



The Parish Post

JULY 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



"Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 10:23-25

As we have been emerging from over three years of pandemic separation, things are looking up at St. Mark's. Ministries are meeting again, and worship attendance is rising. Our online presence on Facebook, YouTube, and our website is reaching hundreds of people in addition to those who receive my email blast each week. (If you are not on that email blast, on which I share announcements as well as the worship services and Bible studies, please give me a call at 717-652-6700 or email me at revjperson@gmail.com and I will add you to the list.)

Our online presence is a real blessing for those who are unable to attend worship services or Bible study. Those of you joining us remotely are still very much a part of our faith community and we appreciate your participating in whatever way you can. I would, though, invite you to be a part of our in-person experience whenever you can. Your presence adds as much, or more, to our gatherings than you might take away. I often compare online gatherings to watching a sporting event on TV, you might have a good view of the game, but it is much more rewarding to be surrounded by, and add to, the excitement of being in the stadium or arena. When you are not with us, you are missed, whether you realize it or not. As the saying goes, "The more the merrier." We are both blessed and a blessing when we "meet together" as the book of Hebrews encourages us to do.

I recently finished reading The Autobiography of Theodore Roosevelt and found in it an interesting

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.

quote which, with a bit of editing, seems very fitting to us as church members. In the original quote, Mr. Roosevelt was writing about his feelings towards labor unions. In the edited version I offer here, I have replaced his references to unions, etc. with references to the church and Christians:

"If I were a [Christian] of any sort, I would undoubtedly join the [church] of my [denomination]. If I disapproved of its policy, I would join in order to fight that policy; if the [church] leaders were dishonest, I would join in order to put them out. I believe in the [church] and I believe that all [people] who are benefited by the [church] are morally bound to help to the extent of their power in the common interests advanced by the [church]."

Every voice, every idea, every need, every contribution, and, of course, every person, is important to God and so is important to the church. When COVID forced us to close our doors and then to limit gatherings, many of us felt robbed of one of the most important aspects of our faith life. Now that restrictions are lifted, and we are returning to a full schedule of worship and other activities we have an opportunity to reclaim what was taken from us over three years ago. When we closed our doors, we held on to the **hope** that we would soon be together again. Together, we can once again take up the church's mission of **love and good deeds**. When we meet together, we can **encourage one another**, especially when we face struggles with change, inflation, unrest, and the many other challenges that seem to be worsening as church involvement wanes.

Recently, Marian and I were invited to celebrations at our home church, which is celebrating 250 years of history, and my internship congregation, which is celebrating its 200th anniversary. This year, St. Mark's will be 64 years old and, going back to our days as Shoop's Church we will be 239 years old. These are not "milestone" anniversaries, but they show the longevity of our faithful congregation. That longevity is the fulfillment of Jesus' promise that he would build his church and "even the gates Hades will not prevail against it."

Generation after generation has recognized the importance of being part of a Christian congregation, not just attached, but involved. Together we make each other better. I am thrilled that our online presence has been a blessing to so many who may not have had access to worship or church activities otherwise. But, again, I urge you to join us in-person if, and when, you can. As Jesus tells the Pharisees in the Gospel of Mark, "The Sabbath was made for humankind, not humankind for the Sabbath." We have been given a wonderful gift in the opportunity to come together at least once a week to share and strengthen our faith. To quote a TV commercial from the past, "Try it, you'll like it

Your partner in ministry and mission,



Pr. Jim Person

From Council President

Hello Members of St. Mark's,

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer season and all the good and fun times that come with it!

We are reminded that even though it is prime vacation time, the church continues to function. I am very pleased with what is happening in the church with our increased attendance and am especially encouraged by what the ministries are doing. On July 23, we will have our first community breakfast since "pre-pandemic" and there are many fun things filling our calendar so stay tuned.....truly a new beginning.

Isn't it funny how we categorize things as pre-pandemic and post-pandemic. Hopefully that time demarcation will diminish as more and more positive things start happening. And we are planning our first "post-pandemic" Vacation Bible School for August 6. How can we go wrong with children, food trucks, and our wonderful volunteers working to make this happen! Please support them and offer your services. The talent at St. Mark's is non-ending. In closing, please accept my heartfelt thank you to you....the faithful congregation of St. Mark's, and to the ministries that are working so very hard to bring what is normal back into play. Also, a huge thank you to Pastor Jim. He has been and continues to be a source of constant support and encouragement. As I have said before.....it takes a village and you have come through. Let's keep the momentum going and together, we are making it happen! Have a safe and happy summer.....

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

LYF has their Annual Flea Market Fundraiser on July 30th from 8:30am to 2:30pm! Stop by to see what we've got and support youth ministry at St. Mark's! If you have items you'd like to donate, you can place them on the stage in the fellowship hall! Thank you all in advance for your support! If you would like a table of your own to sell at, we typically set people up outside with a table of their own for a small donation! Contact Kellen at lyfstmarks@gmail.com if you would like to get your own table or if you have any questions!

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



Birthdays for July

07/03	Emmalyn Hudson Shelley Lindner	07/21	Laurie Womer Stephen Swetnam
07/06	Michael Cleaver	07/22	Molly Stanton
07/07	Nancy Hartman	07/23	Judy Horton
07/08	Jeanne Flickinger	07/24	Sandy Kroah
07/09	Andrew Zingone	07/25	Patricia Bethel Callan Davis Nancy Rowe
07/10	Tate Ingram Kyle Ellestad	07/27	Reagan Whitaker
07/11	David Mink	07/28	Meaghan Lang Anna Ringley
07/15	McKenzie Correll	07/30	Spencer Lindner
07/16	Ashley Betz		
07/19	Carol Weldon		
07/20	Ruth Brown		

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



St Mark's family:
Many Thanks for all the prayers and well wishes during my recent visit to the hospital
Anita Featherman

Pastor Jim and my church family:
Thank you all making my birthday bearable. Thank you for the cards and other acts of kindness. Thank you Pastor Jim for embarrassing me in church (ha ha).
I am truly blessed.
Lorraine Mariner

To all my friends at St. Mark's
Thank you for all your beautiful Cards and wishers for my 89th Birthday. They were greatly appreciated.
In Christian Love,
Gitta May

Change of Address:

Lucy Weaver & Suezan King
4419 Venus Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17112

St. Mark's Book Club

Date	Book	Author	Facilitator
2022			
July 28	The Girl with the Dragon' Tattoo	Stieg Larsson	_____
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

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-activities/> OR for more information, contact Alyssa Noel at 717-533-4001 x-158 or anoel@rmhc-centralpa.org

Focus on God's Plan

What's one of the top characteristics for missionaries in the field? BE FLEXIBLE. We can plan all we want, but God has a plan for us way before we had the first thought of what we wanted to do.

At this writing, our third attempt to ship VBS and child victim supplies to me has not arrived. I managed backup plans for both ministries and pray that current supplies are sufficient. When the package finally arrives, they will be used at the sex trafficking shelter and programs at neighboring communes with large numbers of impoverished children. Any remaining supplies can be used at next year's VBS!

Our theme for our inaugural English speaking VBS is love, focusing on John 3:16 and major highlights of Jesus' life. The Romanian helpers did not know what program to expect, and kept reminding me to present something "fun" for the kids. After attending a similar VBS program at another church, I think our program will rate as "super fun." I will put together a presentation next month for those interested in seeing what my definition of "super fun" entails.

Speaking of the future, I will be stateside the second week of July until the end of the year. As I was pondering options for a financial shuffle, the Holy Spirit guided a reunification of a former colleague with me for a short-term project with the Commonwealth's Department of Aging. Again, my fiancé and I had to make the difficult to decision to be apart after finally being in the same country together for 11 days. So, we're back to plans for winter nuptials with God's blessing.

I look forward to seeing you all again in person. As information, I still wear a mask in public indoor places as a precaution, even though I am fully vaccinated against COVID. But I'm sure you'll still be able to recognize me!

For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.
Philippians 2:13

With peace and the love of Christ,
Ruth

Greetings from the Church Mouse



I decided to take a vacation this month since it's summer and church is light. See you, soon!!

Peace of the Lord be with you all,
The Church Mouse



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.

Stewardship Ministries invites you to attend:

Getting Your Financial House In Order

When: August 10, 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.



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.

NOW HIRING SUMMER STAFF

Both Kirchenwald and Nawakwa still have positions available on their summer camp staffs. Those interested in serving the church in the capacity of camp staff can apply online or download an application on the Camping Website. The camp season runs from the beginning of June to mid August.

For details regarding employment, please visit <https://www.lutherancamping.org/employment> or call Zach Weiss (Kirchenwald) at 717-964-3121 or Mindy Shively (Nawakwa) at 717-677-8211.

If you know of someone that would be a great addition to the summer staff at Kirchenwald or Nawakwa, please share this information with them!

Current Needs

Kirchenwald: Counselors

Nawakwa: Counselors

→ **More Information - <https://www.lutherancamping.org/employment>**

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/>

Register for Summer Camp!

It might just be the best week you've ever had! Don't wait, sign up today for a summer camp program at Kirchenwald or Nawakwa.

Programs are starting to fill up, don't wait ...reserve your spot today!

→ **More Information - <https://www.lutherancamping.org/summer-camp/>**

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>

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>

UPCOMING EVENTS

[Kirchenwald Camp-K-tion \(Family Camp\)](#) at Kirchenwald - August 7 - 13, 2022

[Family Camp II](#) at Nawakwa - August 7 - 13, 2022

➔ [More Information - https://www.lutherancamping.org/events/](https://www.lutherancamping.org/events/)

Check out upcoming events happening at St. Mark's



**ST. MARK'S
COMMUNITY
BREAKFAST
IS BACK!**

**SATURDAY,
JULY 23, 2022
8AM-10AM**

**JOIN US FOR
GOOD FOOD
AND
FELLOWSHIP!**

ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
4200 LONDONDERRY RD.
HARRISBURG, PA 17109

**ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
HARRISBURG, PA**



IT'S TIME FOR VBS!

Saturday, August 6, 2022

12 pm- 4 pm

Preschool thru 5th Grade

(Completed)

REGISTER TODAY!

stmarkshbg.mycokesburyvbs.com

(717) 652-6700 STMARKSHBG.VBS@GMAIL.COM

4200 LONDONDERRY RD. HARRISBURG, PA 17109



**Join us for our own
Food Truck Party!**

ALL ARE WELCOME!

4-7 pm



**We encourage our
Congregation and our
community to attend!**



**PLEASE BRING A NON-PERISHABLE FOOD DONATION TO ADD TO OUR
"REVERSE FOOD TRUCK"!**

ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4200 Londonderry Road
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THE PARISH POST

**JULY
2022**



St. Mark's Church Council

- | | |
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| | Susan Shultz |
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