

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

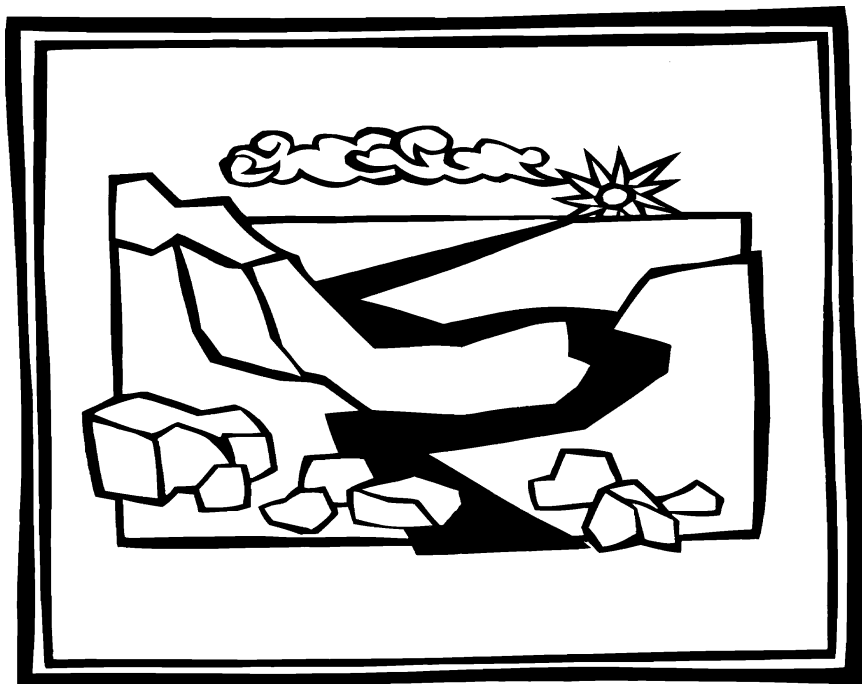
4200 Londonderry Road, Harrisburg, PA 17109 652-6700

Web page: www.stmarksharrisburg.org

E-mail: stmarksharrisburg@gmail.com

MINISTERS: Every Member

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



Second Sunday of Advent

December 5, 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

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the Lord of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE—*There's a Voice in the Wilderness* ~ set. K. L. DeJong

Prepare the Way ~Michael Barrett

Sung by Chancel Choir

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.

C Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY—Let us pray. . .

A Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; 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: Malachi 3:1-4**

God announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means "my messenger") will prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining God's people, as silver and gold are refined.

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his

temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ²But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

A The Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm Luke 1:68-79

READ RESPONSIVELY BY WHOLE VERSE

⁶⁸Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel,
you have come to your people and set them free.

⁶⁹**You have raised up for us a mighty Savior,
born of the house of your servant David.**

⁷⁰Through your holy prophets, you promised of old
to save us from our enemies,

⁷¹from the hands of all who hate us,

⁷²**to show mercy to our forebears,
and to remember your holy covenant.**

⁷³This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham:

⁷⁴to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
free to worship you without fear,

⁷⁵**holy and righteous before you, all the days of our life.**

⁷⁶And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most
High,

for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

⁷⁷**to give God's people knowledge of salvation**

by the forgiveness of their sins.

⁷⁸In the tender compassion of our God

the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

⁷⁹**to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the**

shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Second Lesson: Philippians 1:3-11

The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.

³I thank my God every time I remember you, ⁴constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, ⁵because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel.

⁸For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. ⁹And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight ¹⁰to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, ¹¹having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

A The Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

Stand/Spoken ***Alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord. All flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia.***

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

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by "repentance for the forgiveness of sins." As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.

¹In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, ²during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. ³He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, ⁴as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

 'Prepare the way of the Lord,
 make his paths straight.

⁵Every valley shall be filled,
 and every mountain and hill shall be made low,
and the crooked shall be made straight,
 and the rough ways made smooth;

⁶and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.' "

P The Gospel of the Lord

C Praise to you O Christ

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Stand **Hymn #263** *Savior of the Nations, Come*

C Savior of the nations, come;
virgin's son, make here your home.
Marvel now, O heaven and earth:
God has chosen such a birth.

Not by human flesh and blood,
but the mystic Breath of God,
was the Word of God made flesh,
fruit of woman, blossom fresh.

From God's heart the Savior speeds,
back to God his pathway leads;
out to vanquish death's command,
back to reign at God's right hand.

Nicene Creed

C We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit

he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living
and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver
of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and
glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic
Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. 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-contract” 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 God of our waiting and watching,

C **we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people.**

Prepare the way before us

as we meet you in this simple meal,

through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.

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 #264 Prepare the Royal Highway—Verse 1

C **Prepare the royal highway;**

the King of kings is near!

Let every hill and valley

a level road appear!

Then greet the King of glory,

foretold in sacred story:

Hosanna to the Lord,

for he fulfills God's word!

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 *All Earth is Hopeful* ~A. Taulé, Spanish

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READINGS for December 12, 2021:

First Lesson: Zephaniah 3:14-20

Psalm: Isaiah 12:2-6

Second Lesson: Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 3:7-18

Operating Receipts thru September 30: \$189,758

Expenditures thru September 30: \$212,434

Attendance: 11/28/2021 61

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

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.

Stewardship Snippet

Dec. 5, 2021(2nd Sunday of Advent, Year C)

The Principle of the Faithful Giver (1 Timothy 6:17-18). Be "ready to share" (NRSV). Paul's command highlights the nature of why we give – because God expects us to do so. Our resources serve as another opportunity to be a part of the work of God in this world and to do good things in God's name. We do not share our resources for pride or personal gain but because God covets the whole of our lives, including our earthly possessions, to be offered in His service.

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

MINISTER OF CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP

- Bennett Williams

YOUTH/FAMILY MINISTER - Kellen Michalowski

ALTAR CARE - Sue Bennick; Marian Person and

Donna Woodrow

USHERS - Don Young, Doug Womer, Ed Shadle,
Chris Bair, Dennis Dinger, Dave Featherman

GREETERS -

COMMUNION ASST -

WORSHIP ASST -

LECTOR - Bruce Senft; Dave Featherman

FLOWER DELIVERY - Sue Smithers

COUNCIL PRESIDENT - Sandy Sherwood

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

SEXTON - Don Young

Altar Flowers are given in Celebration of her mother's birthday December 2nd given by Deb Banks.

Altar Flowers are in Memory of Charles Morgan, Marian Morgan and Betty Roth, given by Tammy Heim.

ATTENTION:

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

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

Chris Bair is collecting newspapers for the Bird Sanctuary



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 Catts

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.



This person will be responsible for the care and appearance of grounds and facilities on both sites. This is a year-round position with an estimated 30 hours per week from September through April and 40 hours per week May through August.

Interested applicants should contact Zach Weiss at zweiss@lutherancamping.org. Start date between now and January 1.

<https://www.lutherancamping.org/employment/kirchenwald-maintenance-manager/>

THANKSGIVING TABLE CONVERSATION IDEAS

"What week(s) am I going to CAMP?"

2022 Tentative Summer Schedule Sneak Peak!

CAMP WEEK	EXPLORERS Grades K-2	JUNIORS Grades 3-6	INTERMEDIATES Grades 6-9	SENIOR HIGH & ADVENTURE TROOPS Grades 9-11
JUNE 19-25	Day Camp (M-F)	Team Sports	Kirchenwald 2022 Tentative Summer Schedule	
JUNE 26-JULY 2	Day Camp (M-F) Mini Camp	Swimming 2-Speed Canoes + 6	Hiking	Beach (Grades 6-11)
JULY 3-9	Flowers	Back-Country Geocaching Arts & Crafts S.A.R.E.	Classic High Adventure	So High Super! Adventure (Grades 6-11)
JULY 10-16	Day Camp (M-F)	Classic S.A.R.E.	High Adventure Ten Day	Adventure Swimming (Grades 6-11)
JULY 17-23	Multi-Event (Hike/Run/Canoe/Craft)			
JULY 24-30	Flowers	Arts & Crafts Tennis	Back-Country Geocaching Water Submarine	Beach (Grades 6-11)
JULY 31-AUG 6	Classic Day Camp Plus SPL/Canoe/10 Night Hike	Classic Swimming	High Adventure Mountain Biking	Adventure Swimming (Grades 6-11)
JULY 19-AUG 6	Day Camp (M-F)	Classic Swimming	Arts & Crafts Swimming S.A.R.E.	Kirchenwald Swimming (Grades 6-11)
AUGUST 7-13	Family Camp (Hike/Run/Canoe/Camp)			
AUGUST 7-13	Mini Camp	Ultimate Sports	Hiking Ultimate Sports	

Kirchenwald is located on 240 acres of scenic forest, adjacent to 4,000 acres of State Game Lands, in Lebanon, PA.

CAMP WEEK	EXPLORERS Grades K-2	JUNIORS Grades 3-6	INTERMEDIATES Grades 6-9	SENIOR HIGH Grades 9-11
JUNE 26-JULY 2	Classic	Classic Equestrian Team Sports	Classic Arts & Crafts EXTRA Vangaza Rail Trail Trek	Adventure Sampler
JULY 3-9	Mini Camp	Classic Arts & Crafts Holy Smokes!	Classic Full STEAM Ahead! Ten Day	Ten Day
JULY 10-16	Elder Camp			
JULY 10-16	Classic	Classic Beginner Guitar and Music	Classic Camp Musical Adventure Sampler	
JULY 17-23	Day Camp (M-F)	Family Camp		
JULY 24-30	Nature Detectives Day Camp +	Classic Night Owls Wild Things	Classic Adventure Sampler	
JULY 31-AUG 6	Mini Camp	Classic O.W.L.S. Team Sports	Classic Team Sports	Senior High Classic
AUGUST 7-13	Day Camp (M-F)	Family Camp		

Nawakwa Tentative 2022 Summer Schedule

Nawakwa is located on 336 acres outside of Arendtsville, in Adams County, Pennsylvania.

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.

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