, NIV

Answer: anyone, Christ, new, creation, come, old, gone, new, here

## Bible Quiz

While 70 Israelite men were commissioned as prophets at the tent of meeting, two others, Eldad and Medad, were reported to have prophesied in the camp — not following "proper" protocols. Who defended them?

- A. Moses
- B. Joshua
- C. Jethro
- D. The Lord



Answer: A (See Numbers 11:24-29.)



## Afterschool Program

When Pastor Jim and I talked about the church sponsoring an Afterschool Program I never imagined so many families would be interested in their children enrolling. So many families wanted to take part in the program. The Afterschool Program offered homework help and a warm meal Monday through Thursday. As time went by, we learned that the children were all doing well in school. It was apparent that the parents looked forward to their children coming to the program daily. The parents as well as the children would constantly ask why we did not have the program on Fridays. The children were sad when we had to cancel the program due to religious needs of the church. The children as well as the parents looked forward to the program every day. The success of the program is due to the great staff of volunteers. The volunteers give selfishly of their time and talents to the program. The volunteers helped the children with homework, crafts, playtime and more.

Before each meal, the children take turns in leading the group in prayer. At the beginning the children were shy about volunteering but as time went on, the children would compete for a chance to lead the group in prayer. The child that prayed would also be the kitchen helper. Every evening at dismissal each child was given a few snacks to take home. We regularly did crafts with the children. No matter how elaborates the craft, the children were not asked to contribute to the cost. We made necklaces, Christmas ornaments and a host of other cool projects.

Each day the children were given a warm meal which was sponsored by the Central Pa Food bank. The children looked forward to the meals. Every Thursday we received donated pizzas from Little Caesars. Each child went home with at least one (1) pizza. We also received food from Sheetz from which the families could take what they want.

This program is new, and we have approximately 18 regular children between the ages of 4 and 13 yrs. I am also proud to report that we worked very hard with the 4-year-old children and each one is now able to write their name.

We have a waiting list in excess of 70 children wanting to attend the program. These families could not provide transportation to the program and Central Dauphin Transportation was unable to help this year due to struggles of their own.

During the state shut down, the volunteers have been assigned a couple of kids to stay in touch with. We have let the parents know that if we can be of assistance please let us know.

We have had a great first year despite the program being prematurely shutdown because of Covid-19. We all look forward to our next season of the program. Hopefully, we will have school transportation and will be able to extend the program to more children

This program is a success because Pastor Jim and his desire to help as many people as humanly possible. Pastor Jim is a great role model and a great servant of God. Without his insight and desire to make the world a better place, none of this would be possible.

Paulette Beverly  
Afterschool Program Director





**Following The Lamb...**

Following the Lamb...

4200 Londonderry Rd.

Harrisburg, PA 17109



**Following The Lamb...**

# **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](mailto: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](http://stmarkharrisburg.org/Nursery)



**The Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central Pennsylvania**  
Kirchenwald, Nawakwa & The Wittel Farm  
[LutheranCamping.org](http://LutheranCamping.org)

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May 1, 2020

Dear Friends,

Our top ministry priorities have always been to love and care for each and every person who visits our ministry sites and to keep them safe and healthy. This goes for our campers, employees, volunteers, donors, retreat guests, and others.

Because of these priorities, the Board of Directors and ministry leadership have made the difficult decision to cancel the summer camp season. This decision was made to ensure the safety of our campers, volunteers, staff, and their families and to position the organization to be a resource for the church and our communities in the future.

The road upon which we are traveling as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic is one none of us have been down before. However, in this challenging time, it is good to have a long and successful history of over 90 years of outdoor ministry experience to draw upon as we face this new reality and face tough decisions. We also trust that the Holy Spirit is walking beside us and guiding us. And just as Jesus walked with the disciples on the road to Emmaus, Jesus walks with us during these uncertain times.

The decision to cancel the summer camping season was not an easy one, but we feel this response allows us to be proactive and also assures the LCC ministries at Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, and The Wittel Farm will have a strong foundation upon which to build and move forward.

Thank you for your partnership in ministry and for your trust and support.

Be Well, Be Strong.  
God's peace,

Michael Youse  
Executive Director

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P.S. If you have already registered for a Summer Camp program, you will receive another communication early next week with more details.

**ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
4200 Londonderry Road  
Harrisburg, PA 17109

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## THE PARISH POST

### MAY 2020

#### St. Mark's Church Council

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<b>Minister of Contemporary Worship</b>	Bennett Williams
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<b>Youth/Family Ministry</b>	Kellen Michalowski
<b>Sexton</b>	Donald Young
<b>Nursery School Dir.</b>	Pam Baranowski

