



*The*

*Parishioner*

## SHAKING OUR ROOTS and BEING REPLANTED

Jan Riggensch writes a newspaper column on gardening. In an article, she wrote about how to plant bedding plants, we learn something about Christian growth.

"Giving new bedding plants some rough treatment at planting time," she says, "may be the best thing you can do to help them survive in my garden. When I was new to gardening, I tried to set tomatoes, petunias, and other bedding plants in the garden without disturbing their roots at all. Nowadays, I'm much more ruthless...."

Riggensch says she squeezes the bottoms of the flexible plastic pots to get the plants out of their container and then she inspects the soil ball.

"If the plant has been growing in its pot so long that the roots are circling the bottom," says Riggensch, "I jab my finger into the bottom of the soil and pull down to untangle the roots.... If the whole pot is filled with circling roots, I have to be merciless. I don't worry if I break some of the roots; that's better than allowing the roots to continue to circle when the plants are growing in the garden. Most bedding plants shrug off this rough treatment."

Christians often resemble root bound plants. We grow complacent and comfortable where we are. Our roots circle around and around in the same small area, no longer reaching out for life and nourishment and growth. The healthiest thing God can do for us is shake up our roots and put us in new soil. \*\* from Engaging Illustrations: Craig Brian Larson & Leadership Journal

### Please read John 15:1-8

As Spring is upon us, I realize that "shake up" (change) is being played out here in the life of this congregation. You and the Pastor have existed comfortably in this proverbial 'pot' for thirteen years... with your respective root systems so entwined. You have been together in a unique relationship as pastor and congregation; and, your "root-system" is root bound. Inevitably there comes time for replanting- a disturbing of the root system - change - so that growth may continue to produce spiritual fruit: ... for the congregation the change of soil is the calling of a new pastor. For some this replanting is / will be a painful / a disturbing exercise, but acknowledge how in the long run that it is healthy and necessary.

A this point in time in St. Mark's life the healthiest thing God can do for us is to shake up our roots and put us in new soil (change). But, "Be strong! Be courageous! Do not fear - for God is with us!" This is a mantra we discovered many times throughout our Old Testament that encouraged the people as they faced an unknown future. In the coming days, let this be our confidence, as well!

Pray for our Call Committee – our church – as we look forward in faith and hope to the fruits of our yielding to be re-planted.

"Be strong! Be courageous! Do not fear! For God is with us!"

Pastor Neal, Interim Pastor



*Children's Hour Program*  
*May 1st, 2019 at 6:00 pm*

*Thank you teachers and parents!!*

Another Children's Hour "End-Of-The-Year" Program is in the books at St. Mark's Lutheran Church. The Children had fun learning Bible Stories and songs all year long. It has been exciting to watch the children grow physically, mentally, and spiritually.



Everyone was blessed by the children's performances.  
A cookie reception followed the program in Fellowship Hall.



*Come celebrate Mother's Day  
with us at St. Mark's  
Saturday & Sunday,  
May 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>*

MOTHER'S DAY GIVES US A MOMENT TO REFLECT ABOUT OUR FAMILY LIFE AND THE KIND OF HOMES WE ARE BUILDING, THE EXAMPLES WE ARE SETTING, AND THE PRIORITIES THAT COMMAND OUR TIME AND ENERGY. STRONG FAMILIES HAVE CERTAIN THINGS IN COMMON. THEY ARE BUILT ON MUTUAL COMMITMENT TO EACH OTHER AND BASED ON LIVING THAT COMMITMENT THROUGH RELATIONSHIPS GROUNDED IN "SELFLESS LOVE." AT SAINT MARK'S ON MAY 11-12 WE WILL BE PRAYING FOR THE CHRISTIAN HOME AND FAMILY.



*Potted flowers will be given by the children & youth  
of our Sunday School*



*to all women in attendance in celebration of Mother's Day.*



*St. Mark's Senior Luncheon*



The Women of the Church are hosting a luncheon for members of St. Mark's Lutheran Church who are 80 years of age and older on *Wednesday, May 22 at noon.*

Mark this on your calendar and call the office to make your reservation (724) 287-6741.

**HOPE TO SEE YOU ON MAY 22<sup>nd</sup>!**



**Students!!**



Have you received awards, scholarships, college plans or letters, or any other achievements this year? We would LOVE to hear about your year! Please contact the church office so that we may acknowledge your great achievements.



**Meals on Wheels**

St. Mark's provides desserts for "Meals on Wheels" in June. Approximately 140 people

June 4<sup>th</sup> for delivery that day. Thank you in advance for supporting this important ministry.

**Eve Bible Study** will meet **Tuesday, May 28<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm.** in the Church Lounge. The study will be "Wisdom: The Story of Mary of Bethany, from "The Proverbs 31 Woman"

**the last study before breaking for summer.**

Study will resume Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>.

reason at (724) 285-1843 or

[apl1ferg@zoominternet.net](mailto:apl1ferg@zoominternet.net)

**DON'T FORGET TO JOIN US IN SUNDAY SCHOOL! CLASSES FOR ALL AGES EVERY SUNDAY MORNING FROM 9 - 10 AM**

**"A DISCIPLE IS NOT ABOVE HIS TEACHER, BUT EVERYONE WHEN HE IS FULLY TRAINED WILL BE LIKE HIS TEACHER." JOHN 6:40**



## **Memorial Day, May 27, 2019**

Take time to remember in prayer the men and women who have served and are currently serving our country and in thanks to God for their service.

**In observation of Memorial Day, the Church and Office  
will be closed.**

**We will resume regular office hours on Tuesday, May 28<sup>th</sup>.  
Office hours are Mon-Fri 8:00 am – 5:00 pm.**

### >Memorial Day Trivia Questions<

<p>1. What was the original name for Memorial Day?</p> <p>a. Remembrance Day b. Decoration Day c. Civil War Soldier Day d. The Day of Remembrance</p>	<p>2. Who is credited with starting the holiday?</p> <p>a. Abraham Lincoln b. Robert E. Lee c. James Garfield d. John Logan</p>
<p>3. Why was May 30th chosen as the original day to celebrate Memorial Day?</p> <p>a. It marked the start of the Civil War. b. It marked the end of the Civil War c. It was the day of the first Civil War casualty. d. There were no significant battles on that day in history.</p>	<p>4. What is the top Memorial Day weekend destination?</p> <p>a. New York, New York b. Orlando, FL c. Washington, D.C. d. Philadelphia, PA</p>

*Answers on page 6*



**FOR THOSE WHO COURAGEOUSLY GAVE THEIR LIVES....**

**AND THOSE WHO FIGHT TODAY FOR OUR FREEDOM.**

**THANK YOU.**



**EVANGELISM COMMITTEE**

**COME JOIN US**



A recent survey of non-Christians and lapsed Christians by the Barna Group found that “62%

...would be open to talking about faith matters with someone who listens without judgement, the top quality they value.” For this reason our Evangelism Committee is starting a Faith Discussion Group to meet this need in Butler.

**The first meeting is scheduled for \*\*Tuesday, May 21 at 7:00pm.\*\***

This first meeting is for interested St. Mark’s members only, so that we can set some guidelines for future monthly meetings. Future meetings will be open to the public and we encourage our St. Mark’s people to invite friends and neighbors, especially those who are lapsed or non-Christians.

God’s Peace and Blessings,  
Bill Oehlschlager, Executive Director  
Lutheran Lay Renewal of America  
209 Thornwood Drive  
Butler, PA 16001  
724-287-5151  
[www.lutheranrenewal.com](http://www.lutheranrenewal.com)

*Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “I am the light of the world.  
Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life” –John 8:12*



## **AFTERNOON AT THE MOVIES**

### **“NEWTON’S GRACE”**

**THE INCREDIBLE STORY OF THE PRODIGAL SON  
WHO WROTE AMAZING GRACE**

**NEWTON'S GRACE IS THE TRUE STORY OF A REAL "PRODIGAL SON," THE STORY OF MIRACULOUS FORGIVENESS AND CHANGE THAT LIES BEHIND THE POWERFUL WORDS OF ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST BELOVED HYMNS.**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 20 @ 2:00PM**

**SHOWING IN THE LOUNGE**

**EVERYONE WELCOME**



## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS**

### **CONFIRMATION CLASS SCHEDULE**

MAY 2019

- May 5 4:30-6:00 PM\*\*\*4:30 - 6:00 PM Confirmation Class in Youth Room  
*Confirmation Memory Verses Assigned*  
*“Trespases” +Lesson 6, Pages 24-27 / Homework: Answer all written questions in Lesson 6, ADTRA Prayer*

- May 19 4:30-6:00 PM\*\*\*4:30 – 6:00 PM Confirmation Class in Youth Room  
*“Temptation” +Lesson 7, Pages 28-31 / Homework: Answer all written questions in Lesson 7, ADTRA Prayer*
- May 26 4:30-6:00 PM\*\*\*4:30 – 6:00 PM Confirmation Class in Youth Room  
*Review of Second Year Youth for Examination by Church Council  
 “Deliverance” +Lesson 8, pages 32-35 / Homework: Answer all written questions in Lesson 8, ADTRA Prayer*

**>BIBLE BOWL TEAM<  
 BRINGS HOME THE TROPHY!  
 CONGRATULATIONS!**



FRONT: WENDY HOLT-COACH, MADISON POMYKATA, BACK: TIRZAH WILLS,  
 BAILEY CYPHER, JACOB POMYKATA, CAILLYN CYPHER, EMILY DEAL, BUCK HOLT,  
 DARCIA POMYKATA-COACH

**WE ARE PROUD OF  
 THE HARD WORK  
 AND DEDICATION  
 YOU ALL PUT INTO  
 THIS STUDY.  
 ENJOY YOUR  
 SUCCESS!**

*TRIVIA ANSWERS: (1.)-B, (2.)-D, (3.)-D, (4.)-B*

**CHILDREN’S HOUR  
 EASTER WALK**





Pastor Neal led the children through the Easter story walk with Joanne Lozier providing musical accompaniment on the piano. Actors included: *Kylee Lewandowski, Faith Wells and Andrea Johnson as Angels; Deb Adams and Becki Perotti as guards; Cindi Baer, Kelly Hahn and Julianna Perotte as weeping women.*





# THANK YOU



## Dear Friends and Church Family,

Most sincere thanks for your prayers and the beautiful brandy snifter and pink rose.

A special thank you to Pastor Neal for the comforting message at Penny's service.

*Love and God's blessings,  
Bonnie Vargo and family*



## St Marks,

Thank you for the lap blanket . Michael Dwyer at Rochester Manor received it.

The family of Michael Dwyer



## Thank You!

The Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania expressed their thanks for the 2019 donation toward the support of the work of Christian unity.



## To Everyone at St. Mark's,

Thank you for the warm welcome each & every one of you gave me during my short time as an office assistant. Thank you for the lunch the sweet card and gifts. I enjoyed getting to know each of you and hope I will be remembered as a helpful & friendly person.

Take care, Jayne Franek

 a heartfelt  
Thanks

mal

## To Everyone who works on the blankets,

Thank you for my beautiful blanket, I sleep with it over me every night. I was the first blanket given out and everyone was saying how did I rate?

My mother and my aunt used to quilt so I know how much time and work you put into making all of these quilts.

I love my blanket, I keep it handy as all my blankets were heavy and making my legs ache.

Thank you so much,  
Janice W Geibel



## Dear Friends at St. Mark's,

Thanks for the mailings and for the prayer chain. I am doing well. Ready for warm temperatures .

Blessings to all the " Staff"

Sincerely,  
Shirley Protzman



## Many Thanks & Praise!

A giant "THANK YOU" goes out to the many hard working and talented hands that worked together to create a beautiful Easter altar display. Your gifts blessed all that attended the Easter services.

## St. Mark's Kids stuff

Youth Group Picnic  
Sunday, June 2nd,  
5:30—8pm

All Youth 4th grade & up  
Where: The Courtyard  
of St. Mark's!



VBS (Vacation Bible School)



When: Sunday, June 16th -  
Thursday, June 20th  
(Thursday is a picnic at Alameda)

Times: 5:30PM Lite dinner  
6PM until 8:30PM VBS

Join us this summer as we blast  
off to outer space to have an  
out of this world experience  
with Jesus. Vacation Bible  
School (VBS) is a fun-filled,  
five-day adventure full of Bible  
stories, live drama, games,  
songs, art, small group time and  
more!

Sunday School is for everyone!  
Every Sunday morning in May from  
9 to 10 AM.



### Confirmation

This is the last full month of regular  
Confirmation classes. Confirmation is  
meeting 3 times in May from 4:30PM to  
6PM: the 5th, the 19th, and the 26th.

The Confirmation students will be  
completing their study. The  
Confirmands are meeting with St.  
Mark's Council on Tuesday, June 11th  
at 7PM. The students will be confirmed  
at the 10:15 Service, Sunday, June  
16th. (a reception will follow in Fellowship  
Hall).



Call/text  
Darcie to  
sign up!



**The Youth are heading on a  
mission trip July 5th—8th**

St. Mark's will be hosted by  
St. Andrew by the Sea Lutheran  
Church NALC with Pastor Arlyn  
Eisenbrandt

Mission work includes:  
Barnabas House Soup Kitchen,  
St. Andrews Food Pantry, and an  
Atlantic City Beach Service  
Project

## Youth Page May 2019

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

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



When: Sunday, May 19th  
Time: 6:00PM to 8:00PM

St. Mark's Youth are  
competing for the Chopped  
Champion! Bring your  
talent to the table! We  
will be taking "grilling" to  
the test.

What is in the basket?  
Judging will be based on 3  
rounds - appetizer,  
main course, and dessert.

Each plate will be judged  
on - plating presentation,  
taste, and creative use of  
basket ingredients

St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 201 W Jefferson St, Butler PA



## Vacation Bible School

Join us Sunday, June 16<sup>th</sup> - Thursday, June 20<sup>th</sup>!

**Bible School 2019: Mission Transform**

**Fun!**

**Crafts!**

**Games!**

**Friends!**

**Music!**

**Food!**

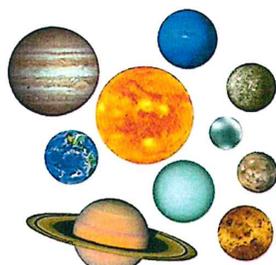
Join us this summer as we blast off to outer space to have an out of this world experience with Jesus. Vacation Bible School (VBS) is a fun-filled, five-day adventure full of Bible stories, live drama, games, songs, art, small group time and more!

Children spend the week hearing and seeing stories from the Bible, memorizing God's Word and getting hands-on experience learning what it's like to be a disciple of Jesus.



Times: Lite dinner for all at 5:30PM in Fellowship Hall

Parent drop off from 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM



Register by calling St. Marks at (724) 287-6741

# MAY 2019

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT



01

02

03

04

9:30am  
Children's  
Hour  
6:00pm  
Children's  
Hour Program

4:30-6:00pm  
4F Dinner  
Braised Steak  
  
6:00 Church

05

06

07

08

09

10

11

8:00am Church  
9:00am S.S.  
10:15am Church  
4:30-6  
Confirmation

9:30am  
Children's  
Hour-Last Day

7:00pm Bell  
Choir

6:30pm Choir  
practice

6:00 Church

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

HAPPY  
*Mother's Day*

8:00am Church  
9:00am S. S.  
10:15am Church

7:00pm Council  
Meeting

6:30pm Choir  
practice

6:00 Church

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

8:00am Church  
9:00am S. S.  
10:15am Church  
4:30-6pm  
Confirmation  
6-8 Youth Group

7:00pm  
Evangelism  
Discussion  
Group

12:00pm  
Senior Lunch



6:30pm Choir  
practice

6:00 Church

26

27

28

29

30

31

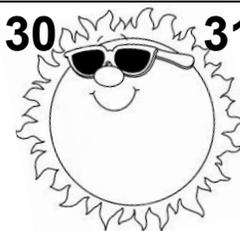
8:00am Church  
9:00am Sunday  
school  
10:15am Church  
4:30-6  
Confirmation

Office Closed



1:00pm  
Evangelism  
3:00  
Eve Bible Study

6:30 Choir  
practice





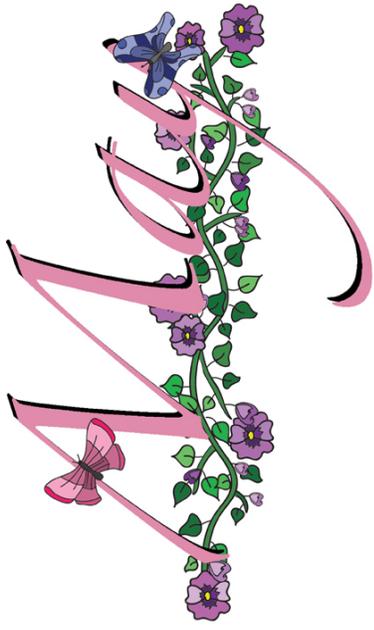
NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U. S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT 92  
BUTLER, PA

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](http://www.stmarksbutler.org)

**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



- **May 1, 2019** ~ Children's Hour Program
- **May 4, 2019** ~ 4F Braised Steak Dinner
- **May 11-12, 2019** ~ Mother's Day Service
- **May 22, 2019** ~ Senior Christian Luncheon
- **May 27, 2019** ~ Memorial Day, OFFICE CLOSED

**A Congregation of the  
North American Lutheran Church**



