

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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MINISTERS: Every Member

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



24th Sunday after Pentecost

November 15, 2020

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

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the LORD will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ’s coming among us.

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Voluntary by J. Stanley and Oh, Happy Day
When We Shall Stand by J. G. Walther*

HYMN #441 *Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand
Organ Only—No Singing*

Stand **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,

in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved.

C Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Holy One,

C we confess that we are not awake for you.

We are not faithful in using your gifts.

We forget the least of our siblings.

We do not see your beautiful image in one another.

We are infected by sin

that divides your beloved community.

Open our hearts to your coming,

open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,

open our hands to serve your creation.

C Amen.

P Beloved, we are God's children,

and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.

Through + Jesus you are forgiven,

by Jesus you are welcome,

in Jesus you are called to rejoice!

Let us live in the promises prepared for us

from the foundation of the world.

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 **Hymn of Praise**

Glory be to God in heaven; peace, good-will to all the earth

**Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth;
we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we
raise.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY—Let us pray. . .

A Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

WORD

Sit First Reading: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week's first reading) presents the day of the LORD as one of judgment and wrath.

Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the LORD.

Be silent before the Lord GOD!
For the day of the LORD is at hand;
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice,
he has consecrated his guests.

At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who rest complacently on their dregs,
those who say in their hearts,
“The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do harm.”
Their wealth shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.

Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter,
the warrior cries aloud there.
That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the LORD,
their blood shall be poured out like dust,
and their flesh like dung.
Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the LORD's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed;
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

A The Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12

Read In Unison

L Lord, you have been our refuge

from one generation to another.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, from age to age you are God.

You turn us back to the dust and say, "Turn back, O children of earth."

C For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past

and like a watch in the night;

you sweep them away like a dream,

they fade away suddenly like the grass:

in the morning it is green and flourishes;

in the evening it is dried up and withered.

L For we are consumed by your anger;

we are afraid because of your wrath.

Our iniquities you have set before you,

and our secret sins in the light of your countenance When you are angry, all our days are gone;

we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

C The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty;

yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and we are gone.

Who regards the power of your wrath?

Who rightly fears your indignation?

So teach us to number our days

that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

A The word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God

Stand Spoken

**Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word
Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are
stirred.**

Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 25th Chapter
C Glory to you O Lord

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] “For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ Then the one who had received the one

talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

P The Gospel of the Lord
C Praise to you O Christ

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

Sit **HYMN #710** *Let Streams of Living Justice*
Organ Only

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 Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever.

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

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A God of all goodness,

C **generations have turned to you,
gathered around your table,
and shared your abundant blessings.**

Number us among them

**that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance,
and give thanks for your rich blessings,**

we may feast upon your very self

and care for all that you have made,

through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.

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.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

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

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

Invitation to Communion

P There is a place for you at the banquet.
Come and feast at Jesus' table.

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

Stand COMMUNION BLESSING

POST COMMUNION PRAYER—Let us pray.

**A We give you thanks, gracious God,
that you have once again fed us with food beyond
compare, the body and blood of Christ.**

**Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven,
into your beloved vineyard to wipe away the tears of all
who hunger and thirst, guided by the example of the same
Jesus Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever.**

C Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

P May the God of all creation,
in whose image we are made,

who claims us and calls us beloved,
who strengthens us for service,
give you reason to rejoice and be glad!

The blessing of God,
Sovereign, + Savior, and Spirit,
be with you today and always.
C Amen.

sit **HYMN #870** *We Praise you, O God*
Organ Only

DISMISSAL

P Beloved of God,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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 *The Lord Now Sends Us Forth*

~Central American

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Operating Receipts thru October 31: \$217,585

Payments made thru October 31: \$229,092

Attendance: 11/08/2020 67 (3 services)

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

Readings for November 22, 2020:

First Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Psalm: Psalm 95:1-7a

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

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. 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.

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 -

LECTORS - Jeanne Flickinger; Susan Shultz

FLOWER DELIVERY - Barb Heym

COUNCIL PRESIDENT - Stephanie Carl

NURSERY SCHL DIRECTOR - Pam Baranowski 671-4855

SEXTON - Don Young

Altar Flowers are presented to the Celebration for Samantha Romanias Birthday. Given by Deb Banks.

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.

Birthdays for November

11/03– Maryann Gelehrter	11/14 – Susan Dillahey
11/03 –Elliot Walak	11/16– Julia Zingone
11/03- James Person	11/17– Floyd Sholder
11/04 - Hailey Neidig	11/18 – Gary Schwartz
11/04- Susan Shultz	11/20 – Sandy Dinger
11/07- George Kaufman	11/22 - Heidi May
11/08- Thomas Stohler	11/23– Rick Beckley
11/09– Vaughn Heym	11/24 –Christine Wnuk
11/10 – Samantha	11/24– Tracey Swetnam
Romanias	11/27 – Donald Gutshall
11/10 – Brent Whitaker	11/27– Isaiah Allen (Willis)
11/14 – Richard Botts	11/28— Ryan Cleaver

UPCOMING FALL EVENTS



2020 Adult Study Retreat at Nawakwa - ~~Canceled~~

Fall Foliage Day at Kirchenwald - [Register Now!](#)

Fall Foliage Day at Nawakwa - [Register Now!](#)

*** Masks & social distancing required at all LCC events ***

Advent Day Apart at The Wittel Farm - December 5, 2020

- 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.

Advent/Christmas in the Barn at the Wittel Farm - December 20 7:00-8:30pm

SUPPORT THE CAMPS

Make a gift today to support the ministries of the Lutheran Camping Corporation.

Chris Bair is collecting newspapers for the Bird Sanctuary

THANKSGIVING FAMILIES: The Social Services Ministry is helping (2) families for Thanksgiving this year; they reside at the Catalina Apartments. Family (1) has (1) Adult and (3) Children. Family (2) has (3) Adults and (3) Children. Due to the pandemic, we are asking for gift card donations. We are encouraging the congregation to purchase store gift cards from the church, this will help further our ministries. Place your donations in an envelope with Patty Kingsbury's name on it, she is the contact person for the complex. All donations must be in no later than Wednesday November 18. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Molly Stanton. Thank you for your support.