

# St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

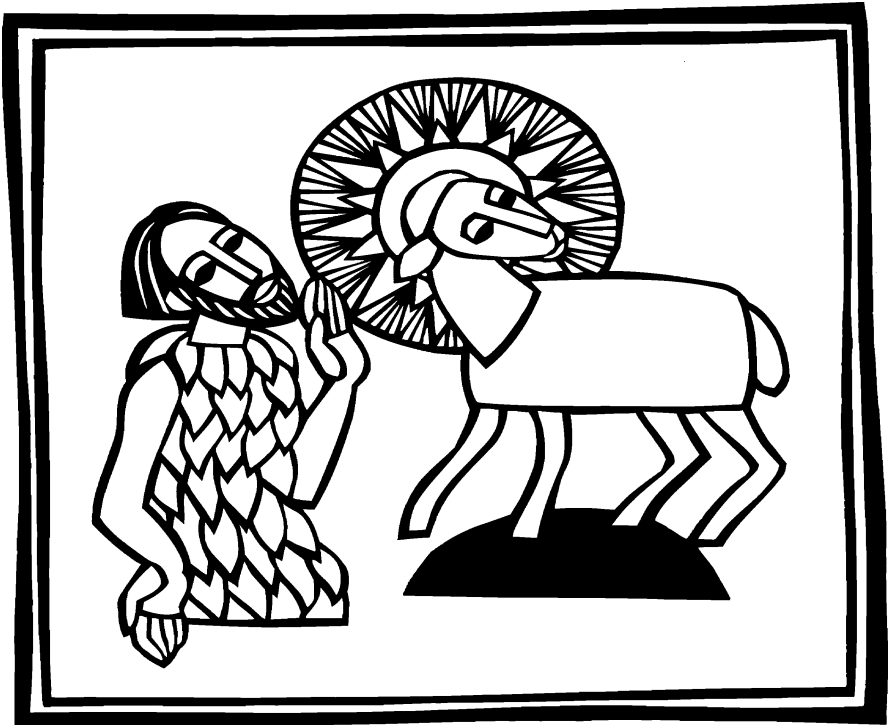
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MINISTERS: Every Member

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



Third Sunday of Advent

December 13, 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 enjoy the opportunity to observe Silent Meditation during the Prelude.

**PERSONAL HEARING ASSISTANCE DEVICES ARE AVAILABLE.** Please see an usher if you have trouble hearing the service.

## **INTRODUCTION**

*“Rejoice always,” begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. “All God’s children got a robe,” go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God’s party.*

## **GATHERING**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE** *People, Look East* by J. Wayne Kerr

### **LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH**

Light one candle for peace  
One bright candle for peace  
He brings peace to every heart  
He comes! He comes!

**HYMN #248** *People, Look East*  
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 God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,  
whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures  
forever.

**C Amen.**

Together let us honestly and humbly confess  
that we have not lived as God desires.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Loving and forgiving God,  
**we confess that we are held captive by sin.**  
**In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have**  
**not welcomed the stranger;**  
**we have not loved our neighbor;**  
**we have not been Christ to one another.**  
**Restore us, O God.**  
**Wake us up and turn us from our sin.**  
**Renew us each day in the light of Christ.**  
**C Amen.**

P People of God, hear this glad news:  
by God's endless grace  
your sins are forgiven, and you are free —  
free from all that holds you back  
and free to live in the peaceable realm of God.  
May you be strengthened in God's love,  
+ comforted by Christ's peace,  
and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

**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 Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; 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 Reading:**     **Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11**

*Though the people had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, they continued to face hardship and oppression. In the language of the jubilee year described in Leviticus 25, the prophet, moved by the spirit of God, announces deliverance for those who are oppressed and comfort for those who mourn.*

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,

because the Lord has anointed me;

he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,

to bind up the brokenhearted,

to proclaim liberty to the captives,

and release to the prisoners;

to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,

and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;  
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.  
They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.  
They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devastations;  
they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.  
For I the Lord love justice,  
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;  
I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.  
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,  
and their offspring among the peoples;  
all who see them shall acknowledge  
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.  
I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

A The Word of the Lord

**C Thanks be to God**

**Psalm: Psalm 126**

**READ IN UNISON**

**When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,  
then were we like those who dream.**

**Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue  
with shouts of joy.**

**Then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done  
great things for them."**

**The Lord has done great things for us,  
and we are glad indeed.**

**Restore our fortunes, O Lord,  
like the watercourses of the Negeb.**

**Those who sowed with tears  
will reap with songs of joy.**

**Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

**Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

*Paul concludes his letter to the Thessalonians by encouraging them to live lives of continual joy, prayer, and thanksgiving. The closing blessing is grounded in the hope of Christ's coming.*

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

**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 John the 1st Chapter  
**C Glory to you O Lord**

**Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28**

*John's gospel describes Jesus as the "light of the world." John the Baptist is presented as a witness to Jesus, one who directs attention away from himself to Christ, the true light.*

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' " as the prophet Isaiah said.

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

P The Gospel of the Lord

**C Praise to you O Christ**

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

### **SERMON**

Sit **HYMN #715** *Christ Be Our Light*  
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** Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, 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-contact” 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 Generous God,

**C you have created all that is,  
and you provide for us in every season.**

**Bless all that we offer,  
that through these gifts the world will receive your  
blessing.**

**In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray.**

**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.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering  
who preached good news to the poor,  
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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, resurrection, and  
ascension, we await his coming in glory.  
out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,  
unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,  
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Pour  
and

**C Amen**

## LORD'S PRAYER

## **Invitation to Communion**

P Even as we watch and wait, Christ is here.  
Come, eat and drink

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 Gracious and abundant God,  
you have done great things for us, and we rejoice.  
In this bread and cup you give us life forever.  
In your boundless mercy, strengthen us  
and open our hearts to the world's needs,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C Amen.**

## **SENDING**

**BLESSING**

P The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting,  
the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected  
Spirit guide your journey, + now and forever.

**C Amen.**

Sit **HYMN #264** *Prepare the Royal Highway*  
Organ Only

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Prepare the way of 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** *Light Dawns on a Weary World*

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Operating Receipts thru November 30: \$237,992

Payments made thru November 30: \$249,907

Attendance: 12/06/2020 58

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

**READINGS for December 20, 2020:**

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Psalm Luke 1:46b-55

Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

**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 -

LECTORS - Laurie Womer; Emmor Boslet

FLOWER DELIVERY - Sandy Dinger

COUNCIL PRESIDENT - Stephanie Carl

NURSERY SCHL DIRECTOR - Pam Baranowski 671-4855

SEXTON - Don Young

**Altar Flowers** are in Honor of Vaughn Heym on his "75th" birthday, given by his wife Barb.

**The Bulletins** are given in Honor of our dad and pappy, Vaughn Heym, on his "75th" birthday given by his children & grandchildren.

**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 December

12/01–Taylor Trout  
12/02 -Jonnie Deibler  
12/04- Susan Seitz  
12/06– Dolores Magaro  
12/06– Caroline Gill  
12/07– Michael Nusz  
12/09– Ryan Shadle  
12/10– Mary Ann Kane  
12/10– Doreen Steinmacher  
12/11 – Adam Appleby  
12/11– Jacob McClenahen  
12/12 Alexis Ulrich  
12/13– Vaughn Heym  
12/14– Pat Ashbrook  
12/15– Mercedes Bretz  
12/16– Brandon Dinger  
12/16- Harold Sultzaberger  
12/18- Emma Betz  
12/18 Sue Senft  
12/19— Clint Harr  
12/19– Linda Gingell  
12/19– James Miller  
12/20– Michael Betz  
12/20– Colin McClenahen  
12/22– Bruce Senft  
12/24– Sarah Neidig  
12/25– Christine Kroah  
12/27– Liz Harris  
12/30 Frank Dillahey  
12/30—Madison Spencer



# UPCOMING FALL EVENTS



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

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

**Men in Mission are donating 10 wreaths to be placed at  
Indiantown Gap National Cemetery December 19, 2020**

**GIFT CARD DONATIONS: The Social Services Ministry  
is asking for donations of gift cards for (2) families for  
Christmas.**

**Family (1): Gift cards from Game Stop, Wal Mart, Target,  
Amazon, Ebay, and Dunkin' Donuts.**

**Family (2): Gift Cards from Game Stop, Dunkin Donuts,  
Amazon, Target, Wal Mart, and Boscov's.**

**We will also accept gift cards from Giant or Weis Markets  
to help with food. All donations should be placed in an  
envelope with Patty Kingsbury's name on it and turned  
into the office no later than Tuesday December 15. If you  
have any questions please contact Molly Stanton.**

# Did you miss the Bunny Breakfast this year??

Well you're in luck the Bunny called Santa to let you  
all know that St. Mark's Nursery School has 6  
DISNEY Tickets!

The tickets are good until June of 2021 and available  
on first come basis. \$75 a ticket and all the proceeds  
go towards St. Mark's Nursery School

Call our Director Pam Baranowski at 717-652-6700  
Ext. 3