



# The Parish Post

NOVEMBER 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



Matthew 8:12 "while the heirs of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Matthew 13:42 "and they will throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Matthew 13:50 "and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Matthew 22:13 "Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

Matthew 24:51 "He will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

Matthew 25:30 "As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

The verses above are all from the Gospel of Matthew. During the past year, as I have studied and preached on this Gospel, I have come to believe that Matthew must have been dealing with a congregation or congregations that needed to have "the fear of God" put in them. The phrase, "weeping and gnashing of teeth" is only found seven times in the whole Bible, and six of those are in Matthew. Matthew seems to want to remind us that, along with the privilege of receiving the gift of faith and being recipients of salvation by God's grace, we have some responsibility to respond to that gift and privilege in ways that show our great thankfulness and deep gratitude. The reminder of judgement, I think, is meant to show us that we will be held accountable for our responsiveness.

Responsibility and accountability are topics that were at the top of the list at our recent Ministry

**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.

Leaders' Retreat when we brainstormed what we can do to better answer the call for St. Mark's to be the church God would want us to be. It is with that thought in mind that I write this message.

Some of you have "reminded" us that The Parish Post hasn't been published as regularly or as often as it once was. One reason for that is that in our post-COVID situation, there is sometimes not really much to report. One of things many people missed most about not receiving The Parish Post was missing out on knowing when our brothers and sisters were celebrating birthdays. We addressed that issue by printing birthdays in the weekly bulletin. Now that we are once again becoming more active as a congregation. The Parish Post will likely be coming out more often, though perhaps still not every month.

Another reason for the irregularity of The Parish Post, I am sorry to say, falls on me. With less news and events to report these articles of mine make up a large of the content of our newsletter, though perhaps not the most important part. Over the past year or so, I have been slacking in my responsibility of getting these messages to Loraine in a timely manner, thus holding up publication of the newsletter. I am not offering any excuses or shirking my responsibility: it is simply something I have not been giving its rightful priority in my schedule. With this message, I am promising to do a better job of having content ready whenever conditions warrant the publication of The Parish Post.

It has, on one hand, been good to know that The Parish Post is missed when it doesn't go out. Sometimes we're not sure if something like this is widely read or often ignored. I have heard complaints in the past that an event happened and that someone was not aware of it, even though it was announced in the newsletter and the bulletin. Now that we are promising to do a better job of getting the message out, it is up to you to make our efforts worthwhile. Responsibility works both ways.

First, let's make sure things are happening here that can be announced and publicized. A newsletter without much news isn't much of a help to anyone. Also, let us know when things are happening outside our church that could be publicized to the congregation. School plays and musicals, awards received by youth and/or adults, and news of happenings in your family like weddings, births, etc. are all news that is important to our church family.

We'll publish "all the news that's fit to print" when it is warranted. Please take advantage of the effort.

Your partner in ministry and mission,



Pr. Jim Person



### *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*

## **Council President**

Summer is truly fading into our rear view mirror. School buses are everywhere and the temperatures are beginning to drop. Let's not add St Marks to that drop.

We are ready to welcome everyone back, as we enter the Fall season. We have a Breakfast Service, then the next week our annual Outdoor Service and then we will welcome everyone to "Abraham's Table" before our regular services..

Don't miss our next few weeks. Something new at every turn!!.

Yours in Christ,

Jay Snyder

Council President

### **Change of Address:**

Ryan & Janice Shadle  
556 Joshua Road  
Stafford, VA 22556

Tracy & Steve Swetnam  
135 Joya Circle  
Harrisburg, PA 17112

Anna Gabor  
Harmony at Hershey  
P.O. Box 115, Apt. 1013  
75 East Canal Street  
Hershey, PA 17033

Jake & Rachel Buss  
120 Levan Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17109

Thank  
you 

August 29, 2023

Dear Loraine and friends,

Greetings from Iowa, state of the tall corn!  
And the best state fair, which I attended with my  
sister-in-law, Cindy. We had a great time!  
I can't believe it has been six months that I came  
"back home"! I see someone from my family  
almost every day. Joel and Cindy live in the country  
only ten minutes from my house in Hilbert.  
They lived in Hilbert over thirty years, so they  
know many people. Joel taught H.S. math and was  
the girls basketball coach. They first lived in a  
house on my street, same street where the church is.  
I am happy to sit with family in the pew on  
Sundays. Retirement is a nice change for me.

My main reason for writing is to  
give you an article for the Parish Post which I  
really appreciate receiving. My thoughts are with  
all of you very often ~ so many friendships  
and special memories!

I will write again. Take good care!

Love, Joyce



Dear friends at St. Mark's,

I send greetings from Iowa and extend best wishes to you for a meaningful and inspiring year at St. Mark's. I know that your music program is in good hands. Jenny & Faith are very talented and dedicated musicians. St. Mark's is fortunate to have their special partnership.

My main reason for writing is to express my heartfelt gratitude for everything you as a church family did for me at my Retirement – Farewell dinner! I will always remember fondly, the caring and kindness shown to me during this time of changes in my life.

I do know that God was guiding me in my decisions, all the way.

I pray for God's blessing on your congregation and your leadership.

With Christian love,

Joyce Van Nieuwkuyk

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

Dear St Mark's

Your card lifted my spirits today. I try not to get into any mood, but it happens anyway – guess it's the unknown part.

I know several of you from visits with Molly & family and I lovely memories of your friendliness.

My love to you all – and Pastor Jim and Marian. Again, thank you.

Beatrice Bryan

(Molly Stanton's mother)

Dear St. Mark's Family  
Thank you for the flowers, cards and prayers. I am slowly recovering from and I appreciate your concern and caring. Remember watch where you walk and don't trip!  
Jan Smith

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





# LOWER SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD

WHERE THE HUNGRY ARE FED AS WE HAVE BEEN FED BY CHRIST.

April 24, 2023

*I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it?  
I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. — Isaiah 43:19*

Dear Partners in Christ,

Jesus' resurrection is the beginning of a new creation birthing hope all around us. As the Lower Susquehanna Synod, we share a common journey of living in hope as we receive the promise of the resurrection, where God's love is freely given to each and every one of us.

We are assured that nothing will ever separate us from God's love. In our brokenness, God brings healing. In times of despair, Christ is with us. When we feel lost, God makes a way for us in the wilderness. The message of Isaiah continues to speak to us with the assurance that God is in our midst creating new life and possibilities as God's people.

As part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), we are open to the Holy Spirit's invitation to participate in and contribute to God's work in the world using all of the gifts that God has entrusted to our care. Your Mission Support — the portion of offerings that you share with our synod and the churchwide organization — unites us in this vital, life-giving work.

**In 2022, our Lower Susquehanna Synod received almost \$2.3 million and shared over \$714,000 directly in Mission Support for ELCA churchwide ministries.** Additionally, our congregations provided more than \$475,000 to other ELCA ministries, over \$354,000 to LSS ministry partners, and \$196,000 to support global partners, like the Konde Diocese and Tree 4 Hope in Guatemala. Your gifts of mission support enabled us to renew our outdoor and youth ministries and expand our focus for those in the first third of life; strengthen the spiritual life of our leaders through retreats and other spiritual growth opportunities; nurture and equip congregations in the areas of hybrid church, congregation vitality, and stewardship; grow justice outreach and better resource those traditionally marginalized by the church; and spread the good news of Jesus Christ around the globe.

**Altogether, our synod invested over 4 million dollars to further the gospel call near and far. Thank you for your generosity!** Your gifts strengthen the whole Church, making it possible for us to participate more fully in God's mission for the sake of the world.

Yours in Christ,

† James S. Dunlop  
Bishop

Jennifer R. Lau  
Vice President

Richard E.T. Jorgensen Jr.  
Director for Evangelical Mission

# MISSION SUPPORT

2022



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

## THANK YOU

To the members of  
**St. Mark Lutheran Church**  
**Harrisburg, Pennsylvania**

from the  
**Lower Susquehanna Synod**

of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,  
in grateful appreciation for giving

**\$20425.19**

for Mission Support beyond the congregation for synod and  
churchwide ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Synod Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

01108



*Thank you for your  
continued support!*

September 2023

Did you know that last year NutriPacks impacted the lives of over 800 food insecure students within the Central Dauphin School District? The support provided by NutriPacks proved to be vital during the ongoing economic uncertainty affecting the entire country. The stability of many of our already financially distressed families led us to consider ways to assist them throughout the summer months, resulting in our first summer food program one year ago. Unfortunately, due to our own fluctuating financial status, this highly successful and much needed summer initiative was not a part of our program this year. The need to meet the difficulties of rising prices at the grocery stores brought hundreds of families to our distribution center every week. As you know, hunger does not take the summer off...but sadly we had no choice but to close our doors.

NutriPacks, a non-profit organization, is a project of the Panther Ram Foundation and operates without paid employees. The successful execution of NutriPacks is organized by a team of 10 advisory board members. The process of food distribution to families is contingent on 200 volunteers. As such, we are reaching out to churches and congregations within our community to ask if you would be willing to support us through monetary donations and volunteers. Along with the necessary volunteer support, monetary donations are VITAL. Donations allow students to receive a backpack filled with nutritious food items for the weekend, when children do not have access to food provided by our schools. Our partnership with The Central Pennsylvania Food Bank and Midwest Food Bank in Middletown allows us to provide nourishing meals at an affordable cost. Your monetary donation directly assists with feeding a family in this time of need. For the cost of a bag of potato chips or a cup of coffee at a specialty shop, you could ensure that a child has adequate food over the weekend.

Knowing that our community partners are KEY to the continuance of this necessary program, we are hopeful that you will **consider donating and/ or provide volunteers**. Enclosed is our brochure that provides additional information. We also ask that you consider sharing this letter with any community organization that uses your church/facility throughout the year. We hope to count on your support to continue our mission to feed all food insecure children in our community. Please know that no contribution is too small to make a difference.

Pam Jones/NutriPacks Director

407-277-8343 / admin@cdsdnutripacks.org

**PANTHER RAM  
FOUNDATION**



## 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.



# ST. MARK'S COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

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

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

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



**WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE FOR ALL  
THE SUPPORT IN FILLING THE BACKPACKS**

Thrivent – Chris Grant

Weis Market

Giant Foods

Mr. Deli

AFSCME

Brian Braidigan – for getting donations

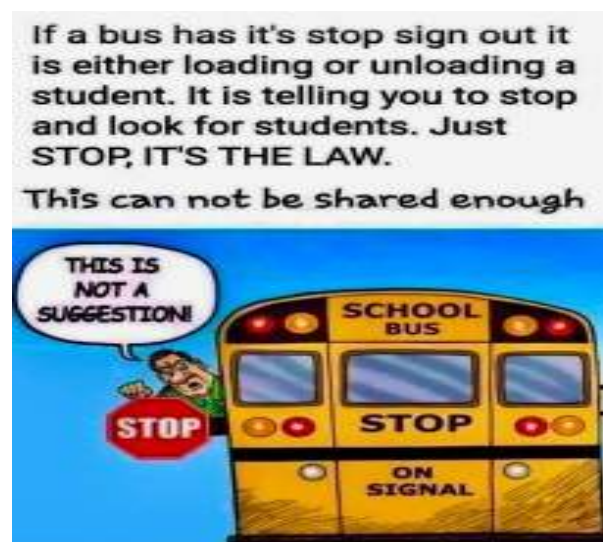
Jay Varga JDK Catering - Food Donated

Rebekah Varga—Backpack Prayer (see below)

Church Parishioners – For Donations

Fellowship Ministries for the Free Community Breakfast

Community Outreach for organizing this for the Backpacks & Filling them











# 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](mailto:stmarknurseryschool@gmail.com)

## St. Mark's Book Club

Date	Book	Author	Facilitator
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### 2023

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**



### Birthdays for November

11/03 – Maryann Gelehrter	11/16 – Julia Zingone
Elliott Walak	11/17 – Floyd Sholder
James Person	11/18 – Gary Schwartz
11/04 – Hailey Neidig	11/20 – Sandy Dinger
Susan Schultz	11/22 – Heidi May
11/07 – George Kaufman	11/23 – Rick Beckley
11/08 – Thomas Stohler	11/24 – Christine Wnuk
11/09 – Vaughn Heym Jr.	Tracey Swetnam
11/10 – Samantha Romanias	11/27 – Isaiah Allen (Willis)
Brent Whitaker	11/28 – Ryan Cleaver
11/14 – Richard Botts	
Susan Dillahey	

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

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



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

## ***Prayer of Thanksgiving***

O Lord, Great Spirit,  
We thank You for all the good gifts You share with us.

We thank You for the food we eat, for the beauty of the seasons and for the wonders of Your creation.

We thank You for our friends and families and ask You to bless and watch over us all.

Most of all Lord, we thank You for sharing Your life with us, and for the gift of Your Son, Jesus.

Amen.



## Cultural Differences

James 4:11-12 Brothers and sisters, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against a brother or sister or judges them speaks against the law and judges it. When you judge the law, you are not keeping it, but sitting in judgment on it. 12 There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the

one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor?

We are all human, and as humans, we are sinners. Not a day passes without sin. We hurt ourselves and each other intentionally and non-intentionally. Words can lift us up, or crush our spirits in seconds. In Asian culture, we have a saying known as “losing face.” It means that someone has publicly shamed another, which brings dishonor to the entire family. In some cases, it means a death sentence to the person being shamed. I have “lost face” several times in USA, and again recently in Romania. Not only was I humiliated in public, but I was told that God doesn’t love me because of my actions. That false statement hurt me the most, and caused inconsolable pain. I know it will be difficult for me to encounter my accuser in the future. I pray the Holy Spirit swiftly guides my words when that time comes to fruition.

Matthew 18:15 (Jesus said,) “If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over.”

Our children learned how the prophet Samuel had to find David to anoint him as king. From 1 Samuel 16:7, “But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.”

Dear Lord, I humbly come before You, seeking inner strength and resilience in the face of humiliation and shame. Help me to guard my heart against the hurtful words and opinions of others. Grant me the confidence to stay true to myself and not be swayed by the negativity around me. Fill me with Your love and peace, knowing that Your opinion of me is what truly matters. Amen.



**WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE FOR ALL  
THE SUPPORT & HELP WITH TRUNK-OR-TREAT**

Middlesworth Chips

Weis Market

Karns

Sam's Club

Wendy's

PA Game Commission

Fellowship Ministries

Community Outreach

All volunteers who came out to help make this event  
a big successful for our community!!









ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
4200 Londonderry Road  
Harrisburg, PA 17109

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 618  
Harrisburg, PA.

CHANGE SERVICE  
REQUESTED

DO NOT DELAY DELIVERY  
DATED MATERIAL

## **THE PARISH POST**



**November 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>Co-Ministers of Music</b>	
	Jenny Sustak & Faith Smeck
<b>Administrative Assistant</b>	
	Loraine Mariner
<b>Youth/Family Ministry</b>	
	Kellen Michalowski
<b>Sexton</b>	Donald Young
<b>Nursery School Dir.</b>	Jessica Broome

