

# St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

4200 Londonderry Road, Harrisburg, PA 17109 652-6700

Web page: [www.stmarksharrisburg.org](http://www.stmarksharrisburg.org)

E-mail: [stmarksharrisburg@gmail.com](mailto:stmarksharrisburg@gmail.com)

MINISTERS: Every Member

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



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20, 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**

*God keeps the promise made to David to give him an everlasting throne. The angel tells Mary that God will give David's throne to her son Jesus. She is perplexed by Gabriel's greeting and by the news of her coming pregnancy, but she is able still to say, "Count me in." We who know that Jesus is called king only as he is executed still find it a mystery hard to fathom, but with Mary today we hear the news of what God is up to and say, "Count us in."*

### **GATHERING**

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE** *Joy to the World*

#### **LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH**

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

**HYMN #257** *O come, O come Emmanuel*  
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.*

Blessed be God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,  
whose forgiveness is sure  
and whose steadfast love endures forever.  
Amen.

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

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. Amen.**

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 your power, Lord Christ, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

## WORD

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

*Instead of David building a house (temple) for God, God promises to establish David's house (dynasty) forever. Centuries later, after the Babylonian exile, no king sat on the throne. Even then, however, the people of Israel remembered this promise and continued to hope for a king, the messiah, God's anointed.*

Now when the king was settled in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the Lord is with you."

But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the Lord: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the Lord of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

A The Word of the Lord

**C Thanks be to God**

**Psalm: Luke 1:46b-55**

**READ IN UNISON**

**My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your lowly  
servant.**

**From this day all generations will call me blessed:  
you, the Almighty, have done great things for me  
and holy is your name.**

**You have mercy on those who fear you,  
from generation to generation.**

**You have shown strength with your arm  
and scattered the proud in their conceit,  
casting down the mighty from their thrones  
and lifting up the lowly.**

**You have filled the hungry with good things  
and sent the rich away empty.**

**You have come to the aid of your servant Israel,  
to remember the promise of mercy,  
the promise made to our forbears,  
to Abraham and his children forever.**

**Second Reading: Romans 16:25-27**

*Paul closes his letter to the Romans by praising God because, in the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ, God has revealed the promised, divine plan of salvation for all humanity. Paul proclaims this gospel of Christ in order to bring about the obedience of faith among all nations.*

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

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

**Gospel: Luke 1:26-38**

*In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people from little known places. This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in this gospel.*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative

Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

P The Gospel of the Lord

C Praise to you O Christ

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

### SERMON

Sit **HYMN** Mary Did you Know? Lowry, Green, Bock  
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-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.

## 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 our gifts the world will receive your blessing.  
In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray.**

**C Amen.**

### LORD'S PRAYER

## 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 #279** *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

**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 #276 *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly***

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2006 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #23172. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Operating Receipts thru November 30: \$237,992

Payments made thru November 30: \$249,907

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

### **READINGS for December 27, 2020:**

First Reading: Isaiah 61:10--62:3

Psalm 148

Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

## **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

**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 -

FLOWER DELIVERY -

COUNCIL PRESIDENT - Stephanie Carl

NURSERY SCHL DIRECTOR - Pam Baranowski 671-4855

SEXTON - Don Young

**Altar Flowers** No flowers until church opens back up.

**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**

**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.**