



# The Parish Post

NOVEMBER 2019

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

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



CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING

Sunday, November 24, 2019

1:00 pm

Soup and sandwiches will be  
provided by the youth.

THANKSGIVING  
SERVICE



Wednesday,  
November 27, 2019

7:00 pm

**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.



"So the Lord's promise came true, just as the prophet had said, "A virgin will have a baby boy, and he will be called Immanuel," which means "God is with us." Matthew 1:22-23  
Contemporary English Version Copyright © 1995 by American Bible Society

This month my message is directed mostly to men, but for the women reading, it will be helpful to you as well since you must deal with us and sometimes even live with us. I have recently read several books written by athletes and other well-known, successful men in which they give accounts of their childhood. Some of these men come from what we might consider a "normal" or "average" background. A surprising number, though, come from a background of poverty, (or at least low income) and, worse yet, abuse at the hands of misguided fathers or father-figures. These men who have been emotionally and physically abused are the fortunate ones in that they have overcome their horrendous upbringing and gone on to be successful in sports or business. I wonder, though, how many thousands more have not been so fortunate and are trapped in lives of dependency, violence, and abuse because of what they learned from some male role model about what a man should be.

All this got me thinking about Biblical examples of manhood, or manliness, or masculinity, or whatever other name we put on the way a man should behave and relate to his family and society. I then remembered that in *The Master Builders Bible for Men*, a special edition of the *Serendipity Bible* published especially for Lutheran Men in Mission, there is a section of passages for study on just that topic. There is a series of lessons on Masculinity subtitled, "Will the Real Jesus Please Stand Up?"

The six lessons in the series deal with The Divine Jesus, The Human Jesus, The Initiated Jesus, The Tough Jesus, The Tender Jesus, and the Triumphant Jesus. The passage at the opening of this article is from the reading for the lesson on The Divine Jesus. What we might call the "headline" for that section is "*God with us*" and it includes the story of Jesus' miraculous virgin birth. The other lessons in the series give an inside look at how the Divine Jesus was also human and set an example of how a Godly man should live.

I don't think we often see Jesus as a "manly man" in the modern sense. As many of the biographies I have read go, too many men grow up confused about what a "real man" is like. And it is not only in the poor neighborhoods and underprivileged communities that this confusion happens. Too many of our young men are growing up in homes where the male role model goes back and forth from loving, caring, and tender, to vengeful, angry, and mean. Add to that the all-too-pervasive message that a manly man is tough as nails, never shows emotion (unless it's anger) and is more willing to fight than to talk.

There is a question quoted at the beginning of *The Master Builders Bible* section on Masculinity: "*I get mixed messages about what a man should be – somewhere between macho and milquetoast. I know Jesus is God, but is he also someone I can look to as the ultimate man?*" I think it's time we realize the answer to that question is "Yes!" and begin to teach our young men that same lesson. And the young men aren't the only ones who need to get that message. The mothers, sisters, teachers, girlfriends, and other women in our lives also need to know that Jesus sets the ultimate example and hold them (us) accountable for their (our) behavior.

Jesus was, and is, the Son of God but he was also fully human. He was tempted to do wrong and to abuse his power and authority. He was tough when he needed to be to get his message across, but he was tender in dealing compassionately with the sick and hurting and in weeping over his friend Lazarus. He was strong enough to remain faithful to his Father, and to us, even to the point of death and then triumphantly rose from the grave to make his earthly mission complete. None of us is the Son of God, but some of us sometimes act like we think we are. A real man is not a manly man, he is a Godly man. The life we live and the example we set should be one our children and families clearly appreciate, not one they are confused by. With so many conflicting images of manhood in our society, it is time for Christian men to set the example and lead the way. And ladies, the manly man in me hates to admit it, but the Godly man must; we can't do it without your help.

Your partner in ministry and mission,

## COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

As we enter the time of year when people start to think about giving thanks, we at St. Mark's have many blessings! We are richly blessed with a caring congregation, the opportunity to live out meaningful missions and dedicated and caring pastoral leadership. As we celebrate God's abundance, I urge every member to reflect on the blessings they have received through association with St. Mark's. Please use this time to consider your commitment to St. Mark's from volunteering your time and talent for our ministries and for committing to financial support for the coming year.


Please mark your calendar and plan to attend the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, November 24 at 1 PM in fellowship hall. Food for our meeting will be provided by the St. Mark's Youth Group.

We will have our annual Thanksgiving Eve service at 7pm on November 27.

Please take the opportunity during this Thanksgiving season to contribute items to the food pantry or to the social services ministry or to the Agape Fund. This is the perfect opportunity to "give back" in gratitude for the abundance we have received.

On behalf of the Congregational Council, I look forward to seeing you in church!


In Christian love,  
Stephanie



# PUZZLE

## A feast of praise

Throughout the Bible, God's people give thanks and praise for his goodness.



**Directions:** Draw lines to match the scriptures (all NIV) with the correct speaker.

"I thank my God every time I remember you." Philippians 1:3	Hannah
"My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior." Luke 1:46-47	David
"He is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him." Exodus 15:2	Mary
"My heart rejoices in the LORD." 1 Samuel 2:1	Paul
"I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving." Psalm 69:30	Moses

Answers: Philippians 1:3, Paul; Luke 1:46-47, Mary; Exodus 15:2, Moses; 1 Samuel 2:1, Hannah; Psalm 69:30, David



## PRESENT TENSE

After "turkey day" came and went last year, a pastor challenged church members to ask one another not "How was your Thanksgiving?" but "How is your Thanksgiving?" After all, giving thanks should be an ongoing act.

That doesn't always need to be profoundly deep, either. A.J. Jacobs, author of *Thanks a Thousand*, once asked a philosophy-professor friend what he was grateful for. The shockingly simple reply? "Sometimes I'm just grateful I have arms." That odd but spot-on answer shows the importance, Jacobs says, of being "thankful for things so omnipresent that they can escape our notice."

So ... how is your Thanksgiving?



Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Ecumenical Food Pantry, and those who benefit by your generosity, I would like to thank you or your generous contribution of \$37.50 we received in September 2019.

Sincerely,  
*Jacqueline M. Young*



- 2 Susan Bergner
- 3 Maryann Gelehrter  
James Person  
Elliott Walak
- 4 Hailey Neidig  
Susan Smith
- 7 George Kaufman
- 8 Thomas Stohler
- 9 Vaughn Heym
- 10 Samantha Banks  
Brent Whitaker
- 14 Richard Botts  
Susan Dillahey
- 16 Julia Zingone
- 17 Floyd Sholder
- 18 Gary Schwartz
- 20 Sandy Dinger
- 22 Heidi May
- 23 Rick Beckley
- 24 Tracey Swetnam  
Christine Wnuk
- 27 Isaiah Allen (Willis)  
Donald 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.

### NOVEMBER LECTORS

- | 8:15 AM                     | 11:00 AM       |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| 3 Men in Mission            | Men in Mission |
| 10 Bruce Senft              | Tom Stohler    |
| 17 Jeannie Flickinger       | Bill Shook     |
| 24 Calvin Smith             | Lisa Hand      |
| 27 Thanksgiving Eve 7:00 pm | Lore-Lee Walak |

### NOVEMBER ALTAR CARE

- | 8:15 AM                     | 11:00 AM                       |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 3 Laurie Womer              | Marian Person<br>Donna Woodrow |
| 10 Sue Bennick              | Sandy Dinger                   |
| 17 Laura Young              | Barb Dudek                     |
| 24 Barb Heym                | Sandy Dinger                   |
| 27 Thanksgiving Eve 7:00 pm | Marian Person                  |

### NOVEMBER FLOWER DELIVERY

- 3 Lucy Weaver
- 10 Sandy Dinger
- 17 Barb Dudek
- 24 Bill & Betty Shook

### NOVEMBER GREETERS

- | 8:15 AM                  | 11:00 AM                       |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 3 Men in Mission         | Men in Mission                 |
| 10 Sue Bennick           | Marian Person<br>Donna Woodrow |
| 17 Paul & Jonnie Deibler | Judy Horton                    |
| 24 Shirley Johns         | George Kaufman                 |

### NOVEMBER COMMUNION ASST.

- | 8:15 AM          | 11:00 AM       |
|------------------|----------------|
| 3 Men in Mission | Men in Mission |



**FREE**

**First Saturday of every month.**

**8 to 10 am**

*All are welcome!*

## LOAD-OUT!

Well, the rollercoaster ride is over. Eight weeks of moving the kids to their own apartment is 99% done. Mulling over 22 years of accumulated memories are now purged. The highs of receiving house bids and the lows of rejected offers are complete. Buyer negotiations are finalized. My airline tickets are purchased. It's time to move on.

Things are bittersweet. I've encountered a lot of opposition from friends and family to the tune of, "how can you leave everything (us) behind," and "who will take care of this now, and "why would you want to give all 'this' up?" My response is, "Here I am, Lord. Send me!" I am relinquishing my 30+ years of management experience. I am NOT in charge here, God is. God is calling me to spread the gospel, and I am not hanging up on His call.

My living arrangements have changed due to Romanian governmental monitoring of the Ana family's household. They receive a small subsidy in order to provide 24-hour care for Cristina (Eugen's older sister) who became paraplegic in her early 20's. The government does not believe I would be staying in their apartment rent free and would therefore take away Cristina's aid. Fortunately, Mrs. Ana's nephew has an apartment vacancy, and is willing to rent it to me at ¼ of the cost. It still amounts to about \$300/month plus utilities, but it is a better cost alternative. And, he speaks English!

Besides ministering to the 25+ families that I have already met, I will be volunteering weekly at a women's shelter for victims of human trafficking. She is willing to help me through the extended visa process so I can remain in Romania for 9 months and come back to the USA for 3 months. I will be teaching these teenage women English, and they will reciprocate in Romanian.

I look forward to a much more simplistic lifestyle. I don't need to have tv and internet 24/7. I don't need that latest gadget or tech device. And believe it or not, I was able to give up 95% of my bling, which LYF was able to sell and provide funds for youth to attend retreats and mission trips. Don't get me wrong, I will certainly miss many of those things. I just realize that I don't NEED those amenities. Please continue to keep my family and me in your prayers. Make time for the Lord!

My contact info is as follows:

Ruth Cheng

Email: [liftupmysoul2016@gmail.com](mailto:liftupmysoul2016@gmail.com)

Skype: rcheng92

Website: [liftupmysoulblog.wordpress.com](http://liftupmysoulblog.wordpress.com)

My favorite song by Jackson Browne has a lyric that goes like this:

"You know that I still want to play  
So just make sure you got it all set to go  
Before you come for my piano"

My dad's keyboard is waiting for me in Romania. Until next time (până data viitoare)!

Peace,

Ruth

## SAVE SOME TAXES?

Taxpayers who are 70 ½ or older must take their Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from traditional IRA accounts. Consider using the Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), a tax-efficient way to take the distribution and also help St. Marks meet its financial goals. Any bank or investment advisor should be able to help you do this. It is a convenient way to support charities and get a tax break while meeting tax requirements for IRAs. Why not do something to help the charitable work that is done here at our church and reap the benefit of paying less taxes as well. If you have any questions see our Treasurer or a member of the Finance Ministry.



**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](http://www.LutheranCamping.org)**



The Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central Pennsylvania **2019 ANNUAL QUILT AUCTION** Sunday, November 3, 2019 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 20. This is a free event, and includes an evening meal.

The Lutheran Camping Corporation presents... **WOMEN'S CRAFT RETREAT** November 8-10, 2019 at Nawakwa Projects are provided AND you may bring your own to work on! Registration fee: \$150 (Arrive a day early for an additional \$30, lodging only) Please call 717-677-8211 or visit [LutheranCamping.org](http://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 7, 2019 10am - 2pm All are invited to a day of prayer and meditation in preparation of the birth of the Christ child. Day led by: Rev. Karen Minnich-Sadler There is a \$15 registration fee. Lunch will be provided. Please call 717-677-8211 or visit [www.LutheranCamping.org](http://www.LutheranCamping.org) to register by November 22.



**CHRISTMAS EVE** will be here before we know it. There will be a change in our Christmas Eve worship schedule this year. We will have **TWO SERVICES**, one at **NOON**, which will be a family-oriented service with a drama of the Christmas story and the other at **7:00PM** will be a traditional service. Both services will include a candlelight service of "Silent Night." Mark your calendars now, don't miss this beautiful worship opportunity.

### **SOCIAL SERVICES NEWS**

The Social Services Ministry is asking for donations of food for (5) families for Thanksgiving. We will accept stuffing mix, cranberry sauce, canned vegetables, potatoes, canned fruit, gravy, and dessert mixes. WE ask that if you donate Pumpkin Pie Filling that it be the one with the spices already mixed in. We are also in need of Turkeys for families as well as roasting pans and baking pans for desserts. If you would rather make a monetary donation, please see one of the ministry members. We will accept donations through Sunday November 17th. Thank you in advance for your support.

Molly Stanton (Ministry Chairperson), Barb Heym, Cal Smith, Carolyn Shadle, Emma Mink, Jan Smith, Judee Leister, Judy Horton, Pr. Jim Person, Sue Senft



## The Lutheran Youth Of Faith at St. Mark's Annual Italian Night - Nov. 9th

From the hills of Tuscany to the shores of Sicily, experience the sights, smell, and tastes of Italian cuisine, Spaghetti at it's finest! See the Fellowship Hall transformed into an Italian Restaurant! Saturday, November 9th from 5PM to 8PM, all proceeds benefit Youth Ministry Programs here at St. Mark's. \$8 for adults, \$5 for children, you'll get all you can eat spaghetti, salad, & beverages, and don't forget an extra dollar or two for the dessert table! Walk-ins and reservations accepted, reserve now so we don't run out of space! There will also be a raffle for many great prizes! Take-out dinners available, we accommodate food restrictions. Bring friends, family, all are welcome!

If you are able, we are in need of donations for the event! We are looking for desserts, prize baskets for the raffle, and other food supplies.

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:

Date	Book	Author
Dec 5	Dead Winter	Sherry Knowlton
Jan 23	Long Road to Mercy	David Baldacci

## Women of the ELCA

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

The following items were sent to Lutheran World Relief:  
12 Quilts, 40 Personal Care Kits, 38 School Kits and 40 Bars of Soap.

## SPECIAL DATES

- Veteran's Day, November 11, 2019
- Thanksgiving Day, November 28, 2019



## church WORKDAY

**Saturday, November 16, 2019**

**10 am to 4:00 pm**

Indoor clean out day.

Come any time!

**NEEDED:** Large tall juice or tall metal coffee cans for altar flower delivery. If you have any, please place in Parlor Kitchen. Thank You!!!!

# ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4200 Londonderry Road  
Harrisburg, PA 17109

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## THE PARISH POST



### St. Mark's Church Council

<b>President</b>	Stephanie Carl
<b>Vice President</b>	Sandy Sherwood
<b>Secretary</b>	Loraine Mariner
<b>Treasurer</b>	Calvin Smith
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	Mary Sultzaberger
<b>Council Members</b>	Chris Bair
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	Tom Graham
	Jim Long
	Pastor Jim Person
	Rebekah Varga
	Lore Lee Walak
	Roberta Wege
	Laura Young
	Nick Zingone
<b>Minister of Music</b>	Joyce Van Nieuwkuyk
<b>Minister of Contemporary Worship</b>	Bennett Williams
<b>Church Secretary</b>	Kim DiPaolo
<b>Youth/Family Ministry</b>	
	Kellen Michalowski
<b>Sexton</b>	Donald Young
<b>Nursery School Dir.</b>	Pam Baranowski

## THE PARISH POST November 2019



“... And after he saved the animals, he started turning up on the mailing lists of environmental organizations.”