



# The Parish Post

OCTOBER 2017

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



Our 4th Annual  
Saturday, October 28  
St. Mark's Parking Lot, 5:00PM

Families are invited to bring children in costume or not, and to trick or treat out of car "trunks." We are looking for 10-12 St. Mark's members willing to bring a "treat" you can share out of your trunk or off your tailgate. You can decorate your vehicle or not, you can dress in costume yourself or not, but help us welcome our young families and neighbors for a fun evening in our parking lot! We welcome all ages for a fun evening of socializing. Dress warmly and tell a friend! Campfire, smores, hotdogs, coffee & cider. Families & neighbors INVITED!

## *St. Mark's Nursery School 20th Anniversary!*

Sunday, October 15, 2017

9:45 am a Celebration in Fellowship Hall  
Children will be singing at the 11:00 service

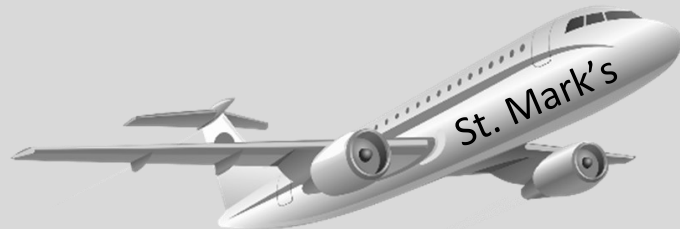
**ALL ARE INVITED TO CELEBRATE!**



**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.

## **Our faith takes flight in Sunday School**

Take-off with us  
Sundays at 9:45



### *Reformation Sunday*

October 29th



JOIN THE CELEBRATION!! October 2017 marks the 500th Anniversary of the start of the Reformation, the movement sparked by Martin Luther from which the Lutheran Church grew. St. Mark's, originally Shoop's Lutheran Church, has been a part of that movement for 234 of those 500 years. As we approach that milestone anniversary we are planning some special events that will help us carry out our ministry, hopefully for the next 500 years and beyond. Stay tuned to the Parish Post, Sunday bulletins, website, and other announcements for updates.



### **Thursday, November 30, 2017**

- 11:30 AM Depart St. Mark's Church
- 12:30 PM Arrive at Good & Plenty for a family style luncheon and shopping at the gift shop
- 2:00 PM Depart for the Music Theater
- 3:00 PM The American Music Theater Christmas
- 5:30 PM Depart for home
- 6:30 PM Approximate return

**\$80 per person - Transportation, Show, Luncheon, Taxes & Gratuities included.**

Sign-up sheet in the Narthex.



**So it was that for an entire year they met with the church and taught a great many people, and it was in Antioch that the disciples were first called "Christians." Acts 11:26b, NRSV**

Regardless of one's sentiments toward social media, something we have learned from the rapid growth of Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and others is the importance of community. Now an online, virtual community is not the same as the community my generation grew up with in which we interacted with one another physically, but it is a community nonetheless. Human nature being what it is, we need community. In Genesis we read how God created humans to live in community with God first, then with other human beings; "It is not good that man (or woman) should be alone" (Genesis 2:18). Jesus recognized the importance of community when he gathered the disciples into a close-knit group to carry on his ministry and the Apostles knew how important community was when they formed the church that Jesus promised he would build on the rock of the Gospel. What set these communities apart from other groups and organizations is that they were formed, not only for their own benefit, but mostly for the benefit of others. That is, ***their purpose was not to maintain the status quo, but to reach out in mission to a world in need.***

Just as the Church is a community within the larger community of humankind, congregations like St. Mark's are communities within the larger community of the Church. And, like those Biblical communities mentioned above, we exist not just for ourselves but for the benefit of others; to help when we can, offer support where we can, and to reach out in mission with the Good News of Jesus Christ. I believe St. Mark's stands at a crossroads of our history and our future. ***We must decide if we are going to be a mission congregation or a maintenance congregation.***

I recently had to give up my beloved 2004 Jeep Liberty, which had served me faithfully for 12 years, and get a new vehicle. Although I still loved that old Jeep, the cost of maintaining it had become impractical, (not to mention the anxiety of wondering what would fail next and when.) I now have a dependable vehicle that I like very much, but I had to let go of one I had been comfortable with for a long time. Congregations, too, can reach a point where "maintenance" becomes costly. Not being willing to give up at least some of the familiar and embrace something new can lead to dwindling attendance, lack of finances, and overall loss of vitality as those seeking a mission oriented community will find it in other places.

I expressed some of these thoughts recently at our Congregation Council meeting. I made it clear that I feel that I am called to lead a congregation more geared toward mission than maintenance. Most, if not all, of the Council seemed to feel the same way. While it is very important that we take care of one another who are already a part of this community,

we must also find ways to be a community that is open, inviting, and accepting of others who are seeking a faith community that will enhance their lives and bring them the Good News they crave.

At a recent meeting of the Rostered Leaders of the Harrisburg Conference of the Lower Susquehanna Synod, we were informed that in the next ten years 30-40 congregations in our Synod are likely to close. Most of those congregations will likely be of the "maintenance" variety; more determined to maintain "the way we've always done it" than to embrace new ideas, new ways of doing things, and, as a result, new members. While St. Mark's is currently a vital, and even growing, congregation, we must not be lulled into thinking we cannot become one of those 30-40 that are no longer here a decade from now.

As we prepare to celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation, we look back on 234 years of our own history, first as Shoop's Lutheran Church then, since 1958, as St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church. As part of our Reformation observance, we will be asking members to do something we haven't asked of them for a long time; make a commitment of time, talent, and/or finances to the future of our church. The Reformation, sparked in large part by Martin Luther's disappointment with the Church of his day, ended up changing the course of history. I'm sure that much has changed in the 234 years of Shoop's/St. Mark's history as well. Despite all the changes, and even upheaval, the church has survived. Perhaps it has been *because* of the changes and upheaval that the church has survived.

If we choose, by intent or by default, to be a maintenance oriented congregation, I guess that will be OK. I believe a mission oriented congregation, though, is more consistent with the model of a Biblical community, and more likely to be a community in which people will be involved, active, and ultimately, to hear and live the Good News. The choice is ours.

Your partner in ministry,

Pastor Jim Person

**AGAPE' FUND;** St. Mark's Agape' Fund, from which we provide assistance for medical, utility, and other bills to those in need, is running low on funds. Any contributions made to this fund will be greatly appreciated. Simply make a check to St. Mark's with "Agape' Fund" in the memo line or use an envelope with "Agape' Fund" clearly marked on the outside. Thank you for your generous help for our friends in need.

## FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT

As we're moving into October, it's a very busy time at St. Mark's! Where do I begin? We hosted a successful picnic for all our neighbors on a beautiful Saturday morning. Thanks to many volunteers we were able to show how we want to share God's love with others. Then there was our Extravaganza, a ministry of St. Mark's that raises thousands of dollars every year in support of the ministries of our church and the community. Not to mention we also held an inspiring outdoor worship service as a way to show everyone around that we have something worth seeing for themselves. I happened to be inside the church that Saturday morning when the neighborhood picnic was taking place. That morning the phone outside the choir room was ringing as I was walking by. So I smiled, picked it up, and said "good morning, St. Mark's." On the other end a woman asked "what's going on there today?" Sure, I was happy to share about all the festivities. But I later realized that we're doing something right because people are taking notice.

Now if all that happening the same weekend wasn't enough excitement, it was also the kickoff for our Sunday School programs. Our Christian Education ministry has working hard to ensure we're offering great faith-building experiences for children of all ages. This year was particularly interesting to me because of the addition of a class and curriculum specifically for children aged birth to three. Now I'm looking forward not only to bringing my kids to Sunday School every week but also bonding with other families.

Speaking of youth and family programs, we have been meeting with candidates for the position of Director of Youth & Family Ministry. We had some great interviews and look forward to bringing back several of the candidates for a second round of interviews before making a decision to hire. We're really blessed to have had such great individuals to consider, each with unique gifts. As we continue on through the selection process, please continue to pray that God will help and guide us.

As much as things have been busy at St. Mark's recently, Christians around the world will soon be commemorating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Anything I could say about the significance of Martin Luther's work and the events that transformed Christianity wouldn't begin to do justice.

So instead of looking back, let's look forward - to the next 500 years. I believe the church continues to evolve. I see that it the increasingly diverse methods of worship, service, and witness that surround us. What would Luther think of how the Christian Church has changed if he could see it today? Would he want us to love one another more? Would he want us introduce more people to Jesus? I don't know. We find ourselves as temporary stewards of something that existed long before us. It's our responsibility to continue the traditions of the church. But more importantly it's our responsibility to love others, feed the hungry, and share the good news just as Jesus instructed us. I want to invite you all to kick off the next 500 years with special services on October 29, 2017.

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](mailto:nzingone@verizon.net).

Faithfully Yours,  
Nick Zingone

**7 Annual Quilt Auction** Sunday, November 5, 2017 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](http://www.LutheranCamping.org)

## SPECIAL DATES

- **World Communion Sunday, October 1, 2017**
- **Reformation Sunday, October 29, 2017**
- **Reformation Day, October 31, 2017**



3	Margie Stouffer Susan Tremblay
4	Hannah Leigh DeFrank
5	Emma Mink
6	Dorothy Sutch Teresa Lawyer Chad Lawyer Phoenix Lewis
7	Marsha Nicodemus
8	Kathryn McClain Jackson Klick
9	Dylan Kroah
10	Wayne Metz Kendall Beverly
11	Reuel Deppen Zara Waters Sara Lawrence
13	Mason Brown Samuel Howie
15	Tina Smith
16	Nathan Cleaver Bennett Fleegel
17	Jean Miller Brooke DiSerio
19	Albert Magaro
21	Richard Deppen
24	Kristian Beverly Alexis Neidig
26	Jared Fleegal
28	John Herigan, Jr. Laura Young
30	Brian Dinger Thomas Botts Nolan Dulovich

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

## OCTOBER COMMUNION ASST.

8:15 AM

11:00 AM

## OCTOBER ALTAR CARE

8:15 AM

11:00 AM

1	Sue Bennick	Marian Person
8	Laurie Womer	Stephanie Carl
15	Laura Young	Sara Jane DeFrank
22	Sue Bennick	Barb Dudek
29	Barb Heym	Marian Person
30		

## OCTOBER LECTORS

8:15 AM

11:00 AM

1	Men in Mission	Men in Mission
8	Mary Edna Leedy	Bill Shook
15	Calvin Smith	Lisa Hand
22	Nick Zingone	Dennis DeFrank
29	Faith Smeck	Sandy Sherwood

## OCTOBER GREETERS

8:15 AM

11:00 AM

1	Men in Mission	Men in Mission
8	Randy Whitaker Carla Whitaker	Nancy Hartman
15		Marian Person Donna Woodrow
22		
29		Barb Dudek

## OCTOBER FLOWER DELIVERY

1	Barb Heym
8	Peggy Davis
15	Peggy Davis
22	Shirley Johns
29	Tracy Ingram

### An **Adult Study Retreat** on the books

Kisses from Katie by Katie Davis

One Thousand Wells by Jena Lee Nardella

A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park

October 3-5, 2017 **Nawakwa** Registration fee: \$145

Lodging and meals provided. Please call 717-677-8211

or visit [www.LutheranCamping.org](http://www.LutheranCamping.org) to register.

## St. Mark's Nursery School

### Following The Lamb ...



Hello St. Mark's,

We are excited to let you all know that we will be celebrating our 20th Anniversary this October! We would love for all of you to come and join us for this celebration on October 15th at 9:45 AM in the fellowship hall for Cake and then at 11o'clock service to see some of our present children and past children sing some of our favorite Nursery School songs!

We are Back and excited for our 20th School Year here at St. Mark's. This past month in September some of our children arrived with smiling faces and walked right in to get started. While others had a little bit of a rough transition. We are working together and can not wait to get full swing into our grove with our children here at St. Mark's.

So far in our Sheep class we talked a lot about apples, and the different parts of them. We tasted all different kinds of apples and even made homemade Applesauce. Our Lamb class has been making all kinds of pretend food. We made our favorite kind of cookies, and apple pies. Come stop by our boards upstairs and downstairs where we have all of our apple information that the students learned.

This coming Month we will be talking about Pumpkins and how they grow, Fire Safety, and learning some new Colors.

If you haven't signed up for Giant A+ Program please do! This helps are school out with giving back a percentage of your groceries to the school. With this we are able to better our school through purchasing supplies, and equipment for the school. As well as help give Scholarships to some of our students!

Pamela Baranowski!  
Director

## THANK YOU NOTES

Dear Pastor Person,

Thank you and my St. Mark's family for you love and support these past 3 years of my dear Jeannie's health challenge. Your prayers and concerns have sustained and helped me more than you'll ever know.

Yours in Christ and Fellowship,

*Jay Snyder*

I want to thank all the members of St. Mark's for the many cards for my birthday. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,  
*Harry Roat*

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 \$124.00 we received in July 2017.

Sincerely,  
*Jacqueline Young*

The Lutheran Camping Corporation presents...  
**Women's Craft Retreat** November 10-12, 2017 at  
**Nawakwa** Projects are provided AND you may bring  
your own to work on! Registration fee: \$145 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.



**R&K SUB SALE:** St. Mark's Nursery School is selling R&K Subs and Pretzel Sandwiches. Subs are \$5.50/ea., Pretzel Sandwiches are \$4.50/ea. You may place orders between services on October 1 and October 8. Subs will be available for pick up on Monday October 23 from 4:00-7:00pm at the church. If you have any questions please ask any nursery school board member. Thank you in advance for your support.

# Women <sup>of the</sup> ELCA

Tuesday, October 3 - 9 am - Projects Day  
Monday, October 9 - 4 pm - W/ELCA Board  
Tuesday, October 10 - 10 am - Esther Circle  
Tuesday, October 24 - 6:30 pm - Eve Circle

## Sunday, October 22nd, 2017 **Fall Foliage Day** at **Kirchenwald & Nawakwa**

Bring your family and friends to camp for a fall afternoon! Both events will run from 1-6pm.  
An evening meal will be provided. Registration is \$7/person. Please call 717-677-8211 or visit [LutheranCamping.org](http://LutheranCamping.org) by October 13 to register.



October 8 - Mount Gretna Hike @ 12:30 - 8:30 pm  
*followed by an LYF Meeting starting at 5 pm*  
October 21 - Washington, D.C. Day Trip - 8 am - 9 pm  
October 22 - LYF Jr First Meeting - 12:30 - 3 pm  
October 22 - LYF Meeting 5 - 8:30 pm  
October 28 - St. Mark's Trunk-or-Treat - 5 - 8 pm



## "55 Alive"

Refresher Course

Saturday, October 21st - 9 am to 1 pm

Discount on Auto Insurance (No Driving)

Cost: Non AARP Members \$20 (for 2) — AARP Members \$15 (for 2)

**Make check payable to AARP** give or mail to:

Paul Deibler, 3848 Derry St., Hbg., PA 17111 — 4 hours — **must pre-register**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# 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>	Nick Zingone
<b>Vice President</b>	Deb Banks
<b>Secretary</b>	Loraine Mariner
<b>Treasurer</b>	Calvin Smith
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	Mary Sultzaberger
<b>Council Members</b>	Joe Baranowski Stephanie Carl Tom Graham Jim Long Pastor Jim Person Sandy Sherwood Lore Lee Walak Roberta Wege Randy Whitaker Nick Zingone
<b>Minister of Music</b>	Joyce Van Nieuwkuyk
<b>Church Secretary</b>	Kim DiPaolo
<b>Youth/Family Ministry</b>	Bennett Williams
<b>Sexton</b>	Donald Young
<b>Nursery School Dir.</b>	Pam Baranowski

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