

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

4200 Londonderry Road, Harrisburg, PA 17109 652-6700

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E-mail: stmarksharrisburg@gmail.com

MINISTERS: Every Member

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



Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

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.

Please silence all electronic devices.

WELCOME! Please observe Silent Meditation during the Prelude.

PERSONAL HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES ARE AVAILABLE. Please see an usher if you have trouble hearing the service.

INTRODUCTION

This Sunday's image of how the risen Christ shares his life with us is the image of the vine. Christ the vine and we the branches are alive in each other, in the mystery of mutual abiding described in the gospel and the first letter of John. Baptism makes us a part of Christ's living and life-giving self and makes us alive with Christ's life. As the vine brings food to the branches, Christ feeds us at his table. We are sent out to bear fruit for the life of the world.

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Silence for Preparation for Worship*

Stand **Thanksgiving for Baptism**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Refreshed by the resurrection life we share in Christ,

We thank you, risen Christ,
for these waters where you make us new,
leading us from death to life, from tears to joy.

We bless you, risen Christ, that your Spirit comes to us in the
grace-filled waters of rebirth,
like rains to our thirsting earth,
like streams that revive our souls,
like cups of cool water shared with strangers.

Breathe your peace on your church when we hide in fear.
Clothe us with your mercy and forgiveness.
Send us companions on our journey as we share your life.

Make us one, risen Christ.
Cleanse our hearts.
Shower us with life.

To you be given all praise,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God,
now and forever.

C Amen.

Greeting

p The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and
the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you

Spoken **Kyrie** -

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord

C Lord, have mercy

P For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us
pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy

P For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy

P For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY—Let us pray. . .

A O God, you give us your Son as the vine apart from whom we cannot live. Nourish our life in his resurrection, that we may bear the fruit of love and know the fullness of your joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

WORD

Sit **First Reading: Acts 8:26-40**

Led by the Spirit, Philip encounters an Ethiopian official who is returning to his African home after having been to Jerusalem to worship. Philip uses their encounter to proclaim the gospel to him. Upon coming to faith in Jesus, he is baptized by Philip.

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) ²⁷So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to

this chariot and join it.” ³⁰So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. ³²Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” ³⁵Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” ³⁸He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. ³⁹When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

A The Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 22:25-31

READ RESPONSIVELY BY WHOLE VERSE

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear
the Lord.

²⁶**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
Let those who seek the Lord give praise! May your
hearts live forever!**

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to
the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow before
God.

²⁸**For dominion belongs to the Lord,
who rules over the nations.**

²⁹Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in
worship;
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead,
shall kneel before the Lord.

³⁰**Their descendants shall serve the Lord,
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

³¹They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet
unborn, saying to them, "The Lord has acted!"

Second Reading: 1 John 4:7-21

We love God and others because God first loved us. We cannot say we love God, whom we have not seen, while hating fellow Christians, whom we regularly see. Love toward God is to be matched by love toward others because the essence of God is love.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we loved God but that

he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. ¹⁷Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. ¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. ²¹The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

A The Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

Stand Spoken **Alleluia. I am the vine, you're the branches.**

Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit. Alleluia

Gospel: John 15:1-8

On the night of his arrest, Jesus taught his disciples about the relationship they would have with him. Those who abide in his word and love bear fruit, for apart from him, they can do nothing.

[Jesus said:] ¹“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. ²He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. ³You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

P The Gospel of the Lord

C Praise to you O Christ

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

Nicene Creed

**C We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,**

eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;

by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and
the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of
life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and
glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic
Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers

A Hear us, O God

C Your mercy is great

A In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

PEACE

The Peace is the link between the proclamation of the Word and the sharing of the Eucharistic meal. Our unity and mutual forgiveness come from Christ whose Word has just been proclaimed and whose meal we now prepare to share.

*We pray for the peace of the Lord for each other. **“Due to the heightened risk of flu or other illness, please practice a “non-contract” sharing of the Peace until further notice.***

P Each one of you is part of the body of Christ, and you were chosen to live together in peace. So let the peace that comes from Christ control your thoughts. And be grateful. (Colossians 3:15)

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you

MEAL

Stand **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

A God of love,

C you call us beloved children and welcome us to your table. Receive our lives and the gifts we offer.

Abide with us and send us in service to a suffering world; for the sake of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts

C We lift them to the Lord

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P It is indeed right. . .

Spoken **HOLY HOLY HOLY**

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of pow'r and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Invitation to Communion

P The risen Christ invites us to this table.
Come, eat and be satisfied.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
you have brought us this far along the way.
In times of bitterness you did not abandon us,
but guided us into the path of love and light.
In every age you sent prophets
to make known your loving will for all humanity.
The cry of the poor has become your own cry;
our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire.

In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant
to preach good news to the afflicted,

to break bread with the outcast and despised,
and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new
covenant in my blood, shed for you and all people for the
forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection,
we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the
earth from the bonds of slavery and death.

Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

LORD'S PRAYER

Spoken **LAMB OF GOD**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have
mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the
world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the
sin of the world; grant us peace.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER—Let us pray.

A Wellspring of joy,
through this meal you have put gladness in our hearts.
Satisfy the hunger still around us, and send us as joyful
witnesses, that your love may bring joy to the hearts of all
people, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

SENDING

Stand **BLESSING**

P May our glorious God grant you a spirit of wisdom to
know and to love the risen Lord Jesus.
The God of life, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Go in peace. Share the good news.

We will. Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Please Remain Seated Till Dismissed

**Please do not leave your bulletin in the pews, dispose of
them in the Narthex in recycling can.**

Operating Receipts thru March 31: \$60,121

Expenditures thru March 31: \$69,176

Attendance: 04/18/2021 65

We look forward to continued support of our mission through your generous response to God's gifts given to us.

READINGS for May 9, 2021:

First Reading: Acts 10:44-48

Psalm: Psalm 98

Second Reading: 1 John 5:1-6

Gospel: John 15:9-17

ST. MARK'S MEDITATION GARDEN BRICKS - Cost \$35.00 per brick (no limit). Order forms are available at both entrances to the sanctuary. Bricks can be purchased anytime throughout the year.



call: 717-652-6700 ext. 3
email: stmarknurseryschool@gmail.com

SIMPLY GIVING – A Simple Choice: A Generous Response & Save Paper. Simply Giving is the program St. Mark's uses to enable electronic transfer for church donations. Most people use similar methods to make recurring payments for utilities, mortgages, etc. Why not save paper and make it easier for yourself, and the Counters here at St Mark's. Sign up and support our programs with regular donations that are safe, reliable, and conserve paper resources.

If you are already enrolled consider increasing the amount at this time. Forms are available in the narthex and on bulletin boards, or ask at the office.

ONLINE GIVING - is also available on our website, stmarksharrisburg.org. Click the GIVE tab and follow the instructions. **ON LINE GIVING IS SEPARATE FROM SIMPLY GIVING.** If you use both you will be giving twice. Changes to **SIMPLY GIVING** must, for the time being, be made by paper form only. Thanks for your generous stewardship.

Altar Flowers are to the glory of God

Please I'm looking for Lectors to read lessons for both Early and Late Services once a month. NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED! If you're interested, would you contact me at zara1950@gmail.com or call 732-5005....THANK YOU!

THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY

MINISTER OF MUSIC - Joyce Van Nieuwkuyk

MINISTER OF CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

- Bennett Williams

YOUTH/FAMILY MINISTER - Kellen Michalowski

ALTAR CARE - ;

USHERS - Don Young, Doug Womer, Ed Shadle,
Chris Bair, Dennis Dinger, Dave Featherman

GREETERS -

COMMUNION ASST -

WORSHIP ASST -

LECTOR - Ed Shadle; Dave Featherman

FLOWER DELIVERY - Peggy Davis

COUNCIL PRESIDENT - Stephanie Carl

NURSERY SCHL DIR. - Pam Baranowski

717-652-6700 ext 3

SEXTON - Don Young

Birthdays for May

05/01 – Morgan Adams	05/19 – Marian Person
Mia Brown	Christie Senft
05/02 – Dennis DeFrank	05/24 - Joshua Heym
Lucy Nusz	05/27 - Lori Bargmann
05/05 - Christopher Smith	05/28- Shirley Johns
05/06 – Kris Kiner	05/29 – Stanley Simpler
05/07 - Nathan Banic	05/30 - Landon Brown
05/08 - Connor Ellestad	Robert Haines
05/10 – Dwayne Geiger	05/31 - Alice Hoover
05/12 - Stephanie Carl	William Kroah
05/14 – Mary Sultzaberger	Ethan Appleby
05/16 - John Herigan, Sr	

NOW HIRING SUMMER STAFF

We are hiring summer staff to help make this the best summer ever for our campers and guests. Serve others, grow in faith & community, and have a blast working at camp this summer! Learn more and apply online on the website.



SUMMER CAMP
NOW HIRING CAMP STAFF

Apply ONLINE AT
LutheranCamping.org/employment

Kirchenwald
Lebanon, PA
Zach Weiss
zweiss@lutherancamping.org
717-964-3121

Nawakwa
Arendtsville, PA
Mike Youse
myouse@lutherancamping.org
717-677-8211

Ministry sites of
The Lutheran Camping Corporation
of Central Pennsylvania

COUNSELORS
Lifeguards
KITCHEN STAFF

Maintenance
Craft Staff

Why Apply?

- Impact Lives
- Share Your Faith
- Meet New People
- Experience New Places
- Spend The Summer Outdoors

Upcoming Events



Summer Camp Kick-off Worship & Picnic at Nawakwa - May 16, 2021

• May 16 - Join friends, volunteers, and staff of The Lutheran Camping Corporation to celebrate the opening of the 2021 Summer Camping Season with worship, fellowship, and fabulous food.

SEEDS (Summer Eco-education Days) at The Wittel Farm
- June 5, 2021

Join Pastor Matt and Cherie Lenahan for a morning of education, with special guests, to learn about the farming practices at The Wittel Farm and how they support a healthier ecosystem, climate, and community.

SEEDS (Summer Eco-education Days) at The Wittel Farm
- July 3, 2021

Join Pastor Matt and Cherie Lenahan for a morning of education, with special guests, to learn about the farming practices at The Wittel Farm and how they support a healthier ecosystem, climate, and community.

SEEDS (Summer Eco-education Days) at The Wittel Farm
- July 17, 2021

Join Pastor Matt and Cherie Lenahan for a morning of education, with special guests, to learn about the farming practices at The Wittel Farm and how they support a healthier ecosystem, climate, and community.

SEEDS (Summer Eco-education Days) Copy at The Wittel Farm - August 7, 2021

• Join Pastor Matt and Cherie Lenahan for a morning of education, with special guests, to learn about the farming practices at The Wittel Farm and how they support a healthier ecosystem, climate, and community.

Chris Bair is collecting newspapers for the Bird Sanctuary