



The Parish Post

AUGUST 2023

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church
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The Rev. James E. Person, 717-712-8191



And [Jesus] said to them, "Why are you afraid, you of little faith?"

It seems to me that we are being surrounded by frustration and impatience more and more every day. People are in a hurry to get somewhere, often nowhere, fast. Tailgating, dangerous passing and road rage are all too common on the roads and highways that seem to be always overcrowded. One person told me that the definition of a "split second" is the time between when the light turns green and they blow their horn for you to move! Frustration and impatience are becoming the norm on the road.

Frustration and impatience show up other places as well. The checkout line doesn't move fast enough, mail delivery is unreliable, meals take too long to be served, and things in general just don't happen as quickly as we would like. We complain about the inconvenience it causes, we get tense and up-tight, and we begin to look for someone to blame for our high blood pressure. The prevailing thought is, "People just don't get it! Why don't they do it my way and on my time?!"

As I think about the ways we get frustrated and impatient with one another, I can't help but wonder about Jesus' frustration with the disciples. Five times in Matthew's Gospel and once in Luke's Gospel, Jesus refers to the disciples as "you of little faith." Jesus must certainly have been irritated by the fact that he spent all his days and nights with his twelve closest followers, they watched him preach, teach, heal the sick and cast out demons, but they still didn't "get it". But what can we learn from the Son of God about how to handle frustration and impatience?

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.

First off, we are not Jesus, and this is not necessarily WWJD advice. We are human and we will never reach the level of Godly behavior that was natural for our Lord. There are some things Jesus did, however, that can be helpful to us in our relationships with one another and as a society in general. For instance, a brief internet search shows that between Matthew and Luke's Gospels, Jesus went off by himself to pray about the same number of times he referred to the disciples' little faith. The occurrences are not always directly linked but is ironic that solitude and prayer seem to offset frustration and impatience.

When was the last time you spent some serious alone time talking to, and perhaps more important, listening to God? And I don't mean simply a "One Minute Meditation", though even those can be helpful. I'm talking about a half-hour, an hour, or even more in a quiet place, undisturbed, and unhurried. Maybe guided by a Bible verse or passage, maybe contemplating the words of a hymn or poem, maybe considering some event or events of the day, or maybe simply with an open mind and your own thoughts seeking God's guidance and the Spirit's wisdom.

You might say you don't have time to spend in solitary meditation and prayer, but I say that's more of society's "gotta do more and gotta do it faster" kind of thinking. Getting up a little earlier in the morning or staying up a little at night after the family is in bed are good options for some alone time with God. Take the long way home from work and stop at a park or some other quiet place, go for a walk, sit on a bench, or even sit in your car and tune in to ways God may be trying to speak to you. Find time for deep breaths and slowed heart rates. Martin Luther said that the busier he was the more important it was for him to take time for dedicated prayer, and I agree. Thirty to sixty minutes dedicated to communicating with God can make the rest of the day go more smoothly and quiet much of our frustration.

I've said it before, we don't find time, take time, or make time. Time is a gift given to us by God to be *used*, and to be used in ways that enhance our relationship with God and with each other. Time spent being impatient, frustrated, and upset is a poor use of this valuable gift given to us by our loving Heavenly father. I'm sure Jesus sometimes is disappointed with "we of little faith" as we rush through life without finding time for him, but in God's infinite compassion he waits for us to come to our senses and come to him.

Use your time wisely, spend time with God, seek a closer walk with Jesus, and pray for wisdom from the Holy Spirit. And maybe, just maybe, we will come closer to realizing our weekly prayer, "May the peace of the Lord be with you always." And also with you!

Your partner in ministry and mission,

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

Pr. Jim Person

Council President

We are truly in “The Dog Days of Summer”. Record setting heat, almost no rain and did I mention the temperature?

Well the good news is that Saint Marks is open and welcoming one and all. I'll resist the urge to say that we are “prayer-conditioned”. But we are a cool place to be during this heat wave. The ceiling fans are working fine and the camaraderie you'll find here is better than any hot day outside.

Welcome everyone and join us as we beat the heat together.

Yours in Christ,

Jay Snyder

Council President

Hello St. Mark's!



Happy summer to you all! I hope you are enjoying this beautiful season. For those of you that are on vacation from school, please enjoy yourselves and stay safe. For those of you traveling to other places, safe travels. Whatever you do and wherever you do it, please remember that God is ever present and watching over each and everyone.

My summer so far has been fun. In May, I attended the ice cream social that was in the fellowship hall and it was so much fun. I watched as everyone made ice cream sundaes and devoured them. Some people even had more than one, which made me very happy. Thank you to all that participated in the success of this afternoon adventure . I know it's hard to believe but I actually heard someone say they don't like ice cream. Can you imagine that?

My next fun time was our Vacation Bible School. What a great time we had. There were about 15 children that participated. Every evening before VBS started, Chef Jay Varga made sure we had a good dinner. I only got there for two meals but we had Tacos one night that I was there and Pizza the other night. So good and so much fun. We ate, played games, had time in the sanctuary with Pastor Jim, story time with snacks, and the last night we had water games. What a fun fun time. So many thanks to Ms. Rebekah and Ms. Jess and Ms. Marian and Chef Jay and to all the other helpers who helped to make this year such a fun and special time. Ms. Maggie lead us in songs each night too. A good time had by all. Can't wait for next year.

Well my friends, that's about all I have for this time. Stay safe, cool and see you in church. I'll be here, will you?

Peace be with you all,

The St. Mark's Church Mouse



Birthdays for August

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

If your birthday is in August and we missed it, please let us know.

We hope you have a happy birthday anyway.



A big Thank You to all my friends at St. Mark's for the beautiful cards and birthday wishes for my "90th" birthday and the beautiful Altar flowers, they were greatly appreciated. Also thank you, Pastor Jim & Marian for making the trip to Maryland to be at my party
In Christian Love,
Gitta May

To My St Mark's Family & Pastor Jim

I can't tell you how much the visits at the hospital made me feel good, Pastor Jim. It helped me to put my faith that God would bring me thru. Also, thank you to my St Mark's Family for the prayers and cards. It is nice to know I have all of you & your prayers.

Love,

Mary Sultzaberger

Why Do You Do It?

I heard in a recent bible study that when asked, “Are you a missionary?” the woman responded, “I’m not a missionary, but I’m a mail delivery person because I have a letter from your Heavenly Father for you.” (Semse Aydin, Voice of Martyrs, Sabina Group Study, Session 2: I Don’t Want to Waste my Life.)

Later that same week, a daily devotion suggested that we should always be ready to answer anyone who calls you to account for hope which is within you. The story unfolds about a woman’s encounter on a steep walking path to visit a sick friend. Their conversation is something like this:

Man: This is a difficult road.

Woman: Rest will be waiting when I am home.

Man: Where is home?

Woman: In heaven, with my Lord Jesus.

Man: You must be a religious woman. You can go there.

Woman: My dear young man, religion does not open heaven for me.

Man: But on what else do you find hope?

Woman: On the redemption of Jesus Christ. But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8)

Why do I do mission work? Because God called me to show others how much He loves me.

Where do I find hope? From reading the bible every day, God speaks to me to guide my journey.

I know through Him that I can do this because He gives me strength.

Pray for purpose. Listen to what He is calling you to do. Answer Him!

But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect... (1 Peter 3:15)

Peace,

Ruth

July 2023 LYF Report

I hope everyone is having a great summer! We have wrapped up our Theme for the year, I Am Alive! With our final few meetings, had youth sunday breakfast church, and went to Confirmation Camp!

In wrapping up our year of youth group meetings, we ended the year with a joint meeting with SPYG Mechanicsburg, who joined us for a final meeting about being Alive in Christ. Overall, I think our theme for the year was very well received. It was the first theme in a few years that was overarchingly positive in nature (not that past themes were not positive. But themes like Fear Not and Step Into It were more action based), talking about what feeds us, nourishes us, makes us feel alive, makes us happy. What makes us feel close to one another and to God? After so many years of COVID canceling events, making life insular, and focusing on the bad things in society, I think talking about these themes really resonated with the group, that we are allowed to feel alive in Christ, while still being loving towards our neighbors and those affected by COVID.

A huge thank you to everyone who attended Youth Sunday and our Breakfast Church service! And an even bigger thank you to the Fellowship Committee who worked with us to get breakfast ready and the fellowship hall setup for the service! We could not have done it without you! Or everyone who brought a breakfast casserole!! We have gotten a lot of positive feedback on the service and we think it may be an annual thing, doing Youth Sunday as Breakfast church. In addition, it sounds like we, as a congregation, may want to have a breakfast/meal church even more often than that! I think the youth group can certainly facilitate 1 or 2 services like that per year, but we'll have to share that load if we end up moving to a quarterly meal church service or more. Confirmation Camp has come and gone! We had campers, counselors, and staff all attending Confirmation Camp. I could not be more proud of our impact on the community!

Looking forward to the rest of the summer (I am writing this on Thursday, June 29th), we have two more trips to the Wittel Farm - July 1st and August 12th. These events are open to all! We also have Lake Break coming up the first weekend of August. This is our end of year Summer Retreat. We had planned this for last year, but we ended up canceling the trip when I caught COVID right before the trip. We are excited to finally have this event for the first time! We also have the Annual Flea Market Fundraiser coming up on July 8th!

Beyond that, we are looking forward to the next year of youth ministry and are

getting planning underway for the theme, meetings, retreats, and events! Later this summer there is the REVIVE Youthworkers retreat at Camp Nawakwa, put on by the Synod Office for Youth Ministry and Faith Formation (I am actually a presenter at the retreat). I am extending the invitation to our active youth group advisors to attend this event to receive some continuing education on youth ministry in today's age, as well as Trauma-Informed Care. Hopefully a few are able to attend! If anyone is interested in learning more about this retreat and thinks they may want to be a part of it as well, just let me know! It is August 18-20 at Camp Nawakwa.

Please let me know if you have any questions!

Kellen Michalowski

Director of Youth & Family Ministry

Church Camp—Pastor Jan Mills

In the May issue of the Parish Post, Pastor Jim wrote a wonderful article highlighting the benefits church camp can have on people. Like he mentioned in the article, many pastors and other church professionals will tell you how church camp influenced their call to a Christian vocation. I am one of those people.

As I write this, I am at Camp Nawakwa for Elder Camp. I have never outgrown the desire to be part of outdoor ministries. As a small child, our family went to Family Camp at Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp in Colorado. As I grew, I attended Rainbow Trail as a youth until I graduated from high school. And then I was a counselor at Rainbow Trail.

After marriage and the birth of our children, I urged, well maybe nagged would be a better word, for my husband and I to take our children to Camp Nawakwa for family camp. He grumbled at first, and finally said, "Ok, one time!" Interestingly, by Wednesday of Family Camp, he was asking "When do we sign up for next year?" One year, when there had been a very long dry spell, the Family Campers prayed for rain at each meal, at morning Bible Study and at Vespers. On Wednesday of that week, the sky opened up and it poured all day! My husband said, "if I ever get really sick, I want this group praying for me!"

Three of our children worked at Camp Nawakwa for a few years each. One of those also worked at Camp Kirchenwald. I remember at the end of one summer, my daughter dreaded going back to college. She said people at camp were so accepting, and non-judgmental of everyone, and at college, she felt she had to dress right and act right, etc.

As our children grew, married, and had children of their own, I began taking the grandchildren to Family Camp. They called it Grandma Camp. They would start asking around Christmastime if we were doing Grandma Camp. For about 20 years, we've done Grandma Camp. And 3 years ago, I had the privilege of baptizing my two youngest grandchildren at Family Camp.

To say church camp has had an influence on me and my family would be a gross understatement. Church camp has opportunities for all ages. I'm at Elder Camp now. We have Bible study in the morning and can enjoy crafts, the pool, fellowship, and even a nap in the afternoon. During the winter months there are also opportunities for craft weekends, book study weekends, etc.

I don't know what my life would have been like without church camp. I remember hearing Mike Youse, the director of the Lutheran Camping Corporation say one time, "When you send your child to soccer camp, you expect them to come home a better soccer player. When you send your child to church camp, they come home a better disciple." This is most certainly true.

2023 Synod Notes and Observations—Joe Boslett

As we discussed this morning after church service, I wanted to share some of my thoughts on the Synod proceedings of Friday and Saturday at Trinity Lutheran Church. As you were present for most of the morning session, I am not going to repeat anything of that part of the program. Summarizing:

- lots of people - over 400 and about 85% of the crowd was more than over 30 years of age which they determined from the voting questionnaire...but well mannered and very attentive for large group
- great organization of the entire process from parking, to registration, activities, meeting management, and program functions
- facilities most adequate for handling the crowd and the event
- having ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton in attendance was most impressive considering she could have been at any one of 20 other Synod Assemblies
- LSS Bishop James Dunlop was the consummate host/moderator - he handled a number of glitchy issues during the business meeting with grace and aplomb
- Deacon Kristen Barnes, chaplain, did good service throughout the proceedings
- Rev. Jeffrey Compton, necrologist, delivering the homily, was - if you listened to him closely - the most evocative speaker about pastors being real people...this I know directly from Emmor's uncle and the time just he and I spent together.
- the business meeting went better than I expected although it was one of the major reasons for the Assembly and the most controversial issue was over the use of an 'and' or 'or' in a statement.

- I was impressed with all the activities the LSS supports from disaster aid, refugee and immigration services, Lutherans in Ukraine, Penn State students (we even did a hearty "We are" cheer for Bishop Eaton), international projects (schools, churches, water), to assistance here at home with divinity students and youth camps.

- proud of the fact that LSS is taking the lead in minority issues, people of color, people whose first language is not English, getting youth involved, and LBGQ community.

A singular experience and I feel good about being a Lutheran although my Presbyterian roots are deep. Thank the Lord we are not too far apart in our theology. Grace and Promise means so much more after being part of this gathering. Thank you for the opportunity. God bless us all, Pastor.



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FOR GOOD
FOOD AND
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SECOND
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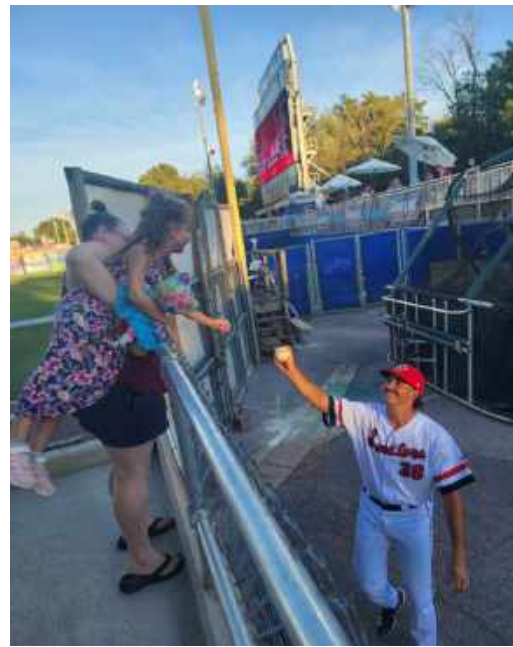
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4200 LONDONDERRY RD.
HARRISBURG, PA 17109



We are trying to get fellowship outings together as a group. The next couple of pages has the Senator's Baseball Game pictures on that we went to on Saturday, July 29th. We apologize it was a very last minute event but we look forward to having one 2024 season, as well as more congregational participation. If you have any suggestions on future events, please contact Brian Braidigan at 570-452-5379 to share any thoughts and ideas.







REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR THE 2023- 2024 SCHOOL YEAR!



« « **Monday, January 30, 2023** » »

Registration open for CURRENT Students and Families
& Members of St. Mark's Church

« « **Monday, February 13, 2023** » »

Registration open to the public.

« « **2023-2024 Classes & Monthly Tuition** » »

4/ 5 Year Old Class: MWF 9:00 AM- 11:30 AM- \$ 175.00

3 Year Old Class: TR 9:00 AM- 11:30 AM- \$140.00

2 Year Old Class: TR 9:15 AM- 11:15 AM- \$140.00

\$40 Non-Refundable Registration Fee Due with Application

Registration fee increased to \$50 after June 1, 2023



4200 Londonderry Rd/ Harrisburg, PA 17109
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St. Mark's Book Club

Date	Book	Author	Facilitator
2023			
Aug. 24	Finding Chika	Mitch Albom	_____
Sept. 28	Tending Roses	Lisa Wingate	_____
Oct. 26	The Underground Girls of Kabul	Jenny Nordberg	_____
Nov. 30	In Our Time	Barry Ernest	_____
Barry will speak about his book.			

2024

Jan. 25	The Ship Beneath The Ice	Mensun Bound	_____
Feb. 22	The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek	Kim Michele Richardson	_____
Mar. 28	The Giver of Stars	JoJo Moyes	_____

Book Club meets at 10:00 AM in the parlor

10 AM UNTIL SOLD OUT

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Chicken & Rib BBQ

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CHICKEN DINNER
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APRIL 29, 2023
JUNE 24, 2023
SEPTEMBER 16, 2023
OCTOBER 7, 2023



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Father, I pray that each child is full of love and compassion for others. That they always seek to put others' first and to forgive, not hate, when someone does them wrong. Teach them to always love and forgive others in the same way you love and forgive them. Amen.

Kingdom Bloggers

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

Chris Bair is collecting newspapers again for the Bird Sanctuary

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THE PARISH POST



August 2023

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