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



15th Sunday after Pentecost September 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

James tells us to stop showing favoritism in the assembly, treating the rich visitor with more honor than the poor one. Jesus himself seems to show partiality in his first response to the Syrophoenician woman in today's gospel. Was he testing her faith in saying Gentiles don't deserve the goods meant for God's children? Or was he speaking out of his human worldview, but transcended those limits when she took him by surprise with her reply? Either way, the story tells us that God shows no partiality. Everyone who brings a need to Jesus is received with equal honor as a child and heir.

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE—My Delight is in the Lord Hymn #853 When Morning Gilds the Skies Organ Only—No Singing ~ R. Powell

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, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless.

C Amen

P Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God our comforter:
C like lost sheep, we have gone astray.
We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity.
We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression.
We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed.
Free us from our sin, gracious God.
Listen when we call out to you for help.
Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves.
Amen.

P All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in + Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous.

Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins. **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 Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord.

C Amen.

WORD

sit First Lesson: Isaiah 35:4-7a

These verses are a word of hope to the exiles in Babylon. Isaiah 34 portrays God's vengeance on Edom, Israel's age-old enemy, which makes the path from Babylon to Zion safe for the exiles' return. The desert itself will flow with water to give drink to the returning exiles.

4Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

"Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you."

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,

and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

•then the lame shall leap like a deer,

and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water. A The Word of the Lord **C Thanks be to God**

Psalm: Psalm 146

READ RESPONSIVELY BY WHOLE VERSE ¹Hallelujah!

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

²I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

³Put not your trust in rulers,

in mortals in whom there is no help.

⁴When they breathe their last, they return to earth,

and in that day their thoughts perish.

⁵Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the Lord their God;

•who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is inthem;

who keeps promises forever;

⁷who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.

The Lord sets the captive free.

^sThe Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

the Lord loves the righteous.

⁹The Lord cares for the stranger;

the Lord sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

The Lord shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

Second Lesson: : James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17

Faithful Christians do not show partiality to the rich and powerful of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip service to God's will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.

¹My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? ²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, ³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit at my feet," 4have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? ⁵Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? 6But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? 7Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. ¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. ["For the one who said, "You shall not commit adultery," also said, "You shall not murder." Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. "So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. "For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.]

¹⁴What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? ¹⁵If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, ¹⁶and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? ¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

A The Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

Stand/Spoken Alleluia. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel according to St Mark the 7th Chapter C Glory to you O Lord

Gospel: Mark 7:24-37

In Mark's gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus' ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophoenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles.

²⁴[Jesus] set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,²⁵but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁸But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." ²⁹Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." ³⁰So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

³⁴Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. ³²They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. ³³He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. ³⁴Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." ³⁵And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

P The Gospel of the Lord

C Praise to you O Christ

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Stand Hymn #726 Light Dawns on a Weary World C Light dawns on a weary world When eyes begin to see all people's dignity. Light dawns on a weary world: the promised day of justice comes.

Love grows in a weary world When hungry hearts find bread and children's dreams are fed. Love grows in a weary world: the promised feast of plenty comes.

The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs; the hills and mountains shall break forth with singing! We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace, as all the world in wonder echoes shalom.

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 Lord in your mercy.
- C Hear our prayer.

A Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; 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 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of

God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

(Philippians 4:4-7)

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you

MEAL

Stand OFFERTORY PRAYER

A God of abundance,

C you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens.
Accept the gifts you have first given us.
Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

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

C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,

his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension,

and the promise of his coming again,

we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,

not as we ought but as we are able;

we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless

us, your servants,

and these your own gifts of bread and wine,

so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and,

receiving the forgiveness of sin,

may be formed to live as your holy people

and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. **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 Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION BLESSING

POST COMMUNION PRAYER—Let us pray.

A Lord of life,
in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation.
Send us forth into the world with shouts of joy,
bearing witness to the abundance of your love
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
C Amen.

SENDING

Stand BLESSING

P People of God,
you are Christ's body,
bringing new life to a suffering world.
The holy Trinity, + one God,
bless you now and forever.
C Amen.

Hymn #722 O Christ, your Heart, Compassionate C O Christ, create new hearts in us that beat in time with yours, that, joined by faith with your great heart, become love's open doors. We are your body, risen Christ; our hearts, our hands we yield that through our life and ministry your love may be revealed.

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.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 Go, My Children, With My Blessing ~ Welsh Traditional

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READINGS for September 12, 2021:

First Reading:Isaiah 50:4-9aPsalm:Psalm116:1-9Second Reading:James 3:1-12Gospel:Mark 8:27-38

Operating Receipts thru June 30: \$131,313 Expenditures thru June 30: \$142,671 Attendance: 08/29/2021 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 Loving parents and grandparents, Edna & Chester Wolf, given by Yady & Adrian Waters & Zara Wolf Waters Bennett.

Don Young's son, Doug is collecting closed egg cartons, you can drop them off at the church office.

Chris Bair is collecting newspapers for the Bird Sanctuary

The Seekers Adult Sunday School Class will begin meeting on September 19 at 9:45 in the parlor. We will be using a study on Martin Luther called "Luther: Gospel, Law, and Reformation" by Professor Phillip Cary

He was only one man—a humble monk and Bible professor—yet he sparked a religious rebellion that changed the course of history. Who was Martin Luther? What made his theology so explosive in 16th-century Europe? Was it really his intention to start Protestantism, and with it a new church?

Luther: Gospel, Law, and Reformation will help you reach your own conclusions. This course explores Luther's theology, the circumstances surrounding his conclusion that the papacy was "antichrist," and major issues and events in the Reformation as it unfolded in Luther's life after he posted his famous 95 Theses on the door of the church of Wittenberg, Germany, in 1517.

Professor Cary presents Luther as a multifaceted human being, a man with extraordinary virtues and profound flaws. You will meet an inspiring religious thinker who presented the Christian Gospel as a message of comfort, joy, and freedom; as great good news for sinners and God's loving promise of salvation. And you will encounter a leader whose unswerving certainty about his doctrines led him to launch vicious attacks against those with whom he disagreed most infamously and malevolently—the Jews. Please I'm looking for Lectors to read lessons for both Early and Late Services once a month. NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED! If you're interested, would you contact me at zara1950@gmail.com or call 732-5005....THANK YOU!

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: Barb Dudek **USHERS** - Don Young, Doug Womer, Ed Shadle, Chris Bair, Dennis Dinger, Dave Featherman **GREETERS** -**COMMUNION ASST -**WORSHIP ASST -**LECTOR -** Ed Shadle; Dave Featherman FLOWER DELIVERY - Sandy Dinger **COUNCIL PRESIDENT - Stephanie Carl** NURSERY SCHL DIR. -717-652-6700 ext 3 **SEXTON - Don Young**

Bible Study will be starting up in person in WELCA Room on September 15, 2021, 10:00 am, we will also continue recording on Zoom for those of you that can't join us at church.

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. St. Mark's Nursery School has raffle prizes remaining from the 2020 Bunny Breakfast that was cancelled due to Covid 19. They have no expiration date except for the Cabot Cheese package which expires 12/31/21. If you would like to bid on any of these items place your best bid on the form above and return it to the church office. Be sure to include your name, address, and phone number. The deadline to return your bids is October 31, 2021. There is no limit to the number of items that you can bid on and you can list all your bids on one sheet. The deadline of 10/31/21 is firm and no bids will be accepted after that date. In the event that there are multiple people with the same highest bid, the names will be entered into a drawing for the winner.



Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central Pennsylvania

ALiVE at Nawakwa - September 24 - 26, 2021

ALiVE is our annual synod middle-school retreat, scheduled for September 24-26, 2021, at Camp Nawakwa. Congregations from across our synod gather with their adult advisors and youth for an early fall weekend that includes large group gatherings with singing led by our ALiVE Alumni Band, theme-centered videos and stories, and games, interspersed with small group gatherings, where youth gather with peers and a small group leader, to converse about the theme and it's impact in their lives of faith. It's a great event for your Confirmation students and classes.

The weekend also includes crafts, games, campfires, free-time, and community-building that allows youth and their adult counterparts time to deepen existing friendships, and create new ones. Congregational advisors can also count on the option of receiving some intentional continuing education. Plus, inspiring outdoor worship often highlights our last morning together at Nawakwa's famous Upper Temple!

Capture the Flag Spectacular at Kirchenwald - October 3, 2021 Review your camp map, paint your face, and practice your cone zone celebration dance. Invite your friends and family (parents, too) to join you in this CTF summer reunion event. Play alongside familiar faces from your week at camp, plus campers from every other week of the summer. Campfire worship to follow. Adult Study Retreat at Nawakwa - October 5 - 7, 2021 \$150

All meals (7) are included in the price and served at the Dining Hall. This mid-week retreat begins Tuesday morning and ends with lunch on Thursday. Lodging in Zinn-Tozer Lodge.

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

<u>Fall Foliage Day at Kirchenwald</u> at Kirchenwald - October 24, 2021

• Return to camp for the afternoon to enjoy fall activities, worship, and a picnic supper. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet up with old friends or introduce new folks to camp. An evening meal is included. Event runs from 1-6pm. At Kirchenwald, enjoy Pumpkin Painting, Canoeing / Kayaking, Mountain Biking, Hayrides, Hiking, and More! Registration Fee: \$10 per person covers activities and an evening meal.

Fall Foliage Day at Nawakwa at Nawakwa - October 24, 2021

Return to camp for the afternoon to enjoy fall activities, worship, and a picnic supper. This is a wonderful

opportunity to meet up with old friends or introduce new folks to camp. An evening meal is included. Event runs from 1-6pm. At Nawakwa, enjoy Pumpkin Painting, Apple Butter Boil, Hayrides, Hiking, and More! Registration Fee: \$10 per person includes activities and an evening meal.

<u>Annual Quilt Auction</u> at Nawakwa - November 7, 2021 Join us for this year's Quilt Auction, November 7, at Nawakwa. This fun-filled day of bidding raises money for the LCC Endowment Fund, which helps to financially sustain our fine ministry activities

<u>Women's Craft Retreat at Nawakwa - November 12 - 14,</u> 2021 \$155

Try new techniques, share your latest creations, work on UFO's, and enjoy the relaxed atmosphere of camp in the fall. Worship led by Rev. Cindy Brommer. All meals provided. Please register by November 1.

Stay over an additional night (Thursday): \$30 no food included

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.

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 Christchild. \$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.

Upcoming Events List

ALiVE at Nawakwa - September 24 - 26, 2021



Saturday, September 25, 2021 10:30 am - until SOLD OUT

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran

Church 4200 Londonderry Road, Harrisburg

\$10.00 per Chicken Dinner

\$14.00 per Ribs Dinner All dinners include:

Baked potato, Apple sauce, Roll & Water. You can order in advance by calling the church office (717) 652-6700

Birthdays for September

- 09/01 Brighton Miller 09/06 - Kathryn Dullen Travis Sultzaberger Julie Eyer
- 09/07 Ella Heckert
- 09/08 Katlyn Betz
- 09/10 Betsy Dressler
- 09/11 Luke Dullen Sara Shoaff
- 09/12 Donna Gutshall Emma Klick

09/14 – Carla Whitaker

Mary Elizabeth Howell

- 09/15 William Graves William Kroah, Sr
- 09/17 Barb Heym
- 09/21 Jax Phelan
- 09/24 Dennis Dinger
- 09/25 Michael Betz
- 09/26 Michael Hengst Janet Smith Nick Bargmann
- 09/13 Lainey Huertas (Banic) 09/29 Nathaniel Lawrence

Cheryl Long

From the Fellowship Committee:

As things are opening up inquires have been made to us about doing another bus trip.

We would love to help sponsor another bus for the Seniors and friends.

We are considering a trip to Sight and Sound to see Queen Esther.

We want to make sure we can fill a bus as much as possible to reduce the cost for everyone.

If are you interested in going to Sight and Sound please let me, Mary or Loraine know so we can keep a count.

Thanks Deb Banks Fellowship is selling R&K subs and pretzel sandwiches. We are going to split the profits with the Nursery school since they are not able to conduct their fundraisers this year.

Sign-up sheets will be in the narthex or you can call the office or see Deb Banks.

Orders along with the money will be taken up until Thursday, September 23th and delivery will be Thursday, October 7th.