

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

4200 Londonderry Road, Harrisburg, PA 17109 652-6700

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MINISTERS: Every Member

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



First Sunday of Christmas,
December 26, 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

On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God “to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God,” who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, “let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.” It is Christmas, still.

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE—*Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming*

Michael Praetorius Arr By Dennis Alexander

Hymn #288 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice (No singing)*

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. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever

C Amen.

WORD

Sit **First Lesson: 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26**

Having dedicated her son Samuel to God's service, Hannah visits him every year when she and her husband Elkanah come to the temple to offer sacrifices. God grants Hannah more children, and Samuel himself gains favor in the sight of all.

¹⁸Samuel was ministering before the Lord, a boy wearing a linen ephod. ¹⁹His mother used to make for him a little robe and take it to him each year, when she went up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice. ²⁰Then Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "May the Lord repay you with children by this woman for the gift that she made to the Lord"; and then they would return to their home.

²⁶Now the boy Samuel continued to grow both in stature and in favor with the Lord and with the people.

A The Word of the Lord

C **Thanks be to God**

Psalm: Psalm 148

READ RESPONSIVELY BY WHOLE VERSE

¹Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise God in the heights.

²**Praise the Lord, all you angels;
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

³Praise the Lord, sun and moon;
sing praise, all you shining stars.

⁴**Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.**

⁵Let them praise the name of the Lord,
who commanded, and they were created,
⁶**who made them stand fast forever and ever,
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

⁷Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps;

⁸**fire and hail, snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

⁹mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars;

¹⁰**wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds;**

¹¹sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;

¹²**young men and maidens,
old and young together.**

¹³Let them praise the name of the Lord,
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is

over earth and heaven.

¹⁴The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. Hallelujah!

Second Lesson: Colossians 3:12-17

Just as newly baptized Christians in the early church were clothed with new garments upon arising from the baptismal waters, so all who have received God's gift of life in Jesus Christ are covered with the character of Christ.

¹²As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

A The Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

Stand/Spoken ***Alleluia. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and let the word of Christ dwell in you richly. Alleluia.***

The Holy Gospel according to St Luke the 2nd Chapter
C Glory to you O Lord

Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

Jesus grew up in a family that went to the Passover festival each year. It was in this environment of faithful adherence to the law that Jesus grew into spiritual maturity and an understanding of his identity and mission.

⁴¹Now every year [Jesus'] parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." ⁴⁹He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

P The Gospel of the Lord

C Praise to you O Christ

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Sit **Hymn #282** *It Came Upon A Midnight Clear*

Vs 1 C It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heav'n's all-gracious king."
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

Vs 4 For lo! The days are hast'ning on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

Sung by Congregation with Mask On!

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 Merciful God,

C Receive our prayer.

A Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we
commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and
love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

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 Gracious God,

C your Word-made-flesh brings harmony to the earth.

As we offer ourselves and these your gifts,

prepare us to receive the grace and truth

you offer at this table and renew in us the song of your

salvation, in Jesus Christ our Savior.

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 In Christ's manger, at Christ's table,
come, see what God makes known for you.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Stand **COMMUNION BLESSING**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER—Let us pray.

A We thank you, wondrous God, for Jesus,
God with us, in these gifts of bread and wine.
As we have shared this feast of love,
strengthen us to share your love with all the world.
In Jesus' name we pray

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 #270 *Hark, the Herald Angels Sing* Sing 2 vs
Vs 1 C Hark! The herald angels sing,

**"Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

Refrain

**Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"**

**Vs 3 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth.**

Refrain

**Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"**

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 *Good Christian Friends Rejoice*

Based on "In Ducimer Jubilo"

Arr. By Hugh Livingston, Jr.

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Stewardship Snippet

December 26, 2021 (1st Sunday After Christmas, Year C)

Colossians 3:12, 14 – As God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

We all know that stewardship is about how we live so that we love God thoroughly and our neighbor as ourselves.

This remarkable passage gives us a vivid image to help us get there. Wake each day and clothe ourselves in Christian character and love.

REMINDER: 2022 Church Envelopes are in the Narthex. Check for friends or shut-ins near you if you don’t mind taking them to them.

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.

THOSE WHO SERVE TODAY

MINISTER OF MUSIC - Joyce Van Nieuwkuyk

YOUTH/FAMILY MINISTER - Kellen Michalowski

ALTAR CARE - Noon—Laurie Womer;

6:00 pm— Marian Person

USHERS - Don Young, Doug Womer, Ed Shadle,

Chris Bair, Dennis Dinger, Dave Featherman

GREETERS -

COMMUNION ASST -

WORSHIP ASST -

LECTOR - **6:00 pm**—Zara Bennett

FLOWER DELIVERY - Laurie Womer

COUNCIL PRESIDENT - Sandy Sherwood

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

SEXTON - Don Young

Church Office will be closed from December 27, 2021 to January 3, 2022.



**Like us on
Facebook**

Like us on Facebook - St. Mark's is on Facebook - Follow our page and share with your friends. It's a great way to let your friends know about all the good things happening here!

BIRTHDAYS DECEMBER

12/01 – Taylor Trout	12/16 – Brandon Dinger
12/02 – Jonnie Diebler	12/18 – Emma Betz
12/04 – Susan 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 McClenahan
Mary Ann Kane	12/22 - Austin Fleegal
12/11 – Adam Appleby	Bruce Senft
Jacob McClenahan	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

Beginning Birthdays for JANUARY

01/02 – Phyllis Mengel
01/03 – Troy Spencer
01/04 – Hailey Neidig
01/04 – Alice Graham
01/05 – Kenny Baranowski
01/06 – Elizabeth Baranowski
01/07 – Courtney Miller
01/08 – Andrew Simpler
01/09 – Samuel Flook

If your birthday is in December and we missed it, please let us know. We hope you have a happy birthday anyway.

READINGS LESSONS for January 2, 2022:

First Lesson: Jeremiah 31:7-14

Psalm: Psalm 147:12-20

Second Lesson: Ephesians 1:3-14

Gospel: John 1:[1-9] 10-18

Operating Receipts thru November 30: \$233,476

Expenditures thru November 30: \$266,129

Attendance: 12/19/2021 66

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

Altar Flowers are in Memory of a loving husband, father & friend, Harold Sultzaberger, given by Mary Sultzaberger

Altar Flowers are in Celebration of Christ's birth., given by Deb Banks.

Chris Bair is collecting newspapers for the Bird Sanctuary

Anita Featherman is collecting old used Wooden Sleds any condition also Women's old Ice Skates. Call her at (717)469-0840 and she will pick them up

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.



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.

