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Parishioner

Volume 24, Issue 2

A Publication of St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church

April 2019

March 4th, 2019 marked a pivotal point in your ministry here at St. Mark's- it was the day I became your Interim Pastor. Interim Pastor "the in between time Pastor" ... one who provides pastoral ministry here at St. Mark's until a new pastor is called and duly installed. I am sure this will be an exceptionally interesting time for me in this "in between time": trying to understand "retirement" and yet being all the more busy in ministry than prior to retirement. At least I didn't retire to a rocking chair.

Saying "yes" to your request to be your Interim Pastor is certainly an honor; and yet has now ushered me back into the loop of active ministry. Weekly sermon preparation keeps me alert as to interpreting God's

Word for His people in this time and place called St. Mark's. As you all know, preaching and teaching is the plateau upon which the Gospel mandate is honored (Matthew 28:19-20). I pray that my particular style of preaching and its content will be refreshing, yet challenging to you in your respective faith journeys. In teaching, I especially love our weekly Bible Study Group which meets each Tuesday evening at King's in Sarver. Perhaps you would consider joining us as we take a refreshing journey through God's Word.

Also, I confess to you that one of my most loved aspects in ministry is presiding at worship and the administration of the sacraments. You, the people of St. Mark's, have certainly enhanced that love of the worship experience.

Other interim ministerial aspects involve providing spiritual aid in time of need; hospital calls, funerals, baptisms, weddings, individual counseling, etc. Here I must make a pastoral request, not just for me, but for the pastor who will be called,...please inform the pastor or the church office as quickly/or as soon as possible of that need so that your concern can be addressed immediately

Assisting with home communion to our shut-ins and those in care facilities brings home the fact that the church is not only gathered in this particular spot but is dispersed out in homes and care facilities, and the residents love when we bring ministry in its various aspects to them.

It is a joy to continue my ministry (while in a state of retirement) among you here at St. Mark's. Your reception of me and my wife Susan has been exceptionally heartwarming. Thank you for the tribute expressed through the altar flowers on Sunday, March 24th. I pray that in the days ahead (... this in between time)...we together will continue to forge a strong and effective witness to Christ, our Savior and Lord, in this time and place.

Pastor Neal



Beloved Members of Saint Mark's Lutheran Church and Saint Mark's Church Council,

Words cannot adequately express my thanks to you for the wonderful farwell Services and Sunday afternoon Celebration Banquet that you made possible for my family and me as I begin my retirement.

What a wonderful weekend filled with Love, Tears, Good Memories and Happiness you made possible.

Thank you for the beautiful altar flowers, the special anthems by the Sanctuary Choir, the anthem of tribute written by Music Director Ralph Christy Jr., the surprise power-point pictures reflecting my

ministry over the years and our ministry together for the Lord at Saint Mark's. Thank you for the picture from our youth with their hands on my Bible, and my family gifts of a trip to Hawaii, and the quilted wall banner of St. Mark's and the churches God has called me to serve over the 49 years of my ordained ministry.

Thank you everyone for the over-flowing crowd even with the snowy winter weather present for the celebration banquet with family and friends in Saint Mark's Fellowship Hall.

Thank you everyone for the many gifts and cards. It will take me several weeks to read all the cards, open all the gifts and to send thank you notes.

"To God Be The Glory", as we continue our lives and ministry striving to live for Christ and loving our neighbor as God loves us.

My prayers for St. Mark's and love for you always,

In Christ's Love

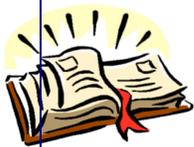
Rev. Dr. Alden W. Towberman



\$500 College Scholarship St. Mark's Graduating Senior

Once again this year we are pleased to announce that a \$500 College Scholarship will be made available to a St. Mark's 2018 graduating high school senior. The \$500 college scholarship is being provided by Michael and Rose Paal from St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Ellwood City in grateful thanks for the ministry provided to the congregation for many years by Lay Ministers Carol Fleeger and Robert Niggel.

Those interested in applying for the Paal College Scholarship may call St. Mark's church office (724-287-6741) to receive an application. All applications must to be submitted by April 30th.



BIBLE BOWL ~ ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, APRIL 28TH @ 3:30 PM

THE BOOKS OF EPHESIANS, PHILIPPIANS, GALATIANS, AND COLOSSIANS (ESV)



The Most Important Week in History

Palm Sunday, the beginning of the week that changed the world.

On **Monday**, Jesus cleansed the Temple, overturning the tables of the money lenders and the benches of those who sold doves for the sacrifices. The crowd, which came running to see his action, stayed and was amazed by his teachings. The Temple authorities were less than impressed and more than angered, deciding to put him to death.

On **Tuesday**, Jesus returned to the Temple to confront those authorities. They tried to trip him up, getting him to say something he didn't mean or commit to something he didn't believe. But time and time again, Jesus turned the tables on his adversaries and got the better of them.

On **Wednesday**, the Temple authorities got their chance at last when Judas sought them out and offered to betray Jesus for 30 pieces of silver.

On **Thursday**, Jesus celebrated the Last Supper with his disciples and inaugurated the Lord's Supper with us. Jesus prayed in agony in Gethsemane, three times asking his Father to remove this cup from him, and three times submitting to his Father's will. Judas betrayed him with a kiss. The disciples abandoned him and ran for their lives. Peter disowned him in the darkness and wept as the day broke. The Temple authorities tried him in the dead of night and sentenced him to death.

On **Friday**, Jesus was handed over to the Romans. Pontius Pilate would have released him, but the crowds, which on Sunday had hailed him as King, and on Monday and Tuesday were thrilled by his teaching, now turned on him and demanded his death. Pilate handed Jesus over to be crucified. The soldiers mocked him and flogged him. Jesus carried his cross to Golgotha, where the soldiers nailed him on it and lifted it high for all the world to see. For six hours Jesus hung in agony until finally, with a great cry, he breathed his last. Joseph of Arimathea took his body down from the cross and laid it in the tomb.

On **Saturday**, Jesus descended into hell.

On **Sunday**, Jesus rose from the dead. **Jesus lives!** And he wants you to live with him, now and forever. As you go through this week, go with him. Read the account of Holy Week as recorded in all four Gospels, keeping in mind what happened each day and how he did it all so that YOU could be His on that great Day when Jesus comes to town again. (Matthew 26-28/Mark 11-16/Luke 19:28-24:12/John 18-20:30.

Come, Join the celebration and joy of Easter.

Our Resurrected Christ has set a place at the table for you!



HE IS RISEN

We invite you to join us in celebrating Christ's
Resurrection Sunday, April 21, 2019



8:00 am & 10:15 am

EASTER SERVICES

Saturday Easter Vigil 6:00 pm

Sunday School 9:00 am

Easter Festival Services 8:00 & 10:15 am

The Reverend James F. Neal, STS



Children's Hour Program

May 1st 2019 at 6:00pm

Thank you teachers and parents!!

Children's Hour "End-Of-The-Year" Program is happening at St. Mark's Lutheran Church on Wednesday May 1st at 6:00 pm. The Children have had fun learning Bible Stories and songs this year. It has been exciting to watch the children grow physically, mentally, and spiritually.

Come and see the excitement and be blessed by the children as they perform.

There will be a cookie reception following the program in Fellowship Hall



Vacation Bible School Planning Meeting

When: Thursday, April 11th at 11:00 AM

Where: Classroom downstairs beside the Library

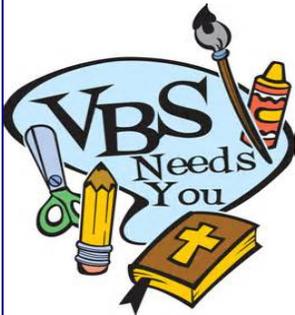
Why: Get a Jump on Planning the 2019 VBS!

Who: Hopefully "YOU!" We minister to about 40 children from the community, this is a HUGE Outreach for St. Mark's, and every volunteer is "welcome" and "needed."

If you cannot attend the planning meetings and want to help during the week of VBS, please call Darcie at (724) 996-9245 to sign up for volunteering.

Crafts need planned, kids need led from activity to activity, actors are needed for our skits, menu needs planned for the ending picnic, the Church needs decorated, postcards need sent out, etc. It is fun; it takes a lot of volunteers - BUT it is all worth it!

worth it!



New Paraments Dedicated Transfiguration Sunday

New white Paraments for the altar were dedicated March 3, 2019 in memory of loved ones whose families have given memorial gifts for this purpose. White paraments adorn the Altar to the Glory of God on Transfiguration Sunday, Easter, Christ the King, All Saints' Day and on some other special occasions.

Two angels on the pulpit and lectern Antependium announce the news of Jesus' Resurrection and of our Living Savior Who has died and is Risen for us. The Altar Superfrontal bears the symbol of "The Lamb of God," one of the oldest symbols of Jesus Christ's sacrificial love for

us. He has paid the price for our sins and died our death for us. By His blood we have been saved. The Lamb of God on the altar parament is shown banner of victory over sin, death and the devil.



St. Mark's Kids stuff

Sunday School is for everyone on Sunday mornings from 9 to 10 AM.

Youth Page April 2019



A.M.P.E.D. is the youth group for kids grade 4 through grade 6

A.M.P.E.D UP is the youth group for kids grades 7 through grade 12



Youth Group, April 7th

A.M.P.E.D. is 4:30 to 6:30

(everyone eats at 6PM)

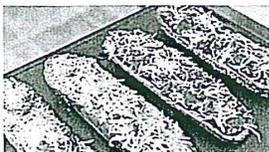
A.M.P.E.D. UP is 6 to 8

Easter Activities:

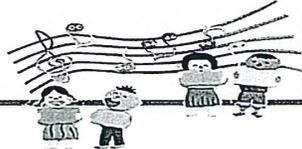
- ◆Easter Egg dyeing
 - ◆An Easter interactive adventure
 - ◆playing Easter minute-to-win-it games
 - ◆and "Egg" wrestling!
- ***bring a favorite topping for pizza that you can share with everyone

ots of Fun! Bring a Friend or two!

(and bring your favorite pizza topping to share)



Confirmation meets on Sunday April 7th from 4:30 to 6PM



Children's Hour

"End of the Year Program"

When: Wed., May 1st at 6 PM

The kids are excited to show their Parents, Grandparents, neighbors, and friends what they have learned at Children's Hour.

All are welcomed to attend.

Come Enjoy the Show!

**** Refreshments will be served in Fellowship Hall following the Children's Hour Program.



St. Mark's Lutheran Church
201 West Jefferson St.
Butler PA 16001

Darcie Pomykata
Youth Director
(724) 996-9245 cell/text
youth@stmarksbutler.org

VBS Planning Meeting

When: Thursday, April 11th
Time: 6:30-8:00PM

Theme needs picked, crafts need planned, supplies need ordered, and excitement is to follow!

Bible Bowl on the Books:

Ephesians, Philippians,
Galatians, and
Colossians (ESV)



The Competition takes place Sunday, April 28th at 3:30PM.

Where: St. John's Church, 1320 Church Street, Ambridge 15003

Hosted by the Lighthouse Church

The TEAM would love to have you Come Cheer on them on!!!

Eve Bible Study

Eve Bible Study will have its meeting on Tuesday, April 23rd at 3:00 pm in the Church Lounge. The study will be "Faithfulness: The story of Mary Mother of Jesus" from the study book, The Proverbs 31 Woman.



For more information, please contact Anne Ferguson @ 724-285-1843 or ap1ferg@zoominternet.net.



**American Red
Cross Blood Drive
Tuesday, April 23rd
12:00pm-5:30 pm
In Fellowship Hall**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
SUPPORT AND SPONSORSHIP
AGAIN THIS YEAR OF HUNTERS
SHARING THE HARVEST
DONATION PROGRAM**

**EDDIE KOLANKO THANKS ST. MARK'S FOR THE BLANKET.
IT KEEPS HIM WARM IN THE WINTERTIME AND KEEPS THE
SNOWFLAKES OUT OF HIS EYES.**

Thank you

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATION FOR THE KIDS' WEEKEND
BACKPACK PROGRAM. WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT.**

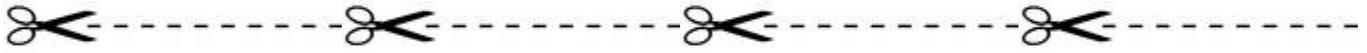
**MANY STUDENTS GO HOME WITH LITTLE OR NO FOOD SUPPLIES. THEY
MAY RECEIVE BREAKFAST AND LUNCH AT SCHOOL DURING THE WEEK,
BUT WHEN THE WEEKENDS COME THEY MAY BE LIMITED AS TO HOW
MUCH THEY HAVE TO EAT. THIS PROGRAM HAS BEEN DESIGNED TO
ASSIST STUDENTS IN ALL K-4 ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS WHO MAY BE IN
NEED OF WEEKEND FOOD SUPPLIES.**

SINCERELY,

**THE KIDS' WEEKEND BACKPACK PROGRAM COMMITTEE AND THE
GOLDEN TORNADO SCHOLASTIC FOUNDATION, INC.**

FIRST COMMUNION

First Communion Classes will begin in April. Any child grade 3 and up



Parish Hours:
8:00 AM -- 5:00 PM
Monday - Friday

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>April 2019</h1>						
	1 9:00 3T	2	3 9:30 Children's Hr. 5:30 Choir 7:00 Lenten Service FUMC	4 5:00 Katie's Kitchen	5	6 6:00 Worship
7 8:00 & 10:15 Worship/HC 4:30 Youth Gr 4:30 Confirmation	8	9 7:00 Congregation Council	10 9:30 Children's Hr. 5:30 Choir 7:00 Lent Serv St. Peter Anglican Ch	11 11:00 VBS Planning Mtg. 5:00 Katie's Kitchen	12	13 6:00 Worship
14 PALM SUNDAY 8:00 & 10:15 Worship/HC	15	16	17 9:30 Children's Hr. 5:30 Choir 7:00 Holy Wed Worship	18 Maundy Thursday 5:00 Katie's Kitchen 7:00 Worship	19 Good Friday 12N Office Closes Worship 12 Noon 7 PM	20 6:00 Easter Vigil
21 EASTER 8:00 & 10:15 Worship/HC	22 Church & Office Closed	23 12-5:30 Red Cross Blood Drive 3:00 Eve Bible Study	24 Admin Prof Day 9:30 Children's Hour 6:30 Choir	25 11:30 Katie's Kitchen Steering Com 5:00 Katie's Kitchen	26	27 6:00 Worship
28 8:00 & 10:15 Worship 3:30 Bible Bowl	29	30 1:00 Evangelism				



Bible Bowl shirts are available to order until April 10th.
Color of shirt is Maroon.
T-shirts are \$10
Sweatshirts are \$15
Call in your order today!
(724) 287-6741 Church

Pick up will be Sunday, April 28th after the 10:15 by the Office—Just in time for the Competition on the 28th! Thank you in advance for the supporting the Bible Bowl Team!

St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church
 201 West Jefferson Street
 Butler, Pennsylvania 16001
 Phone: 724-287-6741
 Fax: 724-287-6747
 Website: www.stmarksbutler.org

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Parish Hours:
 8:00 AM -- 5:00 PM
 Monday - Friday

WORSHIP SERVICES
 Saturday: 6:00 PM
 Sunday: 8:00 & 10:15 AM
 Sunday School: 9:00 AM




Serving Christ Together

St. Mark's Staff
 and
Council Officers

Ministers: The People of St. Mark's

Interim Pastor	Rev. James F. Neal, SJS	awf@stmarksbutler.org
Parish Administrator	Mary Ellen Tack	marvellen.tack@stmarksbutler.org
Administrative Assistant	Jayne Franek	
Dir. Children/Youth Ministry	Darcie Pomykata	youth@stmarksbutler.org
Sextons	John Lingenfelter / Larry Rettig	
Aaron Ministers	Bob Niggel/Wm. Oehlschlager	
Director of Music	Ralph Christy Jr.	
Organist	Dr. Rebecca Kettering	
Assistant Organist	Rebecca Veith	
Bell Choir Director	Rebecca Veith	
Children's Hour Director	Darcie Pomykata	
Katie's Kitchen Director	Loretta Bachman	
Council President	April Quinn	
Council Vice President	Ronald Atkison	
Council Secretary	Judy Minehart	
Treasurer	Sherry Young	
Financial Secretary	Toni Tassey	

