

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

4200 Londonderry Road, Harrisburg, PA 17109 652-6700

Web page: www.stmarksharrisburg.org

E-mail: stmarksharrisburg@gmail.com

MINISTERS: Every Member

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



17th Sunday after Pentecost

September 27, 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

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *O Master, Let Me Walk With You* ~R. Lau

HYMN #818 *O Master, Let Me Walk With You*
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 God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

WORD

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

Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot reverse their own previous behavior. God insistently invites people to turn and live.

The word of the Lord came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die. Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the

wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

A The Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 25:1-9

READ IN UNISON

To you, O Lord,

I lift up my soul.

**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

**Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.**

**Show me your ways, O Lord,
and teach me your paths.**

**Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted
all the day long.**

**Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**

**Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.
You are gracious and upright, O Lord;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.
You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.**

SECOND READING — Philippians 2:1-13

As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death —

even death on a cross.
Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me,
not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence,
work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it
is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and
to work for his good pleasure.

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 21st Chapter

C Glory to you O Lord

Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

*After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus
begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious
leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.*

When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

P The Gospel of the Lord

C Praise to you O Christ

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Sit **HYMN #801** *Change My Heart , O God*
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 #538** *The Lord Now Sends Us Forth*
Organ Only

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C We will. Thanks be to God.

Please Remain Seated Till Dismissed

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

POSTLUDE *Let us Talents & Tongues Employ*

~Jamaican Folk Tune

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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. 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 August 31: \$184,840

Payments made thru August 31: \$176,983

Attendance: 09/20/2020 49

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 - Bruce Senft; Zara Bennett

FLOWER DELIVERY - Lucy Weaver

COUNCIL PRESIDENT - Stephanie Carl

NURSERY SCHL DIRECTOR - Pam Baranowski 671-4855

SEXTON - Don Young

READINGS for October 4, 2020:

First Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7

Psalm: Psalm 80:7-15

Second Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46

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.

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. 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

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.

Happy Birthday



Margie Stouffer
will be 85 years young
on
October 3, 2020

Please celebrate
our mother and your friend
by
showering her with
Love and Cards!

Cards may be sent to:
Margaret Stouffer
100 Mt. Allen Drive
Rm 189
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Photo:
Margaret Mary Zimmerman
Florida
April 1940
"A Fish Out of Water"

St. Mark's Nursery School – Fall Fundraiser
R&K Sub & Pretzel Sandwich Sale
Start Date: Wednesday, September 23, 2020
End Date: Wednesday, October 14, 2020
Pickup Date & Time: Wednesday, October 28, 2020,
4-6 PM
Someone will be selling them in the hall after
services or you can call the church office
(717)652-6700 to place your order.