

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



Third Sunday of Advent

December 12, 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

Christ's presence in our midst in the wonder of the holy supper is cause for singing. The nearness of the God in prayer, in every circumstance, is cause for rejoicing. The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved. Great joy is the tone for the third Sunday of Advent.

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

PRELUDE—Advent Meditation ~ P. Liebergen
(Incorporating "Dona Nobis Pacem") (Grant Us Peace.)

Hymn #242 *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn!*

LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH—Christ, Be Our Light

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

Sung by Congregation with Mask On!

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 the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the preaching of John, that, rejoicing in your salvation, we may bring forth the fruits of repentance; 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 Lesson: Zephaniah 3:14-20**

The prophet Zephaniah's message is mostly one of judgment for sin. This reading, however, which comes from the conclusion of the book, prophesies joy for Judah and Jerusalem. Judgment has led to repentance, and God's salvation is at hand.

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;

shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,

O daughter Jerusalem!

¹⁵The Lord has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;

do not let your hands grow weak.

¹⁷The Lord, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,

he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing

¹⁸as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,

so that you will not bear reproach for it.

¹⁹I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.

And I will save the lame

and gather the outcast,

and I will change their shame into praise

and renown in all the earth.

²⁰At that time I will bring you home,

at the time when I gather you;

for I will make you renowned and praised

among all the peoples of the earth,

when I restore your fortunes

before your eyes, says the Lord.

A The Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

Psalm: Isaiah 12:2-6

READ RESPONSIVELY BY WHOLE VERSE

²Surely God is my salvation; I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the Lord God is my strength and my might, and has become my salvation.

³**With joy you will draw water
from the wells of salvation.**

⁴And you will say in that day: Give thanks to the Lord, call on God's name;
make known the deeds of the Lord among the nations; proclaim that this name is exalted.

⁵**Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.**

⁶Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Second Lesson: Philippians 4:4-7

Despite being in prison, Paul is remarkably upbeat as he writes this letter. Here, he urges his friends in Philippi to trust God with all their worries and concerns with the hope that they will experience God's joy and peace.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus

A The Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

Stand/Spoken **Alleluia. I am sending my messenger before you, who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia.**

The Holy Gospel according to St Luke the 3rd Chapter
C Glory to you O Lord

Gospel: Luke 3:7-18

John the Baptist heralds the mighty one who is coming. John teaches that preparation for God's reign is not a matter of identity but of bearing fruits of merciful justice, radical generosity, and vocational integrity.

7John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. 9Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

10And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" 11In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." 12Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" 13He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." 14Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

15As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, 16John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful

than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

P The Gospel of the Lord

C Praise to you O Christ

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

Stand **Hymn #244** *Rejoice, Rejoice Believers*

C Rejoice, rejoice, believers,

and let your lights appear;

the evening is advancing,

and darker night is near.

The bridegroom is arising

and soon is drawing nigh.

Up, pray and watch and wrestle;

at midnight comes the cry.

Our hope and expectation,

O Jesus, now appear;

arise, O Sun so longed for,

o'er this benighted sphere.

With hearts and hands uplifted,

we plead, O Lord, to see

the day of earth's redemption

that sets your people free!

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 #267 *Joy to the World vs 1*

**C Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**
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 *Joy To The World*

~ H Gehrke

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2006 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #23172. New
Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the
National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission.
All rights reserved.

Stewardship Snippet

December 12, 2021 (3rd Sunday of Advent, Year C)

Philippians 4:4 – Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I will say, Rejoice. Joy is the theme for the third Sunday of Advent.

Philippians reminds us to rejoice—to find the joy—in God.

Always! Though we live in a world that has many troubles, we can always find joy, in God’s love. Joy is a way of life for steward/disciples.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

NOON – Family Service

3:00PM Christmas Eve service on the front lawn of the church. Bring your own chair, acapella carols, and Christmas readings. **“PENDING”**

6:00PM Christmas Eve Service

READINGS LESSONS for December 19, 2021:

First Lesson: Micah 5:2-5a

Psalm: Psalm Luke 1:46b-55

Second Lesson: Hebrews 10:5-10

Gospel: Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

Operating Receipts thru November 30: \$233,476

Expenditures thru November 30: \$266,129

Attendance: 12/05/2021 83

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

Altar Flowers are in Celebration of the anticipation of the birth of Christ, given by Sandy Sherwood.

Chris Bair is collecting newspapers for the Bird Sanctuary

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.

Birthdays for December

12/01 – Taylor Trout	12/16 – Brandon Dinger
12/02 – Jonnie Deibler	12/18 – Emma Betz
12/04 - Suzan Seitz	Sue Senft
12/06 – Dolores Magaro	12/19 – Clint Harr
Caroline Gill	Linda Gingell
12/07 – Michael Nusz	James Miller
12/09 – Ryan Shadle	12/20 – Mike Betz
12/10 – Doreen Steinmacher	Colin McClenahen
Mary Ann Kane	12/22 – Austin Fleegal
12/11 - Adam Appleby	Bruce Senft
Jacob McClenahen	12/24 – Sarah Neidig
12/12 - Alexis Ulrich	12/25 – Christine Kroah
12/13 - Vaughn Heym Sr.	12/27 – Liz Harris
12/14 - Pat Ashbrook	12/30 – Frank Dillahey
12/15 – Mercedes Bretz	Madison Spencer

Ryan Shadle
PSC 559 Box 5043
FPO AP 96377-0051

He is stationed in Okinawa, Japan, if anyone wishes to send him a birthday card (12/09) or Christmas card it takes two weeks for him to receive mail.

REMINDER: 2022 Church Envelopes are in the hall by the water cooler. Check for friends or shut-ins near you if you don't mind taking them to them.

DEADLINE: for turning in your order papers for Poinsettias for Christmas Eve is Sunday, December 19th, this will give me time to do the list for bulletin insert.

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; Barb Dudek

USHERS - Don Young, Doug Womer, Ed Shadle,

Chris Bair, Dennis Dinger, Dave Featherman

GREETERS -

COMMUNION ASST -

WORSHIP ASST -

LECTOR - Faith Smeck; Roberta Anderson

FLOWER DELIVERY - Barb Dudek

COUNCIL PRESIDENT - Sandy Sherwood

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

SEXTON - Don Young



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

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.

HAVE YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO WORK AT CAMP? Kirchenwald / The Wittel Farm Maintenance Manager

The Lutheran Camping Corporation is hiring a motivated, faithful, independent worker to join our community as the Maintenance



Manager for Kirchenwald and The Wittel Farm.

New Council Members

President - Sandy Sherwood

Vice President - Tom Graham

Secretary - Rebekah Varga

Treasurer - Calvin Smith

Council Members Chris Bair

Deb Banks

Paulette Beverly

Emmor Boslet

Stephanie Carl

Dave Featherman

Loraine Mariner

Pastor Jim Person

Susan Shultz

Jay Snyder