



The Parish Post

November 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



FREE

Saturday, November 3, 2018

8:00 - 9:30 am

All are welcome!



**Italian
Dinner**

LYF Italian Night Spaghetti Dinner

Saturday, November 10th at 4:00 pm

\$8.00 for Adults - \$5.00 for Children (12 & under)

If cost is an issue please talk with Pastor Jim or Kellen

Sunday, November 18th

After the 11:00 service

(approximately 1:00 pm)

**The Youth Group will be
sponsoring a Soup & Sandwich**



ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

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.



Wednesday, November 21st
7:00 pm

Join us!

Luncheon for the Bishop

Sunday, November 25th

(following the late service approximately 1:00 pm)

Sign-up sheet in the narthex.

EXTRAVAGANZA



**St. Mark's Lutheran
4200 Londonderry Rd**

**December 6, 7 & 8
10:00 am - 4:00 pm**

Proceeds to benefit St. Mark's Ministries & *Christ Lutheran Health Ministries*



THANKSGIVING FOOD COLLECTION

The Social Services Ministry will be collecting food for (4) families for Thanksgiving. We will need (4) turkeys, canned vegetables, stuffing mix, cranberry sauce or fruit cocktail, potatoes, and dessert mixes. Three of the families consist of (1) Adult and (1) child the fourth family has (2) Adults and (2) children. We will also accept monetary donations. If you have any questions, contact any member of the ministry.



"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this [the world] will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:34-35

It seems to me that we are living in a world that is becoming increasingly infected with an either/or, all or nothing attitude. We are inundated with images of Democrat or Republican, Right Wing or Left Wing, Liberal or Conservative, etc. Personally, I am registered to vote as Independent, mostly because I don't like being labeled with a stereotype or assumption that may not be true. When asked about my political leanings I usually tell people I would call myself either a conservative Democrat or liberal Republican, using conservative and liberal as the adjectives they are rather than the labels they have become. The problem with labels is that they quickly lead to not just either/or thinking but also to harmful right/wrong thinking; if one is right, the other is wrong. Usually this means that whatever I think or do is right, and anyone who doesn't agree with me 100% is wrong. We need to realize that, more often than not, the truth lies somewhere in the middle. Unfortunately, the Church is not immune to this kind of thinking. Our opinions and attitudes about our church can be even stronger than politics because in the church we deal with faith issues, the very core of what we believe and who we are. Questions come up about "traditional" versus "contemporary" worship, labels that mean different things to different people. Discussions ensue over the "job" of the church; is it to care for one another or is it to reach out to the world? This kind of either/or, yes/no question has no place in the Church and is, in fact, the very kind of question the Scribes and Pharisees used most often in their attempts to trap Jesus. The "job" of the Church, the work Jesus called his disciples to, is to go into all nations and make disciples. There are many ways to do that. Just as there are varieties of people in the world, there are varieties of ways to reach them with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

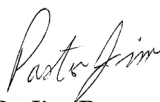
I believe St. Mark's has been doing a good job of proclaiming the Gospel in ways that are both meaningful and attractive to a wide variety of people. A big step for us was the addition of "The Table", an offering of sound Lutheran theology in a less traditional setting and service. It is truly a blessing that we have the resources, in both personnel and facilities to offer "The Table" without having to decide between that and our traditional Sunday services. It is a wonderful case of "both/and", not "either/or."

We are also blessed in that we have the wherewithal to both care for one another and reach out to our community and even the world. Our members care enough to call one another, send cards, and otherwise extend Christian love to other members who are ill or have been missing from among us for some reason. Stephen Ministry is one of the best ways any church could have to care for its members and we have a small but dedicated group who keep that ministry alive. Eucharistic Ministers are trained to take Communion to members between Pastor's visits if they are not able to attend worship. We care for one another *so that* we can reach out to others not *instead of* doing outreach and mission.

Jesus told his disciples to "love on another" so that The World would know that we are his disciples. The love we share for each other is an example to the world of God's love for us. We strengthen one another so that we can go into an often-unwelcoming world knowing that someone "has our back." The church is here to both care for us and equip us to fulfill Jesus' commission to go and make disciples in all the world.

No matter how we identify ourselves in the world, no matter what labels we may wear, voluntarily or otherwise, our most important identity is "Child of God, redeemed sinner, disciple of Jesus Christ." That is one identity that is absolute, no ifs, ands, or buts about it. As St. Paul tells us in his letter to the Galatians, "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus."

Your partner in ministry and mission,


Pr. Jim Person

Ukraine Mission Trip: Part 4 – What's Next? Romania

Since I was “in the neighborhood,” I checked in with a few families in Romania after completing the East European Missions Network (EEMN) Ukraine Bible Camp. It was a language culture shock after listening and translating Russian for 11 days. After a year of Romanian tutelage, my Romanian speech and understanding was worse than ever! Even Eugen asked what happened, since he knew I had a better grasp on the previous trip. It was most certainly a humbling experience.

I was able to visit with Eugen’s family (Ion, Gabriella and Christina) and friends (Laurențiu, Raluca and sons). We visited 4 families and a school and brought them food. In one of the families, I recognized Gabby (the one who helped me in a Sunday School class), taller and stronger as he had grown over the past year.

I enjoyed visiting Doamna Mita, who remembered me from a previous visit. If you recall, this bunica (grandmother) was very close to Laurențiu, and my time with her gave me the confidence to know I could be a full-time missionary in a foreign land. Her daughter, Flori was distraught at how much pain her mother endured after 30+ years of colon cancer. Doamna Mita held my hand tightly, was in tears telling her story of how she prays the Lord would take her and end her suffering. It was a heart-wrenching visit for all of us. Even the men were fighting back tears. We prayed together, and I spent a little bit of time comforting Flori and gave her a bookmark with my favorite verse, “I can do all things through Him who gives me strength.” (Philippians 4:13). In August, dearest Mita joined our Savior.

Two days was just not enough time to catch up with everyone and sharpen my language skills. Of course, everyone wanted to be sure that I was returning in December for the Christmas project to feed 5,000 children. I did not commit, since I knew funds would be tight after the Ukraine trip being more expensive than anticipated. However, the Lord provided and showed me signs that I needed to return again before engaging in full-time ministry. So, I will be in Romania in December for 11 days to help with the sorting and packing portion of the mission trip. The remaining American missionaries will stay longer to help with the distribution portion. I look forward to catching up with the church families on the two Sundays I’m there. Please keep me in your prayers and send me an email (rac97@hotmail.com) if you’d like to join the missionary prayer chain while I’m abroad.

P.S. - DELCU has decided to express mistrust to the Ukraine bishop, which means automatic resignation. Please keep the newly elected bishop in your prayers as reconciliation takes place.

With peace and love,
Ruth Cheng



Gabby and his grandmother receiving some food from Eugen.



TABLE TALK

The Communications Ministry is making plans for a new pictorial church directory.

Appointments will be scheduled Nov. 29 and 30 as well as Dec.1. Photos will be available for Christmas. Please watch for more details in the Sunday Bulletin, St. Mark's Facebook page, and at stmarksharrisburg.org.

Contact Cahroliê G. Parker at 301-801-4539

Also, please check this monthly column for important news from the Communications Ministry.

JAIME'S STORY

I have been a palliative care volunteer for several years at the Penn State Hershey Medical Center. For those unaware, palliative care is specialized medical care for patients with life-threatening illness. This type of care focuses on comfort and treatment at the time of diagnosis. The goal is to improve quality of life for both the patient and the family/significant others. It is different from hospice care, which begins after the treatment of disease has ceased, and when it is clear that the person is not going to survive the illness.

I'd like to share a beautiful experience that a patient revealed to me during one of my recent visits. Her story is revealed to you with her permission.

Jaime is a beautiful 26-year-old young lady with multiple maladies, requiring her to undergo several operations, resulting in insertions of a feeding tube and ECMO (Extracorporeal Membrane Oxygenation), which is a life support pump that circulates blood to the heart and lungs. Her situation was critical and extremely grave. After a couple spiritual discussions about varying degrees of faith in her family, Jaime shared her story. While under anesthesia, she had a distinct vision of Jesus, wavy hair, the bridge of his nose, but a blurred face. Jaime said, "I'm so thirsty, Jesus!" He held out his hand, cupped with water. He said, "You may drink this cool, crisp water and fight, but it won't be easy. Or, take my hand." Jaime looked at his empty hand and knew it was a gate to heaven. Jaime replied, "I want to fight." Jaime took a drink of water and Jesus anointed her head. And then Jaime woke up from the anesthesia. In the past week, Jaime's condition has made tremendous strides, and she's looking forward to a discharge to rehab in the foreseeable future.

It's time to take action. The Lord has plans for all of us. We were gifted with free will to choose our journeys. "With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God, all things are possible." (Mark 10:27) - Ruth Cheng



NOVEMBER LECTORS

8:15 AM

11:00 AM

4	Men in Mission	Men in Mission
11	Bruce Senft	Betty Briner
18	Randy Whitaker	Youth
21	Thanksgiving Eve 7:00 pm -	Bill Shook
25	Susan Smith	Judy Horton

NOVEMBER ALTAR CARE

8:15 AM

11:00 AM

4	Laura Young	Margie Stouffer
11	Laurie Womer	Marian Person
18	Sue Bennick	Barb Dudek
25	Barb Heym	Marian Person

NOVEMBER FLOWER DELIVERY

4	Donna Lee
11	John & Margaret Herigan
18	Laurie Womer
25	Sandy Dinger

THANK YOU NOTES:

A note of thanks for your generous handcrafted donations.

The gift of your time and talents continue to be appreciated by our staff and the patients and their families we care for.

Harrisburg Hospital
UPMC Pinnacle

SPECIAL DATES

- All Saints' Day, November 1, 2018
- Daylight-Saving Time ends, November 4, 2018
- Veterans Day, November 11, 2018
- Thanksgiving Day, November 22, 2018
- Christ the King Sunday, November 25, 2018



Birthdays of the Month

- 2 Susan Bergner
- 3 Maryann Gelehrter
Pastor Jim
Eric Smithers
Elliott Walak
- 4 Hailey Neidig
Susan Smith
- 7 George Kaufman
- 8 Tom Stohler
- 9 Vaughn Heym
- 10 Samantha Banks
Brent Whitaker
- 14 Richard Botts
Sue Dillahey
- 16 Julia Zingone
- 17 Floyd Sholder
- 18 Gary Schwartz
- 20 Sandy Dinger
- 22 Heidi May
Margaret Shillingsford
- 24 Tracey Swetnam
Christine Wnuk
- 27 Isaiah Allen
Don Gutshall
- 28 Ryan Cleaver

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



Women ^{of the} ELCA

Tuesday, November 6 - 9:00 am Projects Day
 Tuesday, November 13 - 10:00 am Esther Circle
 Tuesday, November 27 - 6:30 pm Eve Circle

Sunday, November 4 - W/ELCA Unified and Thankoffering meeting will be held immediately following the 11:00 am service. A light lunch will be served at this meeting. A program will follow after lunch. The W/ELCA Board will meet after the Unified Meeting.

The following items were sent to Lutheran World Relief:
 11 Quilts, 66 Personal Care Kits, 64 School Kits and 4 Fabric Kits.

MEMORIALS for: Marie DeFrank
 Winnie & Rich Farina
 Don & Jeanne Flickinger

MEMORIALS for: Paul Stouffer
 Reneé Carpenter
 Richard & Resta Deppen
 Don & Donna Gutshall
 Shirley Johns
 Jill Lehman
 Faith Smeck
 Lori & Fritz Ulrich
 Larry & Carol Watkins
 Connie Wise

MEMORIALS for: Hilda Deibert
 Connie Wise



2nd & 3rd - LYF Sleepover 7pm-10am
 Joint Lock-In w/SPYG @ St. Mark's
 9th - Italian Night Setup @ 5 pm
 10th - Italian Night @ 4 pm
 11th - LYF Meeting - 5 - 8:30pm
 18th - Soup & Sandwich Fundraiser
 12 pm
 LYF Jr. Meeting - 12:30 - 2 pm
 LYF Family Movie Night
 5 - 8:30 pm



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



The Lutheran Camping Corporation of **CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA 2018 ANNUAL QUILT AUCTION** Sunday, November 4, 2018 to be held at Camp Nawakwa 1033 Nawakwa Road, Biglerville, PA 17307 Fun For the Entire Family 2:00 - Silent Auction of Handmade Craft Items 3:00 - Live Auction of Quilts Dinner following Live Auction All proceeds from the day benefit the Endowment Fund, making camping possible for generations to come! Please register before October 21. This is a free event, and includes an evening meal. 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

The Lutheran Camping Corporation presents... **WOMEN'S CRAFT RETREAT** November 9-11, 2018 at Nawakwa Projects are provided AND you may bring your own to work on! Registration fee: \$145 (Arrive a day early for an additional \$30) Please call 717-677-8211 or visit LutheranCamping.org to register by November 1. Register early, this retreat will fill up! Meals, lodging, and most supplies provided.

ADVENT DAY APART at The Wittel Farm Saturday, December 8, 2018 10am - 2pm All are invited to a day of prayer and meditation in preparation of the birth of the Christ child. There is a \$15 registration fee. Lunch will be provided. Please call 717-677-8211 or visit www.LutheranCamping.org to register by November 23.

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:

Date	Book	Author
November 29	A Dog's Purpose	W. Bruce Cameron
December	NO BOOK CLUB	
January 24	The Rescue	Nicholas Sparks
February 28	A Casualty of War	Charles Todd

NEW ADDRESS:

DANIELLE DISERIO
1101 Diamond Court
Harrisburg PA 17111

ZARA BENNETT
69333 Palm Canyon, #26
Cathedral City, CA 92234

ALICE GRAHAM
34252 Spring Book Ave
Lewes DE 19958

KATHY HEYM
1319 Peachfield Drive
Valrico FL 33596

ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4200 Londonderry Road
Harrisburg, PA 17109

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THE PARISH POST



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	Roberta Wege
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	Kellen Michalowski
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