

# 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



Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 14, 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 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**

*The fourth of the Old Testament promises providing a baptismal lens this Lent is the promise God makes to Moses: those who look on the bronze serpent will live. In today's gospel Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross like the serpent, so that those who look to him in faith will live. When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith for healing, for restored relationship to God, for hope when we are dying.*

## **GATHERING**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE** *A Lenten Prelude* (Pergolesi/Troutman)

**HYMN** *The Old Rugged Cross*  
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,

the keeper of the covenant,  
the source of steadfast love,  
our rock and our redeemer.

**C Amen.**

P God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Fountain of living water,  
**pour out your mercy over us.**  
**Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free.**  
**Rebuild what we have ruined**  
**and mend what we have torn.**  
**Wash us in your cleansing flood.**  
**Make us alive in the Spirit**  
**to follow in the way of Jesus,**  
**as healers and restorers of the world you so love.**  
**C Amen.**

P Beloved, God's word never fails.  
The promise rests on grace:  
by the saving love of Jesus Christ,  
the wisdom and power of God,  
your sins are + forgiven, and God remembers them no more.  
Journey in the way of Jesus.  
**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** -

*P* In peace, let us pray to the Lord

**C Lord, have mercy**

*P* For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy**

*P* For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy**

*P* For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**C Lord, have mercy**

*P* Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**—Let us pray. . .

*A* O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, 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 Reading: Numbers 21:4-9**

*Though God provides food and water for the Israelites in the wilderness, they whine and grumble. They forget about the salvation they experienced in the exodus. . . God punishes them for their sin, but when they repent God also provides a means of healing: a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole.*

From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

A The Word of the Lord

**C Thanks be to God**

**Psalm: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22**

**READ IN UNISON**

**Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good,  
for God's mercy endures forever.**

**Let the redeemed of the Lord proclaim  
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,  
gathering them in from the lands;  
from the east and from the west, from the north and from  
the south.**

**Some were fools and took rebellious paths;  
through their sins they were afflicted.**

**They loathed all manner of food  
and drew near to death's door.**

**Then in their trouble they cried to the Lord**

and you delivered them from their distress.  
You sent forth your word and healed them  
and rescued them from the grave.  
Let them give thanks to you, Lord, for your steadfast love  
and your wonderful works for all people.  
Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving  
and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

**Second Reading: Ephesians 2:1-10**

*While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God's grace at work in our lives.*

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires

of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

A The Word of the Lord  
C Thanks be to God

Stand **Spoken**

**God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life.**

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

**Gospel: John 3:14-21**

*To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today's first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.*

[Jesus said:] "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their

deeds have been done in God."

P The Gospel of the Lord

C Praise to you O Christ

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### SERMON

Sit **HYMN #339** *Christ the Life of All the Living*  
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 Hear us, O God

**C Your mercy is great**

A We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through 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

Stand OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Faithful God,

**C you walk beside us in desert places,  
and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven.  
Accompany us on our Lenten Journey,  
that we may pass over from death to life  
with 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

**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.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,  
you have brought us this far along the way.

In times of bitterness you did not abandon us,  
but guided us into the path of love and light.

In every age you sent prophets  
to make known your loving will for all humanity.

The cry of the poor has become your own cry;  
our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire.

In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant  
to preach good news to the afflicted,  
to break bread with the outcast and despised,  
and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection,  
we await the day when Jesus shall return  
to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death.  
Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

### **Invitation to Communion**

P Jesus draws the whole world to himself.  
Come to this meal and be fed.

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**

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER—Let us pray.**

A God of steadfast love,  
at this table you gather your people  
into one body for the sake of the world.  
Send us in the power of your Spirit,  
that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new  
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**C Amen.**

## **SENDING**

Stand **BLESSING**

P You are what God made you to be:  
created in Christ Jesus for good works,  
chosen as holy and beloved,  
freed to serve your neighbor

God bless you + that you may be a blessing,  
in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.  
**C Amen.**

Stand **HYMN #772** *Oh, That the Lord Would Guide  
my Ways*

**Organ Only**

## DISMISSAL

**P Go in peace. Share the good news.**

**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** *O Master, Let Me Walk With You (R. Lau)*

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Operating Receipts thru January 31: \$14,994

Payments made thru January 31: \$23,692

Deficit \$8,698

Attendance: 03/07/2021 66

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

READINGS for March 21, 2021:

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

Psalms: Psalm 51:1-12

Second Reading: Hebrews 5:5-10

Gospel: John 12:20-33

Altar Flowers are to the Glory of God

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.

**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](http://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.

Chris Bair is collecting newspapers for the Bird Sanctuary

## **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 -

LECTOR - Laurie Womer; Emmor Boslet

FLOWER DELIVERY - Barb Dudek

COUNCIL PRESIDENT - Stephanie Carl

NURSERY SCHL DIR. - Pam Baranowski

717-652-6700 ext 3

SEXTON - Don Young

### Birthdays for March

03/01 – Alyse Ulrich	03/11 – Sara Jane Defrank
03/02 – Donna Lee	03/14 – Lauren Heckert
Michael Martellaro	03/17 – Jennifer Towsen
03/03 – Fred Hoover	03/21 – June Judd
Alison Keith	03/23 – Randy Whitaker
Luther Lengel	Bonnie Morris
Arlo Powell	03/25 - Pamela Baranowski
03/04 - Heather Lee	03/27 – Lore-Lee Walak
03/05 – Renee Carpenter	Aaron Lichtenwalner
03/07 – Lorie Cleaver	03/30 – James Dullen
Resta Deppen	03/30 – Robert Gill
Doug Womer	03/31 –Tania Brown
James Walak	Carrie Appleby
Colin Smith	Deborah Lee
03/08 – Joyce Van Nieuwkuyk	
03/10 – Hailey Himelright	

# Upcoming Events



## Lenten Day Apart at The Wittel Farm - March 13, 2021

March 13 - Lenten Day Apart sessions will include restorative spiritual practices and restorative soil work. We will learn about the soil on the farm and how we can improve its health. We will plant seeds in our greenhouse in the afternoon. Cost is \$15. Please register.

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## Summer Camp Open House at Kirchenwald - March 21, 2021

You are invited to visit Kirchenwald or Nawakwa on March 21 or April 11. Take a tour of camp with members of our summer staff and see what camp is all about. As a bonus, we will give a \$10 gift certificate for the camp store to every brand new camper! Cost is free, please register.

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## Summer Camp Open House at Nawakwa - March 21, 2021

You are invited to visit Kirchenwald or Nawakwa on March 21 or April 11. Take a tour of camp with members of our summer staff and see what camp is all about. As a bonus, we will give a \$10 gift certificate for the camp store to every brand new camper! Cost is free, please register.

# NOW HIRING SUMMER STAFF

We are hiring summer staff to help make this the best summer ever for our campers and guests. Serve others, grow in faith & community, and have a blast working at camp this summer! Learn more and apply online on the [website](http://www.lutherancamping.org)



**Summer Camp**  
**NOW HIRING CAMP STAFF**

**Apply ONLINE At**  
**LutheranCamping.org/employment**

**Kirchenwald**  
Lebanon, PA  
Zach Weiss  
zweiss@lutherancamping.org  
717-964-3121

**Nawakwa**  
Arendtsville, PA  
Mike Youse  
myouse@lutherancamping.org  
717-677-8211

**COUNSELORS**  
**LiFeguards**  
**KITCHEN STAFF**

**Maintenance**  
**Craft STAFF**

**Why Apply?**

- Impact Lives
- Share Your Faith
- Meet New People
- Experience New Places
- Spend The Summer Outdoors

*Ministry sites of  
The Lutheran Camping Corporation  
of Central Pennsylvania*

**REMINDER: LAST DAY**  
**TO ORDER EASTER**  
**FLOWERS, IS TODAY**

**If you are reading this online you can call the church**  
**office on Monday morning to place your order**