



# The Parish Post

APRIL 2022

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
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(717) 652-6700

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"Time is a gift of God's creation. People order time in various ways, often based on the rhythms of nature. The church organizes time by the church year. It tells the story of God, who is beyond time, acting in history – above all through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

The church year includes the Christmas and Easter cycles of seasons and the periods of time after Epiphany and after Pentecost. The Christmas cycle begins with the first Sunday of Advent, four Sundays before December 25, and concludes with the Epiphany of Our Lord on January 6. The Easter cycle begins with Ash Wednesday forty days before Easter and concludes with the Day of Pentecost on the fiftieth day of Easter. The weekly progression of Sundays characterizes the Time after Epiphany and the Time after Pentecost." *Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 13, "The Church Year"*

The church year is, in many ways, a reflection of the cycle of life we see repeated daily, weekly, yearly and over the course of a whole lifetime. That cycle includes the anticipation of things yet to come, the celebration of joy realized, the revelation of the wonders of life, the dark times of suffering and sacrifice, the joy of new life, and the everyday happenings and events that occur in between.

As I write this, we are nearing the end of the Epiphany season, culminating in the Transfiguration of Our Lord. This is a high point of the Gospels, both literally and figuratively as from the mountaintop Jesus and his followers head down to Jerusalem and the cross. We travel together through the somber season of Lent looking forward to the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord on Easter Sunday. From the smallest moments of our lives to the span of a whole lifetime we see the pattern of up, down,

**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.

anticipation, fear, apprehension and joy repeated over and over. That realization can be both disconcerting and comforting; disconcerting due to the knowledge that life will never be a continuous “bed of roses”, but comforting in the reassurance that the brighter days, the blooms of spring, and new life in Christ are yet to come. And, as we learn from the church year, the future God has to offer through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus is greater than any dark time we might experience.

The church, like the world around us, has been through some trying times over the past two years. We have experienced precautions, cancellations and yes, even some wonderful celebrations like Christmas Eve. Shortly following that celebration, though, we saw a surge in COVID cases in the general population that prompted a return to more cautious gatherings once again. Now, we see COVID trending down again and are looking forward to a more traditional observance of Lent and a revitalized celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord, followed by a year of ministry to our members and community refreshed by the time away.

The Israelites spent 40 years wandering in the wilderness, guided and protected by the Lord, to find new freedom and new life in the Promised Land. Jesus spent 40 days in the desert, hungry, thirsty, and being tempted by the Devil. Sustained by the Heavenly Father and rooted in his faithfulness to God and to us, Jesus emerged from his ordeal to begin a ministry that would bring life, hope, and salvation to all the world. We have spent the better part of two years negotiating the Wilderness of Pandemic, into what Promised Land, what mission and ministry, what new life will we emerge?

The coming Forty Days of Lent will, in many ways, be representative of our journey of the past two years. It will be a time for us to remember what we have been through and how it relates to the wilderness journeys of our ancestors. It will also be a time to remember the cycle that will bring us to joy, freedom, and renewed mission and ministry. I hope you will join us, both through the wilderness and in the emerging joy. While we pray for a return to greater numbers at in-person worship and fellowship, we will continue to reach by social media, internet, and any other we can to bring the Gospel to as many people as possible.

However, you travel with us, we thank you for your support of our mission and ministry in whatever way you are able offer it. “Time is a gift of God’s creation.” Let us make the best use of that time that we can as we look forward to the eternal, glorious, cycle of life that lies ahead.

Your partner in ministry and mission,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Jim".

Pr. Jim Person

## **From Council President**

Hello Members of St. Mark's,

It's no secret that the right word can completely change the meaning of a sentence.

One word that comes to my mind is Stewardship. "Giving" is the word that will usually suffice, but in the church, Stewardship is used for good reasons. To be a steward means we are custodians of something that belongs to someone else.

When I consider what it means to be a steward of my calendar, my energy, or even my money, it changes my relationship with those things. They are no longer something which I guard but something which I must carefully share with the world that is loved by God. We all give to what matters most to us.

I give to the Church because it is a place where I can come and pray when I feel powerless to be able to bring about change to the world and to myself. Church is a place I can come to feel safe and realize that God is bigger than all the disappointments I may be feeling. Church is the family that constantly reminds me how to hold on to hope. Church is the place I come to feel the joy and blessing to be able to thank and praise God for all I have been given. I give to the Church for these and many other reasons. I pray that you will join me in making a pledge to the mission and ministry of St. Mark's.

Stewardship is not all about monetary contributions. Contributions of time and talents are the glue that holds congregations together and we are no exception. As I have said many times before, it's because of you, the amazing congregation of St. Mark's that we are still doing as well as we are. But I have asked myself over and over again, what else I, Sandy Sherwood, can do to help St. Mark's remain successful? Will you join me in prayerfully asking yourselves the same question? Thank you.

**In Christian Love,  
Sandy Sherwood, Council President**

**Chris Bair is collecting newspapers for the Bird Sanctuary**

**Anita Featherman is collecting old used Wooden Sleds  
any condition also Women's old Ice Skates. Call her at  
(717)469-0840 and she will pick them up**



## APRIL

04/01 – Stella Baker	04/18 – Carol Watkins
04/02 – Fred Shultz	04/20 – Patty Ernest
Owen Smith	Keri Miller
Madeline Varga	Danielle DiSerio
04/03 Jane Shetrone	04/21- Christopher Bair
Charles Walak	04/23 – Kristy Shoaff
04/04 – Caden Bryan	04/25 – Kimberly Klick
Casianne Frey	Lauryn Edwards (McClenahan)
Valerie Martellaro	Charlie James
04/05—Michelle Haynos	04/26 - Denise Harr
04/06 - Dave Ringley	Melva Neifert
04/13 – Donald Herbster	Karin Senft
Christian McClain	04/27 - Zachary Lee
04/15—Susan Simpler	James Long
04/16 - Anthony Weldon	Calvin Smith
04/17 – Lauren Briner	04/29 - April Trout
	Jackson Lee

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

## St. Mark's Book Club

Date	Book	Author	Facilitator
2022			
Apr. 28	West With Giraffes	Linda Rutledge	_____

Book Club meets at 10:00 AM in the parlor

*Thank  
you*



Pastor Jim and St Mark's Leaders

Thank you for the opportunity to preach & share a message with you all. I am tremendously grateful for your kind words & financial support, too..

May God's peace be with you all

In faith, hope, & love,  
Troy Spencer

Mary Sultzaberger asked that I include the Thank You note that was to be included with your end of the year statement, she missed putting it in some of them and would like to apologize if one didn't get in your envelope. Sorry for the oversight but we are thankful & grateful for your offerings to the church.

Dear St Mark's Family,

A big thanks goes out to everyone for all the prayers, cards, and well wishes extended to me. Also, a thank you goes to Doug & Laurie Womer for flower delivery this past Sunday. I had a plate put in to stabilize my ankle, and will be making a full recovery soon.

Thanks be to God,  
Patty Ernest

Thank you so much for the beautiful altar flowers that I received in honor of my birthday.

I really do not feel deserving, but I am grateful that I was gifted with them. Thanks, also, to Donna Lee for delivering them to me. It was nice, although very briefly, to see her again.

Please know that I think of all of you often and keep so many of you in my prayers.

Fondly,  
Terry Stohler



# Connected

This is an excerpt from a recent bible study which explored our responsibility when we know what is right, yet choose to do what is wrong.

[[A young woman was walking on a mountain trail. As she climbed up and it was cold, a snake approached her and said, "Please take me in your arms because I am freezing. The girl replied, "I can't do that." The serpent insisted, "Oh please, warm me up." Eventually, the girl gave in and said, "Nest under my coat." The serpent slipped under her coat and warmed up, and the girl thought everything was fine. Suddenly, the serpent bit the girl. She pulled him out from under her coat and threw him away, saying, "I trusted you. Why did I get bit?" The serpent replied, "You knew what I was when you lifted me up from below."]

[If we flirt with the devil we will always be hurt. If we refuse to dress with the robe of praise because we do not feel like praising the Lord or we do not want to, we will end up in dangerous situations. We will open the door to bigger problems, which can have serious consequences. Immediately resist the devil. Be well balanced (tempered, with awake mind), vigilant and cautious all the time; for your enemy, the devil, roars (with hunger) as a lion looking for whom he may devour. Oppose him strong in faith (resist right from the beginning), being rooted, grounded, strong, steadfast and determined, knowing that the brothers (the whole Body of Christ) in the world pass through those (identical) sufferings as you. 1 Peter 5:8-9 (AMP)]

It's a hard lesson. Temptations bombard our daily lives and give us a false sense of immortality. **I'll do it, just this once. One more time. One more bite. I had one drink, one hit, one blow. This is my last one.** Since I am immersed in field work once again, I am sensitive to the struggles of the women and children I serve. The exposure to predators, sexual exploitation, drug use, alcohol abuse, poverty, broken families and bullying exist, just like in the USA. The biggest difference is that there are no social supports here. No group meetings, no sponsors, no 1-800 hotlines, and many with no belief in Christ.

Dr. Kari Vo recently wrote a devotion that states in part,

**Jesus is your support. It doesn't matter if you're not feeling it – I doubt trees "feel" the water at their roots all the time, either! But you are connected to Him, and He to you – and His life flows through you. Jesus is your Strength and your life, and He will see you through.**

May you remain grounded in faith and steadfast in resisting temptations. You are always connected to Christ.

Peace,

Ruth

# LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

## PERSONAL CARE KITS

**SOME IMPORTANT GUIDELINES TO REMEMBER** • Be sure to shop for light- or medium-weight towels, which are easier for Kit recipients to hand wash and air dry, take up less storage space and are considerably less expensive than the fluffier towels we may prefer to use. • Bath towels vary in size. The 52" X 27" size listed in the guidelines is the maximum size. 20" x 40" is a good guideline for a minimum size. • Please give new items only. • Please do not donate items with any religious symbols, messages or your group's name. • Please do not donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage. • Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed. • All items should be new and in good condition. • Do not enclose the Kit or any of its contents in plastic bags. **NO TOOTHPASTE.**

### INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING IN EACH PERSONAL CARE KIT

ONE light-weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"), dark color recommended

TWO or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping

ONE adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging\*

ONE sturdy comb, remove packaging

ONE metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging

\*Toothbrush mufti-packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business-size envelope; no plastic bags or wrap

**HOW TO PACK YOUR PROJECT PROMISE KITS** • Fold the towel in half. Place the rest of the items in the towel, fold and roll so nothing falls out, and secure with yarn, ribbon, string or rubber bands. • Pack completed Kits, like items together, in boxes. Label contents in **LARGE, BLOCK LETTERS** on the outside of the boxes. • Use strong cartons secured with packing tape, not to exceed 40 pounds. • Do not use plastic or paper bags to pack donations. • Include the name and address of your group or congregation on each box and label the contents

Recently, Pastor Jim had been giving some thought about church attendance and being one of the younger couples asked our thoughts on why we attend. After a little thinking, Rachel and I felt that the lessons were what we appreciated most. Viewing the Bible as lessons God wanted us to hear they can range from inspiring to humbling. Since we are all imperfect we feel it's something people need to hear to prompt some self-reflection. Going hand in hand with the teachings we also believe it helps create a structure for family values. As children, both of our families attended services and it's a tradition we would like to keep going as we build our own family someday. Lastly, we believe the church helps strengthen communities. In my hometown, church helped create a small town kind of feeling. The congregation was smaller than St Mark's, but it was the reason you seemed to know somebody on every street. My church was also part of a dart baseball league where we competed on Monday nights with at least 10 different churches. I didn't really realize it then, but it connected you with a lot of people outside of your home congregation.

-Jake and Rachel Buss

Jake & Rachel are one of our newest members. Anyone wishing to contribute as to why they picked St. Mark's as their place to worship we would like to hear your thoughts. Drop us an email or send something to the church. Whether you are new members or long time members we would like to hear from you.

## **Meet our new Nursery Director Starting in July**

Hello, my name is Jessica Pope. I graduated from Shippensburg University in 2017 with a degree in Elementary education. Since then, and even before that, I have worked with children in many different settings. From babysitting, to church nursery, to daycare, teaching, and working as a full-time nanny, I have loved helping children learn and grow. I am currently a member of Palm Lutheran in Palmyra and have served as a youth advisor there for many years. I enjoy spending time with my boyfriend, family, and friends. I love spending time outdoors, especially going to Camp Nawakwa, where I serve at Harrisburg Area Confirmation Camp each summer. I think my experience in a classroom setting and in full-time nannying will help me teach and grow the program here at St. Mark's. I am really looking forward to being the director and seeing what this new adventure will bring! Please reach out with any questions or if you're interested in helping me on this new journey!





# NOW ENROLLING



2022-2023

2, 3, and 4 year olds

St. Mark's Nursery School



Following the Lamb

4200 Londonderry Rd.  
Harrisburg, PA 17109

(717) 652-6700

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

On April 9, 2022, Fellowship Ministry will be having a trial run Chicken & Rib BBQ. We purchased a new grill and we will be using charcoal instead of gas. Since this is going to be limited to 35 meals each for Chicken or Ribs, **you must preorder ahead** of time in order to buy a dinner. The price of the meals are  
Chicken Dinner - \$10.00  
Rib Dinner - \$15.00.

**Call the church office, April 4<sup>th</sup> through April 7<sup>th</sup> at (717)652-6700 to order your dinner.**

**Palm Sunday:**

Jesus' Triumphal Entry Into Jerusalem  
and

The beginning of Holy Week  
Fellowship Ministry will be having food  
in fellowship hall between services in  
Judee Leister's memory.

Some of the special days celebrated in April are:

- Palm Sunday — April 10, 2022
- Maundy Thursday — April 14, 2022
- Good Friday — April 15, 2022
- Easter — April 17, 2022
- Earth Day — April 22, 2022
- Administrative Professionals Day — April 27, 2022
- Secretaries Day — April 27, 2022



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**St. Mark's Church Council**

<b>President</b>	Sandy Sherwood
<b>Vice President</b>	Tom Graham
<b>Secretary</b>	Rebekah Varga
<b>Treasurer</b>	Calvin Smith
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	Mary Sultzaberger
<b>Council Members</b>	Pastor Jim Person
	Chris Bair
	Deb Banks
	Paulette Beverly
	Emmor Boslet
	Stephanie Carl
	Dave Featherman
	Loraine Mariner
	Susan Shultz
	Jay Snyder
<b>Minister of Music</b>	Joyce Van Nieuwkuyk
<b>Administrative Assistant</b>	Loraine Mariner
<b>Youth/Family Ministry</b>	Kellen Michalowski
<b>Sexton</b>	Donald Young
<b>Nursery School Dir.</b>	Jessica Pope



"Here at the church, I only  
use Resurrection Eggs."