



The Parish Post

August 2022

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



Along the way someone said to Jesus, "I'll follow you anywhere!" Jesus said, "Foxes have dens, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man doesn't have a place to call his own." Luke 9:57-58 (CEV)

It's hard to believe that it's been over two and a half decades since my family first established a relationship with St. Mark's. It was the Fall of 1996. We had just sold our home, given away many of the possessions we didn't need, and packed up whatever we wanted to keep. We took our two children, Eli, going into tenth grade, and Sarah, about to begin sixth grade, and moved 200 miles across the state. We moved from a two story, three-bedroom house to a ground floor apartment that had been converted from two apartments to one to accommodate families like ours. During the first couple weeks we were settling in at Gettysburg Lutheran Seminary, an uncle who I loved passed away. Between his funeral and some other family ties, the first month in our new home was close to what might be described as turmoil.

Soon I received a Teaching Parish assignment to St. Mark's. Every Sunday I would be making the 50-mile trip from Gettysburg to Harrisburg to gain some experience leading worship and learning about what life is like for a pastor and congregation. There was some trepidation leading up to that first Sunday experience, especially since the Field Education Coordinator at the seminary warned us that our families might not be welcome at our Teaching Parish, mostly because of the obligation of families in the congregation to provide lunch and conversation every Sunday afternoon. Boy were they wrong!

From the day we first set foot in the church, St. Mark's was like a home-away-from home and the members here became our family-away-from-family. The real blessing for us is that it has remained that way for the 26 years since we first met. Through my year here as a Seminarian, three more

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.

years of Seminary, internship at First Lutheran in New Oxford and two years here as Associate Pastor when I graduated and was ordained into the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. Even when we moved back to Western PA for five years while I served as Pastor at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, I had the feeling we would someday, someday, return to St. Mark's. Lo and behold, in 2007 that opportunity came and here we are. Now when we go to visit family we are going "back home" and when we leave there, we "come home" to the place where God led us as we began our "new life."

If you have been by St. Mark's recently you may have noticed a new sign along Londonderry Rd. That sign is bright not dull, conspicuous not camouflaged, active not static, and alive with changing messages and colors. That sign was made possible in large part by contributions made in memory of the beloved members of St. Mark's who have gone on to be with the Lord. Those beloved members, while they were here, made our church bright with the light of Christ, conspicuous with the love of God, active in sharing the Good News, and alive with the Holy Spirit. We dedicate this new way of communicating with our neighbors to their legacy, and we have much to communicate!

During this summer I have based my preaching on the Epistle (Second) Lesson in the lectionary each week. Those letters were written to churches in the First Century that were, in many ways, a lot like us. They had been waiting for what seemed to them like a long time for Jesus to return. Some were becoming discouraged, impatient, and/or indifferent in their faith. The letters of Paul and the extended sermon in Hebrews were written as encouragement to those members of the fledgling Christian Church. The writers often reminded their recipients of the struggles our ancestors faced and the unique bond we have as followers of Jesus Christ. A bond with and through Christ that transcends time and space and assures of the promise Jesus himself made that "on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it."

I share a bit of my history here at St. Mark's in the spirit of those early leaders of the church. My family has been the beneficiary of the legacy of acceptance, invitation, welcoming and love that pervades this congregation. We have all faced some challenges lately, both individually and communally, but we are still a bright, active, vital, and alive community of faith. Those who came before us are honored and those who come after us will be blessed by the ministry of this congregation. We have the opportunity to become the spiritual home-away-from-home and family-away-from-family for anyone and everyone seeking a relationship with God the Father through Jesus the Son in the power of the Holy Spirit. Let's come together to make that opportunity a reality, to carry on the work begun centuries ago, reiterated decades ago, reinforced years ago, and perpetuated in Jesus' promise to us, his disciples in this time and place.

Your partner in ministry and mission,



Pr. Jim Person

From Council President

Hello St. Mark's,.....

I hope that your summer was uneventful, wonderful and just fun. We are now approaching the new fall year and, while things at St. Mark's were busy through the summer, we now must put our efforts into moving forward with the fall and winter activities. We had our first community breakfast in July and it was very successful and I might add, very delicious! Our Fellowship ministry surely knows how to cook. It was so nice to see some familiar neighbors back and they let it be known to us that they were just as happy to see us "back in the swing" of things. Looking forward to our next one in the fall.

And we had our first VBS in two years with this years theme being "On a Roll with God " featuring food trucks. A special shout out of thanks to Rebekah Varga and the VBS volunteers, who were very busy and who worked very hard with all the planning and implementation. Ministries were front and center as well working together to help Rebekah and her crew make this happen. We had fourteen kids and they all had a very fun time and enjoyed the ice cream from Mr. Frosty. We had a few congregation members show up for the food trucks, and for that I thank you. Having more people come and show congregational support would have been nice. The food was outstanding! I want to thank everyone again who worked on and attended this event. Also thank you for all the non-perishable food items that will be delivered to the Ecumenical Food Bank to enhance their ministry.

August is routinely the transition month for "back to routine". At St. Mark's, I would like to think of August as the month we moved forward. Our new Vanco website and/or app is operational for very easy "one stop shopping" online giving and live streaming. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks again to Rebekah Varga for spearheading this project and for being responsible for making it available to all of us in the congregation at St. Mark's and to all who view our services online. Please check out our updated website to see how easy it is to donate. We will have tutorials available as well. It is very safe and secure. Please remember, online viewing is a convenience but in person worshiping is a commitment. We would love to see you in the pews if you are physically able.

As we enter the end of our summer months, we look forward to the start of Sunday School once again. If you have children, I hope you will consider having them join us. We can always use teachers to help enrich those minds.

Peace of the Lord be with you all,
Sandy Sherwood, Council President



Birthdays for August

08/01 - Dale Smeck	08/18 – Donald Young
08/02 - Landen Heim Andrew Mitchell	John Howell
08/03 - Emily Railing Sandy Sherwood	08/20 - Kendall Brown Terry Woodrow Joshua Varga
08/05 - Nicolas Sultzaberger	08/21 – Roy Leister Stacy Morris
08/06 – Holly Geizzi	08/22 – Margaret Herigan Fred Mast
08/07 – Kimberly Stanton	Delaney McLaughlin
08/08 - Eugene Nicodemus	Jennifer Bargmann
08/09 - Hunter Banks	08/23 - Lisa Evans Charlotte Flook Ruth Herbster
08/10 - Christopher Sultzaberger	08/27 - William Woodworth
08/12 – Ethel Oswald	08/28 - Barbara Mosel Gavin Bryan
08/13 – Dorothy Webber	08/29 – Joanna Banic
08/14 – Donald Flickinger Anita Featherman Robert Hoffman	08/30 – Henry Lahr Jerry Lang
08/15 – Jennifer Phelan Faith Smeck David Stanton Marianne Shuey Sandy Sheaffer	
08/16 – Barb Dudek	

If your birthday is in August 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			
Aug 25	The Warsaw Orphan	Kelly Rimmer	_____
Sept. 22	The Hello Girls	Elizabeth Cobbs	_____
Oct. 27	The Old Success	Martha Grimes	_____
Dec. 1	Refusal	Dick Francis	_____

Book Club meets at 10:00 AM in the parlor

Dear Lord,

What exactly is Your plan for me? I've lived in England and Romania for the past year in good health. I followed your guidance to return sooner to the USA than anticipated to assist a colleague. I'm home less than a month and am struck with COVID. [Double head slap!]

I do not believe I am afflicted out of spite or sins I've committed. I do not believe this happened because my soul is not one with the universe. I do not believe it was caused by carelessness.

I won't ask you, "Why?" because I realize it is beyond my understanding. I believe in You. You have the master plan. Only You know what future is ahead for me. You know my fears and tribulations. You know my anxieties and stressors. You provide what I need when I need it.

Help me to be patient, Lord. Stay with me in my journey as your faithful servant. Show me what you need me to be. Help me use this time to meditate upon your Word so that I may hear Your guidance.

Your loving daughter,

Ruth

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. (Romans 12:2)

The RONALD McDONALD HOUSE in HERSHEY NEEDS GUEST CHEF VOLUNTEERS to PREPARE DINNER for OUR FAMILIES!

Our guest numbers are going up! We REALLY need your help!

We are currently providing dinner meals for 35 guests per evening!

Our Guest Chef Program is perfect for groups of friends, families or co-workers who love to cook.

This program is a volunteer opportunity and donation all in one! Each group plans, purchases and prepares a home-cooked meal for our families. Groups use our in-House kitchens with all cooking tools provided.

Guest Chef groups are limited to SIX people and participants must be 18 years of age or older. You will be required to wear a mask while in the RMH, but we are no longer requiring that volunteers be vaccinated against COVID-19.

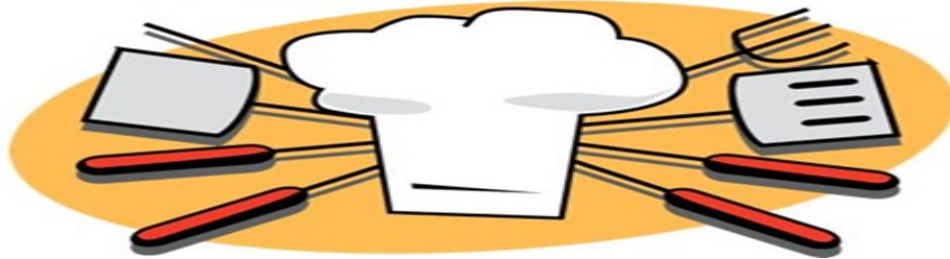
To schedule a meal, visit our website at [https://www.rmhc-centralpa.org/get-involved/meals-and-](https://www.rmhc-centralpa.org/get-involved/meals-and-activities/)

activities/ OR for more information, contact Alyssa Noel at 717-533-4001 x-158

or anoel@rmhc-centralpa.org

Check out upcoming events happening at St. Mark's

it's **BBQ** Time!



BBQ Chicken & Rib Dinners

Saturday: September 24, 2022 – 10:00 am until **SOLD OUT**

Chicken Dinner - \$10.00 – ½ chicken, baked potato, apple sauce, roll, butter & water

Rib Dinner - \$15.00 – ½ rack of ribs, baked potato, apple sauce, roll, butter & water

Pre-orders are recommended. Call church office Monday thru Thursday, (Office Closed Fridays) to reserve your dinner, (717)652-6700..

Stewardship Ministries invites you to attend:

Getting Your Financial House In Order

When: September 21, 2022

Where: St Mark's Ev. Lutheran Church

Fellowship Hall

Time: 6:30 pm

Session Topics include: Documents Everyone Should Have, Developing a Financial Plan, Risk Management, Education Planning and Understanding Company Benefits.

ALL AGES AND FINANCIAL SITUATIONS WELCOME!

Please call the church office, 717-652-6700 to reserve your seat, so can have a count of the seating ahead of time. Presented by Emmor Boslet, a new member of our congregation and a retired financial advisor.

NOW ENROLLING

2022-2023 **2, 3, and 4 year olds**

St. Mark's Nursery School

4200 Londonderry Rd.
Harrisburg, PA 17109

(717) 652-6700

www.stmarksharrisburg.org/nursery

Following the Lamb

St. Mark's Nursery School is seeking an assistant teacher for the three year old class starting in September. Work days and hours are Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm. Please send your resume or letter of interest in this position to St. Mark's Nursery School, 4200 Londonderry Road, Harrisburg, PA 17109 or call (717)652-6700 Ext. 3. Leave a message and someone will return your call.

Eve Circle will begin meeting twice a month beginning in September. We will meet the second and fourth Tuesday beginning September 13th from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM at the church. The book of Revelation will be studied verse by verse. Please bring your Bible preferably a study Bible, and paper and pen. Also any materials you might have on this last book in the New Testament are welcome.

We encourage newcomers to join us. If you have any questions, please call Jeanne Flickinger at (717)545-6161.

Thank you.



Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central Pennsylvania

[Capture the Flag Spectacular](#) at Kirchenwald - October 2, 2022

Review your camp map, paint your face, and practice your cone zone celebration dance. Invite your friends and family (parents, too) to join you in this CTF summer reunion event. Play alongside familiar faces from your week at camp, plus campers from every other week of the summer. Campfire worship to follow.

[Adult Study Retreat](#) at Nawakwa - October 4 - 6, 2022

A Book Study Retreat on the book: Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis – J. D. Vance. Suggested supplemental books can be found on the website. All meals (7) are included in the price and served at the Dining Hall. This mid-week retreat begins Tuesday morning and ends with lunch on Thursday. Please register by September 24. Registration fee: \$150. Register by September 24.

[Fall Foliage Day at Kirchenwald](#) at Kirchenwald - October 23, 2022

Return to camp for the afternoon to enjoy fall activities, worship, and a picnic supper. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet up with old friends or introduce new folks to camp. An evening meal is included. Event runs from 1-6pm. At Kirchenwald, enjoy Pumpkin Painting, Canoeing / Kayaking, Mountain Biking, Hayrides, Hiking, and More! Registration Fee: \$10 per person covers activities and an evening meal.

[Fall Foliage Day at Nawakwa](#) at Nawakwa - October 23, 2022

Return to camp for the afternoon to enjoy fall activities, worship, and a picnic supper. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet up with old friends or introduce new folks to camp. An evening meal is included. Event runs from 1-6pm. At Nawakwa, enjoy Pumpkin Painting, Apple Butter Boil, Hayrides, Hiking, and More! Registration Fee: \$10 per person includes activities and an evening meal.

[Annual Quilt Auction](#) at Nawakwa - November 6, 2022

Join us for this year's Quilt Auction, November 6, at Nawakwa. This fun-filled day of bidding raises money for the LCC Endowment Fund, which helps to financially sustain our fine ministry activities.

Advent Day Apart at The Wittel Farm - December 3, 2022

Join us for an Advent Day Apart at The Wittel Farm, a day of Bible study, worship, and prayerful reflection as we seek to prepare for the coming of the Christ. Registration fee includes lunch.

THE NAWAKWA GARDEN PROJECT

Nawakwa Garden Project Planting Days

Weeding Wednesday

Wednesdays, June 1 - August 31, 9am-11am

More Information - <https://www.lutherancamping.org/nawakwa/nawakwa-garden-project/>

THE WITTEL FARM GROWING PROJECT

Have you, your family, congregation, or group signed up to support the Wittel Farm this spring/summer season? Join us to plant, grow, and share farm fresh veggies with our neighbors.

More Information - <https://www.wittelfarm.org>

Ecumenical Food Pantry

Housed at Messiah Lutheran Church

901 North Sixth Street Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17102-1700

717.233.6889

www.efoodpantry.org

Facebook-Ecumenical Food Pantry Harrisburg

Dear Friends of the Food Pantry:

On behalf of the Ecumenical Food Pantry and those who benefit from your generosity, thank you for donation of 35 lbs. of food received in July 2022.

Last year the Food Pantry provided a three-day supply of food to approximately 1000 family members every month totaling about 74,300 meals. This equates to a distribution of 89,236 pounds of food. Many served by the Pantry are children and adolescents.

We are open five days a week from 9:30-12:30 PM, supported by dedicated volunteers. The Pantry is also open the third Saturday of each month from 9:30-12:30. These expanded hours further enhance our customer's access to the Pantry.

JOIN US FOR OUR 50TH-YEAR CELEBRATION!

We are having a 50th-year Celebration for the pantry on September 17th from 2:00 to 4:00, located at Messiah Lutheran Church, 901 N 6th St., Harrisburg, PA, 17102. We are celebrating 50 years of service to the Harrisburg and surrounding **area** communities. The food pantry initially began in response to the community's needs after the devastating effects of Hurricane Agnes in 1972. The celebration will honor the many Pantry volunteers and we are inviting the community to celebrate with us. We plan to provide food, beverages, games, music, and tours of the facility.

continued next page

Without generous contributions and numerous volunteers supporting the Pantry, we would not be able to provide emergency food assistance to the greater Harrisburg community five days per week.

We thank you for your commitment and generosity and hope that you will continue to support the Ecumenical Food Pantry.

Stay well.

Emilie M. Tierney

Corresponding Secretary



Greetings from the Church Mouse

Hello everyone at St. Mark's.....

I sincerely hope you have enjoyed your summer! I know I have. I took a little time off but now I'm back in the groove again.

Things around St. Mark's are buzzing! I took myself (very discreetly) to the first community breakfast since coming back from COVID before I went on vacation. It was very well attended and it was really nice to see some of our friends from past years. They were as happy to see us as we were to see them. And the food was wonderful.

Then I heard there was going to be a Food Truck Party themed VBS so guess what? I went to that as well. What a fun, fun time. We sang songs, made crafts, had snacks, played games and went to the sanctuary where Pastor Jim talked to us about Daniel. After it was all over we got to eat ice cream from the Mr. Frosty ice cream truck. I have now made my way back to the sanctuary along with the cardboard food truck and all the non-perishable food items that were donated to be given to the Ecumenical Food Pantry. People are very generous.

My next function will be the outdoor service on September 11. I do hope I will see you all there. I'm really getting excited about Sunday School starting back up again too. YAY!

Have a safe and happy rest of your summer and I'll see you around the sanctuary at St. Mark's.

*In Christian Love,
The Church Mouse*

Voices Raised to You

ELW #845. Music: Carolyn Jennings

Text: H. G. Stuempfle, Jr.

Voices raised to you we offer;
tune them, God, for songs of praise.
Hearts and hands we bring in tribute
for your gifts through all our days.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Triune God to you we sing!

Spirit, flaming through creation,
kindle faith within each heart.
Lift our voices high in chorus;
through our hands your love impart.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Spirit, helper, breath of life!

This hymn gives me inspiration for this coming September as St Mark's musical ensembles renew rehearsals to provide thanks and praise in our worship services.

I remain optimistic and hopeful that choir voices of adult, youth, and children, bell and chime ringers, and instrumental and vocal soloists will return to combine their talents to serve in our ministry. It is a personal gift you have that makes our worship service very special.

If you are new to our congregation, please feel free to talk to me or call me at 717.379.3416 for more information.

The rehearsal nights remain the same as follows:

Wed: 6:15 pm Children – age 5 to 4th grade

7:00 pm Youth – Grades 5 and up

This arrangement is flexible depending on responses of interested singers.

Thurs: 6:30 Bell Choir and Handchimes

7:30 Adult Chancel Choir

All rehearsals will begin Wed. Sept. 14 and Thurs. Sept. 15

I will be contacting former members of all ages by phone or letter, soon.

Personal contact is important to a renewal of the music program.

Enjoy your remaining weeks of summer.

Sincerely,

Joyce

Ph: 717.939.1235 or

717.379.3416

ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4200 Londonderry Road
Harrisburg, PA 17109

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 618

CHANGE SERVICE
REQUESTED

DO NOT DELAY DELIVERY
DATED MATERIAL

THE PARISH POST



**AUGUST
2022**

St. Mark's Church Council

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

