

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



First Sunday of Advent

November 28, 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

Advent is about the “coming days.” God’s people have always lived in great expectation, but that expectation finds specific, repeated enunciation in the texts appointed for these four weeks. The ancients anticipated a “righteous Branch to spring up for David.” The Thessalonians awaited “the coming of our Lord Jesus with all the saints.” Jesus’ contemporaries hoped for the time “to stand before the Son of Man.” With them we eagerly await the coming days: another Christmas celebration, a second coming, and the advent of Christ in word and supper.

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE—*People, Look East* (French, set. J.W. Kerr)

Hymn #244 Rejoice, Rejoice Believers

LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH

PRAYER— 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.

Stand **Confession and Forgiveness**

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
who alone does wonders,
who lifts up the lowly,
who fills the hungry with good things.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God for whom we wait,
in the presence of one another,
we confess our sin before you.
We fail in believing that your good news is for us.
We falter in our call to tend your creation.
We find our sense of self in material wealth.
We fear those different from ourselves.
We forget that we are your children
and turn away from your love.
Forgive us, Blessed One,
and assure us again of your saving grace.

C Amen.

P God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you!
Through the power of the Holy Spirit,
+ your sins are forgiven.

You are children of the Most High,
inheritors of the eternal promise,
and recipients of divine mercy.

God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.

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** -

Have mercy on us, Lord and hear our solemn prayer.

We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.

Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin.

Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.

Have mercy on us, Lord; make sin and shame depart.

Renew us with your saving power; create in us new hearts.

PRAYER OF THE DAY—Let us pray. . .

A Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

WORD

Sit **First Lesson: Jeremiah 33:14-16**

In the Old Testament, “righteousness” often has to do with being faithful in relationship. God acts righteously both in punishing Israel for its sin and in having mercy. In today’s reading, Jerusalem’s future name—“The Lord is our righteousness” proclaims that God is even now working salvation for Israel.

¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a

righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness."

A The Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 25:1-10

READ RESPONSIVELY BY WHOLE VERSE

¹To you, O Lord,
I lift up my soul.

²**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

³Let none who look to you be put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴**Show me your ways, O Lord,
and teach me your paths.**

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶**Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**

⁷Remember 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.

⁸**You are gracious and upright, O Lord;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

⁹You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.

¹⁰**All your paths, O Lord, are steadfast love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

Second Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

Upon Timothy's report from the congregation at Thessalonica, Paul is exuberant with gratitude for them. In this passage from his letter, Paul voices overflowing thanks, joy, and blessings for the people of this growing church.

⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? ¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. ¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. ¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints. Amen.

A The Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

Stand/Spoken **Alleluia. Stand up and raise your heads— your redemption is drawing near. Alleluia.**

The Holy Gospel according to St Luke the 21st Chapter

C Glory to you O Lord

Gospel: Luke 21:25-36

God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.

[Jesus said:] ²⁵“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶People will faint

from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. ²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

²⁹Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

P The Gospel of the Lord

C **Praise to you O Christ**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Stand **Hymn #241** *O Lord, How Shall I Meet You*

C **O Lord, how shall I meet you,
how welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you,
my hope, my heart's delight!**

Oh, kindle, Lord most holy,
your lamp within my breast
to do in spirit lowly
all that may please you best.

Rejoice, then, you sad-hearted,
who sit in deepest gloom,
who mourn your joys departed
and tremble at your doom.
All hail the Lord's appearing!
O glorious Sun, now come,
send forth your beams so cheering
and guide us safely home.

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 Hear us O God

C Your mercy is great

A God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

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-contact” sharing of the Peace until further notice.**

P Blessed be the Peacemakers for they will be called the children of God—Matthew 5:9

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you

MEAL

Stand **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

A Holy God,

C the earth is yours and everything in it,

yet you have chosen to dwell among your creatures.

Come among us now in these gifts of bread and wine, and strengthen us to be your body for the world through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.

Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God.

The universe declares your praise:
beyond the stars; beneath the sea;
within each cell; with every breath.

C We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness:
through the water; by night and day;
across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

C We bless you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son:
at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer;
beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

C We thank you, O God.

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 for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to
the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit:
in our gathering; within this meal;
among your people; throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through
Christ Jesus,
by your Spirit, in your church, without end.

C Amen.

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.**

Invitation to Communion

P Come to Christ's banquet.
Feast on God's gift of grace.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Stand **COMMUNION BLESSING**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER—Let us pray.

A Most High God,
you have come among us at this table.
By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word,
sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all,
through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest.

C Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

P The God of hope
fill us with all joy and peace in believing,
so that we may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

C Amen.

Hymn #248 *People, Look East vs 1*

C **People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east, and sing today—
Love, the Guest, is on the way.**

Sung by Congregation with Mask On!

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Christ is near.

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 *Hark! The Glad Sound*

~Th. Haweis

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READINGS for December 5, 2021:

First Lesson: Malachi 3:1-4

Psalm: Psalm Luke 1:68-79

Second Lesson: Philippians 1:3-11

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

Operating Receipts thru October 31: \$207,762

Expenditures thru October 31: \$244,003

Attendance: 11/21/2021 45 (1 service)

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

ATTENTION:

Effective December 5, 2021, the flowers on the altar will be \$23.00 a vase.

Altar Flowers are in Memory of Mildred Womer, given by Doug & Laurie Womer.

Chris Bair is collecting newspapers for the Bird Sanctuary

Birthdays for November

11/03 – Maryann Gelehrter	11/16 – Julia Zingone
Elliott Walak	11/17 – Floyd Sholder
James Person	11/18 – Gary Schwartz
11/04 – Hailey Neidig	11/20 – Sandy Dinger
Susan Schultz	11/22 – Heidi May
11/07 – George Kaufman	11/23 – Rick Beckley
11/08 – Thomas Stohler	11/24 – Christine Wnuk
11/09 – Vaughn Heym Jr.	Tracey Swetnam
11/10 – Samantha Romanias	11/27 – Isaiah Allen (Willis)
Brent Whitaker	11/28 – Ryan Cleaver
11/14 – Richard Botts	
Susan Dillahey	

Beginning Birthdays for December

12/01 – Taylor Trout	12/02 – Jonnie Deibler
12/04 – Susan Seitz	12/06 – Dolores Magaro
12/06 – Caroline Gill	12/07 – Michael Nusz

The Principle of the Widow's Mite (Mark 12:41-44). What does it mean to give out of our poverty? Jesus understands that trusting God is much easier in times of abundance than in our times of need. However, some of life's greatest lessons are learned from our commitment and response as we experience times of hardship and sacrifice.

THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY

MINISTER OF MUSIC - Joyce Van Nieuwkuyk

MINISTER OF CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

- Bennett Williams

YOUTH/FAMILY MINISTER - Kellen Michalowski

ALTAR CARE - Laurie Womer; Marian Person &

Donna Woodrow

USHERS - Don Young, Doug Womer, Ed Shadle,

Chris Bair, Dennis Dinger, Dave Featherman

GREETERS -

COMMUNION ASST -

WORSHIP ASST -

LECTOR - Laurie Womer; Sandy Sherwood

FLOWER DELIVERY - Peggy Davis

COUNCIL PRESIDENT - Sandy Sherwood

NURSERY SCHL DIR. - 717-652-6700 ext 3

SEXTON - Don Young

New Members Received on October 31, 2021

Scott, Shelley & Spencer Lindner

Spencer Lindner was confirmed

Jacob & Rachel Buss

Emmor & Joe Boslet

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.

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, or if your birthday don't show up on the list, you can call or send your updated information to church office.



Lutheran Camping Corporation
of Central Pennsylvania

Books for 2021:

- *Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis* – J. D. Vance
- *Appalachian Reckoning: A Region Responds to Hillbilly Elegy* – Anthony Harkins
- *At Home in the Heart of Appalachia* – John O'Brien
- *What You Are Getting Wrong about Appalachia* – Elizabeth Catte

Advent Day Apart at The Wittel Farm - December 4, 2021

- Join us as we guide you in contemplative, hope-filled watching and waiting for the birth of the Christ child. \$15.00 per person includes lunch.

Winter Youth Retreat at Kirchenwald - January 7 - 9, 2022

Enjoy Kirchenwald in the Winter! Play broom hockey and other games on the frozen pond. Have fun sledding, playing snow soccer and other winter games. Creative Bible studies and worship experiences led by our summer camp counselors are an important part of this retreat. Meet new friends and catch up with your summer camp friends. Other indoor and outdoor activities may be included, as the weather dictates.

In coordination with CompassionateFriends.org,
NCDAF.org, and St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran
Please join us.....



The Compassionate Friends
Worldwide Candle Lighting

Join us on December 12, 2021

"...that their light may always shine."

Date: December 12, 2021

Time: 6:00pm

Location: St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran, 4200
Londonderry Rd. Harrisburg, PA 17109

Highlights: General sharing and fellowship.

Bring, Opt.: Pictures

Contact: Linda Thomas

Email: ljthomas1952@gmail.com

Subject line: WWC, NCDAF

If you would like your Loved One's name read, please
send the following information....

Deceased name: _____

Your Name: _____

You will, _____ **. # attending** _____
or will not, _____ **be able to attend.**

**Deadline for submitting names and
information:** November 30th 2021

The Lutheran Youth Of Faith at St. Mark's Harrisburg
Present

ITALIAN NIGHT AT ST. MARKS

From the hills of Tuscany to the shores of Sicily, experience
the sights, smells, and
tastes of Italian cuisine! Spaghetti at its finest!

Saturday, December 4th, from 4PM to 7:30PM

This year's Italian Night will be Take-Out only.

Ready Made Take-Out - \$12 Each

A hot, delicious, ready to eat spaghetti dinner with
spaghetti, a side salad, bread, & dessert.

Meal Kits - \$8 Each

A meal kit to make a spaghetti dinner later in the week.
Perfect for a quick and delicious meal during the work
week! Comes with dry pasta ,homemade
red sauce, and bread.

You will have the option between marinara and meat sauce
and choice of Ranch or Italian dressing. Gluten-Free
options available as well.

You can pre-order meals by emailing your name, # of
meals, and desired pick-up time to lyfstmarks@gmail.com
You can also just walk up and order on the 4th!

**Proceeds benefit St Mark's Youth Ministry, helping them
go on Mission Trips, Retreats, and Youth Gatherings! If
you wonder what the youth group does, please feel free to
ask any of our wonderful youth!**