



# The Parish Post

MAY 2023

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



Listen, Israel! The Lord our God is the only true God! So love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and strength. Memorize his laws and tell them to your children over and over again. Talk about them all the time, whether you're at home or walking along the road or going to bed at night, or getting up in the morning. Write down copies and tie them to your wrists and foreheads to help you obey them. Write these laws on the door frames of your homes and on your

town gates. Deuteronomy 6:4-9 Contemporary English Version

Marian and I have often commented on how blessed we are to have our grandsons growing up in an environment where they are surrounded by people who are rooted in their Christian faith and active in the ministry of the Church. Nearly all my daughter and son-in-law's friends are involved in the church in some way. They are pastors, youth workers, musicians, and they fill a variety of lay leadership positions and activities in congregations locally. There are even some who are actively involved in churches across the country and in other countries as well. I have joked that a gathering of that group of friends is like a mini Synod Assembly!

One of the things I have noticed about the friends that often surround Brooks and Teddy is a common thread; most of them met at church camp or through other friends they know from camp. As we enter the summer camping season, I'd like to point out the lasting effect camp can have, not just on current campers, but possibly on generations to follow, like my grandsons.

**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.

Personally, I never had the opportunity to experience church camp as a youngster, and I realize now that I missed a lot. Many a pastor or other church professional will tell you they felt the call to ministry for the first time while at camp. There seems to be something about being outdoors in the company of other campers that opens one's mind to the presence of God and one's heart to the call to discipleship. Faith formation takes place alongside the friendships that are formed in the unique setting of church camp.

We are fortunate to have three excellent Lutheran Camping Corporation facilities within an hour's drive of St. Mark's, two of which are less than 20 miles away. Camp Nawakwa is in Arendtsville, PA, just outside Biglerville. According to the LCC website, "Nawakwa has been an outdoor gathering place for Lutherans since 1929. We are proud of that history, and seek to preserve well-loved traditions as well as look ahead to new ways of sharing the Word. Our 336 wooded acres provide hiking opportunities, outdoor chapels, playing fields, volleyball and basketball courts, ropes course and a swimming pool."

Camp Kirchenwald "is located on 340 acres of undeveloped timberland, adjacent to 4,000 acres of State Game Lands, in Colebrook, PA. The camp focuses on adventure trip camps and growth through challenge. Campers travel to the Adirondack Mountains, the beaches of Assateague Island, Maryland or enjoy the climbing tower, climbing wall, ropes course, lake, and sports activities at the camp."

And finally, the Wittle Farm near Elizabethtown "is a place for persons and groups seeking to deepen, enrich, and renew their relationship with God. The rural, humble setting of this working farm provides for those who retreat here to experience solitude, prayer, spiritual formation, community, and the study of scripture."

Include some time at one or more of our Lutheran Camps this summer, the experience may not last only a lifetime, but for the lifetimes of future generations as well.

Your partner in ministry and mission,



Pr. Jim Person



I am taking a little time to just reflect on the Lenten season, Palm Sunday and the glorious celebration of Jesus's resurrection on Easter Sunday from my various posts in the sanctuary. But, I will be back! Thank you and have a very blessed Easter

Yours in Christian Love,  
*The St. Mark's church mouse*

## Council President

Easter, with the special annual Reminder of Resurrection, is now past. Spring, however, won't let us forget that Renewal and emphasizes for us just how special this time of year is. One day it is warm and bright...the next, clouds roll in, the skies darken and the temperatures drop.

St. Marks is the constant anchor for our Christian family. We enjoy and celebrate each change in the weather and our Church calendar closely follows the seasons.

We are delighted to welcome our family back to their church home. Each Sunday shows us a slight attendance increase from the week before. Blossoms emerge everywhere around us, as do the daffodils, forsythia, and tulips. Nature's colorful coat helps to inspire our hope and allow the pandemic to recede further in our memory.

Spring at St Marks is a wonderful welcoming season and our family rejoices in our risen Lord and the endless possibilities of our future together.

Spring blessings to all!!

Yours in Christ...Jay Snyder



Thank you for the beautiful baptism blanket for Cameron. He will be able to cherish this keepsake as he grows. Thank you for your support as we welcomed Cameron into God's family.

Andrew, Tina and Cameron Jones

**Our 2023 Bunny Breakfast was a huge success! We are very thankful for all of the donations, volunteers, everyone who came out to enjoy the day, and all of those who made the day possible. Our annual Bunny Breakfast supports our scholarship fund, and because of your generous support, we will be able to help many families in the future. We are so grateful for our St. Mark's community and your continued support of our program.**

**On behalf of the staff, students, families,  
and board of St. Mark's Nursery School,  
Thank you**



## Birthdays in May

05/01	Mia Brown	05/19	Marian Person
	Brent Leedy		Christie Senft
05/02	Dennis DeFrank	05/21	Suezan King
	Lucy Nusz	05/24	Joshua Heym
05/05	Christopher Smith	05/28	Shirley Johns
05/07	Nathan Banic	05/29	Stanley Simpler
05/08	Connor Ellestad	05/30	Landon Brown
05/10	Dwayne Geiger		Robert Haines
05/12	Stephanie Carl	05/31	Alice Hoover
05/14	Mary Sultzaberger		William Kroah, Jr.
05/16	John Herigan, Jr.		Ethan Appleby
05/18	Vaugh Heym III		

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

### Special dates

- National Day of Prayer, *May 4, 2023*
- Mother's Day, *May 14, 2023*
- Ascension Day, *May 18, 2023*
- Armed Forces Day, *May 20, 2023*
- Victoria Day (Canada), *May 22, 2023*
- Pentecost, *May 28, 2023*
- Memorial Day, *May 29, 2023*

Recover

I've been thinking about recovery a lot over the past several weeks. How long does it take to recover from a cold, the flu, or the COVID pandemic? Will my dad recover from his instability? Will our kids recover from their student loan debts? Will people who have been sober from addictive behaviors for years ever truly recover? Will victims of exploitation recover from their emotional injuries long after the physical and mental abuse has ceased?

I met an advocate from Germany's Survivors of Trafficking and Exploitation Advisory Council (GESTAC). She explained that it took her 10 years to feel "free" and empowered to live her life after being sold into slavery in her home country of Germany. She cried as she relayed her story of trauma, fear, prostitution and abuse. While she appears to be a strong woman now, I am not convinced she has (or will ever be) fully recovered from the emotional warfare.

One of the shelter victims confided in me about her story of abuse. She became pregnant at the age of 14 from one of her perpetrators. She later lost the baby due to physical abuse. She remains sad because of the miscarriage. Her parents are incarcerated and are due to be released soon. The victim is under the false impression that she will be able to return home upon their release. However, this will not be the case because she is under child protection until she turns 18 (similar to the USA's "ward of the court"). Understandably, she shed tears as she relayed her story and when she listened to other victim's stories.

Sometimes I feel like my prayers about these things are not enough. I ask God to give these people the strength to live full and prosperous lives in His name. But truly they are fragile, and have doubts that God exists because of feelings of neglect, abandonment, and unbearable grief.

That's why in addition to continuous prayer, I write these things to you to help me "recover." Please keep me and those I encounter in your prayers.

**Though he brings grief, he will show compassion, so great is his unfailing love.**

**For he does not willingly bring affliction or grief to anyone. (Lamentations 3:32-33)**

Peace,

Ruth

**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**

Your Giving helps support what God is doing in, and through our ministry here at St. Mark's. Scan the QR code below with your phone camera to visit our safe and secure giving site through Vanco. Thank You for your generous support of St. Mark's.



### St. Mark's Book Club

Date	Book	Author	Facilitator
<b>2023</b>			
May 25	Run Rose Run	James Patterson/ Dolly Parton	_____
June 22	The Lost Wife	Alyson Richman	_____

**Book Club meets at 10:00 AM in the parlor**

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

**ST. MARK'S  
COMMUNITY  
BREAKFAST**

**SECOND  
SATURDAY  
EVERY  
MONTH  
8AM-10AM**

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**APRIL 29, 2023  
JUNE 24, 2023  
SEPTEMBER 16, 2023  
OCTOBER 7, 2023**

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# 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  
(717) 652-6700 Ext. 3

stmarknurseryschool@gmail.com

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Harrisburg, PA 17109

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DO NOT DELAY DELIVERY  
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**THE PARISH POST**

**MAY  
2023**

**St. Mark's Church Council**

<b>President</b>	Jay Snyder
<b>Vice President</b>	Dave Featherman
<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 Jake Buss Maggie Perry Susan Shultz Dave Stanton
<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

