

# St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

4200 Londonderry Road, Harrisburg, PA 17109 652-6700

Web page: [www.stmarksharrisburg.org](http://www.stmarksharrisburg.org)

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MINISTERS: Every Member

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



16th Sunday after Pentecost

September 20, 2020

**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 sign the Friendship Register (Red Folder) located in the hymnal rack and pass it on to your neighbors. 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**

*Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.*

### **GATHERING**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE** *Hymn from "Kentucky Harmony" ~Steve Scott*

**HYMN #733** *Great is Thy Faithfulness*  
Organ Only — No Singing

### *Stand* **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,

who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

**C Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Faithful God, have mercy on us.

**We confess that we are captive to sin  
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We turn from your loving embrace  
and go our own ways.**

**We pass judgment on one another  
before examining ourselves.**

**We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.**

**We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.**

**Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,  
and turn us again to life in you**

**through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**C Amen.**

P God hears the cries of all who call out in need,  
and through his death and resurrection,

Christ has made us his own.

Hear the truth that God proclaims:

Your sins are forgiven in the name of + Jesus Christ.

Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness  
to do God's work in the world.

**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 **Hymn of Praise**

**Glory be to God in heaven; peace, good-will to all the earth.**

**Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth;**

**we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.**

**Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**—Let us pray. . .

A Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C Amen.**

## WORD

Sit **First Reading:** **Jonah 3:10--4:11**

*After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all worked up about a bush, but shouldn't I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?*

When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, "O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a

gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the Lord said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." Then the Lord said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

A The Word of the Lord

**C Thanks be to God**

**Psalm: Psalm 145:1-8**

**READ IN UNISON**

**I will exalt you, my God and king,  
and bless your name forever and ever.**

Every day will I bless you

and praise your name forever and ever.

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised!

There is no end to your greatness.

One generation shall praise your works to another  
and shall declare your power.

I will speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty  
and all your marvelous works.

They shall tell of the might of your wondrous acts,  
and I will recount your greatness.

They shall publish the remembrance of your great  
goodness;

they shall sing joyfully of your righteousness.

The Lord is gracious and full of compassion,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

## **SECOND READING — Philippians 1:21-30**

*Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.*

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent

and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well — since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

A The Word of the Lord

**C Thanks be to God**

Stand **Spoken**

**Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word  
Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are  
stirred.**

**Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.**

The Holy Gospel according to St Matthew the 20th Chapter

**C Glory to you O Lord**

**Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16**

*Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon

and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' they said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

P The Gospel of the Lord  
C **Praise to you O Christ**

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

### **SERMON**

Sit **HYMN #587** *There's a Wideness in God's Mercey*  
Organ Only



Stand **Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**The Prayers**

**A Lord, in your mercy,**

**C hear our prayer,**

**A 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

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.

**C You have set before us these gifts of your good creation.**

**Prepare us for your heavenly banquet,**

**nourish us with this rich food and drink,**

**and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world,  
through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**C Amen.**

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you,

**C And also with you**

Lift up your hearts

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

**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.**

### **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

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.

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

#### **Invitation to Communion**

P Come to the banquet table  
where Christ gives himself as food and drink.

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.**

Sit **Communion Distribution**

Stand **COMMUNION BLESSING**

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER—Let us pray.**

A We give you thanks, gracious God,  
that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare,  
the body and blood of Christ.

Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven,  
into your beloved vineyard to wipe away the tears of all who  
hunger and thirst, guided by the example of the same Jesus  
Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

**SENDING**

**BLESSING**

P Mothering God,  
Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.

**C Amen.**

Sit **HYMN #537** *On Our Way Rejoicing*  
Organ Only

**DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**C We will. Thanks be to God.**

Please Remain Seated Till Dismissed

**POSTLUDE** *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us* ~R. Lau

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**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](http://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.

**ATTENTION:** So we can keep our Data Base up-to-date, if you have changes to your name, address phone number and your email address changed, you can call or send your updated information to church office.

Operating Receipts thru July 31: \$156,008

Payments made thru July 31: \$156,754

Attendance: 09/13/2020 88 (3 services)

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

### **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 -

LECTORS - Jeanne Flickinger; Sandy Sherwood

FLOWER DELIVERY - Sandy Dinger

COUNCIL PRESIDENT - Stephanie Carl

NURSERY SCHL DIRECTOR - Pam Baranowski 671-4855

SEXTON - Don Young

### **READINGS for September 27, 2020:**

First Reading: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Psalms: Psalm 25:1-9

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-13

Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

**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.

**Altar Flowers** to the Glory of God. The Bulletins are in Celebration of Carla's "60th" birthday sponsored by Randy Whitaker.

### **Birthdays for September**

09/01 – Brighton Miller	09/15 – William Graves
09/02 – Jack Kane	09/15 – William Kroah, Sr
09/06 – Travis Sultzaberger	09/17 – Barbara Heym
09/06 – Julie Eyer	09/21 – Jax Phelan
09/07 – Ella Heckert	09/24 – Dennis Dinger
09/08 – Katlyn Betz	09/25 – Michael Betz
09/10 – Betsy Dressler	09/26 - Michael Hengst
09/11 – Luke Dullen	09/26 – Janet Smith
09/11 – Sara Shoaff	09/26 – Nick Bargmann
09/12 – Donna Gutshall	09/29 – Nathaniel Lawrence
09/12 – Emma Klick	09/29 – Cheryl Long
09/13 – Lainey Huertas (Banic)	09/30 – William Shook
09/14 – Carla Whitaker	
09/14 – Mary Elizabeth Howell	

Chris Bair is collecting newspapers for the Bird Sanctuary



The mission of the NutriPacks Program is to provide nutritious food over the weekends for students in the CD School District. NutriPacks touched the lives of over 800 students last year. Covid-19 has added additional financial stress to struggling families. We anticipate serving 1000 students this year and have created contingency plans to feed those children if schools are temporarily closed. WITH YOUR HELP we will continue to alleviate some of the burden placed on families by this pandemic. NutriPacks is run entirely by volunteers, and due to COVID-19 monetary donations are VITAL at this time. Each week students receive a backpack filled with nutritious food that costs our program \$10.00 per backpack. We partner with The Central PA Food Bank to purchase food and make sure each donation goes a long way. If you are interested in contributing financially, please contact Pam Jones at [pamjones001@yahoo.com](mailto:pamjones001@yahoo.com). We thank you in advance for considering our request to partner with NutriPacks and support our mission. No contribution is too small to make a difference. Should you have any questions please check with Pr. Jim.



# LYF Fall 2020 Schedule

LYF Meetings will be held outdoors.  
Youth will need to bring a mask, lawn chair,  
and water bottle to meetings.

Hand Sanitizer and Disinfectants will  
be used whenever necessary.

Everyone will have their temperature taken  
when they arrive for meetings.

## SEPTEMBER

13th - LYF 1st Meeting - 5pm-7pm

27th - LYF JR. Zoom Meeting - 12pm-1pm

LYF Sr. High Meeting - 5pm-8pm

## OCTOBER

11th - Mt. Gretna Hike

25th - LYF JR. Zoom Meeting - 12pm-1pm

LYF Meeting - 5pm-7pm

it's **BBQ** Time!



**Saturday, Sept. 26, 2020**

**10:30 am – until Sold Out**

**\$9.00 per Chicken Dinner**

**\$12.00 per Ribs Dinner**

**All dinners include: Baked potato, Apple sauce, Roll & Water**

**Baked goods are gladly accepted.**

**DINNERS CAN BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE**

**from any member of Fellowship Ministry or call  
Church Office, 717-652-6700**

# UPCOMING FALL EVENTS



**2020 Adult Study Retreat at Nawakwa - Cancelled**

**Capture the Flag Spectacular** at Kirchenwald

October 4 3-5:30pm | Free

*\*\* Masks and social distancing required at all LCC events \*\**

[Register Now!](#)

**Fall Foliage Day** at Kirchenwald - [Register Now!](#)

**Fall Foliage Day** at Nawakwa - [Register Now!](#)

*\*\* Masks and social distancing required at all LCC events \*\**

October 18 1-6pm | \$10 per person (5 & up)

## **Annual Quilt Auction**

Join us from November 1-8 **online** for this virtual event!

Follow along at the [Quilt Auction Website](#)

**Women's Craft Retreat** at Nawakwa

November 6-8 | \$155

*\*\* Masks and social distancing required at all LCC events \*\**

Registration is limited to 20 participants - [Register Now!](#)

## **Wittel Farm Events**

*\*\* Masks and social distancing required at all LCC events \*\**

10/18/2020 - Dinner and Campfire Worship night. 6:00 to 8:30 pm.

11/8/2020 -Dinner and Campfire worship night. 6:00 to 8:30 pm

Here is the link to register for the dinners:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0949A9A72EA7FB6-dinner>

12/20/2020 - Advent/Christmas in the Barn. 7:00 to 8:30 pm.

## **SUPPORT THE CAMPS**

Make a gift today to support the ministries of the Lutheran Camping Corporation.