



The Parish Post

October 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



We've all experienced the phenomenon of the "brainworm", a song that gets stuck in our head and just won't go away. Well, for some time recently I have awakened in the morning with the song "You Can Do Magic" by the group America ringing in my ears. It wasn't the whole song, because I don't know the whole song, but the repetition of the opening verses in my head every morning got me to thinking there must be some significance to it. (Of course, I have since looked up the lyrics, which reinforced my feeling.)

I learned from Bennett Williams, who is now Coordinator of Music Ministry at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Middletown (as well as part of my extended family as uncle to my son-in-law) that we can often find spiritual meaning in contemporary music if we see the object of love and affection as our love for God and/or Jesus' love for us. My conversations with Bennett reinforced something that has been known by worshippers of God for centuries. For example, the Song of Solomon, which dates as far back as the Fourth Century B.C. never mentions God or religious practices, yet it is included in scripture. The book, written in verse form, opens with the words,

**"Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth!
For your love is better than wine,
your anointing oils are fragrant,
Your name is perfume poured out;
therefore the Maidens love you."**

And it gets juicier from there!

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.

According to *The Story of Christian Music* by Andrew Wilson-Dickinson, Martin Luther felt that “the profane could be made sacred by encouraging new and wholesome associations.” Luther himself said:

“Street songs, knightly and miners’ songs (the contemporary music of the Middle Ages) changed in a Christian, moral, and ethical manner, in order that the evil, vexatious melodies, the useless and shameful songs to be sung in the streets, fields, houses, and elsewhere, may lose their bad effects if they can have good, useful Christian texts and words.”

I love the traditional hymns of our worship, but since we don’t hear those hymns often outside of the church walls, I think it’s good to be able to reinterpret so-called “popular” music in the context of our Christian faith. Which brings me back to my meditation on the song, “You Can Do Magic.”

I finally decided to look up the lyrics and found that many of the thoughts expressed in that song were, in fact, quite fitting to a Christian who had come to believe in love and Jesus. It’s not a perfect correlation, but enough that when I hear that song from now on, whether actually or in my mind’s ear, I will think of it differently, as it pertains to my own experience of faith formation. Consider the first two verses:

**I never believed in things that I couldn’t see
I said if I can’t feel it then how can it be
No, no magic could happen to me
And then I saw you**

**I couldn’t believe it, you took my heart
I couldn’t retrieve it, said to myself
What’s it all about
Now I know there can be no doubt**

Have you heard the story of Doubting Thomas? If not, read John 20:24-29. The words of this song might have come straight from the lips of Thomas himself.

Loving the Lord with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength means that our faith permeates every aspect of our lives, music included. Next time you get one of those tunes, or a poem, or whatever, in your head that just won’t go away, ponder it in the context of your faith. God may be using a “brainworm” to get your attention.

Your partner in ministry and mission,



Pr. Jim Person

From Council President

Hello St. Mark's Members and Friends,

Well, we have come through a hot and dry summer and are now approaching the fall and winter months. And we all know that in Pennsylvania, anything and everything can happen weather wise in one single day. We can go from air conditioning to heat in the course of a few hours.

In some ways, that is what happened to the church. Except it was over a two and a half year period of COVID. Pre COVID we were all going about our days and weeks with all of our normal activities, meetings, Sunday gatherings, choir rehearsals and whatever else keeps St. Mark's bustling. Now, we are in a rebuilding phase post COVID. I'm not going to be dishonest and say it's been easy. But, I'm very hopeful that with God's help and the help of all of you faithful congregants we can and will continue to push forward.

We have had many functions occur with many more to come. Ministries are all coming together and helping each other. An inter generational Sunday School is about to start for anyone of all ages, our nursery school is up and running with our new director, Jessica Pope, our LYF groups are beginning their fall schedules with lots of good things going on including some activities for all members of the congregation to take part in. So, you can see, it's beginning to be an active post COVID year. A sense of normalcy, if you will.

It was very nice to see so many of you at our "outdoor turned indoor" service on September 11. A very special thank you goes out to Bennett Williams and the Spirit and Truth band. It was very nice to hear them and see them. Also a huge thanks to our Fellowship Ministry for the delicious food after the service. There was a lot of good fellowship that day and it was so wonderful to see that.

I'm continually more and more hopeful and happy with what I am seeing at St. Mark's. With God's help and the continued support of you, the wonderful congregation, we will continue to thrive. I personally want to say **THANK YOU** to all of you.

*God's Peace be with you all,
Sandy Sherwood, Council President*



Birthdays for October

10/02	Sawyer Haynos	10/15	Tina Smith
10/03	Margie Stouffer Scott Leedy	10/16	Nathan Cleaver Bennett Fleegal
10/04	Hannah Leigh DeFrank Melissa Dinger Holly Evans Leo Brown	10/17	Amelia Graves Brooke DiSerio
10/05	Emma Mink	10/18	Richard Deppen Wayne Smithers David Kolter
10/06	Dorothy Sutch	10/22	Lennox Powell Spencer Lindner
10/08	– Jackson Klick Kathryn McClain	10/24	Kristian Beverly Alexis Neidig
10/09	– Dameion Frey	10/26	Jared Fleegal
10/10	– Kendall Beverly Everly Banks Wayne Metz	10/28	Laura Young John Herigan, Jr.
10/11	– Zara Bennett Kathy Joe Heym Reuel Deppen Sara Lawrence	10/29	Larry Watkins
10/13	Mason Brown	10/30	Thomas Botts Brian Dinger Nolan Dulovich Paul Whipple
10/14	Susan Bennick	10/31	David Featherman

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

Thank
you 

I would like to thank Barbara Heym for the beautiful altar flowers she delivered to me on September 4! The red carnations were gorgeous with the baby's breath and a real brightener for my day as I continue to recover from my July shoulder replacement. Sitting in the house for the first 6 weeks was pretty bad! The PT is getting tough but I am slowly getting my strength back. Being a flower delivery person myself, seeing the joy altar flowers bring to the receiver always made me feel good. I was a bit hurt or puzzled that I hadn't received flowers but I know sponsors often take flowers they sponsor. Living on the West Shore I guess is a drive for some as I realize every Sunday when I drive 15 miles to church. I encourage others to step up and offer to deliver flowers to members and brighten their day. Hopefully, I will see everyone soon.

Thank you, Barb!
Zara Bennett

To My St. Mark's Family
Many thanks for the prayers, pastor's visits,
cards, and phone calls that I received for my
recent health issues.
With love and blessings
Shirley Johns

I want to *thank the MANY congregation members* who have taken time to read lessons on Sundays, during Lent, or read in any way the past two years as I have asked for Lectors. The response has been wonderful and I appreciate you folks stepping up to help. After COVID, we are very slowly returning to church so every bit of help is appreciated!

Zara Waters Bennett

THANK YOU to so many of my church family for the Get Well cards, texts and many follow-ups following my shoulder replacement surgery. It is nice to be remembered. Thank you Pastor Jim for making that long ride across the river to visit me...it was a beautiful day for a ride!

The surgery was easy enough; the physical therapy is getting to be rough. I'm too old for this.

Zara Waters Bennett

Pastor Jim & St Mark's Family
Thanks to everyone involved
in the "card shower" given for
me on my "99th" birthday.
In Christian Love,
Ethel Oswald

Thank
you



Thank you for all your
wonderful volunteers!

September 2022

Greetings,

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 economic uncertainty affecting the entire country. The stability of many of our already financially distressed families led us to initiate our first summer food program. Advisory board members, along with an amazing group of volunteers, gave up fifteen weeks of their summer to make sure our families continued to have fresh and nutritious food. The response was overwhelming! The need to meet the difficulties of rising prices at the grocery store brought hundreds of families to our distribution center every week. As you know, hunger does not take the summer off and neither does NutriPacks!

As we embark on the new challenges that face our country this coming year, we wish to be fully prepared to continue supporting our families and students. We anticipate serving approximately 1000 students. **WITH YOUR HELP** we will provide food for the neediest students of Central Dauphin and attempt to alleviate some of the burden already placed on their families during this difficult time.

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 approximately 200 volunteers. As such, we are reaching out to churches 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 for students to receive a backpack filled with nutritious food items that costs our program merely \$10.00 per student. 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.

Sincerely,


Pam Jones, Director
407-227-8343/pamjones001@yahoo.com

PANTHER RAM
FOUNDATION

Thank
you 

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

August 27, 2022

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Londonderry Drive
Harrisburg, PA 17109

Dear Friends of the Food Pantry:

On behalf of the Ecumenical Food Pantry and those who benefit from your generosity, thank you for the VBS donation of 50 lbs. of groceries and \$155.00 received in August 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.

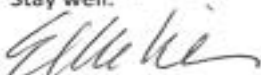
JOIN US FOR OUR 50TH-YEAR CELEBRATION!

We're 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.

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

Back to the Grind

And in a blink of the eye, summer is ending. Time to regroup. Pick up former routines surrounding children's schedules. Fall shopping sprees. Labor Day festivities that signal the last hoorah before Thanksgiving for many folks.

Who is your focal point as you anticipate the cooler weather, change in the leaves, and preparations for winter? Of course, you know in your heart that you should always focus on Him, but how often do we consciously put God first?

It's not easy. As humans we are basically self-centered as a survival mechanism. But what if we could explore the flip side and strive to be God-centered? We've all seen the cliché, "What Would Jesus Do?" (WWJD).

Excerpt from 2 Corinthians 5:17-20 (The Message): *All this comes from the God who settled the relationship between us and him, and then called us to settle our relationships with each other...God has given us the task of telling everyone what he is doing. We're Christ's representatives. God uses us to persuade men and women to drop their differences and enter God's work of making things right between them. We're speaking for Christ himself now: Become friends with God; he's already a friend with you.*

Paul Kretzmann's bible commentary interprets the passage like this. St. Paul wants to apply the demands of Christ's work to all circumstances of life. He felt believers should live like Christ, and allowed no fleshly considerations to influence his judgment and his treatment of others. It made no difference whether his neighbor or any man is of noble birth, of influential position, socially prominent, or rich, he dealt with all people. He had no selfish motives, or personal agenda.

And so, we strive to follow St. Paul's advice and focus on Christ as our center. Pray that you are able to accept and follow the insight of the Holy Spirit. Remember, He is already your friend!

Peace,

Ruth

St. Mark's Book Club

Date	Book	Author	Facilitator
2022			
Oct. 27	The Old Success	Martha Grimes	_____
Dec. 1	Refusal	Dick Francis	_____

Book Club meets at 10:00 AM in the parlor



Social Services Ministry thanks everyone who generously gave food or monetary donations for the Military Share Project. Your generous support is much appreciated.

Dedication Plaque for our new Digital Sign





Hello St. Mark's!

Well, I hope this finds you all well and enjoying the last of summer and getting ready to welcome fall!

It has been an exciting time around St. Mark's. We had our fall Extravaganza in September and there were a lot of nice things. I kind of had to be careful when observing what was there so I didn't get in anyone's way. But I was there, trust me.

Then we had our Outdoor Service that had to be moved indoors due to some much needed rain. But, that was OK. I relocated myself so I could have a "mouse" eye view of the Spirit and Truth Band that played and sang for us. I really liked that and wish they could come back more often. We had the installation of the Nursery School/Sunday School teachers too. We have Ms. Jess, Ms. Rebekah, Ms. Marian, and Ms. Jan who will be teaching. Our Nursery school is up and running under the new director, Jessica Pope. Such a fun time.

I'm looking forward to our upcoming activities we have planned. I'm hoping you all will support our next Community Breakfast (YUM), our chicken Bar B Que (YUM again), our Ice Cream Social (oh my) and Trunk or Treat (YAY). There will be a pet blessing too. I'm the church pet, right Pastor Jim?

Until then, please stay safe and healthy! Be seeing you around.

In Christian Love,

The Church Mouse

A colorful sign for St. Mark's Nursery School enrollment. At the top, there is a row of ten crayons in various colors: pink, red, orange, yellow, light green, dark green, light blue, dark blue, and purple. Below the crayons, the words 'NOW ENROLLING' are written in large, bold, black, hand-drawn letters. Underneath that, '2022-2023' is written in blue and '2, 3, and 4 year olds' is written in red. The sign also includes the school's name 'St. Mark's Nursery School' in a curved font, a cartoon lamb character with a cross on its chest, and the text 'Following the Lamb'. The address '4200 Londonderry Rd. Harrisburg, PA 17109' and phone number '(717) 652-6700' are listed, along with the website 'www.stmarksharrisburg.org/nursery'. The background of the sign features colorful watercolor-style brushstrokes in shades of orange, pink, blue, and green.

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



Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central Pennsylvania

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.



Hi all! I hope you are all ready for a great year of youth group!

Lutheran Youth of Faith, or LYF, is the youth group here at St. Mark's!

LYF is geared towards 6th-12th graders and have meetings on Sunday evenings (usually 2 times a month) from 5pm to 8:30pm. We have

dinner with all our meetings, starting at 5pm! After dinner, LYF meetings consist

of crazy games, interactive learning sessions (I can't sit still long enough to sit there and have a bible study, so our sessions always have some sort of active, hands on component), songs, video clips, and more! We also have LYF Jr. Meetings on Sundays after church, once a month. LYF Jr. meets from 12pm-2pm and is for K-5th graders! LYF Jr. always has lunch with their meetings, along with crazy games (Sardines!), a craft, and an interactive bible lesson! We also invite our 6th-12th graders to come and help lead at LYF Jr., lifting up their leadership gifts and giving them a chance to help out! Our theme for LYF this year is "I Am Alive!", focusing on Ephesians 2:4-10. We really want to answer questions like "What feeds you? What makes you feel alive? What replenishes you?" this year, as we focus on the joyful expressions of God's love in our lives.

This year, we decided to shake things up a bit. In addition to our regularly scheduled youth group meetings, we have decided to turn some meetings into something we are calling "Flex" Meetings. These are things that will be a little different than your average youth group meeting. We might go to the Wittel Farm, a Lutheran Camping Corporation property that grows food for the food insecure, or we might have a game night, or we might go to the Empowerment Project, a Faith, Fellowship, & Fitness ministry in Camp Hill that puts an emphasis on community and includes a faith aspect to their workouts. We wanted to try out new ways to be in community, both with the people around us, and the people in LYF! Plus, we are opening up the Flex Meetings to anyone and everyone who would like to come- youth, parents, families, friends, and the congregation as a whole! These are great opportunities to try something new, build community in a variety of ways, and even give back to the community around us! I look forward to seeing some of you at these Flex Meetings! In addition to the flex meetings, we also have some new family ministry events built into the schedule this year, those are events geared towards fun for the whole family! Family, friends, and the congregation are invited to these events as well!

Thanks for reading! If you want to see more of what the youth group is doing, we have some great places to check out! First up is our Instagram (@lyfstmarks) and Facebook (LYF at St Marks Harrisburg). There you can see photos and posts from our most recent events, as well as information about upcoming ones! Next we have our recently updated page on the church website: <https://www.stmarksharrisburg.org/youth/> (or click on the Youth tab at the top of the site). Under that tab, you can also find our full schedule! And finally, you can also check out our YouTube channel (LYF St. Marks), where you can see videos we occasionally post as recaps from bigger events, like retreats! Wondering the easiest way to find links to all these things? Use your smart phone camera

on the QR Code block and tap on the link that pops up! That will take you to the youth website, which has links to all our social media as well!

If your youth has never been to an LYF or LYF Jr. meeting, or has not been in a long time, I hope you give a couple different events a try in the next few months! We have something for everyone and we welcome and celebrate all who come. The closer we are to one another, the closer we are to God! I'll see you all soon!

Peace,

Kellen Michalowski (he/him/his)
Director Of Youth & Family Ministry
lyfstmarks@gmail.com

Stewardship Ministries invites you to attend:

Getting Your Financial House In Order

When: October 12, 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.

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.

Check out upcoming events happening at St. Mark's

Nursery School selling R&K Subs & Pretzel Sandwiches; Call church office, (717)652-6700, if you want to order, the price is \$6.00 each. The due date is: October 14th, delivery date is: October 26th from 5 to 7 pm.

Trunk or Treat Saturday, October 22, 2022. Call church office, (717)652-6700, if you wish to have your decorated car to give out treats. Starts at 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm Arlington Avenue side.

Community Breakfast Saturday, October 29, 2022 from 8 am to 10 am.

LYF November 19, the Youth is having their annual Spaghetti Dinner, It will be drive through again this year. State tuned for further details.

it's **BBQ** Time!



BBQ Chicken & Rib Dinners

Saturday: October 15, 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.. **LAST ONE UNTIL NEXT YEAR!!!**

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

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THE PARISH POST

OCTOBER
2022



St. Mark's Church Council

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