



# The Parish Post

SEPTEMBER 2017

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
4200 Londonderry Road, Harrisburg, PA 17109  
(717) 652-6700

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The Rev. James E. Person, 717-712-8191

## NEIGHBORHOOD PICNIC

Saturday, September 9th  
St. Mark's Lutheran Church

11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

- \* Lunch
- \* Games & Activities
- \* Free School Backpacks



## EXTRAVAGANZA

September 7, 8 & 9th 10 AM - 4 PM

September 10th 1- 4 PM



*Outdoor Worship Service*

## Outdoor Worship & Rally Day

Sunday, September 10th

9:45 AM Rally Day - 10:30 AM Outdoor Worship



**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.



## Chicken/Ribs BBQ

Saturday, September 30th

10:30 till gone

\$9.00 Chicken Dinner — \$12:00 Rib Dinner



## Reformation Sunday

October 29th



JOIN THE CELEBRATION!! October 2017 marks the 500th Anniversary of the start of the Reformation, the movement sparked by Martin Luther from which the Lutheran Church grew. St. Mark's, originally Shoop's Lutheran Church, has been a part of that movement for 234 of those 500 years. As we approach that milestone anniversary we are planning some special events that will help us carry out our ministry, hopefully for the next 500 years and beyond. Stay tuned to the Parish Post, Sunday bulletins, website, and other announcements for updates.



## Thursday, November 30, 2017

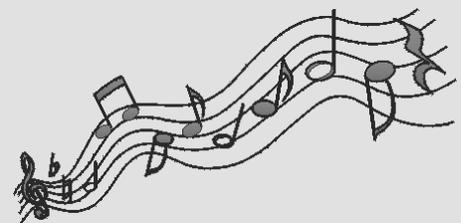
- 11:30 AM Depart St. Mark's Church
- 12:30 PM Arrive at Good & Plenty for a family style luncheon and shopping at the gift shop
- 2:00 PM Depart for the Music Theater
- 3:00 PM The American Music Theater Christmas
- 5:30 PM Depart for home
- 6:30 PM Approximate return

**\$80 per person - Transportation, Show, Luncheon, Taxes & Gratuities included.**

Sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

## The ensemble rehearsal schedule begins in September as follows:

- Sept. 6, Wed. 6:00 - 6:30 ChoirChymes
- Sept. 6, Wed. 6:30 - 7:00 Advent Choir
- Sept. 7, Thur. 6:15 - 7:15 Mission Bells
- Sept 7, Thur. 7:30 - 8:45 Chancel Choir





**In Christ's family there can be no division into Jew and non-Jew, slave and free, male and female. Among us you are all equal. That is, we are all in a common relationship with Jesus Christ. (Galatians 3:28**

### **The Message)**

Every now and then we experience what has been called a "God moment", an encounter or incident in which we clearly see the hand of God at work. Fortunately, those moments often come at the times when we need them most; in the midst of an especially trying day, week, or month, following a painful loss, or when trying to come up with yet another article for the Parish Post. As that least example might tip you off, this article is about one of those "God moments", this one especially moving for me.

The story begins several weeks ago. We found a bag containing a package of diapers along with a box of food sitting outside the church office. There was no note or any indication of where they came from, who left them, or what we were expected to do with them. We assumed they had been donated to be given to someone in need and so they sat on the counter in the church office for a couple of weeks. All that time, no one claimed them or took credit for leaving them.

Fast forward to the day I sat in my office wondering what to write for this month's Parish Post article. I had a couple of things in mind, but nothing seemed to be "just right." The phone rang, as it often does on a Monday morning (thank God for Kim!) and a young woman's voice on the other end sheepishly asked, "could you possibly help me? *I need diapers for my baby.*" Suddenly we knew WHY those diapers were left even if we didn't know who left them. (If you were the generous donor, please know they were greatly appreciated.)

We were able to help this young woman, who lives within walking distance of the church, with diapers and a gift card she could use to buy formula for her baby. What a wonderful "God moment" to know that we, as the Body of Christ, were able to meet this need.

But that's not the end of the story. This young woman, who I believe was sent by God to our door, asked a couple of questions that really made me stop and think about the role, the image, and the perception of "The Church" in our society. When she told me she lives nearby, I invited her to come to our community picnic on Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>. She asked, "Here at the church?" and I said, "Yes, outside in our Recreation Area." Her next

question, though, floored me; "Are we allowed to come?" That's right, she wondered if she, and others from the neighborhood who are not church members were *ALLOWED*, to attend a picnic on our church property. It is a sad state of affairs when the neighbors perceive, even if it's not true, the church as a place where they are not *ALLOWED* to come!

As shocking as that question was to me, when I invited her to join us for worship sometime and told her about our various services and times, she asked, "does your church accept anyone?" What kind of experience must this young woman have had in past that prompted her to ask if our church accepts *ANYONE*? Even though it seems to me that the answer to that question is an obvious "YES, by all means", she must have been to churches where she was not accepted for some literally ungodly reason. I don't know if we'll see her again at the picnic or worship or any other time, but hopefully I impressed upon her that we love her because God loves her and, if she ever does join us at any time for any reason, I trust that she will be greeted in that same spirit (Spirit) by everyone here.

We never know when, where, or how those "God moments" will appear, or who or what the catalyst might be. But one thing is certain, God is at work, in the world, in our community, and here at St. Mark's. When we keep our eyes, ears, and hearts open to see how God may be doing God's work with our hands, we just might experience those moments more often than we think.

Thanks to the generous giver of the gift of diapers for a young woman's baby, thanks to that young woman for opening my eyes to the importance of remembering that "**we are all in a common relationship with Jesus Christ**", and thanks be to God for bringing us all together for the common good when the world around us is experiencing far too much division and turmoil.

Your partner in mission and ministry,

Pr. Jim Person

## FROM COUNCIL PRESIDENT

As I sit to write this report I am also preparing to meet four individuals who have expressed an interest in becoming the next Director of Youth & Family Ministry. Back when we announced the opening we weren't quite sure what kind of response to expect. Upon initial review, each candidate seems to bring unique qualities. We would be incredibly blessed to have one or more of them to contribute their special gifts to youth and family ministry. But alas, the challenge ahead is to determine which of the four can make the greatest contribution toward the role. I look forward to announcing a selection in the coming weeks.

Continuing with our youth I have to offer my admiration to the Christian Education Ministry and the many volunteers who worked so hard to present a successful vacation bible school program this year. I have come to appreciate how critical this event is for our church's overall ministry. There truly is a connection among all the things we do to help children become part of the Body of Christ. From Nursery School to VBS to Worship to Sunday School to Youth Group, all these programs and more function together to create the overall environment where children and their families learn to love and follow Jesus Christ.

September is back-to-school time which includes our weekly Sunday School classes. Our big kick-off to the new year takes place Sunday, September 10 at 9:45am. For this Rally Day children and their families can come out for an introduction to the classes and teachers. Then afterward stay for the annual outdoor Worship service at 10:30am under the pavilion followed by a picnic lunch. It's going to be a very festive day for our whole church to gather together and show our community what joy we have in our hearts and the love we have to share! It's certainly a fitting way to begin our lead up over the coming weeks to the commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Protestant reformation. Truly there is more that brings all Christians together than what separates us. I pray that our words and actions within our own church always be to the glory of God and brings others to know and love Jesus Christ as well.

We want to hear your questions or concerns. Please speak with any member of Council, join us the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm for our Council meetings, or e-mail me at [nzingone@verizon.net](mailto:nzingone@verizon.net).

Faithfully Yours,

*Nick Zingone*

## PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY WALL



It's that time of year again. Social Services Ministry would like to start building our wall, not to let people out or keep people in but to help families who need help

with food insecurity.

We will be collecting donations of peanut butter and jelly to be given to the Central Penn Food Bank or the Nutripack Program.

Please leave your donations in the narthex. We would like to see all the glass covered this year.

If you have any questions, please contact Molly Stanton. (657-7725)

### GOD'S LEFT HAND

A 6-year-old and his grandma went for a walk one autumn day. "Look at the gorgeous leaves!" Grandma exclaimed. "Just think, God painted each one of them just for us!"

"Yep," said her grandson, "and he did it left-handed."

Perplexed, Grandma asked, "Why do you think God used his left hand to create all this beauty?"

"Because," said the boy matter-of-factly, "we learned in Sunday school that Jesus sits on God's right one."

**AGAPE' FUND;** St. Mark's Agape' Fund, from which we provide assistance for medical, utility, and other bills to those in need, is running low on funds. Any contributions made to this fund will be greatly appreciated. Simply make a check to St. Mark's with "Agape' Fund" in the memo line or use an envelope with "Agape' Fund" clearly marked on the outside. Thank you for your generous help for our friends in need.

### SPECIAL DATES

- Labor Day, September 4, 2017
- National Grandparents Day, September 10, 2017
- Patriot Day, September 11, 2017
- First day of autumn, September 22, 2017

## SEPTEMBER COMMUNION ASST.

8:15 AM

11:00 AM

## SEPTEMBER LECTORS

8:15 AM

11:00 AM

9/3	Men in Mission	Men in Mission
9/10	Michael Hengst	Betty Briner
9/17	John Herigan	Nick Zingone
9/24	Randy Whitaker	Sara Jane DeFrank

## SEPTEMBER ALTAR CARE

8:15 AM

11:00 AM

9/3	Laurie Womer	Stephanie Carl
9/10	10:30 am — Outdoor Service — Laurie Womer	
9/17	Sue Bennick	Sara Jane DeFrank
9/24	Barb Heym	Barb Dudek

## SEPTEMBER GREETERS

8:15 AM

11:00 AM

9/3	Men in Mission	Men in Mission
9/10	10:30 am — Outdoor Service	
9/17	Randy Whitaker Carla Whitaker	Sandy Sherwood
9/24	Paul Deibler Jonnie Deibler	Don Gutshall Donna Gutshall

## SEPTEMBER FLOWER DELIVERY

9/3	Barb Heym
9/10	Barb Dudek
9/17	Donna Lee
9/24	June Miller



Tuesday, September 5 — 9 am - Projects Day  
Monday, September 11 — 4 pm - W/ELCA Board  
Tuesday, September 12 — 10 am - Esther Circle  
Tuesday, September 26 — 6:30 pm - Eve Circle

## THANK YOU NOTES

Pastor Jim & My St. Mark's Family,

I want to thank everyone for the prayers & cards during my recent surgeries on my leg. Also, the flowers delivered by Peggy Davis and the delicious muffin she brought with the flowers. Thank you, everyone, for being there for me in my time of needs, I am so proud to be part of the St Mark's Family.

In Christ's Love,

*Lorraine Mariner*

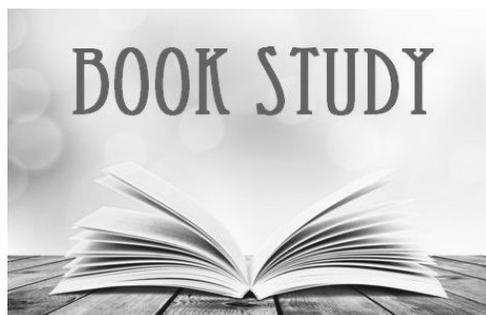
I would like to thank the St. Mark's family for the many get well cards, thoughts and prayers during my recent hospitalization. I also want to thank Pastor Jim for his many visits and prayers. It is certainly great to be part of this wonderful family.

Sincerely,

*Dennis Dinger*

Thanks to all for the prayers and cards after my hand surgery. I am progressing well.

*Laura Young*



### Adult Book Study Retreat at Nawakwa - October 3-5

A Book Study Retreat on the books: Kisses from Katie by Katie Davis, One Thousand Wells by Jena Lee Nardella, A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park. Retreat led by Sister Marianne Brock. All meals are included in the price and served at the Dining Hall. This mid-week retreat begins Tuesday morning and ends with lunch on Thursday. Registration Fee: \$145.00

Lodging and meals provided. Please call 717-677-8211 or visit [www.LutheranCamping.org](http://www.LutheranCamping.org) to register by September 22.

## Lutheran Camping Night at the York Revolution - September 16

The York Revolution and the Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central PA are teaming up on Saturday, September 16 as the Revolution take on the Lancaster Barnstormers. 50% from each ticket sold through this offer will go back to the Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central PA! Tickets are \$8.00 each. For more event info, please contact: Amanda Lewis at 717-801-4496 or [ALewis@yorkrevolution.com](mailto:ALewis@yorkrevolution.com)  
All orders are due by Friday September 1st, 2017 This offer is not available on the day of the game, only in advance.



## Capture the Flag at Kirchenwald - Sunday, October 1st - 3 - 5:30 pm



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 at Kirchenwald.  
This is a free event, but please RSVP by September 22 to 717-677-8211 or online at [LutheranCamping.org](http://LutheranCamping.org)



# "55 Alive"

## Refresher Course

### Saturday, October 21st - 9 am to 1 pm

Discount on Auto Insurance (No Driving)

Cost: Non AARP Members \$20 (for 2) — AARP Members \$15 (for 2)

**Make check payable to AARP** give or mail to:

Paul Deibler, 3848 Derry St., Hbg., PA 17111 — 4 hours — **must pre-register**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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## THE PARISH POST



### St. Mark's Church Council

<b>President</b>	Nick Zingone
<b>Vice President</b>	Deb Banks
<b>Secretary</b>	Loraine Mariner
<b>Treasurer</b>	Calvin Smith
<b>Financial Secretary</b>	Mary Sultzaberger
<b>Council Members</b>	Joe Baranowski Stephanie Carl Tom Graham Jim Long Pastor Jim Person Sandy Sherwood Lore Lee Walak Roberta Wege Randy Whitaker Nick Zingone
<b>Minister of Music</b>	Joyce Van Nieuwkuyk
<b>Church Secretary</b>	Kim DiPaolo
<b>Youth/Family Ministry</b>	Bennett Williams
<b>Sexton</b>	Donald Young
<b>Nursery School Dir.</b>	Pam Baranowski

## THE PARISH POST September 2017



**"Charlotte is always willing to substitute on very short notice."**